



Date: Thursday, 11 July 2024

Time: 2.00 pm

Venue: Shrewsbury/Oswestry Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND

Contact: Sarah Townsend Committee Officer,
Tel: 01743 257721
Email: sarah.townsend@shropshire.gov.uk

ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

TO FOLLOW REPORT (S)

3 Minutes of Previous Meetings (Pages 1 - 8)

To consider the minutes of the following previous meetings:

- Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 23rd April 2024. (To Follow).
- Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 9th May 2024. (To Follow).

Contact: Sarah Townsend (Tel: 01743 257721)

6 Developer Contributions Task and Finish Group (Pages 9 - 26)

To receive and approve the report and recommendations of the Task and Finish Group. (To Follow).

Contact: Claire Braddock (Tel: 01743 258913)

7 Progress and Impact with Flags, Banners and Temporary Signs Task and Finish Group Recommendations (Pages 27 - 36)

To receive a report and update on the progress of the implementation of the

recommendations for Flags, Banners and Temporary Signs Task and Finish Group. (To Follow).

Contact: Gary Parton (Tel: 01743 258786)

8 Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme (Pages 37 - 38)

To consider the future work programme of the Committee. (To Follow).

Contact: Tom Dodds (Tel: 01743 258518)



Committee and Date

Economy and Environment
Overview and Scrutiny Committee

11th July 2024

ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2024

**In the Shrewsbury/Oswestry Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury,
Shropshire, SY2 6ND**

2.00 pm - 3.45 pm

Responsible Officer: Sarah Townsend Committee Officer

Email: sarah.townsend@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 257721

Present

Councillor Joyce Barrow (Chairman), Steve Davenport (Vice Chairman), Garry Burchett, Rosemary Dartnall, Roger Evans, Nick Hignett, Ed Potter, Paul Wynn and David Vasmer (Substitute) (substitute for Rob Wilson)

32 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Rob Wilson (Councillor David Vasmer was in attendance as his substitute), Councillor Julian Dean and Councillor Pam Moseley.

33 Disclosable Interests

Members were reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

During Agenda Item 6 (Progress against the actions from the Social Housing and Housing Strategy Report) Councillor Garry Burchett declared an interest when a question was asked regarding HomePoint, as he was registered on HomePoint as a client. He then left the room for the remainder of this item.

34 Minutes of Previous Meetings

RESOLVED:

- That the minutes of the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 25th January 2024 be approved as a correct record.
- That the minutes of the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting (Call In of Cabinet Decision on Sports Village Transformation) held on 9th February 2024 be approved as a correct record.

- That the minutes of the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting (Call In of Cabinet Decision on Parking Tariffs, Operations and Development) held on 19th February 2024 be approved as a correct record.

Regarding the 9th February 2024 minutes, a question was asked regarding the resolved section, which stated that future plans for the Quarry Pool would be dealt with 'separately at a later date' and it was requested that the Executive Director Place be asked when this might be.

Regarding the 19th February 2024 minutes, a few points of order were raised by a member, as having referred the Cabinet Decision on Parking Tariffs, Operations and Development back to Cabinet for reconsideration, it took 58 days for the appropriate Cabinet meeting to reconsider it and not 15 working days, as is stated within the Council's Constitution. Concern was also expressed as no one from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee attended the Cabinet meeting when the decision was reconsidered and it was also felt that not all issues raised at the Call In meeting had been taken into account. The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee suggested that the member raise their concerns with the Council's Legal Team and that the Scrutiny Manager also make the Monitoring Officer aware of the concerns.

35 Public Question Time

None were received.

36 Member Question Time

None were received.

At this point in the meeting, the Assistant Director Homes and Communities was asked to provide an update regarding the Racecourse Crescent site in Shrewsbury that Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing (STAR) was developing to deliver new Council housing. She explained that work on site had ceased in February 2024 as a result of Tricas Construction going into administration and that STAR Housing were currently in the process of procuring an alternative contractor to complete the scheme. Whilst there had not been any reports of anti-social behaviour, a concern was raised regarding this and the security of the site whilst it was standing empty. The Assistant Director Homes and Communities commented that she would find out and report back regarding when the new procurement of a contractor was expected to be completed, the security arrangements that were in place on the site and the situation regarding insurance and bonds.

37 Progress against the actions from the Social Housing and Housing Strategy Report

The committee received the report of the Assistant Director Homes and Communities which updated them on the progress and actions taken regarding Social Housing and

the Housing Strategy, as reported to their 9th November 2023 meeting, and highlighted any changes that had arisen, including those stemming from the medium-term financial strategy.

The Assistant Director Homes and Communities took members through each of the six recommendations detailed in the action plan updating them of action taken to date and further action that was being planned. The Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulatory Services was also in attendance.

A question was asked regarding recommendation three of the action plan and the Big Town Plan as the timescale against this action stated 'ongoing'. In responding, the Assistant Director Homes and Communities explained that she would obtain a more definite date to put against this action point. However, work was progressing and it was important to make sure that the right mix of homes were provided in Shrewsbury, especially in the town centre.

A question was asked regarding the planned upgrade of the Abris system that sits behind HomePoint, as detailed in recommendation one of the action plan and it was confirmed that the upgrade would result in an improved service for users, given that the current version of Abris was not the latest version. Regarding the advertisement system on HomePoint, it was commented that local need should be considered at the beginning of the process, with people not being allowed to bid on a property where local need would apply. The Assistant Director Homes and Communities responded that she would take this away to discuss with the team.

At this point in the meeting, Councillor Garry Burchett declared an interest as he was registered on HomePoint as a client. He then left the room for the remainder of this item.

Members were informed that the Council did buy houses to use for social housing.

With regard to the Right to Buy Scheme, the Government had recently announced a change in policy and whilst the Council had not put forward any comment about it as yet, they would consider doing so. It was noted that local authorities have never been able to keep 100% of the Right to Buy proceeds.

RESOLVED:

1. That committee notes the progress towards delivering the recommendations agreed upon at Cabinet in September 2023 and the progress against the actions from the Social Housing and Housing Strategy Report presented to Scrutiny on 9th November 2023.
2. That committee reviews and provides feedback on the action plan delivery and planned work and agrees to receive future updates on progress.

38 Progress against the actions from the New Housing Developments Work

The committee received the report of the Assistant Director Economy and Place which provided them with an interim update on the progress being made on the

Housing Development action plan as agreed at their meeting on 9th November 2023. It was noted that although the review period was twelve months, an interim update had been requested.

