



Shropshire Council
Legal and Democratic Services
Shirehall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
SY2 6ND

Date: 11 July 2014

:

Committee: Environment and Services Scrutiny Committee

Date: Monday, 21 July 2014

Time: 2.00 pm

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

You are requested to attend the above meeting.

The Agenda is attached

Claire Porter

Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer)

Members of Environment and Services Scrutiny Committee

Vince Hunt
Keith Roberts
Peter Adams
Ted Clarke
Nigel Hartin

Roger Hughes
Christian Lea
Pamela Moseley
Vivienne Parry
Arthur Walpole

Your Committee Officer is:

Jane Palmer Senior Democratic Services Officer

Tel: 01743 252748

Email: jane.palmer@shropshire.gov.uk

AGENDA

1 Election of Chairman

2 Apologies for absence and substitutions

3 Appointment of Vice Chairman

4 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

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

5 Minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2014 (Pages 1 - 4)

To consider the Minutes from the meeting of the Environment and Services Scrutiny Committee held on 24 March 2014. Attached as item **5**.

6 Public Question Time

To receive any questions, statements or petitions from the public of which members of the public have given notice. Deadline for notification for this meeting is Wednesday 16 July 2014.

7 Member Question Time

To receive any questions of which members of the Council have given notice. Deadline for notification for this meeting is Wednesday 16 July 2014.

8 Public Petition - Save the Shropshire Badgers (Pages 5 - 8)

The Committee will consider its response to the following public petition:
'We the undersigned petition the Council to Save the Shropshire Badgers from being culled.

This is a national issue which will be of direct concern to the people of Shropshire when DEFRA "rolls out" its culling policy in 2014. The object of the petition is to ensure that Shropshire's badger population is as safe as possible from slaughter and that the already available injectable badger vaccine against

bovine TB is used in as many cases as possible. We ask this because we believe the culling policy is inhumane (DEFRA's measurement of "humaneness" is to time the screams of wounded badgers), inefficient (previous culls showed an increase in bovine TB because of badger movement) and unscientific (the majority of scientific opinion hold that a cull will have "no meaningful result").

We, the undersigned, call on Shropshire Council to prohibit the culling of badgers on council-owned land and invest in vaccination programmes locally. We ask this because we believe culling to be inhumane, inefficient and unscientific'.

This ePetition ran from 5 December 2013 to 6 May 2014 and was signed by 465 people.

The Officer report is attached as item **8**.

9 Update on Waste Collection Service Redesign

The Committee will receive an update presentation on the redesign of the Waste Collection Service.

10 Performance Dashboards (Pages 9 - 16)

To consider the dashboards for the priorities as reported at Quarter 4, and the outcomes which mark the future reporting model. The outcome dashboards are draft to give the Committee the opportunity to see the new dashboards before they are used for the first time to report the Quarter 1 data. Attached as item **10**

11 Date/Time of next meeting

The Committee is next scheduled to meet on Monday 8th September 2014 at 2.00pm

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Environment and
Services Scrutiny
Committee

21 July 2014

2.00 pm

Item

5

Public

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON 24 MARCH 2014
2.00PM - 3.15 PM**

Responsible Officer: Jane Palmer
Email: jane.palmer@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 252748

Present

Councillor Vince Hunt (Chairman)
Councillors Keith Roberts (Vice Chairman), Ted Clarke, Roger Hughes, Christian Lea,
Pamela Moseley, Arthur Walpole and Vivienne Parry (Substitute) (substitute for Nigel
Hartin)

29 Apologies for absence and substitutions

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor N Hartin, Councillor Mrs V
Parry was present as substitute.

30 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None were declared.

31 Minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2013

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Services Scrutiny
Committee held on 18 November 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed
by the Chairman.

32 Public Question Time

There were no questions from members of the public.

33 **Member Question Time**

There were no questions from members of the public.

34 **Future areas of scrutiny work using the learning from the Rapid Action Group activities**

The Director of Commissioning presented information on potential future areas of scrutiny work using the learning from the recent Rapid Action Group [RAG] activities. He drew attention to the key areas highlighted within the three year Business Plan and Financial Strategy as well as the appropriate application of the RAG learning.

Members considered key areas highlighted within the 2014/17 Financial Strategy programme of activities that may merit consideration for inclusion within the Committee's work programme, as follows:

Regulatory and Business Support model [RaBSS]

Members noted the possibility of the existing RAG continuing its work but acknowledged that any new area of work could not be considered until the evaluation of the RAG process had been completed.

Review of Joint Use Leisure Facilities to identify how to best deliver on a local basis

It was noted that the local community was being encouraged to take greater responsibility in the running of joint use facilities.

Sports and Recreational Activities

It was noted that redesign would be centred within Community Action, Positive Activities, Outdoor Recreation and Sports Development and consideration would need to be given to the role scrutiny could play in the redesign.

Redesign of Outdoor Recreation Service

This included rights of way, parks and open spaces [for example, Severn Valley country park, the Meres at Ellesmere], the creation of Parish Path Partnerships. Building community ownership was understood as key for the future together with the main agenda for the future being to encourage people to become more physically active.

Waste

New approaches to encourage customer behaviour change were to be developed with a view to increasing recycling and reducing waste growth. Contract efficiencies within the existing Veolia contract would be sought.

Councillor Minnery, Chairman of the recent RAG looking at waste agreed that future work on this service area would be useful particularly the need to increase the rate of recycling and to convey the message to encourage customers to recycle. He stated that there was a genuine opportunity for efficiencies to be made and suggested future work could also focus on vehicle routing, the use of the incinerator to generate income and co-mingling of waste.

It was agreed that the focus of ongoing work in this area needed to be structured and appropriate and be guided by appropriate Officers from the service area. The Director of Commissioning agreed to identify the best way forward for scrutiny to play a valuable role in the redesign of this area.

Customer Contact – Face to Face

This element included the redesign of the libraries service including Visitor Information Centres. The redesign of Face to Face contact points to meet the demand for increased access in alternative methods of contact.

In response to a Member's query, the Director of Commissioning suggested the following areas would offer scrutiny the best opportunity to be involved in the redesign process:

- i. Face to Face redesign in libraries
- ii. Waste – a) how to encourage more recycling and behaviour change in customers and b) ways to support Veolia in encouraging customers to recycle
- iii. Redesign activities for young people – work in this area has started but is at consultation stage only.

The Chairman explained that the Committee's remit would be changed in the near future to include highways and, once this change had been ratified by Council, the Committee could undertake some detailed scrutiny of the redesign of this area and include scrutiny of the Ringway contract. Members agreed that this would be a valuable area for future scrutiny.

The Chairman drew attention to areas that could be taken forward by the Committee including:

- Parish Paths Partnership – what is being done? Can this be rolled out further? Help and support?
- Face to Face hub – ways of library use being developed
- Children's play areas – how are these to be dealt with in future?
- Drugs/rehabilitation/youth offending – valuable work being undertaken at Willowdene farm and also at Stoke on Tern with the establishment of a social company to undertake office cleaning.
- Review of positive activity provision – Youth Boards – are they valuable? How do young people feel about them?

Members agreed that items for future scrutiny needed to add value and properly evaluate the areas under scrutiny and should not be limited to an 'ad hoc' list of issues. The Chairman commented that the Director of Commissioning had highlighted areas that would be beneficial and these areas should form the basis of the Committee's Work Programme in the coming months.

