



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

Date: Tuesday, 14 March 2023

**Committee:
Cabinet**

Date: Wednesday, 22 March 2023

Time: 10.30 am

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

You are requested to attend the above meeting. The Agenda is attached

There will be some access to the meeting room for members of the press and public, but this will be limited. If you wish to attend the meeting please email democracy@shropshire.gov.uk to check that a seat will be available for you.

Please click [here](#) to view the livestream of the meeting on the date and time stated on the agenda

The recording of the event will also be made available shortly after the meeting on the Shropshire Council Youtube Channel [Here](#)

Tim Collard Assistant Director - Legal and Governance

Members of Cabinet

Cecilia Motley

Ian Nellins

Lezley Picton (Leader)

Gwilym Butler

Dean Carroll

Rob Gittins

Kirstie Hurst-Knight

Richard Marshall

Your Committee Officer is:

Amanda Holyoak Committee Services Supervisor

Tel: 01743 257714

Email: amanda.holyoak@shropshire.gov.uk



AGENDA

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Disclosable Interests

Members are reminded that they must declare their disclosable pecuniary interests and other registrable or non-registrable interests in any matter being considered at the meeting as set out in Appendix B of the Members' Code of Conduct and consider if they should leave the room prior to the item being considered. Further advice can be sought from the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.

3 Minutes (Pages 1 - 4)

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2023, attached

4 Public Question Time

To receive any questions from members of the public, notice of which has been given in accordance with Procedure Rule 14. Deadline for notification is not later than 5.00 pm on Thursday 16 March 2023

5 Member Question Time

To receive any questions from Members of the Council. Deadline for notification is not later than 5.00 pm on Thursday 14 March 2023

6 Scrutiny Items

7 All Age Carers Strategy Review 2022 - 2027 (Pages 5 - 44)

Lead Member: Councillor Cecilia Motley, Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health

Report of Tanya Miles, Executive Director of People

8 Introducing a Charge for Events on the Highway Involving Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders (Pages 45 - 52)

Lead Member: Councillor Richard Marshall – Portfolio Holder for Highways and Regulatory Services

Report of Mark Barrow – Executive Director of Place

9 Implementation of the Allocations Policy & Scheme: Transitional Arrangements (Pages 53 - 68)

Lead Member: Dean Carroll, Portfolio Holder for Growth, Regeneration and Housing

Report of Tanya Miles, Executive Director of People

10 Windmill Hill Local Nature Reserve Designation (Pages 69 - 90)

Lead member: Rob Gittins, Portfolio Holder for Culture and Digital

Report of Mark Barrow, Executive Director of Place

11 Regulation of Social Housing: New Regulatory Regime (Pages 91 - 98)

Lead member: Councillor Dean Carroll, Portfolio Holder for Growth, Regeneration and Housing

Report of Mark Barrow, Executive Director of Place

12 Monkmoor Lodge/SYA (Pages 99 - 110)

Lead member: Dean Carroll, Portfolio Holder for Growth, Regeneration and Housing

Report of Mark Barrow, Executive Director Place

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Committee and Date

Cabinet

22 MARCH 2023

CABINET

Minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2023

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

10.30AM

Responsible Officer: Ashley Kendrick

Email: ashley.kendrick @shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 250893

Present

Councillor Lezley Picton (Chairman)

Councillors Ian Nellins, Gwilym Butler, Dean Carroll, Rob Gittins, Kirstie Hurst-Knight and Richard Marshall

156 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Councillor Cecilia Motley and Tanya Miles, Executive Director of People.

157 Disclosable Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

158 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 1st March 2023 be confirmed as a correct record.

159 Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

160 Member Question Time

Questions were received from the following Members. The full question and responses provided are attached to the webpage for the meeting.

Councillor Roger Evans (question brought forward from full Council) – in relation to the Greenfields Recreation Ground.

Responding to a supplementary question regarding the planning application, the Portfolio Holder for Highways and Regulatory Services said it was not possible to confirm if the planning application would be pursued and the Order was still awaited. It was therefore not possible to give projected timescales.

Councillor Peggy Mullock – in relation to cost of living support grant. Members were urged to take the information provided within the response to their Town and Parish Councils to make them aware of support available.

Councillor Bernie Bentick – in relation to waste water upgrades.

161 Scrutiny Items

There were no scrutiny items.

162 Draft Tenancy Strategy & Policy

The Portfolio Holder for Growth, Regeneration and Housing introduced the Council's Tenancy Strategy and Policy which, in a bid to tackle inequality, have been revised to enable the Council to offer lifetime tenancies to all, replacing fixed term offers. The Strategy also requests that Private Registered Providers use Lifetime Tenancies as their default. Members noted that both the strategy and policy have been subject to public consultation.

The Portfolio Holder was questioned about the reason for a five year phase out and it was confirmed that a written response would be provided following the meeting.

Members urged landlords to adopt the policy and gave thanks to the team for their hard work. Members were pleased to see such positive feedback from elected members and Town and Parish Councils.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet approve and adopt the draft Tenancy Strategy and the draft Tenancy Policy, set out in Appendix I.

163 Unsafe Walking Routes Policy

The Portfolio Holder for Children and Education introduced the report which sought Cabinet approval of the Unsafe Walking Routes Policy which replaced the current Extremely Hazardous Routes Policy.

Members sought reassurance that although the Policy referred to statutory duties, that the safety of pedestrians would be considered when assessing routes. This included the reference to verges which may be used by parents and young children on their walk to school. It was confirmed that the policy was designed to ensure the safety of pedestrians and their relationship with transport, and that each application would be considered on its own merits. This would be reviewed annually.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet adopt the revised policy (Appendix A).

164 **Oakland School, Bayston Hill Sale**

The Portfolio Holder for Growth, Regeneration and Housing presented the report proposing to dispose of the site known as Former Oakland School, Bayston Hill to Cornovii Developments Ltd (CDL).

Members felt that the residents of Bayston Hill would welcome the proposals which would see a piece of land which has been vacant for a considerable time put back into use to address unmet housing need.

RESOLVED:

- To approve the disposal of the site (as outlined in appendix 1) to CDL to realise a capital receipt.
- To delegate the following to the Head of Property and Development, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Growth, Regeneration & Housing,
 - The authority to formalise the detailed terms of the structure of the disposal incorporating the agreed valuation approach as set out and approved by full Council on the 17 December 2020 in the report 'Addressing Unmet Housing Need Site Disposals to the Housing Company'
 - In accordance with the above, ensure the sale of land is compliant with the obligations placed on the Council pursuant to Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972 and the UK subsidy control regime in accordance with the Subsidy Control Act 2022
 - The ability to settle terms and conclude a sale

165 **Shropshire LCWIP Consultation**

The Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, Environment and Transport introduced the report which sought Cabinet approval to go out to consultation on the draft Shropshire Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP).

Members welcomed the report but raised a query regarding the remaining towns in the county which had not been included in the proposals. Members were advised that the Plan focussed on urban areas; however, the Plan would cover up to 10km around each of the seven identified towns so there was potential for further towns and villages to be included.

The safety of children and parents on school routes was raised. Members were advised that there was a joined up approach with schools, the Active Travel team and the Road Safety team.

It was noted that securing funding would be crucial in order to implement the infrastructure improvements, following a period of public consultation.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet approves the draft LCWIP document and appendices to go out to public consultation for a period of six weeks.

Signed (Chairman)

Date:



Committee and Date

Item

Cabinet

22 March 2023

Public



All Age Carers Strategy Review 2022-27

Responsible Officer:	Margarete Davies
email: Margarete.davies@shropshire.gov.uk	Tel: 01743 255776
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	Cecilia Motley

1. Synopsis

The main purpose of our All-Age Carer Strategy is to provide a clear framework to the commissioning and provision of services that will support unpaid and family carers of all ages to:

- Identify as a carer,
- Maintain their own health and wellbeing,
- Plan for their future
- Participate in family and community life.

2. Executive Summary

2.1 The all-age carer strategy will support the achievement of outcomes in the Shropshire Plan, specifically relating to the priorities within healthy people.

This report provides an overview of the All-Age Carer Strategy (AACS) Review 2022-2027 and will detail the priorities Carers have told us are most important to them to support them in their caring role.

This is an all-age carer strategy ensuring all carers are recognised, whatever their age, caring role or where they live in Shropshire.

The document will detail how we intend to work in partnership with our local strategic partners, carers and communities, ensuring everyone understands their role in making a

difference to Shropshire carers' health and wellbeing, in making Shropshire a carer friendly place to live.

2.2 The review of the All-Age Carer Strategy 2022-2027, began in 2021 with information drawn from local sources. The last national carer information for Shropshire that we held was the National Carer Survey, dated 2016, and the Census 2011 data, both outdated. The decision was taken to wait for the National Carer Survey 2021 and Census 2021 information, both due to be shared in the Autumn 2022, to finalise the draft strategy so that current information would be included. The Office for National Statistics amended their roll out schedule with carer information now shared in January 2023. This has delayed the draft All Age Carer Strategy review 2022-2027 at Cabinet.

2.3 Shropshire Council recognise the significant role that unpaid and family carers play in supporting the Health and Social Care system in Shropshire and are committed to working to:

- Develop services that support carers and ensure they receive appropriate levels of support that is easy to access from whichever part of the sector carers first have contact with.
- Involve carers in service design when developing services intended to improve their health and wellbeing.
- Empower carers to create their own goals and aspirations and have a life outside of caring.

2.4 Our AACS review will support this by:

- a) Providing an action plan to supplement the strategy demonstrating how we will deliver the priorities and what measures are in place to monitor success.
- b) This is a live document and will be hosted on Shropshire Choices.
- c) The strategy and action plan will be monitored by the Shropshire Carers Partnership Board, to ensure it is coordinated and complements the wider agenda for supporting carers in Shropshire.
- d) The AACS and action plan will feed into local service plans and the Market Position Statement -currently being drafted.
- e) The action plan will utilise council initiatives to support carers, such as the robust support to Shropshire residents around the cost of living.

3. Recommendations

- That Cabinet agree the adoption of the All-Age Carers Strategy review 2022 – 2027 and endorse the core objectives of the strategy – attached as appendix 1.

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

Without a strategic plan to develop and deliver support for carers there may be the following risks for Shropshire Council:

Risk	Risk Mitigation
Shropshire Council may be unable to fulfil its legal obligations without a strategic plan of action.	The All-Age Carer Strategy sets out the priorities to be achieved to improve the lives of carers and fulfil the Council's legal obligations to carers. The All-Age Carer Strategy action plan details measurable actions on how the Council will maintain progress on outcomes, ensuring the Council is meeting the legal duty of supporting carers.
Higher costs to the Council to meet potentially increased needs of the cared for person and carers if targeted support is not planned and developed.	<p>The Council has the following duties under the Care Act 2014 to carers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent Needs for care and support for carers (s.2) • Identify carers in Shropshire with needs for support that are not being met. (s.2) • Promoting integration of care and support with health services to contribute to the prevention and improve quality of support for carers. (s.3) • Assessment of a carer's needs for support. (s.10) • Duty and power to meet a carer's eligible needs for support. (s.20) <p>To comply with these duties, it is important to co-produce the development of services with carers to ensure resources are targeted to meet the carers needs under the Care Act 2014.</p>
<p>Increased stress for carers if targeted support is not provided risking carer breakdown.</p> <p>Risk of abuse, either for the carer or the person they are caring for, may increase when a carer is isolated and not receiving practical and emotional support.</p>	The adoption of the strategy as a whole sector strategy, rather than a Council strategy only, by ShiPP so that coordinated information and support is provided at whichever point of contact the carer has with the sector. No wrong front door approach.
Inequity in service provision for carers throughout Shropshire.	The Shropshire Carers Partnership Board monitor the implementation and delivery of the All-Age Carer Strategy and action plan to ensure it is coordinated, to reduce inequity and complements the wider agenda for supporting carers in Shropshire. The Board currently reports to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 No additional budget pressures have been identified with the development of the All-Age Carers Strategy. Further resources may be required once the action plan is implemented however any actions will need to be delivered within existing budgets.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

6.1 The Council has declared a climate emergency and is committed to achieving ‘net-zero’ carbon impact by 2030.

Energy and fuel consumption –

6.1.1 Support for adult carers by the Carer Support team is delivered predominantly by telephone or virtually. The team travel to facilitate peer groups periodically and combine this with any home visits in the vicinity to reduce the carbon impact from travel.