The Assistant Director Economy and Place took the committee through the action plan and the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulatory Services was also in attendance. It was noted that whilst not all of the tracked changes were highlighted in red, all the information had been included and was correct.

In responding to questions, committee discussion and comments covered:

- Data on the various council schemes that are in progress and how many were using the Council's building control service would be shared with the committee.
- Building Control Officers would embrace any support and help by members in making sure that the various parts of the council used their service.
- An Officer had recently been appointed with a specific remit of ensuring well-designed, high quality coherent, biodiverse open space on new developments and when the action plan is next considered by the committee, the Officer will be invited to attend the meeting.
- Regarding the resourcing of S38/278 work, The Assistant Director Economy and Place explained that this needed attention as it has been under resourced for more than ten years, resulting in a lot of legacy cases. As to whether there was a priority system in place, Officers were working through a list and some additional temporary resource had been taken on.
- Regarding the length of time between a development being finished and final adoption, it was confirmed that there were no penalties in place for developers where estates were not adopted as quickly as one would like and residents were being let down. The Assistant Director Economy and Place explained that unfortunately, it can take years for roads and infrastructure on an estate to be completed.
- Regarding whether the council could buy into the open market for private companies to oversee agreements on an open market basis, the Assistant Director Economy and Place commented that the ideal situation was for Shropshire Council Officers to do this work.
- The Assistant Director Economy and Place was not aware of a league table showing the position of Shropshire Council compared to other Councils in relation to S38/278 agreements.
- A question was asked regarding dog control orders in relation to unadopted and private roads. In responding, the Assistant Director Economy and Place commented that whilst this was not her area of expertise, those that owned the road would be responsible for what happened on that road. The question would need to be directed to the Council's Legal Team to advise further on this.
- A detailed list containing those roads that were adopted in Shropshire and those that were not would be provided to the committee, provided that the information could be easily compiled.
- Communication was a common thread that had featured in both the Task and Finish Group and the action plan. This would continue to be addressed in

terms of how information is shared with the public informing them of the things that the Council can and cannot do.

- The Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulatory Services commented that a press release could be issued informing people of the issues that they may experience if they do not use the Council's Building Control Team.
- Where roads had not been adopted, the Council's Legal Department would need to be consulted as to whether the names of the developers could be shared.

RESOLVED:

That the committee note the progress being made on the agreed action plan as highlighted in red on Appendix A of the report.

39 Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

The Scrutiny Manager presented this item and members were informed that the River Water Quality topic would be considered at their 11th July 2024 meeting.

A question was asked regarding the Standing Climate Change and Environment Task and Finish Group and whether it was still running as at a recent Scrutiny Chairs meeting, a decision had been taken to cease all current Task and Finish Groups. However, this decision had not been communicated to the various Scrutiny Committees. In responding, the Scrutiny Manager explained that whilst the Standing Climate Change and Environment Task and Finish Group had been agreed to be set up at the committee's last meeting on 25th January 2024, a Scrutiny Chairs meeting had subsequently been held and it was at this meeting that members had made the decision that Task and Finish Groups would not be operating in the Council this year. This would therefore apply to the Standing Climate Change and Environment Task and Finish Group. In addressing the concern expressed over this decision, the Chairman explained that unfortunately, whilst good results had been seen from the Task and Finish Groups over the last six months, the Council was in financial difficulties and the current situation was difficult as it was unclear as to what would happen to the scrutiny team and other council staff. It was noted that there was a Climate Change Advisory Board that came under the Climate Change Team and some of the work of the Task and Finish Group might be addressed by them.

Regarding the work programme, the Chairman made the following suggestions of topics that the committee might want to consider looking at in future meetings:

- Devolving ground maintenance to Town and Parish Councils.
- Community Safety and specifically CCTV.
- Flooding - what the Council could do to disseminate information and how could the Environment Agency role be improved by joint communication?
- Temporary Accommodation.

During the committee discussions, it was agreed to add the topic of devolving ground maintenance to Town and Parish Councils onto the work programme.

Potholes and communication with both members and Parish and Town Councils was also raised as a possible work programme topic. In responding, the Chairman commented that she would not be in favour of adding this to the work programme, as the committee had looked at this numerous times in the past, Fix My Street had greatly improved and the problem of potholes was an issue across the country, not just within Shropshire. The Scrutiny Manager commented that having listened to the discussion, local member engagement and communication around road closures and diversions was being identified as a recurring issue and it was agreed that communication be added to the committee’s work programme. This would involve looking at the protocols that are in place for working with local members and local member engagement regarding road works, both prior to any work being undertaken and diversions being put in place. It was also suggested that third party company involvement be looked at in terms of whether protocols are being followed, what happens if third parties cause damage and how the council would deal with the situation.

The Scrutiny Manager outlined the topics that were planned to be considered at the committee’s 11th July and 14th November 2024 meetings, as well as a few areas that the committee might wish to consider relating to their remit, such as Community Safety and Crime and Disorder Partnerships and Flooding.

In concluding this item, a couple of comments were made regarding potholes and how disappointing it was that this topic would not be put on the work programme as members of the public were dissatisfied with the issue and the reforms that had been talked about in the past were not working. In responding, it was suggested that Kier be asked to attend an online meeting with members in order to address their concerns.

RESOLVED:

That the Scrutiny Manager update the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme to reflect the discussions of the committee.

40 Date/Time of Next Meeting of the Committee

It was noted that the next meeting of the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee was scheduled to be held on Thursday, 11th July 2024 commencing at 2.00 p.m.

Signed (Chairman)

Date:



<p><u>Committee and Date</u></p> <p>Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>11th July 2024</p>

ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the meeting held on 9 May 2024
In the Council Chamber, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6ND
11.00 am - 11.10 am**

Responsible Officer: Sarah Townsend Committee Officer
Email: sarah.townsend@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 257721

Present

Councillor Joyce Barrow (Chairman), Steve Davenport (Vice Chairman), Garry Burchett, Rachel Connolly, Julian Dean, Roger Evans, Nick Hignett, Alan Mosley, Ed Potter, Rob Wilson and Paul Wynn

1 Election of Chairman

Nominations were received for Councillors Joyce Barrow and Rob Wilson.