35 Waste Rapid Action Group

This issue had been considered during the general debate on identification of areas for the future work of the Committee. The Chairman thanked Councillor Minnery for attending the meeting and drawing attention to key areas that would benefit from scrutiny involvement in future.

36 **Date/Time of next meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee was scheduled to be held on Monday 16 June 2014 at 2.00pm.

Signed (Chairman)

Date:



<u>Committee and Date</u>
Environment and Services Scrutiny Committee
21 July 2014

<u>Item</u>
8
<u>Public</u>

Summary of DEFRA's Badger Control Policy

Responsible Officer Karen Collier
e-mail: Karen.collier@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 251711 Fax:

1. Summary

- 1.1 The badger cull pilot is a Government scheme operated in Somerset and Gloucestershire through Defra and Natural England. There are no current plans to extend the badger cull into Shropshire. This report provides a summary of the Government's current policy for badger culling.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 If the Government considers it necessary to extend the cull into Shropshire the Council will consider its position at that time in light of the latest information. Therefore at this point in time it would be premature for the Council to consider its position ahead of a formal decision and before it has an opportunity to evaluate the latest evidence in support of any proposal regarding a badger cull in Shropshire.

REPORT

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 3.1 This report is provided for information only and therefore no risk assessment and opportunities appraisal has been carried out.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 Financial implications need to be considered when the Government considers it is necessary to extend the cull.

5.0 Background - Bovine TB

- 5.1 Bovine TB is mainly a disease of cattle but can affect a range of species; there is a significant reservoir of infection in badgers. The disease is transmitted between cattle, between badgers, and between the two species.

- 5.2 The relationship between bovine TB in badgers and in cattle is highly complex. Areas of England with a high incidence of bovine TB in cattle also tend to have high numbers of badgers.

6.0 Badger control policy

- 6.1 Pilot badger control pilots are currently limited to areas of west Somerset and west Gloucestershire. Applications in the pilot areas are made to Natural England for a licence to become a cull area. The applications are voluntary joint ventures by landowners in the area in question and 70% of the landowners in a given area have to sign up for that area to be granted a licence among other conditions.

- 6.2 The latest information available from Defra and Natural England is that badger control will not be rolled out in any other areas in 2014.

- 6.3 The Government's approach to eradicating bovine TB from England includes a wide range of tools including:

- Offering grant funding for private badger vaccination projects in specific geographical areas aiming to increase TB immunity in uninfected badgers and reduce the spread of the disease. Defra provide match-funding for successful applicants;
- Continuing to strengthen cattle movement controls and testing regime to stop the disease from spreading from herd to herd;
- Improving biosecurity by helping farmers understand the disease risk of cattle they buy; and
- Continuing to invest in development of a new vaccine for cattle which could be field tested next year, and an oral badger vaccine which may be available for use by 2019.

7.0 Additional Information

7.1 Shropshire Council owns approximately 25 farms/small-holdings which it rents out. The majority of these are not beef or dairy herd farms.