6.1.2 The facilitated peer groups have speakers and information on services to assist carers with reducing and managing their bills.

Renewable energy generation -

6.1.3 Support to carers includes discussion and signposting to services such as Keep Shropshire Warm and home energy advice such as use of solar panels so that carers can manage their bills.

7. Background

7.1 In the Census 2021 – 9.6% of the population in Shropshire, over 5 years old, identified as an unpaid carer, which is higher than the England average of 8.9%. This equates to 29,704 residents, aged 5 years and above, in Shropshire identifying as a carer.

7.2 Plans to meet the demand

- Digital Support for carers contract –to identify carers previously unknown to services.
- By working with local strategic partners, carers, and the community to ensure everyone understands their role in making a difference to Shropshire carers’ health and wellbeing, in making Shropshire a carer friendly place to live.

7.3 Table of carers accessing information and support 2022

Carer appointments at Let’s Talk Local hubs (a local venue where carers are booked an appointment for assessment) 2022		530
Carer assessments completed 2022		452
Carers on Carer Register - Dec 2022		981
Mobilise data Dec 2021 – Dec 2022		
Discover stage– unique* visits to the Mobilise website	Engage stage – unique* clicks into information on the website e.g. blue badge eligibility checklist	Support stage – unique* no: of carers attending one to one or group sessions on Zoom so that they can see and talk directly with people e.g. virtual cuppas; one to one coaching sessions

13020

1719

679

- * Unique means the digital device that has accessed the web page is counted only once no matter how many time that device accesses the web page. Therefore, if a carer were to access the Mobilise web page three times from their mobile phone that would be counted as one user of the service not three.

7.4 The all-age carer strategy will support the achievement of outcomes in the Shropshire Plan, specifically relating to the priorities within healthy people:

Tackling inequalities – by developing an all-age carer strategy to:

- Ensure all carers are recognised, whatever their age, caring role or wherever they live in Shropshire
- acknowledge all carers should be treated equally however recognising that everyone's caring role is unique, and each carer may have differing needs.

Early interventions – by increasing awareness and identification of carers of all ages within the whole Health and Social Care sector, including self-identification, so that information, advice and support can be given at an earlier stage to:

- improve carers experience of caring – the right information at the right time, help to prevent crisis and allow carers to achieve their full potential and lead their best lives.
- support carers to fulfil their employment and educational potential.

Partnerships – by working with local strategic partners, carers, and the community to:

- ensure carers receive appropriate levels of support that is easy to access from whichever part of the sector carers first have contact with
- ensure everyone understands their role in making a difference to Shropshire carers' health and wellbeing, in making Shropshire a carer friendly place to live.

Self-responsibility – by supporting carers, through one-to-one discussions, assessments and workshops to:

- create personal goals and aspirations
- provide support to progress them and have the confidence to take responsibility, own their plan and help them to do things for themselves.

7.5 In June 2022, Carers UK reported the numbers of unpaid carers remains higher than before the Coronavirus pandemic with 1 in 5 UK adults now providing support to a relative, close friend or neighbour and almost everyone will know family members, friends and colleagues who are carers. Carers come from a range of backgrounds and age groups.

7.6 This is an all-age strategy which covers all carer groups, and while all carers should be treated equally, it recognises that everyone's caring role is unique, and each carer may have differing needs.

7.7 Following findings from the Carers Review in 2019 and engagement with partners and carers, which has assisted the Council to recognise what support is required to meet their statutory responsibility of providing information and support to carers, both as a preventative measure and when eligible needs have been identified through assessment, the aim for this Shropshire All-Age Carers Strategy is: -

‘To identify, support and enable carers of all ages
in Shropshire to remain healthy, fulfil their own
potential
and balance their caring responsibilities with
a life outside of caring. ‘

7.8 Carers have told us what is most important to them to support them in their caring role. Their views have been used to decide upon the outcomes that will be most important for us to achieve in the next five years.

7.9 This has led to seven key priority areas which are as follows:

Priority 1.	Early identification and support for carers of all ages.
Priority 2.	Building carer friendly communities in Shropshire where carers are recognised, listened to and respected.
Priority 3.	A life of their own outside of their caring role – supporting carers to balance their caring responsibilities with their own aspirations and needs; allowing carers to fulfil their employment and educational potential.
Priority 4.	Carers have good physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing
Priority 5.	Access to timely, up to date information and advice in a variety of formats that is easy to read and understand and readily available.
Priority 6.	Co-ordinated services within the whole Health and Social Care Sector
Priority 7.	Transitions during the carer role. Ensuring carers, of any age, are supported through the stages of their caring role

7.10 The implementation of this strategy will be supported and advised by the Shropshire Carers Partnership Board (SCPB), which includes representatives from carers, statutory services, the voluntary and community sector, and health. Regular progress reports will be made to the Shropshire Health and Well-Being Board.

7.11 The table below sets out which all age carer strategy priorities are aligned to the 4 priorities of the Shropshire Plan 2022-25 and will support the achievement of outcomes in the 4 ‘Healthy’ priority areas, contributing to our vision of ‘Shropshire living the best life’.

Shropshire Plan 2022-2025 Priorities	Aligned to the following All-age carer strategy priorities
<p>Healthy People Strategic Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackle inequalities • Early intervention • Partnerships • Self-responsibility 	<p>Early identification and support for carers of all ages. Building carer friendly communities in Shropshire where carers are recognised, listened to and respected. A life of their own outside of their caring role – supporting carers to balance their caring responsibilities with their own aspirations and needs. Carers have good physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing. Access to timely, up to date information and advice in a variety of formats that is easy to read and understand and readily available. Co-ordinated services within the whole Health and Social Care Sector. Transitions during the carer role. Ensuring carers, of any age, are supported through the stages of their caring role.</p>
<p>Healthy Economy Strategic Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills and employment • Safe, strong, and vibrant destination • Connectivity and infrastructure • Housing 	<p>A life of their own outside of their caring role – supporting carers to balance their caring responsibilities with their own aspirations and needs. Access to timely, up to date information and advice in a variety of formats that is easy to read and understand and readily available. Co-ordinated services within the whole Health and Social Care Sector Transitions during the carer role. Ensuring carers, of any age, are supported through the stages of their caring role.</p>
<p>Healthy Environment Strategic Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change strategy and actions • Safe communities • Natural environment 	<p>Carers have good physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing. Access to timely, up to date information and advice in a variety of formats that is easy to read and understand and readily available.</p>
<p>Healthy Organisation Strategic Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best workforce • Absorb, Adapt, Anticipate 	<p>Early identification and support for carers of all ages. Building carer friendly communities in Shropshire where carers are recognised, listened to and respected.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate well • Align our resources • Strong councillors 	<p>A life of their own outside of their caring role – supporting carers to balance their caring responsibilities with their own aspirations and needs.</p> <p>Access to timely, up to date information and advice in a variety of formats that is easy to read and understand and readily available.</p> <p>Co-ordinated services within the whole Health and Social Care Sector.</p>
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7.12 Extensive consultation of the AACS has taken place to develop the strategy; it has been sent to all carers on the carer register, to the voluntary and community services; to health partners; Mobilise, and Crossroads Together for children and young carers and Parent and Carers Council (PACC) and also publicised via the media.

In addition it has been presented to the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Making it Real (MIR) board (experts by experience), Carers Board and SHIPP. The strategy has been well received and inputs have been reflected within the document which included strengthening support for carers in employment, strengthening links to Primary Care Networks (PCN) promoting carers services at PCN locality meetings with GPs endorsing the strategy and considering additional ways they can support carers including identifying carers earlier. Further engagement is planned with the request that a communications plan is developed as part of the action plan. Engagement will also include parish councils to not only promote services but also to look at opportunities to build networks across rural Shropshire. Further work with Children and Young people services to look at how young carers and those carers caring for people with complex needs can be better supported. It is also due to be presented at the Health and Wellbeing Board in April 2023.

8. Additional Information

8.1 Support for Young Carers, from the age of 5 – 18 years, is outsourced by the Council and provided by Crossroads Together Young Carer service.

The service provides;

Respite: Young carers have a break from their caring role, to have fun and be children again.

Support: Meeting other young carers who really understand, a chance to make new friends, staff they can talk to that will listen.

Awareness: Raising awareness about young carers in schools and in the community. Groups run across the County, offering a wide range of activities across the year, as well as 1:1 support where it's needed.

Support for parent carers of young people with complex needs is provided by Shropshire Council Children and Young People Service. This includes information on services delivered through a variety of social media channels, newsletter and through the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Local Offer.

Work to align pathways will be a critical aspect of the action plan under the strategy.

8.2 Adult carer support in Shropshire has traditionally been outsourced to an external provider however the service was brought in-house from 01/2/2021.

Care Act Carer assessments are conducted by the Community Social Work teams and not by the Carer Support service.

- The (Adult) Carer Support team is made up of 3.4 FTE carer support practitioners (CSP); a team coordinator, Information officer and Shropshire Carer Manager.
- The service offers carers:
 - 1:1 support – working with carers to explore the options available to them as a Carer, and support for carers to follow their choices
 - Information and advice, and signposting to specialist services e.g. welfare benefits, advocacy
 - Support line – operating Mon – Fri 9-00am till 5-00pm
 - Check in and chats – minimum 6 monthly to maintain carer wellbeing and prevent crisis
 - Assistance with planning ahead
 - Peer support groups
 - Events and activities
 - Carer Register – to share information quickly, Emergency/ID card issued and emergency/contingency plan
 - Carer Feedback – co-produced with a carer. An opportunity for carers to help shape services by giving their feedback on their experiences throughout all of Health and Social care, both what went well and what may need improving.

8.3 The timeline for the completion of the strategy is below:

- 6 December 2022 – Shropshire Carers Partnership Board
- 12 January 2023 – Making it Real Board
- 24 January 2023 – Young Carers Forum
- 30 January 2023 – Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting
- January 2023 –finalise draft and send for consultation
- 16 February 2023 – Shropshire Integrated Place Partnership Board
- February 2023 – develop action plan.
- 22 March 2023 – Cabinet
- April 2023 – new AACS implemented

9. Conclusions

9.1 A clear All Age Carers Strategy is an important document which will inform the future plan to support Shropshire’s carers health and wellbeing

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

All Age Carer Strategy for Shropshire 2017-2022 – attached as appendix 2

Local Member: *All Members*

Appendices

Appendix 1: Draft All Age Carer Strategy 2022 – 2027

Appendix 2: All Age Carers Strategy for Shropshire 2017 – 2022

Shropshire All Age Carer Strategy 2022- 2027 Review





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1. Foreword
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5. Who is the strategy for?
6. Who is a carer?
7. Carer Demographics
8. How the strategy was developed
9. What We Have Achieved Since the Last Strategy
10. Challenges from Delivering the Last Strategy
11. What Did Carers Say About Their Experience of Caring?
12. How the All-Age Carer strategy aligns with the Shropshire Plan
13. What we want to achieve
14. Our priorities
15. Appendix A – Local/National information and legislation that has informed the strategy
16. Appendix B – Action Plan – how we will deliver this strategy
17. Appendix C – National 2021/22 Survey of Adult Carers
18. Acknowledgements

1 Foreword

To date, the broad data released from the 2021 Census indicates that 9.6% of our population in Shropshire identifies as an unpaid and family carer, with almost a third of those carers responding, providing unpaid care for 50+ hours per week.

The work unpaid and family carers do is invaluable and, while it can be rewarding, without identifying as a carer and receiving help at an early stage, it can lead to poorer physical and emotional health, social isolation, a need to give up work and financial difficulties. It is vitally important that carers remember to take care of themselves too and we all have a role in helping carers to self-identify and seek support.