Following a vote it was **RESOLVED:**

That Councillor Joyce Barrow be elected Chair of the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the forthcoming municipal year.

2 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

3 Appointment of Vice-Chairman

Nominations were received for Councillors Steve Davenport and Rob Wilson.

Following a vote it was **RESOLVED:**

That Councillor Steve Davenport be appointed Vice-Chair of the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the forthcoming municipal year.

Signed: (Chairman)

Date:

This page is intentionally left blank



Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

11 July 2024

Item

Public



Report of the Developer Contributions Task and Finish Group

Responsible Overview and Scrutiny Officer:	Claire Braddock		
email:	claire.braddock@shropshire.gov.uk	Tel:	01743 258913
Task and Finish Group Chair:	Joyce Barrow		

1. Synopsis

The report and recommendations of the Developer Contributions Task and Finish Group.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The Developer Contributions Task and Finish group was set up to consider and understand the application and impact of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 (S106) payments in relation to new developments. This report sets out the key findings, conclusions, and headline recommendation areas from the Task and Finish group investigation which took place across a number of meetings with both officers from the Council and the Integrated Care Board (ICB).
- 2.2. In carrying out their investigation the Task and Finish group heard about the social impacts of new developments, in particular health and education need, and how CIL and S106 funding can be applied to address related changes to demand.
- 2.3. Members recognised that Section 106 is covered by national guidance and therefore is not able to be amended at a local level.

3. Officer Recommendations

- 3.1. Members are asked to review, comment on, and adopt the report of the Task and Finish group attached at Appendix 1.

Report

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1. This work involved a review of the Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 Agreements in the Shropshire Council area, consideration of the relationship and distinction between the two, and how application of these can meet projected need and demand arising from new housing developments.

5. Climate Change Appraisal

- 5.1. The development of new housing can create demand for different services such as health and education. Ensuring that these are available in close proximity to where people live will reduce the need to travel for their appointments and schooling.

6. Background

- 6.1. The Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee identified Developer Contributions as a work programme topic with particular focus on the social impact (mainly health and education) of new housing developments. The committee commissioned a Task and Finish Group to explore this in greater detail and report their findings back to the parent committee.
- 6.2. Within this wider scope the Task and Finish Group confirmed that their focus would be to understand how the need for, and value of, Developer Contributions are established, how demand and need is forecast, and how these figures determine the level of contribution required from developers.
- 6.3. Members heard from relevant officers from within the Council including Strategic Planning Policy, Development Management, One Public Estate, and Learning and Skills, and externally from the Integrated Care Board (ICB).
- 6.4. Members made seven recommendations which were grouped under the following six headings –
- Reviewing developer contributions required by the Council
 - Raising understanding and awareness
 - Specifying the use of allocated funding
 - Maximising the impact and benefit of the Strategic Infrastructure Network
 - Ensuring developer contributions match development related need
 - Rurality

The key findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Task and Finish Group are detailed within the enclosed report (Appendix 1).

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Annual Infrastructure Funding Statement 2023 – Cabinet 13.12.2023

<https://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/documents/s36366/Annual%20Infrastructure%20Funding%20Statement%202023-30102023%201134%20draft%20002%20final.pdf>

Local Member: All

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Report of the Developer Contributions Task and Finish Group

This page is intentionally left blank



**Economy and Environment Overview and
Scrutiny Committee**

**Report of the Developer Contributions Task and
Finish Group**

July 2024

Acknowledgments

The Members of the cross-party Developer Contributions Task and Finish Group have taken a focused approach to their work, ensuring that they have considered the impact of housing developments on social aspects such as education provision, local health provision and the related use of assets. They have listened to multiple expert witnesses, evaluated different viewpoints, and sought well-supported conclusions and recommendations. The group would like to express thanks to those who have assisted in this investigation - Shropshire Council's Planning Policy & Strategy Manager, Legal Team Leader, the Planning and Development Services Manager, the Education Place Planning and Sufficiency Manager and the One Public Estates & Partnerships Manager. As well as the following colleagues from partner organisations - the Director of Delivery & Transformation at NHS Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin, and the Integrated Care Board's Primary Care Lead for Estates.

Members of the Task and Finish Group

Councillor Joyce Barrow (Chair)

Councillor Roger Evans

Councillor Claire Wild

Councillor Ted Clarke

Councillor Rob Wilson

Councillor Pam Moseley

Councillor Tony Parsons

Councillor Peter Broomhall

Councillor Steve Davenport

Councillor Vivienne Parry

Councillor Bernie Bentick

Contents

Section	Title	Page no.
1	Context	4
2	Scope of the work	4
3	Objectives	5
4	What the Task and Finish group have done	6
5	Key Findings	7
7	Conclusions and Recommendations	13

1. Context

New housing developments can increase demand on different services in local communities. Members of the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee specifically mentioned the social impacts of developments when they were scoping this topic, such as demand on GP Practices and schools.

Contributions from developers towards the costs of introducing or expanding services are a key part of ensuring that communities can be and do remain sustainable. Section 106 (S106) contributions are specific to the development that they relate to. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) relates to the cumulative impact of developments.

Overview and Scrutiny members recognise the importance of system partners setting out the forecast demand arising from new housing development on the different services that they provide, during the planning stages of developments. They are aware of examples of demand being placed on already heavily utilised services, where the arising need of additional developments might have been better identified to inform the required value and focus of developer contributions.

2. Scope of the work

The Developer Contribution Task and Finish Group focused on the social aspects and impacts of new housing developments that need to be covered by S106 and CIL to ensure that they can be mitigated or addressed. This work therefore looked at health and education, and the delivery of any additional capacity required.

3. Objectives

- To consider and understand the upcoming changes to developer contributions and how these should be confirmed and communicated.
- To consider how the council identifies expected future requirements and how it uses these insights with partners to plan to meet these situations.
- To understand how the social impacts of significant housing developments are being identified by stakeholders and whether this is being done consistently and robustly enough to inform the contribution requirements and allocations that are needed to meet future need as a result of the development.
- To review and evaluate learning from more recent developments e.g. Shrewsbury South and West Urban Extensions.
- To identify options and opportunities to raise the focus on and visibility of developer contributions by the Council e.g.
 - Greater working between Planning Policy and Development Management in setting the plans and guidance following the sign-off of the Local Plan
 - Publication of contributions e.g. on the Website, and encourage greater awareness, monitoring, and enforcement.
 - Identify opportunities for measures that can be used to demonstrate the collection and use of developer contributions (S106 and CIL as separate pots) e.g. total value, allocation and expenditure of those contributions, and the timescales for work to be carried out.
- Identify links to HOSC and their work by looking at the Primary Care Estates Strategy and the identification of changes to demand and need by GP Practices as a result of the development of new homes.