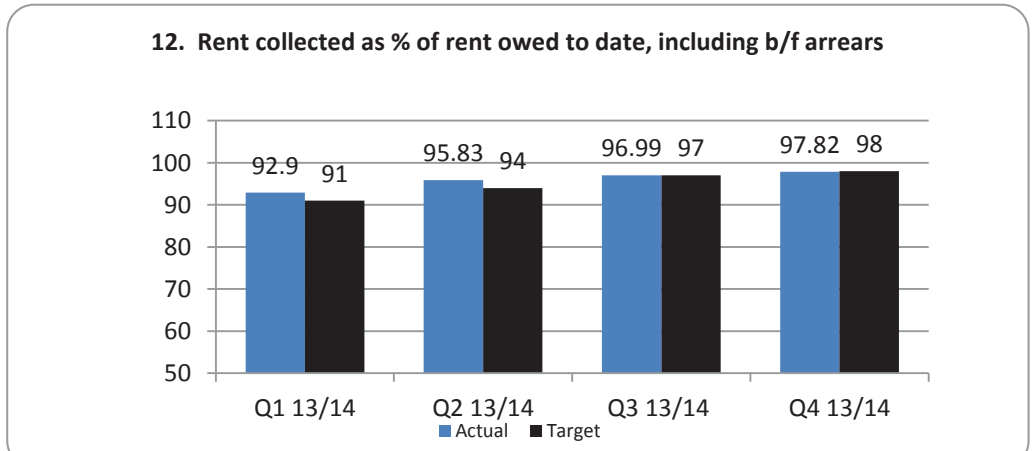
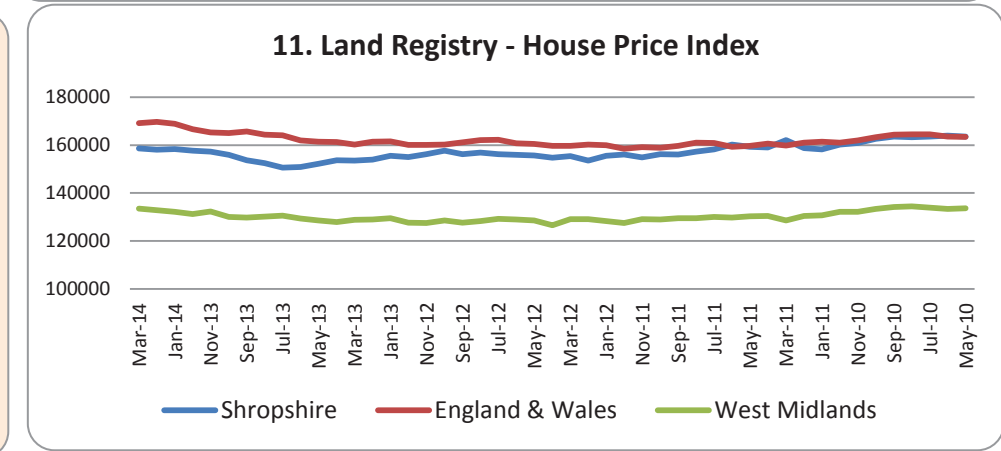
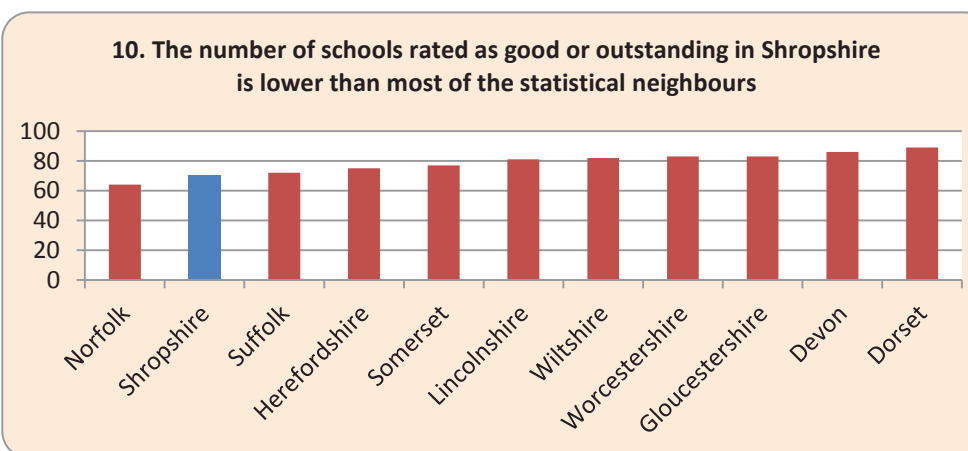
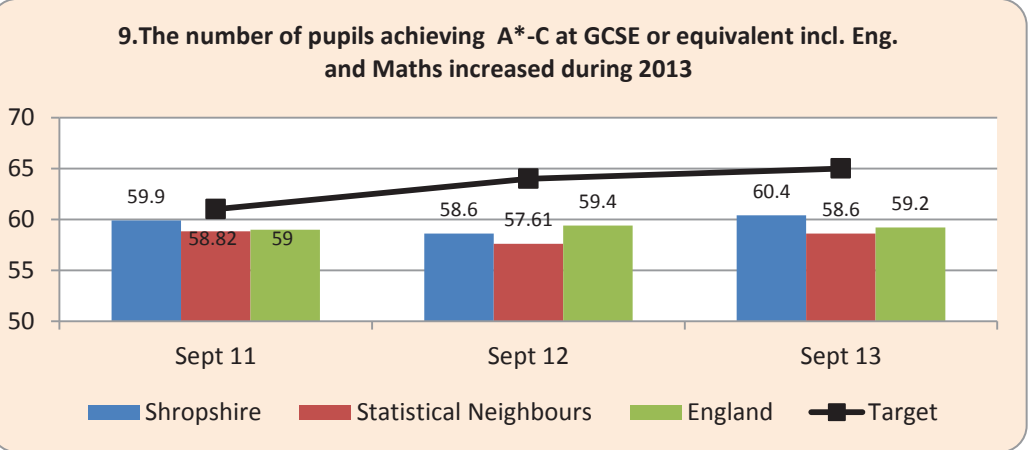
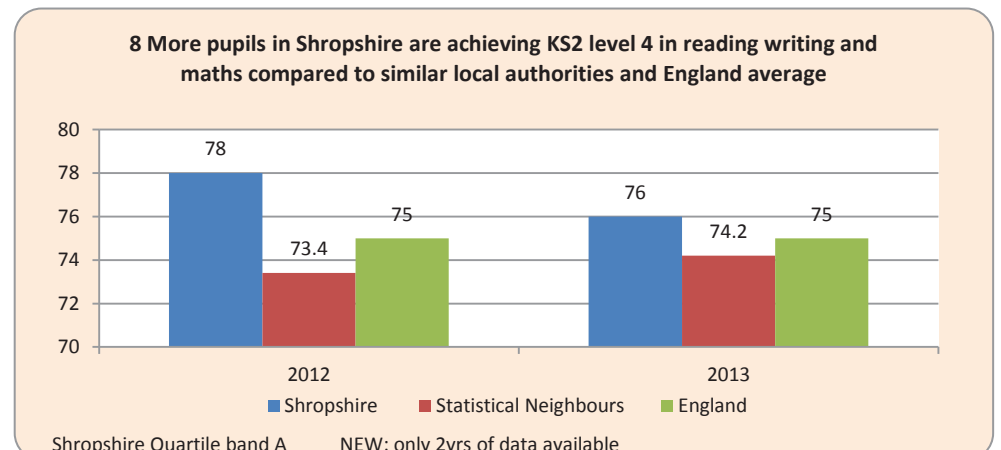
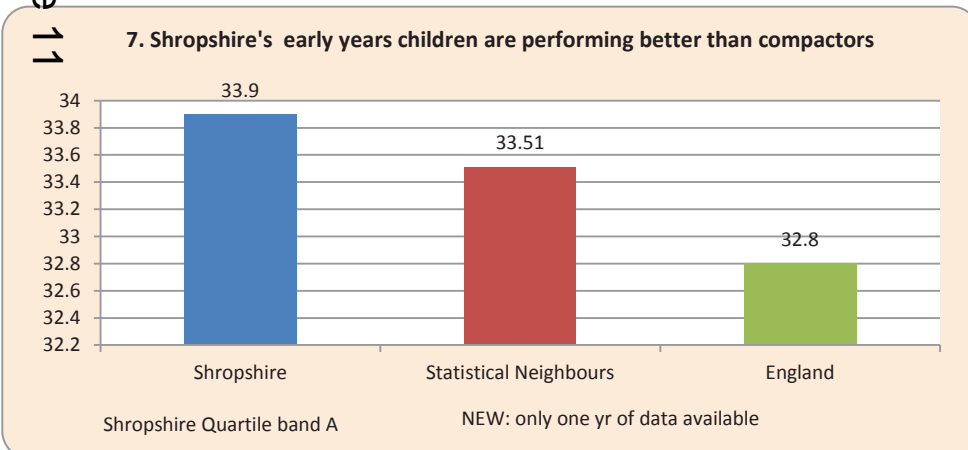
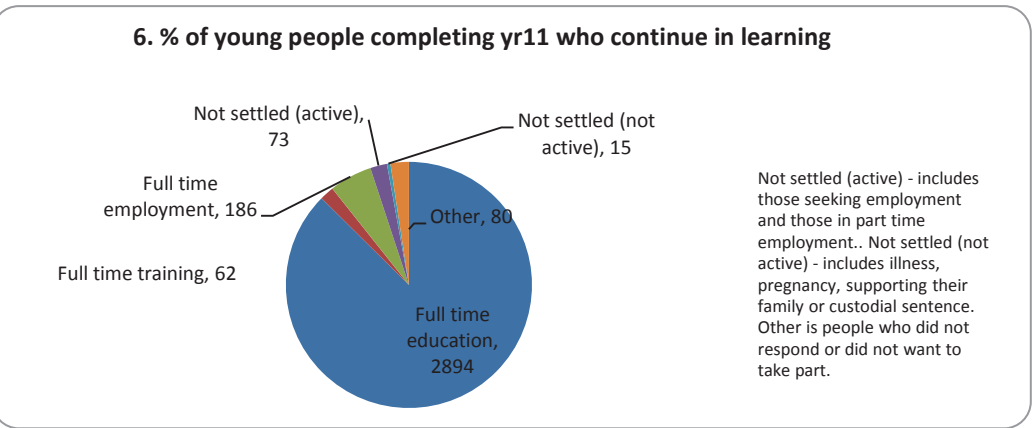
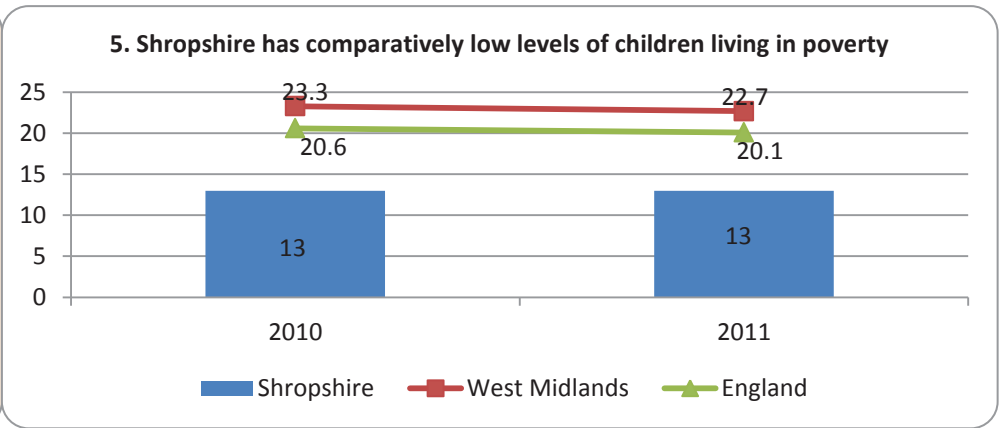
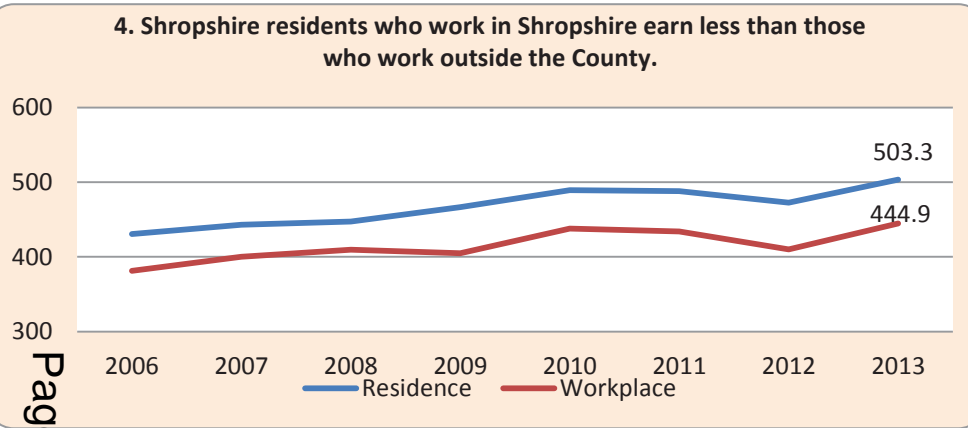