Whether you are an adult supporting a friend or family member, a parent looking after a child who has additional needs, or a young person who spends a lot of time looking after members of your family, Shropshire Council would urge you to get in touch to find out about the support available to you.

This all-age carer strategy review 2022-2027 document has been produced by gathering the knowledge and views from organisations in health and social care, voluntary and community sector and, most importantly, from carers and former carers from across the County. During the implementation of this strategy, it is vital that carers continue to be involved in informing the application of it so that our priorities and actions reflect the lived experience of carers in Shropshire.

We want to make Shropshire a carer friendly county where our carers, of all ages, remain healthy, fulfil their own educational and employment potential, and have a life of their own outside of their caring responsibilities.

All-age carer strategy working group.

2. Executive Summary

In June 2022, Carers UK reported the numbers of unpaid carers remains higher than before the Coronavirus pandemic with 1 in 5 UK adults now providing support to a relative, close friend or neighbour and almost everyone will know family members, friends and colleagues who are carers. Carers come from a range of backgrounds and age groups.

This is an all-age strategy which covers all carer groups, and while all carers should be treated equally, it recognises that everyone’s caring role is unique, and each carer may have differing needs

Following findings from the Carers Review in 2019 and engagement with partners and carers, the aim for this Shropshire All-Age Carers Strategy is: -

‘To identify, support and enable carers of all ages in Shropshire to remain healthy, fulfil their own potential and balance their caring responsibilities with a life outside of caring. ‘

Carers have told us what is most important to them to support them in their caring role. Their views have been used to decide upon the outcomes that will be most important for us to achieve in the next five years.

This has led to seven key priority areas which are as follows:

Priority 1.	Early identification and support for carers of all ages.
Priority 2.	Building carer friendly communities in Shropshire where carers are recognised, listened to and respected.
Priority 3.	A life of their own outside of their caring role – supporting carers to balance their caring responsibilities with their own aspirations and needs; allowing carers to fulfil their employment and educational potential.
Priority 4.	Carers have good physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing
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Priority 6.	Co-ordinated services within the whole Health and Social Care Sector
Priority 7.	Transitions during the carer role. Ensuring carers, of any age, are supported through the stages of their caring role



The strategy has been developed to provide an outline of a holistic approach to supporting carers and will support the achievement of outcomes in the Shropshire Plan 2022-25, particularly relating to the strategic objectives within the priority Healthy People:

- **Tackling inequalities –**
by developing an all-age carer strategy to:
 - a) ensure all carers are recognised, whatever their age, caring role or wherever they live in Shropshire
 - b) acknowledge all carers should be treated equally however recognising that everyone's caring role is unique, and each carer may have differing needs.

- **Early interventions –**
by increasing awareness and identification of carers of all ages within the whole Health and Social Care sector, including self-identification, so that information, advice and support can be given at an earlier stage to:
 - a) improve carers experience of caring – the right information at the right time
 - b) help to prevent crisis
 - c) allow carers to achieve their full potential and lead their best lives
 - d) supporting carers to fulfil their employment and educational potential.

- **Partnerships –**
by working with local strategic partners, carers, and the community to:
 - a) ensure carers receive appropriate levels of support that is easy to access from whichever part of the sector carers first have contact with
 - b) ensure everyone understands their role in making a difference to Shropshire carers' health and wellbeing, in making Shropshire a carer friendly place to live.

- **Self-responsibility –**
by empowering carers to:
 - a) create personal goals and aspirations
 - b) provide support to progress them
 - c) have the confidence to take responsibility, own their plan and help them to do things for themselves.

The implementation of this strategy will be supported and advised by the Shropshire Carers Partnership Board (SCPB), which includes representatives from carers, statutory services, the voluntary and community sector, and health. Regular progress reports will be made to the Shropshire Health and Well-Being Board.

3. Shropshire Carers Partnership Board

The Shropshire Carers Partnership Board (SCPB) has a strategic role in overseeing the development, commissioning, and implementation of services for unpaid carers in Shropshire, whatever their age, to ensure carers are supported. Meetings are quarterly and are usually blended, via MS Teams and face to face.

It is important that carers, communities, the voluntary sector, and health organisations are part of the Board so that:

- key issues facing unpaid carers are understood and can be addressed
- carers expert knowledge has a role in co-producing how services intended to improve their health and wellbeing are designed and shaped.
- the sector is working cohesively and reducing duplication
- all areas within the health and social care sector are aware of services and new developments to support carers.

4. Purpose of the Strategy

The main purpose of our All-Age Carer Strategy is to provide a clear framework to the commissioning and provision of services that will support carers of all ages to:

- Identify as a carer,
- Maintain their own health and wellbeing,
- Plan for their future
- Participate in family and community life.

The strategy seeks to address local issues and strengthen integration of health, social and voluntary services to enable the priorities to be achieved to improve the lives of carers. Additionally, it sets out a plan on how we will maintain our progress and enhance those areas where we need to improve.

5. Who is the Strategy for?

Our Vision is:

‘To identify, support and enable carers of all ages in Shropshire to remain healthy, fulfil their own potential and balance their caring responsibilities with a life outside of caring.’

This strategy is for all unpaid and family carers who provide support to an individual who lives in Shropshire and may be ill, frail, with disabilities, have poor mental health or drug and alcohol problems, meaning they're unable to manage without this care and support.

It includes adult carers, working carers, parent/family carers, young adult carers and young carers under 18 and recognises that all carers have a diverse and unique range of needs, priorities and interests.

6. Who Is a Carer?

A 'carer' is an adult who provides or intends to provide care for another adult without pay (an 'adult needing care' s.10 *Care Act 2014*)

A 'Young Carer' is a person under 18 who provides or intends to provide care for another person s.96 *Children and Families Act 2014*



Carers may not recognise themselves as carers and may prefer to continue to identify primarily as a husband, wife, partner, sibling, parent, child or friend rather than a carer. It is important for carers to consider themselves carers' so their role can be recognised, and they are able to access advice and support they may need.

A 'parent carer' means a person aged 18 or over who provides care for a disabled child for whom the person has parental responsibility s.97 *Children and Families Act 2014*

Source: Care Act 2014 and Children and Families Act 2014

7. Carer Demographics

Carer Demographic Census 2021

Initial broad data results from the Census 2021 issued 19 January 2023 shows the following:

- 29, 704 individuals, over the age of 5 years, identified as an unpaid carer in Shropshire

Hours of unpaid care provided	% figure	Number of unpaid carers
9 hours or less	3.8%	11,637
10 - 19 hours	1.3%	4,044
20 - 34 hours	0.9%	2,721
35 – 49 hours	0.9%	2,771
50+ hours	2.8%	8,531

Further detailed information will be added when available from the Office of National Statistics.

Information on Parent Carers and Young Carers

There are a dispersed population of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities in Shropshire. There are approximately 4300 children and young people who are under the age of 18 and have some level of additional need. (This figure does not include any children and young people who live in Shropshire but access their education outside of the County). 2006 of these young people have been identified as having a significant level of special educational need and as such are likely to be receiving a high level of support from family carers.

It is only recently that the true impact on parent carers of supporting a young person with additional needs has been fully understood. The National Network of Parent Carer Forums www.nnpcf.org.uk championed the use of the term ‘parent carer’ in recognition of the additional responsibilities and roles parent carers take on, over and above the role of being a parent, when supporting a child with additional needs. This additional responsibility, combined with the sense of loss and concerns about the vulnerability of their children, can have a significant impact on parent carers physical and mental health.

In addition to impacting their physical and mental health, families of disabled children also face additional costs and may be economically disadvantaged. In 2019 [research from Scope](#) found that ‘on average, a family with a disabled child would have to pay £581 a month to have the same standard of living as a family with a non-

disabled child. For 1 in 5 families, these extra costs come to more than £1000 a month’.

The Young Carers support service had 128 young carers registered with them in December 2022, with 61 young carers actively engaged during that quarter.

We don’t yet have the Census 2021 data on how many young people identify as a carer in Shropshire. This is likely to be an under-representation as nationally it is recognised many young carers are hidden from the view of others.

To improve identification of young carers:

- The support service provider employs a School Project officer to provide weekly term time support in schools for those young carers already identified and to identify more through working with school staff;
- Children and Young People’s service have analysed information on where referrals are made to target awareness raising and training on identifying a young carer.

Findings from the 2021/22 National Survey of Adult Carers

See appendix C for full information

When asked **how much control** carers have over their daily life, **16%** said they have **enough control**, **67%** have **some control**, but not enough, and **17%** have **no control at all**.

191 carers said they had used support services in the last 12 months.

- 71%** Information and advice
Carers groups
- 74%** Training for carers
- 2%** Support to remain in employment

Of the carers who tried to find information and advice on support, services and benefits **58%** said it was easy or fairly easy to find it. **42%** said it was fairly or very difficult to find.



96.5% Of carers state that their health has been impacted by their caring role. The most common impacts are **feeling tired** (86%), **disturbed sleep** (74%) and a **general feeling of stress** (70%).

75%



Of carers spend **more than 20 hours a week** looking after or helping the person they care for.

7.7% of carers spend their time doing the things they want; **77.4%** do not have enough time to do the things they want; and **14.9%** do not have the time to do anything they value or enjoy.



25% Of carers have as much social contact with people as they like, **53%** have some, but not enough, social contact and **22%** feel socially isolated.

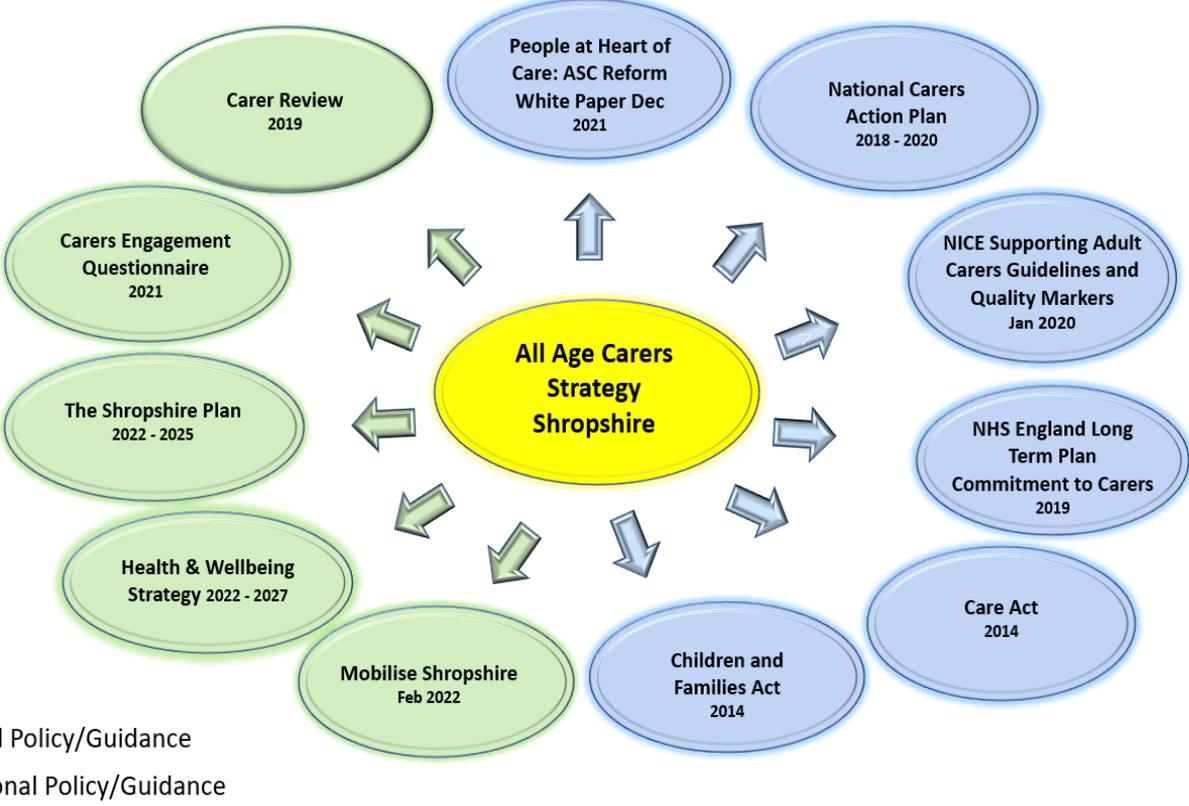


Caring has caused financial difficulties for **42.3%** of carers in Shropshire and is similar to the national figure of **42.8%**. In Shropshire the figure has increased from **40.6%** in 2018/19 and **38.4%** in 2016/17.