4. What the Task and Finish group have done?

The Developer Contributions Task and Finish Group met four times to explore and research this topic in detail. The group identified key areas of focus for each meeting to better understand how Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 (S106) money was allocated and spent, these were Health, Education and One Public Estate, and relevant expert witnesses were invited to attend these sessions as detailed in the acknowledgements on page 2 of this report.

The Task and Finish Group were interested to understand how the need for, and value of, developer contributions are identified. They sought insight into how various stakeholders determine projected demand and need, and how this data and the estimated figures are employed in establishing developer contributions, as well as any negotiation that takes place to confirm the levels.

5. Key Findings

As with all Task and Finish groups meetings were made available to all Members to join and hear the discussions taking place. This was particularly popular when the group met with the Integrated Care Board (ICB). The level of interest and valuable input at this meeting from a wide range of Council Members was very much welcomed. In turn those Members fed back their appreciation at having the opportunity to engage in the work of the Task and Finish Group first hand.

At the first meeting of the Task and Finish Group, Members were interested to hear that the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a defined amount of money, set through a Charging Schedule, paid to the Council on new open market developments in the area, and understood how this can be an important mechanism for local authorities to help them deliver the infrastructure needed to support local development. Members understood that CIL funding applies to the cumulative impact of groups of developments whilst Section 106 (S106) agreements cover site specific issues that have a more direct impact. This is capital spend and not revenue and must be used to fund the impact of development only, and not wider issues.

Members agreed that greater clarity around the roles of CIL and of S106 and where they could be applied would help aid public and partner awareness and expectations. All felt that a 'rebrand' of CIL would be helpful to address any gaps in understanding around its remit. It was also felt that the phrase 'CIL Local' might be seen as misleading, in this case it applies to spend within Place Plan areas, whereas residents may be more likely to think of 'local' as applicable to their street or immediate vicinity.

Members learned that since 2012 when the CIL was introduced in Shropshire, around £68M of CIL funding have been collected. Members were reminded that from this 15% has been allocated and sent to Parish and Town Councils where the development occurred as the Neighbourhood Fund. The Neighbourhood Fund is the responsibility of Parish and Town Councils to spend.

Of the CIL which remains with Shropshire Council to use on infrastructure (the CIL Local and CIL Strategic) from a total of around £54m around £24.6m has either been spend or committed to infrastructure. Therefore around £30m of CIL Local and CIL Strategic has yet to be allocated to specific infrastructure.

The Annual Infrastructure Funding Statement report, agreed by Cabinet in December 2023 set out proposals for the unallocated CIL funds, and future CIL funding could be used. This report was circulated to the Task and Finish Group together with a list of what money has been spent previously or has already been allocated.

Members were therefore made aware that the Council has identified a number of areas where available CIL funds can be used where development is likely to have an impact, including new health related infrastructure, new and expanded school place provision and transport and highway improvements, including the North-West Relief Road. Members were also advised the Annual Infrastructure Funding Statement and the recently updated Place Plans are key evidence in determining where available and future CIL funding would be directed.

The Task and Finish group were keen to understand why Shropshire, as an early adopter of CIL, chose to apply it to housing developments but not commercial developments, and asked if this could be a future consideration and be included in any future review of developer contributions by the Council. Officers advised this was principally due to concerns over the viability of development, and reassured Members that S106 contributions could be used on commercial developments if needed to ensure appropriate infrastructure mitigation.

Members learned how the timeframe of the emerging Local Plan and engagement with infrastructure delivery partners such as the Integrated Care Board (ICB), are already considering what Shropshire might look like in the future. As well as recognising the links between this emerging picture and the impact of local transport networks and increased developments upon climate change and the environment. The Planning Policy & Strategy Manager explained that the Council are now starting to look beyond the 2038 Plan period as part of the 'Shropshire 2050' work which has started with looking at future projections, extrapolating how future population increases are likely to impact on several social infrastructure needs such as schools, doctor's surgeries, and highways infrastructure.

Members were informed of the work of the Strategic Infrastructure Network who are looking at where intervention is necessary to meet future need, based along a number of themes, including transport, social infrastructure (health and education) environment, and highways. This group is made up of partner organisations including the ICB and National Highways, all of whom are very engaged, and discussions are taking place around where development is likely to have short, medium and long term impacts, and thus influencing decisions on where developer contributions should be focussed to ensure the best outcome and most benefit.

This proactive approach allows the Council a chance to present a combined 'partnership' approach to long-term infrastructure funding, including supporting the effective use of wider capital funding opportunities as well as focussing developer contributions, including CIL, most appropriately.

Integrated Care Board (ICB) – Health Focus

The Task and Finish Group invited the Director of Delivery & Transformation at NHS Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin, and the Integrated Care Board's Primary Care Lead for Estates with a view to exploring the impact of new housing developments on local NHS services such as GP surgeries and health in general. The discussion also covered the opportunities that developer contributions could have and identified potential barriers to utilising funding opportunities.

Members were interested to hear that there was a productive relationship between the ICB and Shropshire Council, and they learned that the progress of identifying need and demand arising from new housing developments and the opportunities afforded by CIL and Section 106 funding had improved over the last 18 months to two years. Historically, capital funding in the NHS has been sourced in different ways, through the Estates and Technology Transformation Fund (ETTF), University Deanery funding, and NHS England capital. However, all sources of historical funding

have come to an end and the only sources of capital funding now available for development of GP surgeries is via CIL or S106 contributions.

Members learned that further to the national spending review, which is underway across the NHS, and the current cost of living crisis (which has impacted on developers in terms of increases to the cost of materials), some primary care estates schemes have been put on hold, and this was the case for the previously proposed Shrewsbury Health and Well-being Hub. Therefore, there are no other current routes to access capital for primary care service developments other than through S106 and CIL funding. In light of this, self-investment is key but not an easy model for GP surgery settings, which are often run as a private business. As a result of this, Section 106 and CIL funding are increasingly being recognised as key opportunities for capital investment in primary care for the NHS.