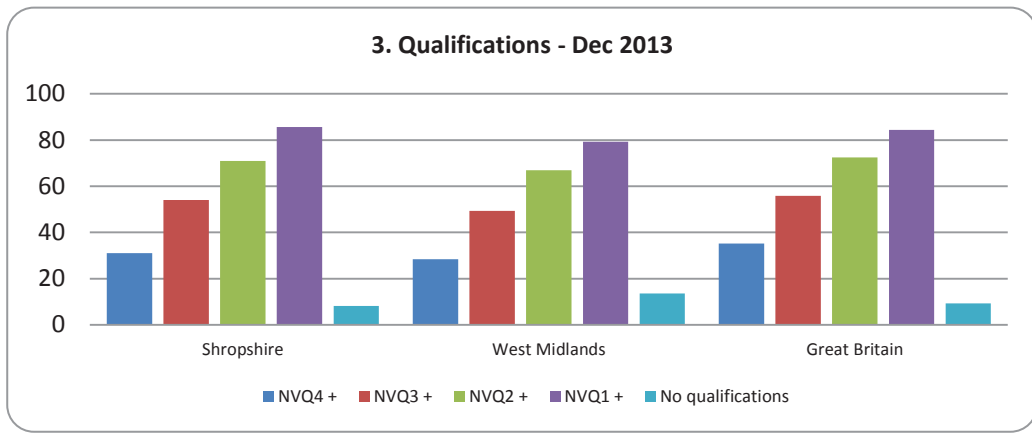
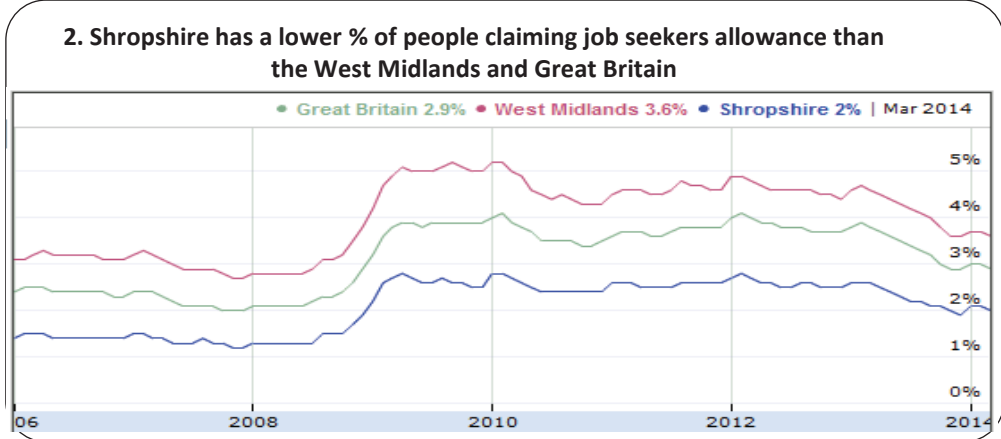
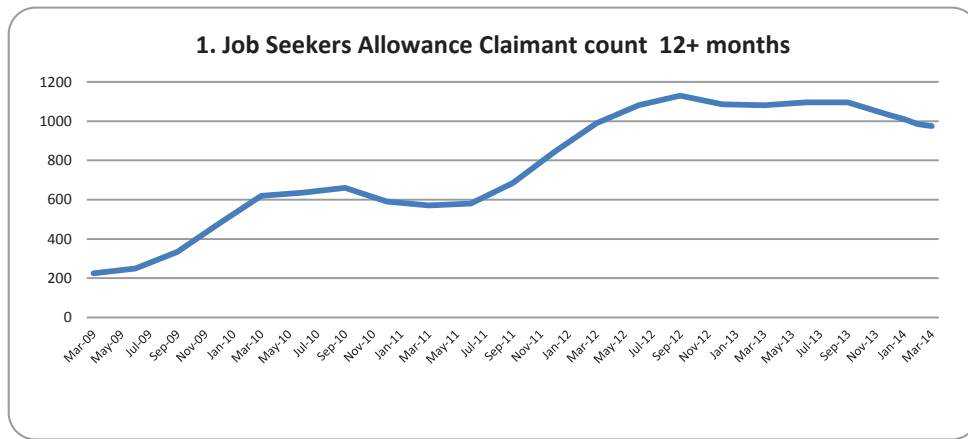
List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information) Petition to Save the Shropshire Badgers from being culled
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder) Councillor Steve Charmley
Local Member All
Appendices None