The National Survey of Adult Carers in England is carried out every other year and led by NHS Digital. The next survey issued to carers living in Shropshire is expected to take place in October 2023 with published results available mid-2024.

8. How This Strategy Was Developed

The strategy has been developed with a working group of carers and former carers, as well as key organisations representing carers. Information was drawn from national and local documents and legislation, principally the Shropshire Plan 2022-2025, which support and have an impact on the strategy. The key motivation informing this strategy has come from what carers in Shropshire have told us they need.



See [appendix A](#) for details of how the local and national documents and legislation has informed this strategy.

9. What We Have Achieved Since the Last Strategy?

Greater number of adult carers accessing a direct payment

Carer Register launched to provide swifter communication with adult carers

Increase in numbers of carers being identified and receiving information and support

Growing number of peer support groups across the county

Carers Feedback launched to gather carer experiences with Health and Social Care

Text messaging service now live – reaching more adult carers

Launch of Digital Support for Adult Carers

Growth in number of carers completing a contingency plan

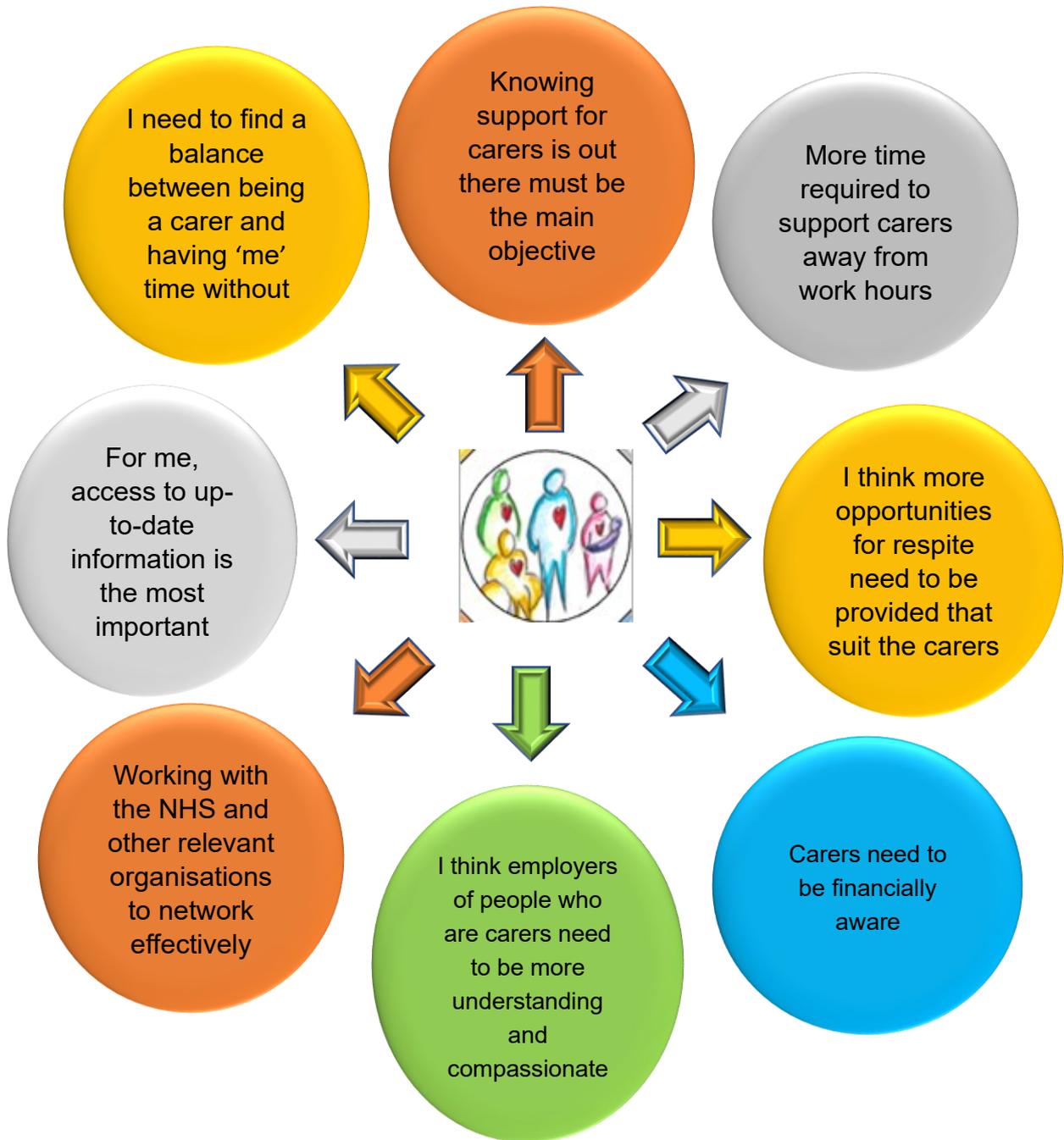
Increase in numbers joining the SEND All In Scheme- now over 700 families.

Parent and Carer Council (PACC) secured extra funding to offer summer programme supporting families to re-engage after lockdown.

10. Challenges in Delivering the Last Strategy

- The Covid -19 pandemic significantly increased waiting times for carer assessments.
- The pandemic also had a significant impact on the provision of a variety of breaks for carers.
- Culture shift for many people as service delivery became primarily through digital methods/technology only.
- Identification of carers through primary care

11. What Did Carers Say About Their Experience of Caring?



12. How the All-Age Carer Strategy aligns with the Shropshire Plan 2022-2025

The All-age Carer strategy priorities align with those set out in the Shropshire Plan 2022-2025 and will support the achievement of outcomes in the 4 'Healthy' priority areas, contributing to our vision of 'Shropshire living the best life'.

The table below sets out which all age carer strategy priorities are aligned to the 4 priorities of the Shropshire Plan 2022-25.

Shropshire Plan 2022-2025 Priorities	Aligned to the following All-age carer strategy priorities
<p>Healthy People Strategic Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackle inequalities • Early intervention • Partnerships • Self-responsibility 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Early identification and support for carers of all ages. 2. Building carer friendly communities in Shropshire where carers are recognised, listened to and respected. 3. A life of their own outside of their caring role – supporting carers to balance their caring responsibilities with their own aspirations and needs. 4. Carers have good physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing. 5. Access to timely, up to date information and advice in a variety of formats that is easy to read and understand and readily available. 6. Co-ordinated services within the whole Health and Social Care Sector. 7. Transitions during the carer role. Ensuring carers, of any age, are supported through the stages of their caring role.

<p>Healthy Economy Strategic Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills and employment • Safe, strong, and vibrant destination • Connectivity and infrastructure • Housing 	<p>3.A life of their own outside of their caring role – supporting carers to balance their caring responsibilities with their own aspirations and needs. 5.Access to timely, up to date information and advice in a variety of formats that is easy to read and understand and readily available. 6.Co-ordinated services within the whole Health and Social Care Sector 7.Transitions during the carer role. Ensuring carers, of any age, are supported through the stages of their caring role.</p>
<p>Healthy Environment Strategic Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change strategy and actions • Safe communities • Natural environment 	<p>4.Carers have good physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing. 5.Access to timely, up to date information and advice in a variety of formats that is easy to read and understand and readily available.</p>
<p>Healthy Organisation Strategic Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best workforce • Absorb, Adapt, Anticipate • Communicate well • Align our resources • Strong councillors 	<p>1.Early identification and support for carers of all ages. 2.Building carer friendly communities in Shropshire where carers are recognised, listened to and respected. 3.A life of their own outside of their caring role – supporting carers to balance their caring responsibilities with their own aspirations and needs. 5.Access to timely, up to date information and advice in a variety of formats that is easy to read and understand and readily available. 6.Co-ordinated services within the whole Health and Social Care Sector.</p>

13. What We Want to Achieve

We have developed 7 key priorities based on subjects' carers have informed us means the most to them and will make the biggest difference to their lives.

Our priorities are in line with the objectives set out in National Carers Action plan 2018-2020 and People at the Heart of Care: ASC Reform white paper 2021 and the Shropshire Plan 2022-2025, priority Healthy People strategic objective of developing a comprehensive carer support offer and contributing to its vision - Shropshire living the best life.

Early identification and support for carers

Carers have good physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing

Building carer friendly communities in Shropshire where carers are recognised, listened to, and respected

Carers have access to timely, up to date information and advice in a variety of formats that is easy to read and understand and readily

Carers have a life of their own outside of their caring role – supporting carers to balance their caring responsibilities with their own aspirations and needs; allowing carers to fulfil their educational and employment potential.

Coordinated services within the whole Health and Social Care sector

Transition
Transitions during the carer role. Ensuring Carers, of any age are supported through the stages of their caring role.

14. Our Priorities

1. Early identification and support for carers – increased awareness and identification of carers of all ages and assist citizens to recognise they are carers so that information, advice and help is available earlier in their caring journey.

Actions we will take to address this include:

- Awareness raising and Carer Aware training for Health and Social Care professionals, including primary and secondary care, pharmacies, and dentists to assist them to identify carers.
- Practitioners throughout the statutory system should understand the legal standing of the term 'Parent Carer' and understand the role and its impact.
- Develop opportunities to contact carers who are not currently known to services.
- Raise awareness in schools and colleges to identify young carers and young adult carers and refer/signpost them to the support available.
- Analyse data on referrals received by the Young Carer Support service provider to identify target areas to raise awareness on identifying a young carer.
- Analyse data on referrals received by Shropshire Carer Support team to target areas to raise awareness on identifying carers.
- Raise carer awareness and support available for carers with the business community, including statutory bodies.
- Ensure the offer of support is clear.

2. Building carer friendly communities in Shropshire where carers are recognised, listened to and respected

Actions we will take to address this include:

- Actively involve carers, including young carers, wherever possible, as expert partners in the planning of care and support which the person they care for receives e.g. at hospital discharge
- Improve information sharing systems across services, to avoid carers having to repeat their story to different professionals.
- Involve carers in service design when developing services intended to improve their health and wellbeing
- Promote awareness of carers rights.
- Raising awareness of caring in wider communities to ensure organisations and services provide flexible services that carers can access.
- Raise public awareness of carers and their contribution to society by supporting annual celebratory events recognising carers e, g, Carers Rights day; Carers Week.

- Local services, including education settings, should receive training on how to work in partnership with parent carers and understand where appropriate the legal duties around and value of co-production.

3. Carers have a life of their own outside of their caring role – supporting carers to balance their caring responsibilities with their own aspirations and needs; allowing carers to fulfil their employment and educational potential.

Actions we will take to address this include:

- Supporting carers to recognise and look after their own health and wellbeing needs as well as those of the person they are supporting.
- Provide person centred support to carers that is tailored to their own individual needs and aspirations
- Communicate and promote available respite, including community support, so that carers have time for themselves.
- Young carers need time to be children.
- Support carers to plan for the future so they feel confident they can manage any changes to the caring role and achieve personal outcomes.
- Ensure carers are financially well informed by promoting and supporting their access to a range of financial support information and to services that advise on welfare rights.
- Actively work with employers to raise awareness of carers in their workforce - how to recognise and support them
- Support carers to fulfil their employment and educational potential.
- Mental health services should understand and acknowledge the emotional impact of being a parent carer and develop support to help parent carers to adjust to this new role and to recognise their own needs e.g. Healthy Parent Carer programme.