Members were keen to discover what the effects of new housing developments are on local healthcare provision, considering the biggest impacts of increasing population numbers and more people directly accessing emergency care rather than primary care. It is expected that between 2016 and 2038 around 31,300 additional dwellings will be developed within Shropshire in accordance with the emerging Local Plan (between 2016-2023 11,760 dwellings have been delivered, with around 21,720 dwellings remaining to be delivered).

Members were informed that the ICB is sighted upon all expected housing developments up to 2038, as identified within the Local Plan, and when a S106 application is put in the ICB is consulted. In cases where these comprise of more than 50 houses a S106 request is made.

Over the last 2 years, around £2.5 million of S106 applications have been submitted by the ICB. This amount is held with developers to be drawn down only with regards to the specific impact of those particular developments identified in the applications and within a time limited, typically 5 year, window. CIL funding has also been applied for in some cases where there has been a cumulative impact of a number of developments. Shropshire Council gives high priority to primary health care facilities for CIL, and requests for CIL funding to support additional or expanded health provision have been approved by Shropshire for around £1.13m in total.

Members gained information on how the ICB calculate the impact and need based upon the numbers of houses being developed, the expected additional population, deprivation, levels of need within the area, and demographics of residents e.g. older people, or younger families. This utilisation calculation informs the numbers of GP rooms required, type of requirement, and amount of additional space needed within a GP practice.

Members asked whether a GP catchment area review was likely and learned that GPs negotiate their own area when they take on their contract. However, if they choose to change their boundary, they have to put a case for approval to the ICB. GPs are also able to take on patients outside of their catchment area if they wish to do so. It was recognised that GP boundaries do overlap county borders, and therefore a Shropshire based GP might include some patients living in Wales, Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Staffordshire, or Cheshire, and vice versa. Another

factor is that some people might move within county but prefer to stay with their previous GP practice rather than relocate to one that is more local to their new home. The ICB confirmed that it is working with neighbouring counties as well as cross border with the two Welsh Health Boards to identify any significant housing developments that may have an impact on Shropshire-based GP practices.

The Task and Finish Group also considered rural proofing and the cumulative effects of several villages having smaller numbers of developments of perhaps less than 50 houses, but each with potential to have a greater impact when combined. Members heard how work is undertaken to provide services to these areas in a different way, perhaps through working with the Community Trusts, or use of digital technology. Members added that using the rurality toolkit would be valuable moving forwards.

Keyworker housing was another consideration of the Task and Finish Group discussion. Members were keen to see that it was both affordable and located within proximity to need and drew the links to the report of the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Social Housing and the Housing Strategy. Whilst housing for key workers is not picked up under CIL/S106 it is a valid consideration in terms of the impact of housing developments, in conjunction with the NHS recruitment and retention programme. Attracting new staff could relieve pressure upon GP practices. There are over 50 GP practices across Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin combined, each dealing with an increasing number of patients with differing needs. The utilisation study helps identify best use of space and need within these surgeries. Members learned that, as a rule, the ratio of patients per GP room is approximately 1:1100, and whilst the move towards patients seeking advice from pharmacists instead of GP's may help lessen demand, the impact of this is not yet known.

Members asked how the ICB prioritise where to spend the money to achieve best value and heard about the use of project matrix scores which are set against various criteria in order to create a priority list, which can be flexible if additional intelligence comes to light.

Members understood that the ICB has worked for the last few years with the Council's lead on the One Public Estate work programme to support the use of Council buildings for ICB office space. As well as working with the Council's Assistant Director for Commercial Services around co-location of practices, agreed at Paul's Moss in Whitchurch and completed at the Riverside in Shrewsbury.

It was acknowledged that strong partnership working between the Council, the ICB and other partners through the Strategic Infrastructure Network meetings are key to future success. There is a keen mutual awareness of the need for exchange of information between partner organisations, and the Strategic Infrastructure Network can identify need at the most appropriate point and feed this into the process.

Members heard how there was a risk of Section 106 and CIL funding getting absorbed in the wider healthcare acutes and not being specifically allocated to GP practices. The Task and Finish Group agreed that it was essential that this money go to the places where it is needed most, it was identified that descriptions in funding reports are often generalised and could in future be more specific to aid this clarity of purpose. All agreed that this would be a very important outcome moving forwards.

Education Focus

Members heard from the Council's Education Place Planning and Sufficiency Manager about how the two main issues relating to education place planning are a lack of school spaces and consideration of active travel, through building this into CIL bids at their outset this issue might be alleviated. Currently secondary schools in Shrewsbury run at 99% plus capacity, which is above the Department for Education advice of 93% - 96%. Resulting from this Members discussed the matter of catchment areas within Shrewsbury town centre, as well as issues arising from schools on the proximity of the County border whose intake may be cross County but will be funded by Shropshire Council, and heard how admissions in these cases are given priority to those students within the County the school is located in.

Members recognised that although specific development land could be allocated and set aside for education need, CIL would not be payable until houses are built, and therefore there is a balance to be struck between addressing immediate school capacity required from the development of new housing and creating more school places to meet the forecasted need. In the interim existing schools could be expanded but this may create issues later on where they have unused capacity as their pupil numbers reduce once the new school is fully open.

The Education Place Planning and Sufficiency Manager explained that Shropshire Council currently requests developer contributions for primary and secondary school places but not for Early Years, Post-16 and SEND, active travel, school transport (schools age, SEND or Post-16), however these are all specified by neighbouring local authorities such as Cheshire West and Chester, Cheshire East, and Staffordshire. They confirmed that a new policy is being written which will seek to address this and also consider the amount of CIL that the Council could ask of developers to bring it more in line with that of other local authorities.

The Task and Finish Group agreed that a piece of work is required to review the relationship between CIL and Section 106, including consideration of when money is needed to be made available by developers. They also confirmed that the two key issues for consideration are the amount we charge developers, and how we prioritise need.

One Public Estate

Members heard about the work of the One Public Estate network of partners, including all local health trusts; the health trusts form part of the Integrated Care Board (ICB); each Trust has an estate's strategy, which is being drawn together to create an overarching strategic estates approach. This enables the ICB partners to apply for gap funding from developer contributions.