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PERFORMANCE DASHBOARDS
ENVIRONMENT AND SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

- Financially Secure Outcome Dashboard
- Economic Growth Priority Dashboard
- Environment Outcome Dashboard

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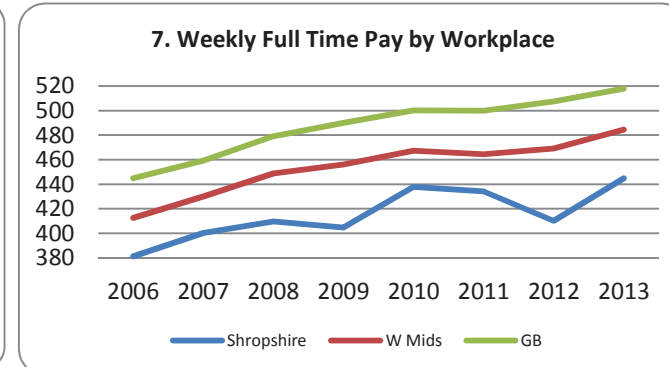
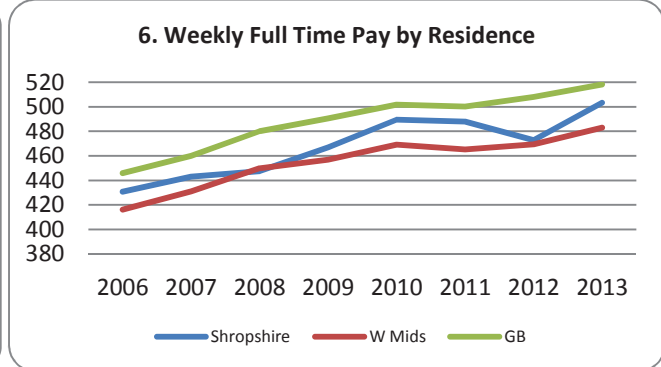
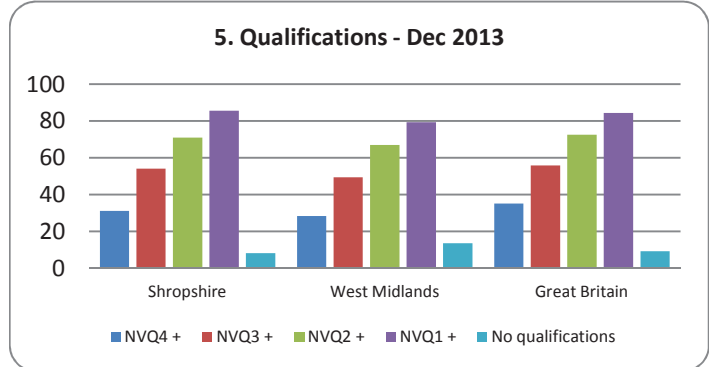
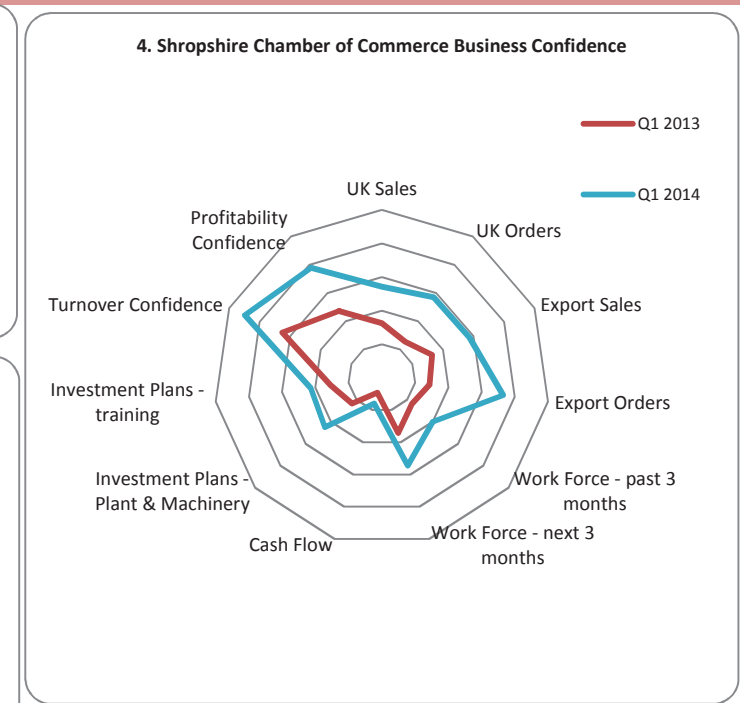
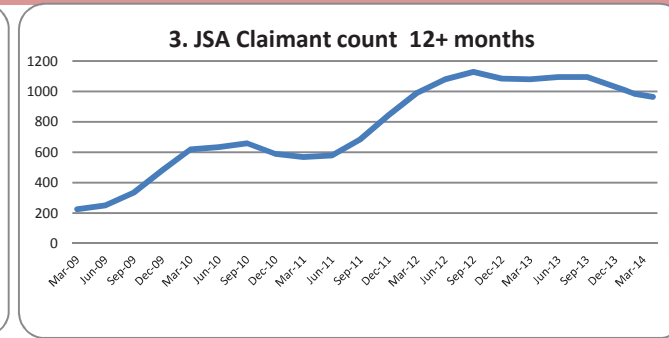
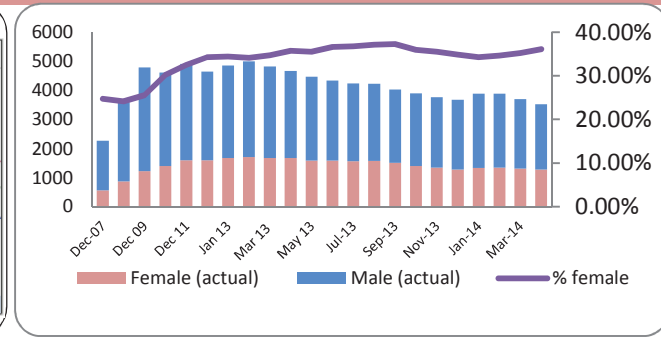
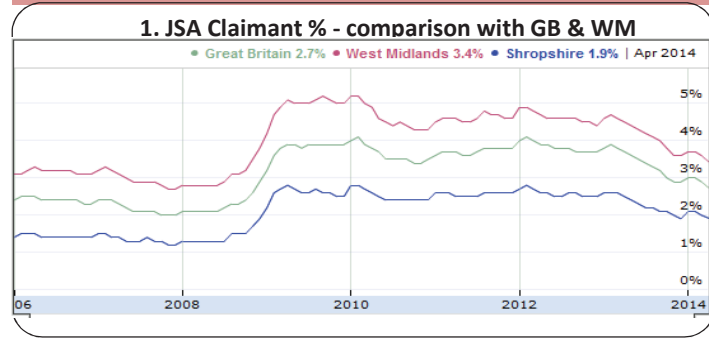