4. Carers have good physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing

Actions we will take to address this include:

- Carers are provided with information on how to manage the cared for person's condition to support them to care safely and confidently.
- Carers have the opportunity to attend training to help them manage their own physical, mental and emotional health e.g. managing stress; self-advocacy for carers, first aid.
- Carers feel supported and can talk with someone who understands their situation. This may be through support from other carers and carer networks.
- Link carers to a range of support to help them stay connected to their communities and maintain relationships that are important to them and reduce loneliness which can affect carers physical, mental, and emotional health.
- Carers are able to find information on support easily and throughout all of the Health and Social care sector.

- Providing relevant contact information for Parent Carers who are isolated, struggling or in crisis.

5. Carers are able to access timely, up to date information and advice in a variety of formats that is easy to read and understand and readily available

Actions we will take to address this includes:

- Provide all carers with personalised information and help
- Raising awareness of the different methods all carers can access information
- Ensuring all information is jargon free and easy to understand
- Provide professionals with the information to allow them to offer informed advice to all carers
- Information is available to all carers through all parts of Health and Social care, whichever part of the sector they have contact with.

6. Coordinated services to support carers

Actions we will take to address this include:

- Encourage organisations providing services, for carers or patients/cared for people, to work together to ensure services provided meet the needs of all carers.
- Provide equitable support to all carers, whatever their caring responsibility, area they live, or personal circumstances.
- Improve information sharing systems across services, to avoid carers having to repeat their story to different professionals.
- Raise awareness and promote best practice to staff across the whole sector on identifying, valuing and supporting carers.
- Examine assessment procedure for all carers to ensure all carer groups are offered an assessment, if appropriate.
- Develop a data strategy for the better understanding of the carer community.
- Ensure all Parent Carers are offered needs assessments where appropriate.

7. Transitions during the carer role. Ensuring carers, of any age, are supported through the stages of their caring role

Actions we will take to address this include:

- Provide the right information and support at the right time to improve transitions for carers as they move through specific phases or life events in their caring role.
- Establish a transition pathway from children and young people's service to adult services for young adult carers and parent carers.
- Awareness training for health and social care professionals so that they can confidently identify young carers and parent carers and refer/signpost to support available.

15. Appendix A

Local/National Information and Legislation that has informed this Strategy

National Outcomes	Local Outcomes
<p>National Carers Action plan 2018-2020</p> <p>This outlines the government's commitment to supporting carers through 64 actions across 5 priorities. The priorities are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Services and systems that work for carers 2. Employment and financial wellbeing 3. Supporting young carers 4. Recognising and supporting carers in the wider community 5. Building research and evidence to improve outcomes for carers 	<p>Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2027</p> <p>The all-age carer strategy will support the achievement of outcomes in the 4 key priority areas for Shropshire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joined up working • Improving population health • Working with and building strong and vibrant communities • Reduce inequalities
<p>People at the Heart of Care: ASC Reform White Paper 2021</p> <p>Builds on the foundations of the NHS Action plan 2018-2020 and sets out a new strategic approach centred around 3 core strands</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Working with the sector to kick-start a change in the services provided to support unpaid carers 2. Identifying, recognising and involving unpaid carers 3. Supporting the economic and social participation of unpaid carers 	<p>Carer Engagement Questionnaire 2021</p> <p>Main themes:</p> <p>Carers felt the existing 5 priorities were still important:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carers are listened to, valued and respected 2. Carers are enabled to have time for themselves 3. Carers can access timely, up-to-date information and advice 4. Carers are enabled to plan for the future 5. Carers are able to fulfil their educational, training or employment potential <p>Additionally, carers advised the following were important:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping safe – both for carers and their cared for person

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loneliness –levels have increased since Covid 19 • Integration of Health and Social Care services
<p>NICE Supporting Adult Carers Guidelines and Quality Markers 2020</p> <p>Sets out action orientated recommendations for good practice for professionals for better outcomes for adult carers. The recommendations are around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information and support for carers: overarching principles • Identifying carers • Assessing carers’ needs • Helping carers stay in, enter or return to work, education and training • Social and community support for carers • Training to provide care and support • Psychological and emotional support for carers • Support during changes to the caring role • Support for carers during end-of-life end of life care and after the person dies 	<p>Carers Review 2019</p> <p>Recommendations from the review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved communication between professionals and individuals and other organisations • Timely, easy to understand and find information • A joined-up system • Digital approach – technology that may assist • Showing how we value carers • See me – I am not ‘just’ a carer.
<p>NHS England Long Term Plan – Commitment to Carers 2019</p> <p>Sets out the key areas where the NHS will support carers including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • raising the profile of carers, • education, training and information, • well-coordinated care, • contingency planning, • support for young carers to have access to preventative health and timely referral to local support services • working with carers from excluded and marginalised communities • carer passports 	<p>Mobilise Shropshire – Insights Report February 2022</p> <p>The main areas of concern highlighted by carers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Benefits 2. Carer emotions - frustration, irritation, guilt, anticipatory grief, stressed, isolated, worry 3. Carer Assessments 4. Time for self 5. Coping with dementia 6. Other condition specific information and support 7. Befriending Services 8. Carer Health 9. Carer Exhaustion 10. Arranging care at home

Care Act 2014

Aims to put carers on an equal legal footing to the cared for person. Local authorities are required to carry out an assessment to assess whether a carer is eligible for support where a carer appears to have needs and implement a support plan.

The Shropshire Plan 2022-2025

The all-age carer strategy will support the achievement of outcomes in the 4 key priority areas of the Shropshire Plan:

- Healthy People
- Healthy Economy
- Healthy Environment
- Healthy Organisation

Children and Families Act 2014

Gives young carers and young adult carers in England a right to a carer's assessment and to have their needs met, if the assessment shows this is needed. It also puts a duty on a local council to provide an assessment to a carer of a disabled child aged under 18 if it appears that the parent carer has needs, or the parent carer requests an assessment.



16. Appendix B - Action Plan

The progress of the strategy will be regularly reviewed by the Shropshire Carers Partnership Board, who will monitor the delivery and implementation to ensure it is coordinated and complements the wider agenda for supporting carers in Shropshire.

The action plan is a live document which has been developed to support the strategy and will be delivered through successful partnerships between carers, health and care services, voluntary and community organisations and other partner agencies.

17. Appendix C – National 2021/22 Survey of Adult Carers



Carers Survey 2021/22

Understanding the views and experiences of adult carers in Shropshire

The sample

417



People who had performed the role of informal carer in the last 12 months were invited to participate in the survey.

An **informal carer** is someone who looks after a partner, family member or friend regardless of whether or not they receive a carers allowance

- 26%** Are supported and funded by the LA
- 74%** Are self funded

75% of people cared for had **physical** support needs, **10%** had **learning disability** support needs, **9%** had **memory and cognition** support needs. Others had mental health, sensory or social support needs.



Survey responses

211



Surveys were completed and returned. **8** were returned blank and **198** surveys were not returned.

72% of surveys went to female carers and **28%** to male carers. **98.5%** of those who had a survey were White British. We managed to capture the views of people aged from **34** to **92**.

The age of people being supported by carers ranged from **18** to **95**.

86% of carers lived with the person being cared for and **14%** lived somewhere else.



Overall satisfaction with support received

34.5% are **extremely or very satisfied** with the support they received. **32.5%** are **quite satisfied**. **8.7%** are either **quite or very dissatisfied** and **2%** are **extremely dissatisfied**. Some are not sure (13.7%) or did not receive any support (8.6%).

191 carers said they had used support services in the last 12 months.

- 71%** Information and advice
- 74%** Carers groups
- 2%** Training for carers
- 4%** Support to remain in employment

7.7% of carers spend their time doing the things they want; **77.4%** do not have enough time to do the things they want; and **14.9%** do not have the time to do anything they value or enjoy.



Life as a carer

When asked **how much control** carers have over their daily life, **16%** said they have **enough control**, **67%** have **some control**, but not enough, and **17%** have **no control** at all.

47% of carers have **enough time** to look after themselves, **31%** **need more time** to look after themselves and **22%** feel they are **neglecting themselves**. (These figures are similar to the national figures of 49%, 31% and 20%).

79% Have **no worries** about their personal safety.

20% have **some worries** and **1%** are **extremely worried** (carers were contacted in a follow up if they didn't feel safe).



Social networks and family

25%

Of carers have as much social contact with people as they like, **53%** have some, but not enough, social contact and **22%** feel socially isolated.



34%

Of carers feel encouraged and supported. **52%** have had some encouragement and support. **14%** of carers feel they have no encouragement and support.

3 out of **10** carers also have **caring responsibility for someone else.**

Of these carers **60%** say they do not have enough time to care for this other person.



The impact of caring

96.5%

Of carers state that their health has been impacted by their caring role. The most common impacts are **feeling tired (86%)**, **disturbed sleep (74%)** and a **general feeling of stress (70%)**.

Caring has caused financial difficulties for **42.3%** of carers in Shropshire and is similar to the national figure of **42.8%**. In Shropshire the figure has increased from **40.6%** in 2018/19 and **38.4%** in 2016/17.



In addition to their caring role:

- 69%** of carers are retired
- 18%** are employed or self-employed
- 23%** are not in paid work
- 7%** volunteer
- 3%** undertake other activities

Access to information

Of the carers who tried to find information and advice on support, services and benefits **58%** said it was easy or fairly easy to find it. **42%** said it was fairly or very difficult to find.



78%

Of carers have received information and advice. **87%** of carers found this very or quite helpful. **12%** found this quite unhelpful and **1%** very unhelpful.

75%

Of carers have had a discussion about the support or services provided to the person they care for. Of these carers **90%** always, or usually, felt involved or consulted as much as they wanted to be.



Caring responsibilities

When asked how long they had been looking after the person they care for **7%** said less than 1 year, **46%** between 1 and 5 years, **30%** between 5 and 15 years and **17%** more than 15 years.

75%



Of carers spend **more than 20 hours a week** looking after or helping the person they care for.

The most common forms of support provided to the person cared for are **providing practical help (94%)**; **keeping an eye on them to make sure they were alright (93%)**; helping to deal with care services and benefits (89%); and **giving medicines (89%)**.

The Survey of Adult Carers in England (SACE) is a bi-annual survey led by NHS Digital. You can find out more here: <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/personal-social-services-survey-of-adult-carers>

Contact : Feedback & Insight Team, Communications and Engagement, Resources, Shropshire Council
Email: TellUs@shropshire.gov.uk



18. Acknowledgements

The All-age Carers Strategy from Derbyshire County Council and Worcestershire County Council have been used for reference and format purposes.

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Health and Wellbeing Board 9th February 2017

SHROPSHIRE ALL AGE CARERS STRATEGY

Responsible Officer Val Cross, Health and Wellbeing Officer
Email: val.cross@shropshire.gov.uk
Tel: 01743 253994

1. Summary

A new All-Age Carers Strategy and Action Plan for Shropshire has been written for the period 2016-2021. The five priorities have been identified through consultation and surveys with carers, local and national best practice and a local multi-agency working group. These priorities focus around the overarching aim, which is:

“Carers are supported to remain emotionally, mentally and physically well and feeling safe”

An Action Plan to meet the needs of these priorities has been produced, and leads for each area have been identified. Work is now underway to ensure that firm outcomes will be achieved.

2. Recommendations

That the Board approve the strategy, or approve with amendments.

REPORT

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The 2011 census shows us that there are around 34,000 carers in Shropshire. Of these it is estimated that there around 650 young carers, and approximately 1600 children and young people who have been identified as having a significant level of special educational need and as such are likely to be receiving a high level of support from family carers.

However, we know that there are many ‘hidden’ carers. These carers may feel that they are simply carrying out ordinary responsibilities as part of a family, be caring for an adult child with learning disabilities as part of being a parent or be caring for someone with stigmatised conditions such as drugs and alcohol and be reluctant to make their needs known.¹

1.2 A new carers strategy has been produced for Shropshire, which now covers all ages including young carer and young adult carers. This has been developed by using and collecting information from local and national sources. These include; national guidance, data and legislation, statistical data about Shropshire carers and the

¹ <http://www.scie.org.uk/publications/guides/guide09/section4/index.asp>

people they care for, findings from the Shropshire carers survey which was carried out in June/July 2016, information from Carer Partnership meetings and consultation with carers of all ages.