Members were updated about the Strategic Infrastructure Network which encompasses various sub-groups. Amongst these, the Social Infrastructure group offers the health sector direct access to strategic infrastructure planning information, including future housing development. The sub-groups of the Strategic Infrastructure Network encourage partners to bring their evidence-based estate plans forward to

enable a holistic plan of future housing delivery supported by the prioritisation of key service infrastructure i.e. health, education, and transport facilities.

Members heard about some of the work with partners completed and taking place at Riverside Medical Practice at Tannery Shrewsbury and Pauls Moss in Whitchurch, both of which are joint health and housing infrastructure projects with a commercial approach. In Whitchurch the Council is acting as investor in the health centre, which enables the GP services to be delivered with a rental paid to the Council, who act as landlord. This new practice is on schedule to open late Summer 2024.

In light of the witness evidence and discussions held Members agreed that there needed to be a mechanism in place that offered greater clarity for more critical project identification for CIL funding, which is generally prioritised between education, health, highways and leisure. A review of the phasing policy as to how and when payments are received would also be important.

It was felt that greater visibility of developer contributions would lead to more monitoring and enforcement and to more informed stakeholders who make developer contribution requirements that are more in line with future needs and demand. At the same time as having a clear view of the timescales, expectations, impact and benefits of decisions through to the completion of work being funded by developer contributions.

Members recognised that funds derived from developer contributions (CIL and S106) need to achieve best results for the Council, its stakeholders, and the people of Shropshire. It was acknowledged that there were several areas for examination that could achieve a very positive impact. Whilst the Local Plan review is taking place officer time would be stretched but after this has been completed, officers would be likely to have better opportunity to undertake a full review of the CIL, taking into account any changes to national regulations and guidance, encompassing the recommendations that have come to light as a result of this work.

6. Conclusions and Recommendations

The Task and Finish Group for Developer Contributions worked with a clear focus to better understand the relationship between the Council and its stakeholders in relation to the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 (S106). They learned over the course of the investigation how strong partnership working is already taking place through the work of the Strategic Infrastructure Network.

All Members agreed that given Shropshire was an early adopter of CIL in 2012, that a comprehensive review of CIL would be necessary moving forwards but recognised that this is something that would not be viable until after the Local Plan is completed due to current demands upon officer time. This review would also need to take account of any changes to CIL regulations which the Government has consulted on but not yet implemented.

As a result of the work undertaken and discussions with expert witnesses the Task and Finish Group has identified a number of recommendations as detailed below.

Reviewing developer contributions required by the Council:

Recommendation 1: In recognition that the current CIL Charging Schedule was adopted in 2012, the Council should undertake a comprehensive review of the CIL following the adoption of the Local Plan in 2025.

This review should address both the charging schedule (what kinds of development are subject to CIL, and how much will be charged) and further clarify the types of infrastructure where CIL funds are best utilised within the locality in which they were derived, to ensure the highest priority infrastructure is funded.

Recommendation 2: That the review of developer contributions should include looking at the relationship between CIL and Section 106 to help identify the best approach to address the needs and challenges arising from a development.

This should include a review of the phasing arrangements to shape how and when money is needed to be made available by developers to implement different interventions e.g. developing classroom capacity or a new school to meet forecasted increases in pupil numbers.

Raising understanding and awareness:

Recommendation 3: That the difference between CIL and S106, including their application, should be more clearly defined, and communicated to increase awareness and understanding, and help to manage expectations whilst improving public understanding.

That opportunities are identified through closer working between Planning Policy and Development Management as we progress towards the adoption of the Local Plan to raise the focus on and visibility of developer contributions.

Increased coverage on the Shropshire Council website should include publication of contributions, promotion of the work that has been undertaken as a result of the use of CIL and raise awareness of any work that is underway, including the planned benefits that have been realised or are expected, highlighting the value of developer contributions.

Specifying the use of allocated funding:

Recommendation 4: That the allocation of CIL or S106 funding for local health provision should clearly specify that funds should be focussed on primary care provision as this has the most direct impact from new development.

Maximising the impact and benefit of the Strategic Infrastructure Network:

Recommendation 5: That there should be greater awareness of the role and purpose of the Strategic Infrastructure Network and the constituent groups by Council officers and Members, as well as externally with partners.

Ensuring developer contributions match development related need:

Recommendation 6: That Members are encouraged to give positive consideration to proposed new guidance which will be taken to Cabinet in 2024 regarding using developer contributions for school-based infrastructure (including new school places). This will contain detail around what Shropshire Council requests in terms of developer contributions for primary and secondary school places to include SEND, active travel, and school transport.

Rurality:

Recommendation 7: That the Rurality Toolkit should be used to guide the design, planning, and delivery of services in rural areas to explore various alternatives such as collaborating with Community Trusts using digital technology, or making use of and sharing physical assets, and identifying opportunities to leverage developer contributions to facilitate this process.



Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Item

11 July 2024

Public



Report of the Banners, Bunting, Christmas Lighting & Temporary Signage policy review in Shropshire – Progress update July 2024

Responsible Officer: Gary Parton			
email:	gary.parton@shropshire.gov.uk	Tel:	01743 258786
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Dan Morris		
Scrutiny Chair:	Councillor Joyce Barrow		

1. Synopsis

An update on progress and next steps on implementing recommendations relating to Banners, Bunting and Illuminations, and Temporary Directional Signage.

2. Executive Summary

2.1. This report follows on from the key recommendations being followed by the Economy and Environment Overview Committee, regarding both a review of the current policy and process involved in administering and licencing applications for Banners, Bunting and Illuminations to be sited over and alongside the highway, and a review of the policy and process for temporary directional signing on the highway.

2.2. The report acknowledges progress made since the previous discussion and includes an action plan for the remaining necessary work.

3. Officer Recommendations:

- A. That committee considers the progress in delivering the recommendations regarding “Banners, Bunting and Illuminations” and provides feedback on the submitted action plan.
- B. That committee considers delivery of the recommendations relating to “temporary signage” and provides feedback on remaining actions to review and remove legacy and un-licensed / redundant signage.

Report

4. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications directly related to this report.

5. Climate Change Appraisal

A Climate Change Appraisal has not been completed. However, little negative or positive impact is expected as a result of these recommendations being implemented.

6. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 6.1 For Banners, Bunting and Illuminations the opportunity to utilise detailed local knowledge and input on suitable positioning, content and design which also takes account of local area aesthetics and community sentiment.
- 6.2 For Banners, Bunting and Illuminations the opportunity to build further relations with Town and Parish Councils, allow greater local input and allow better and more efficient alignment of Shropshire Council resource.
- 6.3 Revised policy and procedure for Banners, Bunting and Illuminations would need to align with other approved policies and procedures such as the “Highways Assets Advertising” scheme.
- 6.4 For Banners, Bunting and Illuminations there is a risk that any significant differences in proposed local approach could create difficulties in drafting a singular County-wide policy.
- 6.5 For Temporary Signage there is an opportunity to significantly increase and improve the monitoring and enforcement process, control proliferation and enforce the timely removal of unlicensed signage.
- 6.6 For Temporary Signage there is a risk of the current available inspection resource ably accommodating further inspection schedules.

7. Background

Banners, Bunting and Illuminations.

- 7.1 The current application and approval process to display community event banners, bunting or festive lights falls within the remit of Shropshire Councils Street Works team. The team were restructured in 2013 to better align to the objectives of the “Traffic Management Act 2004” and the Shropshire Council Permit Scheme (West and Shires Permit Scheme).
- 7.2 On review of existing tasks within the team the application and approval process for Banners, Bunting and Christmas Illuminations was highlighted as a task with minimal value in meeting the primary team objectives of “minimising disruption caused by roadworks” and was generally an administrative process with set conditions only.
- <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/roads-and-highways/road-network-management/application-forms-and-charges/banners-bunting-or-christmas-lights-on-the-highway/>
- 7.3 The current application and approval process is handled by the street works team who look to ensure banner content is community based and not for general business advertising and that the positions of said items cause no potential hazard or hindrance to highway users.
- 7.4 An application is made containing details of the required banner, bunting or lighting type, location and confirmation of sufficient public liability insurance (£5m) to protect the council in the event of any possible incidences resulting from the placement of said items on the highway. Items which are placed on or over the highway that are fixed to a non-council owned property, fence or railing require permission from the owner.
- 7.5 The application is then assessed and given approval or refusal. A consideration of the applicant is of the load-bearing tolerances of the fixing points, council owned locations should be tested annually, and this information will be made available upon request, private properties are responsible for the maintenance and suitability of their fixing points. In this respect there exists some inconsistency in county-wide process. For example, Shrewsbury has specific, historic, and approved fixing locations that are regularly tested by the Town Council - whilst other Towns and villages may not.
- 7.6 Following recommendations in 2018 to carry out an initial engagement exercise with Town and Parish Councils (on possible devolvement of process and enforcement) subsequent recommendations from the “Task and Finish” of 2020 and the Place Overview Committee of 2021 included that Shropshire Council retain the licensing powers for permitting Banners, Bunting and Illuminations, but also look to engage and consult further with all Town and Parish Councils in order to identify ‘best practice’, provision for specific retail centres and any local conditions that could be included as part of the licencing process.

- 7.7 A further recommendation advised that further engagement should include the proposal that separate policies were created for banners “over the highway” and “alongside the highway”. This would gain valuable feedback from Town and Parish Councils on any logistical and practical problems with siting banners on railings, fences and walls bordering the highway in their area and raise any ownership, safety, compliance and proliferation issues or queries.
- 7.8 Whilst Shropshire Council would retain the legislative licencing function, views will be sought on a possible devolvement of the administration function/process and the proposal for Town and Parish Councils to act as sole applicant with an annual licence being issued for identified acceptable locations within the Town or Parish.

Temporary signage

- 7.9 The recommendation from the “Place Overview Committee” meeting of July 2019 recommended a Task and Finish group include the current policy and process for temporary directional signing (usually for events or housing developments) in a review of all related “street scene / street clutter” issues.
- 7.10 The current process requires an application and consent under Section 132 of the “Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984”.
- 7.11 Applications and consent are currently facilitated by the Street Works team:
- <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/roads-and-highways/road-network-management/application-forms-and-charges/temporary-signage-consent/>
- 7.12 The application form outlines the conditions and regulations for the erection and removal of signs and indemnifies Shropshire Council against any claims arising.
- 7.13 Conditions of consent currently are that signs promoting an event are taken down within one week of the completion of the event and that signs signposting developments can only be permitted for a period not exceeding 6 months following the sale of 80% of the development. This date needs to be agreed prior to the signs being erected.
- 7.14 There is a concern regarding the proliferation of such signage and regarding the enforcement of set conditions.
- 7.15 The Task and Finish Group report of 26th March 2020 recommended that Shropshire Council revise its charges for its housing development sign permit scheme, to better reflect the work required to administer the scheme effectively.
- 7.16 The group also recommended that any permit scheme limits the duration of a permit to 12 months before requiring renewal.

- 7.17 Subsequent recommendations of the Economy and Environment Overview Committee set out revised charges that better reflected officers time in dealing with applications and allowed for additional compliance inspections to take place.
- 7.18 A further recommendation was to remove the licence condition stating that directional signs can only be situated within half a mile or two junctions from the development and simplify to a maximum of 3 directional signs allowed per development.
- 7.19 A further recommendation was that a revised process and fee be implemented as soon as feasible and by April 1ST 2024 at the latest.

8.0 Additional Information:

Banners, Bunting and Illuminations:

- 8.1 Due to both the number of applications for Shrewsbury, the historical experience and current logistical issues presented, further recent discussions and liaison has taken place with Shrewsbury Town Council (STC) regarding how to resolve these contemporary issues whilst also ensuring that Shropshire Council, as designated Highway Authority, retain the powers permitting banners to be installed over and along the highway.
- 8.2 The accompanying Action Plan sets out the next steps against the recommendations from Group and Committee. The feedback from STC will greatly assist in forming key questions to be include in any further engagement exercise.
- 8.3 It is intended that views will be sought on the following:
- The possible devolvement of the administrative/booking process to Town and Parish Councils whilst Shropshire Council retain the overall licencing powers.
 - If the above is supported and feasible, that views are sought on a process whereby Town and Parish Councils act as the sole licence applicant and holder.
 - If the above is supported and feasible, that views are sought on the merits and feasibility of issuing an annual licence with applicable set and agreed conditions allowing Banners, Bunting and Illuminations to be erected at their agreed locations for a 12-month period.
 - Views sought on the proposal that separate policies are created to differentiate between banners/bunting over the highway and alongside the highway.
 - Views and feedback sought on any locations that would need to be excluded from banner installation due to safety, aesthetic or any other local issue.