charts for available indicators reported quarterly

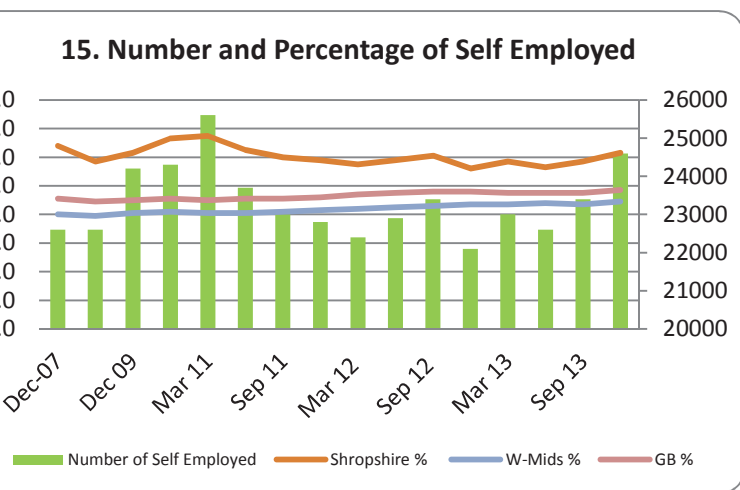
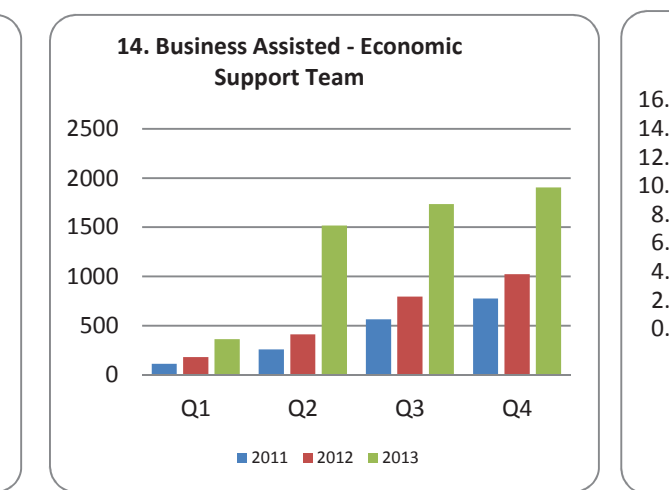
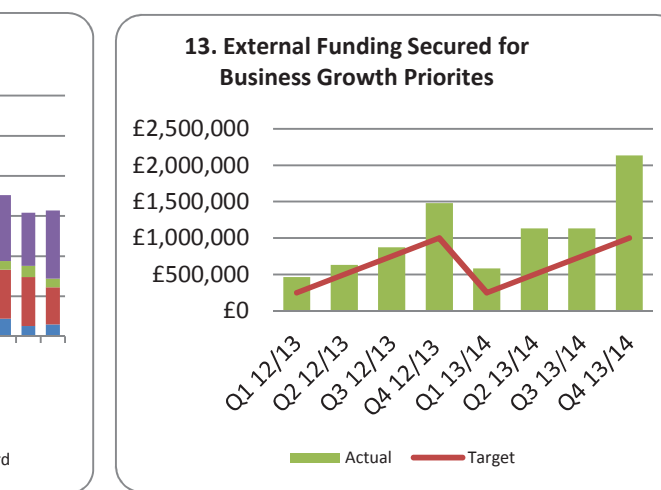
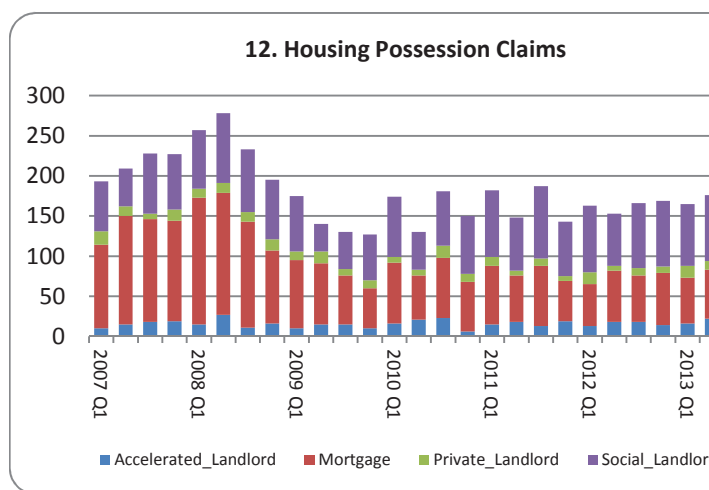
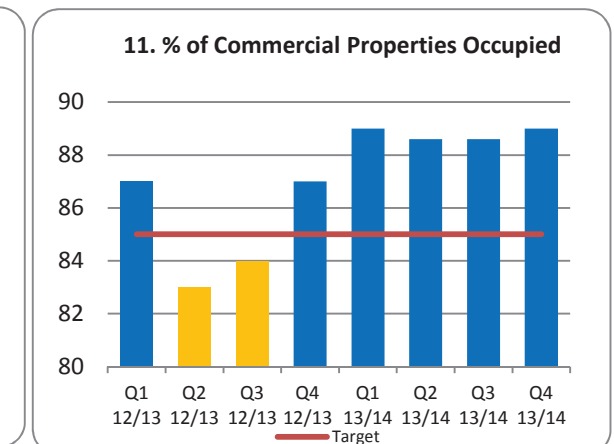
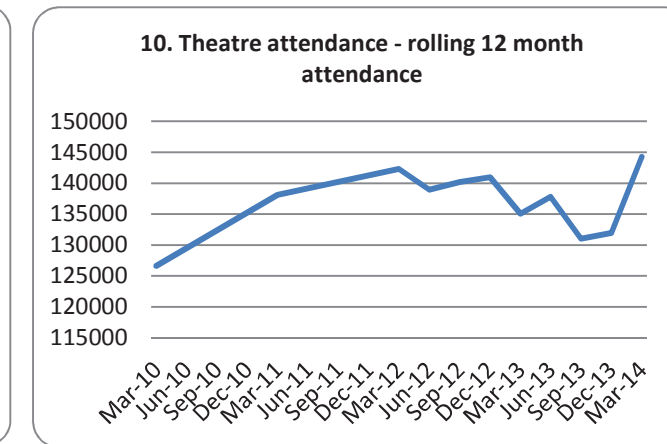
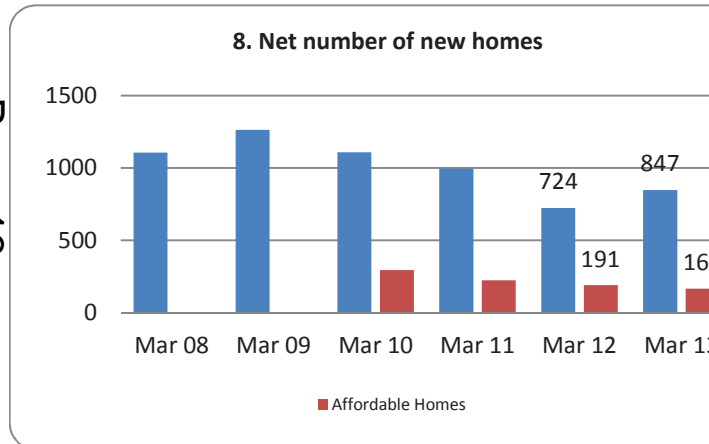
charts for available indicators reported less than quarterly