- 1.3 The definition of a carer in this strategy is:
“Someone of any age who provides unpaid care for another person (of any age) who may be ill, frail, disabled, have poor mental health or addiction problems, meaning they are unable to manage without this care.”

2.0 Strategy priorities

- 2.1 The key driver for this strategy has come from what carers in Shropshire have told us they need and has led to five key priority areas, which are as follows:

- 2.2 The five priorities are:

1. Carers are listened to, valued and respected.
2. Carers are enabled to have time for themselves.
3. Carers can access timely, to up to date information and advice working with education providers to promote information for young carers, young adult carers and parent carers.
4. Carers are enabled to plan for the future.
5. Carers are able to fulfil their educational, training or employment potential.

- 2.3 During the development of the Strategy, attempts have been made to ensure that the language is clear and applies to carers of any age. However, as this is the first All-age Carers Strategy for Shropshire, specific actions are being developed for specific groups (including young carers and parent carers) as it is recognised that the needs of some groups will be quite different than the needs of other groups of carers. The whole Strategy document can be found in Appendix A.

3.0 Action Plan

- 3.1 Developing and implementing the Action Plan is now a key priority. This involves partnership working with carers, People 2 People, Carers Trust4All, PACC, Shropshire CCG, Children’s Services, Adult Social Care, Telford and Wrekin Council and other stakeholders.
- 3.2 The Carers Strategy Working Group has identified named leads for 4 out of 5 of the strategy priorities. These individuals are from the Health and Wellbeing Team, Adult Social Care and Shropshire CCG. The current gap is a lead for Priority 4, which is ‘Carers are enabled to plan for the future’. As can be seen in the Action Plan, (Appendix B) this focusses on embedding planning for the future as a part of all-age carer health and other assessment discussions. It is hoped that a representative from Children’s Services will be able to take this priority forward, once the new Head of Early Help, Partnerships & Commissioning, Francean Doyle, is in post in February 2017.
- 3.3 The Action Plan is a ‘live’ document, which has been developed by the Carers Strategy Working Group. It focusses on action needed to meet the identified five priorities, and to ensure that firm outcomes will be achieved.

3.4 The leads will now take actions forward in their area, as detailed on the Action Plan, and bi-monthly leads meetings have been planned. These meetings will allow any successes and challenges to be shared including identifying any crossover work.

3.5 A record of progress will be added to the Action Plan by the Health and Wellbeing Officer.

4.0 Collecting carer's voices

4.1 Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin are part of the NHS England Carer Voice pilot, which is collecting the views of all carers to inform national strategies. Joint working has been taking place to collect the views of young carers and young adult carers to inform local strategies and action Plans.

5.0 Conclusion

5.1 Implementation of the new Strategy and Action Plan should contribute towards positive outcomes for carers of all ages.

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

(NB This will include the following: Risk Management, Human Rights, Equalities, Community, Environmental consequences and other Consultation)

There are no Human Rights, Environmental consequences, Community or Equality issues with this Strategy and Action Plan. Indeed, it aims to help improve the visibility and needs of carers in the communities they live in.

Risk Assessment has identified potential threats as;

1. *Losing engagement of key stakeholders.* This risk will be reduced by; communicating with partners regularly via email, sharing findings and information, holding regular meetings (face to face), holding a stakeholder event and inviting a wide range of partners, requesting partner involvement in designing the interventions, legitimise interventions and ideas through evidence, including national best practice as well as locally collected ethnographic data and include carers and primary care providers as key partners.
2. *Insufficient funding to implement effective Strategy* This risk will be reduced by potential funding from Better Care Fund and Social Care. Carers Trust 4 all are already contracted to supply and deliver services. Good communication with partners to report on progress of strategy, funding required and potential shortfalls will take place.
3. *Staffing issues impacting on implementation of strategy.* This risk will be reduced by communicating with providers and partners such as; Carers Trust 4 all, Adult Social Care, Children's Social Care and School Nursing etc. to anticipate staffing issues which may have an impact.

4. Financial Implications

Financial constraints across the whole system has been kept in mind when formulating the Action Plan, and the outcomes focus is more on changing ways of working, reviewing policies and pathways and making information available. This will involve staff time.

The Action Plan is at the early stage of implementation; hence, specific financial implications are unknown at present and would be identified and met through the Better Care Fund.

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

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Cllr. Lee Chapman

Local Member

Appendices

Appendix A Shropshire All-Age Carers Strategy 2016-2021

Appendix B Action Plan



Committee and Date

22 March 2023

Item

Public



Proposal for Consultation on Introducing a Charge for Events on the Highway Involving Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders (TTRO's)

Responsible Officer:

Mark Barrow

email: mark.barrow@shropshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01743 258919

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):

1. Synopsis

A proposal on consultation to introduce a fee for the assessment, approval, processing and advertising of Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders (TTRO's) to enable events to take place on the highway.

2. Executive Summary

2.1 The Shropshire Plan has been developed around four priorities including a 'Healthy Economy'. Underpinning this our strategic objectives are to develop Shropshire as a safe, strong and vibrant destination to attract people to live in, work in, learn in and visit. And also to deliver excellent connectivity and infrastructure, increasing access to social contact, employment, education, services and leisure opportunities.

2.2 The Council has always supported events in the county which are popular with residents and visitors. They promote active lifestyles and, in most cases, boost the local economy. Some commercial organisers have been achieving healthy profits from events in recent years and it seems both reasonable and appropriate to consider and apply charges for the use of the council's highways to provide a financially sustainable approach for the Council as many other local authorities do. This allows us to help fund

and maintain a range of key services for Shropshire residents and those who visit the county. An appropriate recovery of costs process that takes account of, and considers all types of, event and event organiser would support the vision, values and priorities of the Shropshire Plan.

- 2.3 An important factor in considering proposed fee scales is to ensure fees are defensible, pass scrutiny, accurately reflect officers time and other incurred costs and are also considered reasonable, on a par with those imposed by neighbouring and similar authorities and, importantly are not an unwarranted deterrent for event organisers wishing to hold an event in Shropshire.
- 2.4 Temporary legal orders to enable events to take place on the highway or to enable temporary traffic and pedestrian management to safely manage events held “off highway” are predominantly processed under either Section 14(1) of the “Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984” or the “Town Police Clauses Act 1847”

3. Recommendations

That Cabinet

- 3.1 Approve a consultation exercise on the proposed charges set out in the Appendix.
- 3.2 Note that, following the consultation, the final policy will be presented to Cabinet for final approval.

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1 An opportunity to gain further feedback, comment and views from affected stakeholders including Town & Parish Councils and event organisers.
- 4.2 An opportunity for increased income to assist in savings target and in maintaining key services across Shropshire.
- 4.3 An opportunity to reasonably recoup officer’s time and applicable costs in assessing, processing and advertising temporary legal orders required.
- 4.4 An opportunity to reasonably recoup officers time and applicable costs in advising, directing and liaising with organisers and interested parties.
- 4.5 Proposed charges for this service will be new for regular and event organisers. There is a risk that imposing a charge may impact on event organisers with limited or currently non-existent budgets – leading to proposed event applications being withdrawn, or increased request for fee waivers.
- 4.6 No foreseeable impact on Children and vulnerable adults

- 4.7 No foreseeable impact on Human Rights or Equalities. An Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact assessment is on-going with a view to being updated following the outcome of the consultation exercise.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 Additional income generated from charging reasonable costs will contribute to the £25,000 commercial services savings target included in the MTFS for 23/24.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.1 It's believed that the proposals would have no direct effect on:
- 6..1. Energy and fuel consumption
 - 6..2. Renewable energy generation
 - 6..3. Carbon offsetting or mitigation
 - 6..4. Climate change adaptation
- 6.2 The maximum proposed charge for events likely to attract more than a thousand people from outside the local area and / or affecting a traffic sensitive route, may act as an incentive for event organisers to consider a less disruptive location and hence have a positive indirect effect on energy and fuel consumption.
- 6.3 The positive indirect on energy and fuel consumption would align with the "Healthy Environment" priority of the "Shropshire Plan".

7 Background

- 7.1 "Events" on the highway which require some form of TTRO (usually temporary road closure and/or temporary suspension of parking) include large annual shows such as Shrewsbury Flower Show, regular local Market events, fairs and festivals and sporting events. Organisers include but are not restricted to; Town & Parish Councils; private; community led and charitable organisations; television and film companies.
- 7.2 The reasoning for temporary road closures and other restrictions to be applied is predominantly to protect participants and attendees and to temporarily allow useable space on the highway to allow equipment and apparatus to be installed and people to attend without risk of traffic conflict.
- 7.3 Historically, whilst Shropshire Council have the ability and facilities to charge event organisers for the assessment, advice, and processing of the legal order if deemed necessary, the process has been largely accommodated as part of a wider ethos to assist event organisers on limited budgets and to promote events as beneficial to community engagement, increasing footfall, trade & tourism whilst raising Towns and County profile.
- 7.4 There is now an initiative to review this procedure, ensure recovery of reasonable costs, and introduce a reasoned/defendable charge where appropriate to do so.

8 Additional Information

- 8.1 Any revised charge/process will be new to regular and historical event organisers. There may be some consideration to ensuring revisions are reasonable, defensible, pass scrutiny and accurately reflect officers time and incurred costs.
- 8.2 An initial “Benchmarking” exercise with similar neighbouring authorities has evidenced that, predominantly they do impose a charge for this function although the calculations involved are varied.
- 8.3 The proposal is to implement a charge for applicants with a maximum calculated charge of £1480.00 as detailed and dependent on applicant category, the potential for disruption and officers time involved.
- 8.4 In order to set a reasonable and appropriate charge that, as far as reasonably practicable, does not unduly deter event organisers on limited budgets and is defensible, the proposal is to apply percentage “discounts” to the maximum calculated charge that also more accurately reflect the “disruption effect” for each individual TTRO/temporary road closure.
- 8.5 As there are many variables to the types of event, event organiser, and the potential for disruption to traffic & businesses, a “caveat” is proposed in the eventual policy/guidance of officer discretion being used to levy an appropriate charge (within the price range stated and “less or more than”) that more accurately reflects the anticipated level of disruption and officers time spent – i.e. a commercial event, anticipated to attract less than 500 people, could involve closing a traffic sensitive/arterial route or have some other factor requiring maximum officer input – conversely an event likely to attract over 1,000 people, but held in a field/on private and off a non-traffic sensitive road involving up to an hour of traffic management to see people safely in and out – may have minimal officer input.

9 Conclusions

- 9.1 Following the pandemic there now looks to be a resurgence of both established and new event organisers wishing to organise events that affect the highway, either by temporary traffic regulation orders applied or by managing an influx of additional traffic and thronging of people. Events vary regarding potential disruption and the officer input required to ensure the event can take place safely and legally, with appropriate consultation and communication. The proposal is to apply a reasonable charge to recoup officers time spent – whilst also ensuring charitable organisations & public sector partners are appropriately considered.

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

- Place Overview Committee report 30th June 2022
- Briefing Note 30th June 2022
- Events List 2022 to date

Cabinet Member	Richard Marshall
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Local Member:	n/a
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Appendices [Please list the titles of Appendices]

Appendix 1 – Proposed Charge Structure

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Applications For Temporary Road Closures (TTRO's) For Events

Event organised by a commercial organisation prices:

less than 500 people = **£145**

500 to 1000 people = **£740**

More than 1000 people = **£1480**

Event organised by a film production company = £740

In some cases officer discretion may be used to levy an appropriate charge that more accurately reflects the anticipated level of disruption and officers time spent.