Temporary signage:

8.4 As per the accompanying Action Plan, the recommendations from Group and Committee have been actioned and are largely complete.

- The agreed revised administration fee of £250 per application and extension fee of £110 has been in place since April 1st, 2024, and revised scheduled compliance inspections are taking place.
- The on-line application form, and accompanying guidance notes, reflect the amended condition to allow no more than 3 directional signs per development in order to simplify the process and mitigate any proliferation of signage.
- A review of existing licences and development signage is currently taking place with a view to contacting sign owners to remove redundant/unlicensed signage if applicable.

9. Conclusions

9.1 The findings and recommendations of the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee are now being used to inform the development of a revised Policy and Process for Banners, Bunting and Illuminations.

9.2 The findings and recommendations of the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee have been used to implement a revised Policy and Process for “Temporary Signage”.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

- Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Progress update - 09/11/2023
- Place Overview Committee - Update on Signs, Banners and Barriers Task and Finish Group – 04/08/2021
- Performance Management Scrutiny Committee - Signs and Banners Task and Finish Group Final Report – 20/05/2020

Local Member: All

Appendices:

- **APPENDIX 1 Action Plan**

APPENDIX 1 ACTION PLAN

	Recommendation Banners	Action	Timescales
1	That officers carry out a further engagement /consultation exercise, prior to Christmas 2023, with Town and Parish Councils to further identify “best practice”, provision for specific retail centres, and any local conditions that could be included. This with a view for any subsequent revised policy/process to be implemented by April 2024.	<p>Action to date: Initial engagement with Town and Parish councils was carried out in 2020. This focused on gaining feedback on a proposal to devolve the entire administration & licencing process (plus any required enforcement measures) to local Councils. Further recommendations from the Task & Finish Group report of 26th March 2020 included that Shropshire Council retain the licencing powers.</p> <p>New action in progress: Further engagement being planned. Stage 1 ESHIA assessment drafted.</p> <p>Further action: “Benchmarking” exercise with other Authorities via regional “Midlands Highway Alliance Plus” to identify variances and any best practice.</p> <p>Action completed: Meeting planned with Shrewsbury Town Council to define and finalise content of further engagement.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>During July/August 2024. July 2024.</p> <p>July 2024.</p> <p>27th June 2024.</p>
2	That, taking account of consultation responses, a revised policy and process report for “Banners, Bunting and Christmas	Action to date:	N/A

	<p>“Illuminations” is drafted for consideration and further comment/feedback by the Committee.</p>	<p>As above.</p> <p>New action in progress:</p> <p>Further engagement being planned. Stage 1 ESHIA assessment drafted.</p> <p>Further Action:</p> <p>“Benchmarking” exercise with other Authorities via regional “Midlands Highway Alliance Plus” to identify variances and any best practice.</p> <p>Action completed:</p> <p>Meeting planned with Shrewsbury Town Council to define and finalise content of further engagement.</p>	<p>During July/August 2024. July 2024.</p> <p>July 2024.</p> <p>27th June 2024</p>
3	<p>Whilst Shropshire Council retain the legislative licencing function, that views are sought on possible devolvement of the administrative process to Town and Parish Councils outlining the model set by Shrewsbury Town Council as an example.</p>	<p>Action to date:</p> <p>As above.</p> <p>New action in progress:</p> <p>Further engagement being planned. Stage 1 ESHIA assessment drafted.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>During July/August 2024. July 2024.</p>

		<p>Further action:</p> <p>“Benchmarking” exercise with other Authorities via regional “Midlands Highway Alliance Plus” to identify variances and any best practice.</p> <p>Action completed:</p> <p>Meeting planned with Shrewsbury Town Council to define and finalise content of further engagement.</p>	<p>July 2024.</p> <p>27th June 2024.</p>
4	<p>That Officers gain feedback via engagement/consultation on a proposal for an annual licence that could be issued, on application and for specific applicants/locations.</p>	<p>Action to date:</p> <p>As above.</p> <p>New action in progress:</p> <p>As above.</p> <p>Further action:</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>As above.</p> <p>As above.</p>

		As above. Action completed: As above	As above.
	Recommendation – Temporary Signage		
1	That Committee members approve the proposal to amend the current administration fee of £102.00 per application to £250.00 per application (further amended ‘extension’ fee proposal from current £97.00 to £110.00) to allow for a recovery of Officers time involved in carrying out 3 scheduled compliance inspections.	All actions completed. The agreed revised administration and extension fee has been in place since April 1 st , 2024, and revised scheduled compliance inspections are taking place.	
2	That Committee members approve the proposal to remove the current condition stating that signs can only be situated within half a mile/two junctions from the Development.	All actions completed. This condition has been removed. Current condition allows no more than 3 directional signs per development to mitigate any proliferation.	
3	That a revised process and fee is implemented as soon as feasible and by April 1 st 2024 at the latest.	All actions completed. A review of existing licences and development signage is currently taking place with a view to contacting sign owners to remove redundant/unlicensed signage if applicable.	May 2024 ongoing.

Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee High-level work programme – July 2024

Date	Item	Responsible Officer	Briefing	Briefing and decision by Members to go to committee	Straight to committee
11 July 2024	Developer Contributions Task and Finish Group				✓
	Update on the Flags and Banners and Temporary Signage recommendations implementation				✓
Tbc September 2024	Waste Minimisation Strategy	MF			✓
	Annual Reports on Community Safety (Antisocial behaviour, Hate Crime, Exploitation)	RR		✓	
14 November 2024	Flooding and River Water Quality: River Severn partnership, Severn Valley Water Management Scheme, Marches Forward Partnership River Water Quality Task and Finish Group Recommendations	MB			✓
	Follow-up on New Housing developments recommendations implementation	MB			✓
	Follow-up on Social Housing the Housing Strategy recommendations implementation	JT			✓
23 January 2025	Communication and early engagement with Members on changes to services and plans related to their local area	AB/MB		✓	
3 April 2025	Temporary Accommodation			✓	

Other identified areas of interest from Committee discussions, including topics for briefings:

Briefing on progress and impact for the Third Party Spending Transformation Project
Briefing on Winter Maintenance (annual update)
Briefing on plans and developments by Highways and Keir
Briefing on devolving services to those best placed to deliver them e.g. Town and Parish Councils (including Grounds Maintenance)
Briefing on On Demand Transport

This page is intentionally left blank