charts for indicators not currently reported/available

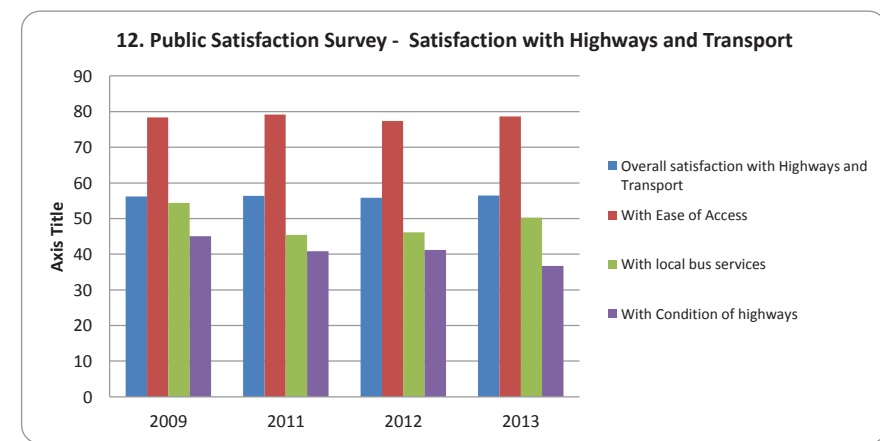
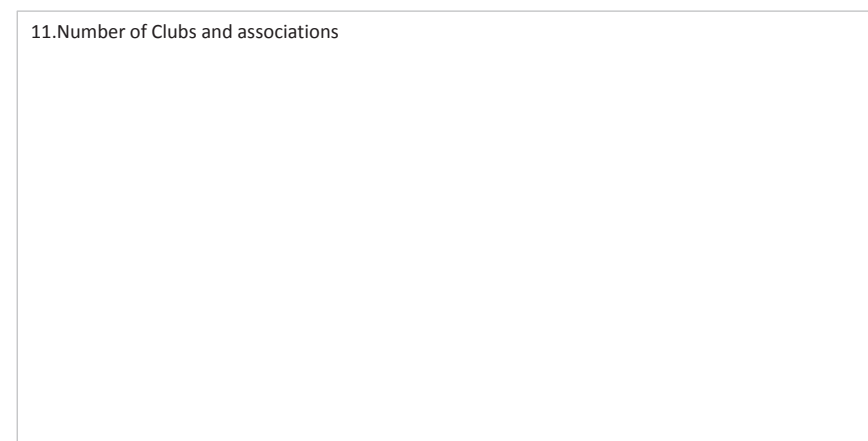
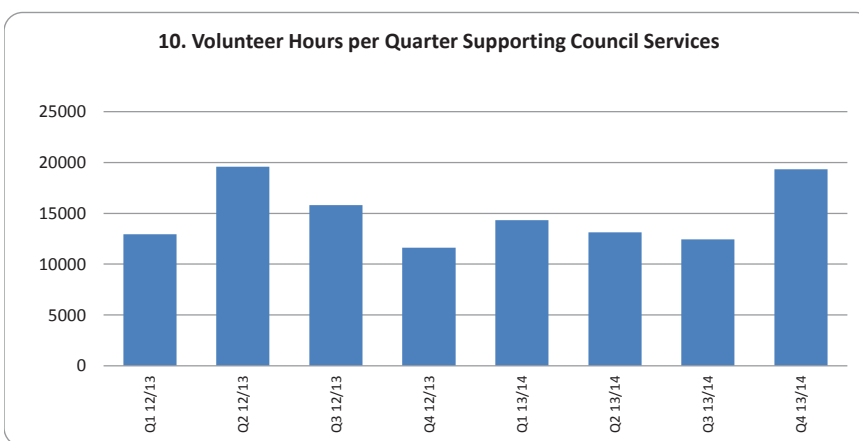
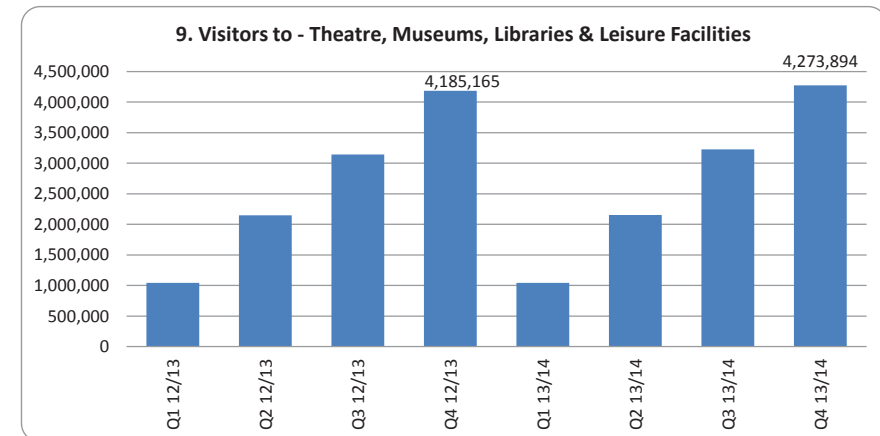
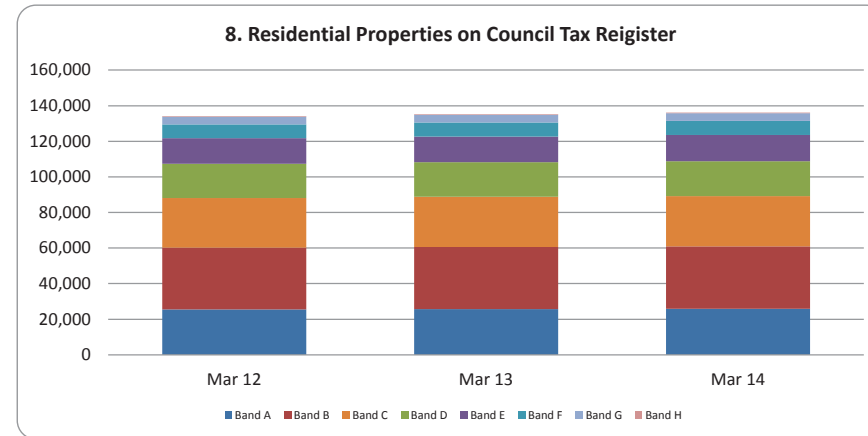
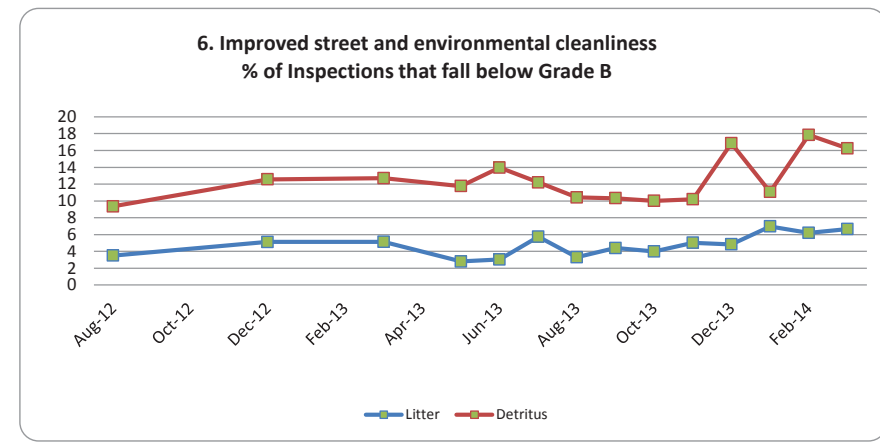
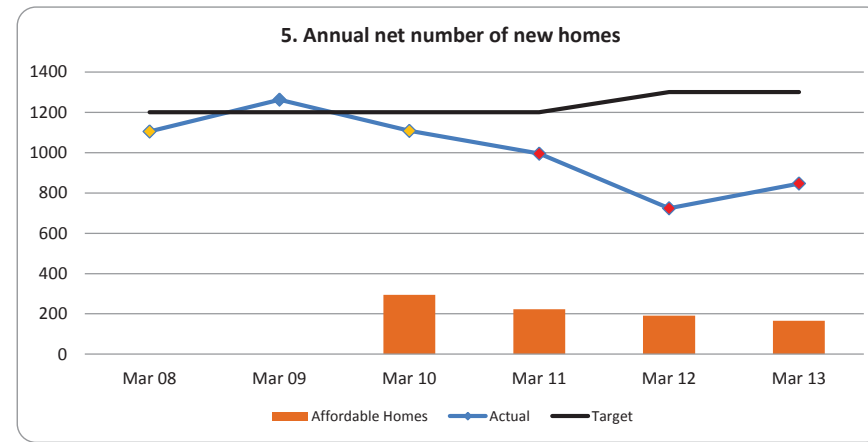
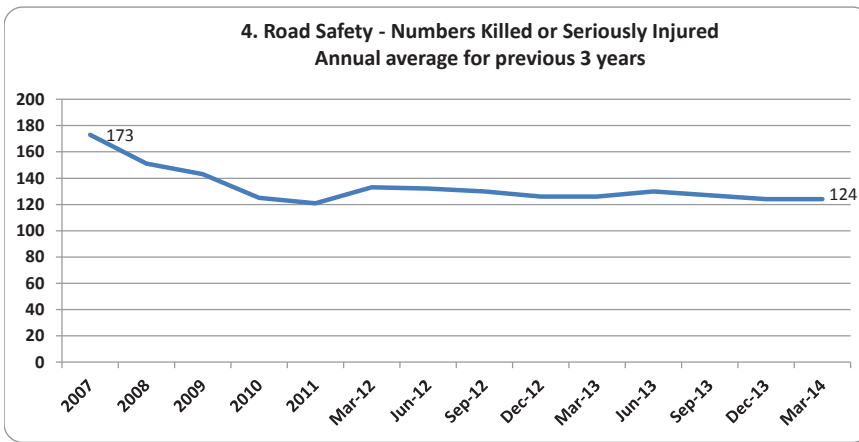
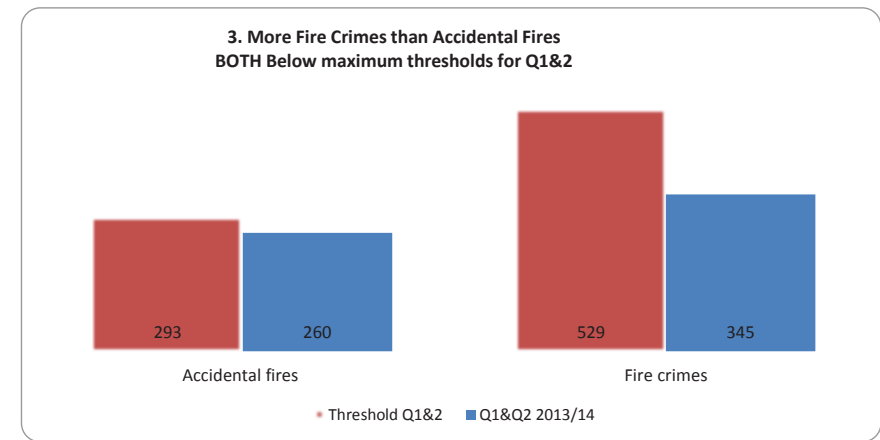
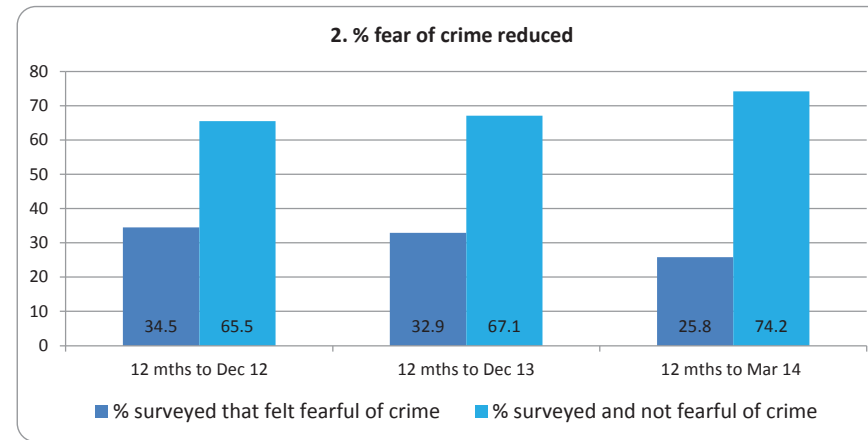
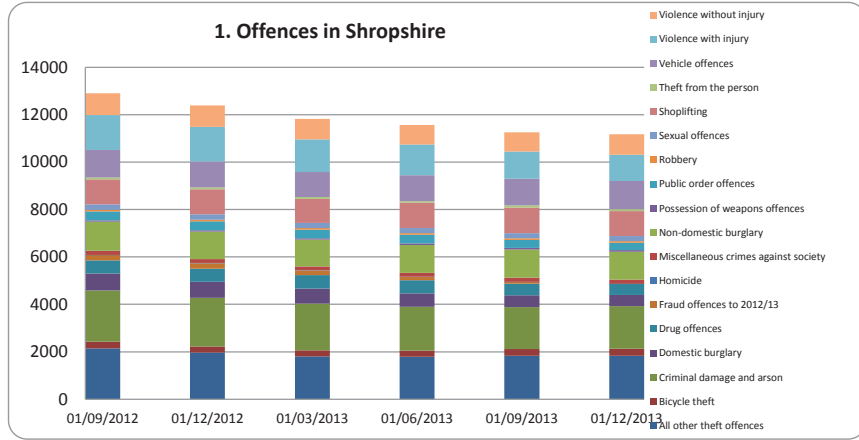
1. JSA Claimant count 12+ months
2. Claimant %- Shropshire, West Midlands and GB
3. L&S01a 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training
4. Qualifications - Dec 2012
5. Workplace vs. Residence Pay
6. Shropshire has comparatively low levels of children living in poverty
7. New The average total point score (across all the early learning goals)
- 8 % of pupils achieving KS2 level 4 in reading writing and maths
9. NI075 5 or more A*-C at GCSE or equivalent incl. Eng. and Maths
10. % of good or outstanding schools in Shropshire compared to statistical neighbours (all schools)
11. Infrastructure Site Allocation vs. Developed PLACEHOLDER
12. Rent arrears - Housing Options PLACEHOLDER



Source: Shropshire Chamber of Commerce



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charts for available indicators reported quarterly

charts for available indicators reported less than quarterly

charts for indicators not currently reported/available

1. Offences in Shropshire Source: Crime Survey for England and Wales
2. % fearful of crime reduced - % of people surveyed during 2012 who have a fear of crime
3. More Fire Crimes than Accidental Fires BOTH Below maximum thresholds for Q1&2
4. Road Safety - Numbers Killed or Seriously Injured Annual average for previous 3 years
5. Annual net number of new homes
6. Improved street and environmental cleanliness % of Inspections that fall below Grade B
7. to be developed
8. Residential Properties on Council Tax Register
9. Visitors to - Theatre, Museums, Libraries & Leisure Facilities, Visitor figures calculated from visitors to libraries, archives, council leisure facilities including those operated by Teme Leisure, Serco and 4 independent sites, council operated visitor attractions , theatre severn and old market hall
10. Volunteer Hours per Quarter Supporting Council Services, Volunteer Hours calculated from volunteer hours used to support; Outdoor Recreation, Libraries, Archives and museum
11. Number of Clubs and Associations
12. Public Satisfaction Survey - Satisfaction with Highways and Transport