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Cabinet

Item

22 March 2023

Public



Implementation of the allocations policy and scheme: transitional arrangements

Responsible Officer:	Tanya Miles		
email:	tanya.miles@shropshire.gov.uk	Tel:	01743 255811
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	Dean Carroll		

1. Synopsis

Cabinet is requested to approve the proposed transitional arrangements as part of the implementation of the revised allocations policy and scheme for allocations to Council owned stock and nominations to private registered providers of social housing.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. Tackling inequality is a key outcome of the Healthy People priority of the Shropshire Plan; ensuring affordable housing is allocated to thus in the greatest housing need is fundamental to tackling housing inequality. In October 2022 Cabinet approved and adopted a revised housing allocations policy and scheme. The policy and scheme seek to make best use of the flexibilities provided under the Housing Act 1996, to ensure social housing is allocated to those in the greatest need and support strategic housing priorities.
- 2.2. As set out in the October 2022 Cabinet report the policy and scheme is to be implemented in the first quarter of 2022-23. Unfortunately, due to delays out of Council's control, in order to meet the original deadline for implementation, transitional arrangements are proposed. Therefore, this report requests Cabinet to consider and approve transitional arrangements relating to how and where existing applicants will be placed on the revised housing register in relation to: local

connection qualifying criteria; registration date; and applicants who are sharing facilities with another household.

3. Recommendations

That Cabinet

- 3.1. Approve the proposed transitional arrangements as set out in section 7 of this report.
- 3.2. Give delegated authority to the Head of Service – Housing, Resettlement and Independent Living, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Growth, Regeneration and Housing, for all actions to facilitate the implementation of the revised allocations policy and scheme by the end of quarter 1 2023-24.

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1. Further to the approval and adoption of the revised allocations policy and scheme in October 2022 the Council has been progressing its implementation, with the aim of introducing the revised policy and scheme during quarter 1 2023-24, which provides a long-stop date of 30 June 2023. However, due to matters outside the Council's control, the Council has two options:
 - (1) Continue to pursue the original implementation plan which involves the re-registration of all circa 6,000 housing register applicants; or
 - (2) Do not undertake re-registration, but instead place existing applicants into corresponding categories contained within the revised policy and scheme.
- 4.2. The risks associated with each option are:
 - (1) Significant time delay in implementation, with associated additional costs.
 - (2) As all the required information relating to the revised allocations policy and scheme does not form part of the current applications process, there would be a need to apply transitional arrangements. The main area where there is insufficient data relates to the local connection qualification criteria.
- 4.3. The opportunities associated with each option are:
 - (1) Despite the implementation of the revised policy and scheme being subject to significant delay, there would be no requirement for transitional arrangements.
 - (2) The proposed transitional arrangements as outlined in Section 7 below will ensure the implementation of the revised policy and scheme and will not negatively impact upon existing applicants and need only remain in place for up to two years.
- 4.4. Given that the revised policy and scheme has the aim of ensuring that those applicants in the greatest need are allocated housing, thus supporting the

Council's statutory duties under the Housing Act 1996, it is recommended that the revised policy and scheme is introduced as soon as is practically possible and as such this requires transitional arrangements as proposed below.

- 4.5. An Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA) has been completed and is attached as an appendix to this report. As the draft policy also increases the number of bands from four to seven, this allows for greater differentiation in prioritising categories of applicants required to be given reasonable preference under the Housing Act 1996 as well as also recognising the needs of those applicants who may not be in a reasonable preference group but are still in housing need and are a strategic priority for the Council, for example, key workers in low-paid employment. Given the recognised intersectionality across the nine Protected Characteristic groupings as set out in the Equality Act 2010, there will likewise be a predicted positive impact for individuals and households across groupings, particularly in the groupings of Age and Disability.
- 4.6. Additionally, there will be an anticipated positive impact for veterans and serving members of the armed forces and their families, for whom the Council seeks to have due regard to need through our tenth category of consideration of Social Inclusion. This is not an Equality Act category, rather representing our efforts as a Council to consider the needs of households in Shropshire and the circumstances in which they may find themselves.
- 4.7. Being able to access an affordable dwelling which meets a household's needs is essential to health and well-being. For example, this could be an allocation of a flat in an extra care sheltered scheme to an older person with disabilities, allowing them to be able to continue to have "their own front door" and live independently instead of moving into residential care or potentially being admitted to hospital due to a fall. Or instead providing a house which is affordable, of good quality and has security of tenure to a family threatened with homelessness, allowing them to create a home for their children and reducing the worry of a no fault eviction or being able to afford an increase in rent.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. The proposed transitional arrangements no longer require the re-registration of all existing applicants. The implementation, including the proposed transitional arrangements continue to be funded through existing budget allocations. The benefits of implementing the draft policy and scheme in line with the original timescale of quarter 1 2023-24, will reduce budget pressures in other areas, in particular the cost to the Council of temporary accommodation provided to homeless households under the Interim Duty of the Housing Act 1996.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.1. It is acknowledged that the Policy is expected to have a 'no effect' outcome on the climate change impacts listed below:
 - energy and fuel consumption
 - renewable energy generation

- carbon offsetting or mitigation, and
- climate change adaptation.

6.2. There are no other anticipated direct environmental impacts associated with the recommendations in this report. However, all social landlords, including the Council, are required to improve the energy efficiency of their dwellings with the aim of ensuring affordable warmth and reducing carbon emissions.

7. Proposed transitional arrangements

- 7.1. On 19 October 2022 the Cabinet approved and adopted a revised housing allocations policy and scheme. The revised allocations policy and scheme ensures that the Council complies with the Housing Act 1996, whilst making use of the flexibilities the Act provides. Moreover, the policy and scheme supports the Healthy People priority of the Shropshire Plan as it seeks to tackle housing inequality by ensuring affordable housing is allocated to those in the greatest housing need.
- 7.2. As set out in the October 2022 Cabinet report, the timetable for implementing the policy is quarter 1 2023-24. However, unfortunately due to issues outside the Council's control, in order for this timescale to be achieved, it is proposed that transitional arrangements are put in place.
- 7.3. These arrangements seek to ensure that the policy and scheme is implemented and that existing applicants are not unfairly negatively impacted. Transitional arrangements will remain in place for a period of up to two years.
- 7.4. Under the revised allocations policy and scheme applicants are required to have a local connection, subject to statutory exceptions, to be on the housing register, although applicants without a local connection but in a reasonable preference¹ category as defined in the Housing Act 1996 can be placed in Band 7.
- 7.5. Local connection is defined under the policy as an applicant, or a person who might reasonably be expected to reside with them, either:
- is normally resident within the local authority area of Shropshire for a period of at least two years immediately prior to an application being made;

¹ Reasonable preference categories

- people who are homeless within the meaning of Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 (including those who are intentionally homeless and those not in priority need);
- people who are owed a duty by any housing authority under the Housing Act 1996 sections 190(2), 193(2) or 195(2) (or under section 65(2) or 68(2) of the Housing Act 1985) or who are occupying accommodation secured by any such authority under section 192(3);
- people occupying insanitary or overcrowded housing or otherwise living in unsatisfactory housing conditions;
- people who need to move on medical or welfare grounds, including grounds relating to a disability; and
- people who need to move to a particular locality in the district of the authority, where failure to meet that need would cause hardship (to themselves or to others).

¹Definition of local connection under current allocation policy and scheme

- or has a local connection with the area by virtue of family association (this being parents, grandparents, adult children, grandchildren, a brother or a sister currently living in Shropshire and has been normally resident within Shropshire for at least five years) or secure employment (the employment or self-employment of the applicant or an adult member of the household for at least one year's duration and at least 20 hours per week).

- 7.6. In order not to delay the implementation of the revised policy and scheme it is proposed that, as a transitional arrangement, all those existing applicants who have a local connection under the current policy and scheme² are placed into Bands 1 to 6 according to their need, with the exception of those applicants whose financial resources mean that they are not considered as being in housing need.
- 7.7. It is also proposed that as a further transitional arrangement, those existing applicants without a local connection to Shropshire are placed in Band 7, this being irrespective as to whether they are in a reasonable preference category.
- 7.8. The revised allocations policy and scheme places applicants in the highest Band which their circumstances allow; within each Band applicants are ranked in date order from when they were registered into that Band. As a transitional arrangement it is proposed that when existing applicants are placed in the highest Band which their circumstances allow, the date they will be ranked by is their original registration date.
- 7.9. Band 5 of the revised allocations policy and scheme contains a category for when an applicant shares essential facilities such as a bathroom, toilet or kitchen with a separate household, but in cases where this relates to parents and adult children this does not apply. However, the current allocations policy and scheme does not include this caveat. As a transitional arrangement it is proposed that all existing applicants who are in the current sharing essential facilities category are placed in Band 5, irrespective of whether parents and adult children are sharing.

8. Conclusions

- 8.1. The revised allocations policy and scheme seeks to ensure that social housing is allocated to those applicants in greatest housing need. Therefore, it is important to implement the policy and scheme in line with the original timescale of quarter 1 2023-24, however, in order for this to happen transitional arrangements are required.

-
- Applicants currently living in Shropshire Council Area
 - Those that have resided in the county three of the last five years, where residence has been out of choice;
 - Those who are employed in the area, other than of a casual nature;
 - Those who have close family connections, who have themselves lived in the county for five or more years;
 - The applicant was a permanent resident of the local area for five years as a child, and attended a local school;
 - Those who need to move to Shropshire for urgent social reasons such as to receive / give support

List of Background Papers

18 October 2022 Cabinet Report Draft Housing Allocations Policy and Scheme

Local Member: All

Appendices

Appendix I: Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA)

Appendix I: Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA)

Initial Screening Record

A. Summary Sheet on Accountability and Actions

Name of proposed service change
<i>Implementation of allocations policy and scheme: transitional arrangements</i>

Name of lead officer carrying out the screening
Melanie Holland

Decision, review, and monitoring

Decision	Yes	No
Initial (part one) ESHIA Only?	✓	
Proceed to Full ESHIA or HIA (part two) Report?		✓

If completion of an initial or Part One assessment is an appropriate and proportionate action at this stage, please use the boxes above. If a Full or Part Two report is required, please move on to full report stage once you have completed this initial screening assessment as a record of the considerations which you have given to this matter.

<p>Actions to mitigate negative impact or enhance positive impact of the service change in terms of equality, social inclusion, and health considerations</p> <p>The proposed changes to the housing allocations policy and scheme seek to ensure that all forms of social housing, this includes supported housing and low-cost home ownership products, are allocated to those persons in the greatest housing need. Therefore, seeking to ensure equality of opportunity and social equality is promoted through access to suitable housing to allow people to be able to participate in society and to ensure the provision of suitable housing for people's health and support needs will improve people's quality of life and reduce admissions to hospital and residential care.</p> <p>ADD As the draft policy also increases the number of bands from four to seven, this allows for greater differentiation in prioritising categories of applicants required to be given reasonable preference under the Housing Act 1996 as well as also recognising the needs of those applicants who may not be in a reasonable preference group but are still in housing need and are a strategic priority for the Council, for example, key workers in low-paid employment. Given the recognised intersectionality across the nine Protected Characteristic groupings as set out in the Equality Act 2010, there will likewise be a predicted positive impact for individuals and households across groupings, particularly in the groupings of Age and Disability.</p>
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ADD Additionally, there will be an anticipated positive impact for veterans and serving members of the armed forces and their families, for whom the Council seeks to have due regard to need through our tenth category of consideration of Social Inclusion. This is not an Equality Act category, rather representing our efforts as a Council to consider the needs of households in Shropshire and the circumstances in which they may find themselves.

By having a policy which covers allocations and nominations to all forms of social housing and introducing local connection and financial assessment qualification criteria for Bands 1 to 6, this should result in not just housing been allocated to those in greatest housing need, but also provide strong evidence of need and demand, which will greatly assist the Council and its partners to enhance the positive impact of the policy change through the enabling and delivery of additional social housing.

Actions to review and monitor the impact of the service change in terms of equality, social inclusion, and health considerations

The draft policy and scheme has been subject to public consultation which has resulted in changes to seek to better ensure social inclusion; if the final policy and scheme is agreed, part of the implementation process will involve contacting all existing applicants to advise them of the policy changes. Applicants who are no longer qualify for an allocation or feel that they have less priority than previously have a right of appeal. Following the implementation of the revised policy it will be subject to robust continuous monitoring, both in terms of allocations of Council owned stock and housing association compliance with nomination agreements, to ensure that those applicants in the greatest housing need are being allocated social housing and to seek to maximise positive outcomes across all Protected Characteristic groupings. In addition, as a minimum, there will be quarterly monitoring of housing demand as evidenced by the housing register, in terms of first choice parish and type and size of property. This data will be used to inform development and asset management plans, so as to ensure that new and existing social housing meets need and reflects aspirations.

Associated ESHIAs

An initial ESHIA was undertaken on the draft revised policy for consultation in March 2022.

Actions to mitigate negative impact, enhance positive impact, and review and monitor overall impacts in terms of any other considerations. This includes climate change considerations

Climate change

As the housing allocations policy and scheme is purely concerned with allocations and nominations for existing social housing stock a climate change appraisal is not relevant.

Health and well being

Being able to access an affordable dwelling which meets a household's needs is essential to health and well-being. For example, this could be an allocation of a flat in an extra care sheltered scheme to an older person with disabilities, allowing them to be able to continue to have "their own front door" and live independently instead of moving into residential care or potentially being admitted to hospital due to a fall. Or instead providing a house which is affordable, of good quality and has security of tenure to a family threatened with homelessness, allowing them to create a home for their children and reducing the worry of a no fault eviction or being able to afford an increase in rent.

Economic and societal/wider community

By ensuring that those in the greatest housing need are allocated social housing, the benefits are not limited to improving the individual health and wellbeing of those allocated housing but can be much wider. For example, the provision of affordable housing can result in some being able to escape the "benefits trap" and take a job as a care assistant. Moreover, enabling someone with learning disabilities or autism to choose to live independently in supported housing, is essential to ensuring an inclusive society.

Scrutiny at Part One screening stage

People involved	Signatures	Date
<i>Lead officer carrying out the screening</i>		7 February 2023
<i>Any internal service area support*</i>		
<i>Any external support**</i> Mrs Lois Dale, Rurality and Equalities Specialist		10 th February 2023

****This refers to other officers within the service area***

*****This refers to support external to the service but within the Council, e.g., the Rurality and Equalities Specialist, the Feedback and Insight Team, performance data specialists, Climate Change specialists, and Public Health colleagues***

Sign off at Part One screening stage

Name	Signatures	Date
<i>Lead officer's name</i>		

<i>Accountable officer's name</i>		
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****This may either be the Head of Service or the lead officer***

B. Detailed Screening Assessment

Aims of the service change and description

The Council's existing allocation policy and scheme, "Shropshire Affordable Housing Allocation Policy and Scheme" was launched in 2014. This is a common housing register which uses choice-based lettings (CBL) to allocate all Council owned stock (managed by its Arm's Length Management Organisation, STAR Housing) and void dwellings from partner Private Registered Providers. However, since 2014 there has been a sharp increase in housing costs in the private sector, resulting in all forms of social housing, including supported accommodation and local cost home ownership products becoming a very scarce and important resource. It is now become vital that the Council ensures that those applicants in the greatest need are allocated social and affordable housing which in recent years, due to the increase in housing costs in the private sector, has become a very important resource. Moreover, the policy review has been influenced by the strategic need to:

- Prevent and tackle homelessness, including reducing the pressure on temporary accommodation;
- Promote independent living and reduce admissions to residential care, by ensuring the best use of all tenures and types of social housing; and
- Enable key workers on low incomes to be able to access affordable housing.

It is therefore proposed to move to a situation where the Council's policy is for allocations to the Housing Register; the allocation of the housing stock owned by the Council, which is managed by its Arm's Length Management Organisation (ALMO), Shropshire Towns and Rural (STAR) Housing; and nominations to housing associations registered with the Regulator of Social Housing (for social and affordable rented and low cost home ownership³ properties).

The CBL process would remain in place, but formal nominations arrangements would be introduced, with all large Private Registered Providers to require to agree to nomination rights to 100% of allocations to new build housing, with nominations to re-lets and all existing stock be agreed on an individual basis. It should be noted that the Housing Act 1996 refers to the need for Private Registered Providers to co-operate with local housing authorities to offer housing to people in priority need and who are homeless. In addition, Housing Corporation Regulatory Circular, 02/03 Regulation, February 2003 refers to nomination agreements between local authorities and housing associations (Private Registered Providers) and how these should be for a minimum of 50% void dwellings on re-let.

To ensure the Council is meeting local housing and support needs of those who are unable to meet their needs through the market, the draft policy contains

³ With the exception of Homes England grant funded shared ownership properties on non-exception sites

qualification criteria relating to local connection, a financial assessment and unacceptable behaviour, whereby eligible applicants with a local connection and in housing need will be placed in Bands 1 to 6. Those eligible applicants without a local connection, subject to the below exceptions, will be placed in Band 7 (the lowest band).

With statutory exceptions relating to the Armed Forces, ex-service personnel and existing social tenants moving to employment in Shropshire, the proposed local connection is either residency (have lived in Shropshire for the last two years), close family living in Shropshire, or being employed in Shropshire. As the Local Housing Authority, the Council retains discretion to dis-apply the qualification criteria in exceptional circumstances.

It is proposed that applicants who would be able to purchase or rent market priced housing within Shropshire which is suitable for their needs would be placed in Band 7. The draft policy proposes that the threshold for being able to access accommodation in the open market is an income of £50,000 gross per annum or savings and assets (including equity in a property) of more than £200,000 or both. Where an applicant only wishes to access low cost home ownership housing the annual gross income is raised to £80,000.

Although the existing policy disqualifies persons on the grounds of unacceptable behaviour, this is based on a very stringent test. The draft revised policy recognises that there can be no blanket restrictions as each case needs to be considered on its own merits, however, the policy sets out a list of example scenarios where an applicant could be disqualified from an allocation of housing.

The draft policy also increases the number of bands from four to seven. Thus allowing for greater differentiation in prioritising categories of applicants are required to be given reasonable preference under the Housing Act 1996 and also recognising the needs of those applicants who may not be in a reasonable preference group but are still in housing need and are a strategic priority for the Council, for example, key workers in low-paid employment.

In addition, by the policy applying to all forms and tenures of social housing and introducing qualifying criteria relating to local connection and financial resources, this means that there is greater clarity on the evidence to support affordable and specialist housing development.

Intended audiences and target groups for the service change

The proposed changes to the allocations policy and scheme will affect applicants currently on the housing register and future applicants wishing to join. The local connection and financial assessment qualification criteria will result in all those eligible applicants with a local connection and in housing need to be placed in Bands 1 to 6, with eligible applicants who are not in housing need or do not have a local connection being placed in Band 7. However, the revised scheme will encompass all forms of social housing, including supported housing and low-cost home ownership, so for all eligible applicants there is greater opportunity of being allocated housing.

In addition, moving from a common housing register to the Council facilitating allocations and nominations from a local authority housing register, will also change

the way the Council works with housing associations into a more formal approach, with ongoing monitoring. However, this approach is considered a standard model for allocating social housing, especially in areas of scarce affordable housing and high housing need.

Elected Members are also likely to be affected by the proposed changes as they may be contacted by applicants.

Evidence used for screening of the service change

The evidence used for developing the proposed changes to the allocation policy and scheme includes: homelessness data (including the numbers of households in temporary accommodation); housing need and demand data from the existing housing register; housing market data; research on key workers; statutory guidance on social housing allocations for local housing authorities in England; good practice and feedback from the public consultation.

Specific consultation and engagement with intended audiences and target groups for the service change

The eight-week public consultation included formal consultation with all 32 Private Registered Providers operating in Shropshire and media publicity to raise awareness with Council tenants and existing and potential applicants.

Initial equality impact assessment by grouping (Initial health impact assessment is included below)

Please rate the impact that you perceive the service change is likely to have on a group, through stating this in the relevant column.

Please state if it is anticipated to be neutral (no impact) and add any extra notes that you think might be helpful for readers.

Protected Characteristic groupings and other groupings in Shropshire	High negative impact <i>Part Two ESIIA required</i>	High positive impact <i>Part One ESIIA required</i>	Medium positive or negative impact <i>Part One ESIIA required</i>	Low positive, negative, or neutral impact (please specify) <i>Part One ESIIA required</i>
<u>Age</u> (please include children, young people, young people leaving care, people of working age, older people. Some people may belong to more than one group e.g., a child or young person for whom there are safeguarding concerns e.g., an older person with disability)			✓	

<u>Disability</u> (please include mental health conditions and syndromes; hidden disabilities including autism and Crohn's disease; physical and sensory disabilities or impairments; learning disabilities; Multiple Sclerosis; cancer; and HIV)			✓	
<u>Gender re-assignment</u> (please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				✓
<u>Marriage and Civil Partnership</u> (please include associated aspects: caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				✓
<u>Pregnancy and Maternity</u> (please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				✓
<u>Race</u> (please include ethnicity, nationality, culture, language, Gypsy, Traveller)				✓
<u>Religion and belief</u> (please include Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism, Nonconformists; Rastafarianism; Shinto, Sikhism, Taoism, Zoroastrianism, and any others)				✓

<u>Sex</u> (this can also be viewed as relating to gender. Please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				✓
<u>Sexual Orientation</u> (please include associated aspects: safety; caring responsibility; potential for bullying and harassment)				✓
<u>Other: Social Inclusion</u> (please include families and friends with caring responsibilities; households in poverty; people for whom there are safeguarding concerns; people you consider to be vulnerable; people with health inequalities; refugees and asylum seekers; rural communities; veterans and serving members of the armed forces and their families)			✓	

Initial health and wellbeing impact assessment by category

Please rate the impact that you perceive the service change is likely to have with regard to health and wellbeing, through stating this in the relevant column.

Please state if it is anticipated to be neutral (no impact) and add any extra notes that you think might be helpful for readers.

Health and wellbeing: individuals and communities in Shropshire	High negative impact <i>Part Two HIA required</i>	High positive impact	Medium positive or negative impact	Low positive negative or neutral impact (please specify)
Will the proposal have a <i>direct impact</i>			Positive impact	

<p>on an individual's health, mental health and wellbeing?</p> <p>For example, would it cause ill health, affecting social inclusion, independence and participation?</p> <p>.</p>				
<p>Will the proposal indirectly impact an individual's ability to improve their own health and wellbeing?</p> <p>For example, will it affect their ability to be physically active, choose healthy food, reduce drinking and smoking?</p> <p>.</p>			Positive impact	
<p>Will the policy have a direct impact on the community - social, economic and environmental living conditions that would impact health?</p> <p>For example, would it affect housing, transport, child development, education, employment opportunities, availability of green space or climate change mitigation?</p> <p>.</p>				Neutral to low positive
<p>Will there be a likely change in demand for or access to health and social care services?</p> <p>For example: Primary Care, Hospital Care,</p>			Positive impact	

Community Services, Mental Health, Local Authority services including Social Services?				
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Identification of likely impact of the service change in terms of other considerations including climate change and economic or societal impacts

As the housing allocations policy and scheme is purely concerned with allocations and nominations for existing social housing stock a climate change appraisal is not relevant.

With respect to the Human Rights Act, this does not give a person a right to a home or other accommodation, instead it contains a right to respect for a home that a person already has. The Housing Act 1996 and the associated statutory guidance on social housing allocations for local authorities in England sets out the legal framework for the Council to establish its allocation policy and scheme. The Council must comply with the Housing Act 1996, even if the statute appears to infringe the Human Rights Act, for example in terms of eligibility. However, the operation of allocation schemes must avoid unjustified discrimination (which may be contrary to Article 14 of the Human Rights Act) and procedural unfairness (which may be contrary to Article 6 of the Act). The revised draft allocations policy and scheme has been considered in terms of this, and advice and assistance, including assisted bidding is provided to ensure all persons are able to apply to the scheme and applicants are able to submit bids.

With respect to the public sector equality duty, through ensuring those applicants in the greatest housing need are allocated social housing the draft revised policy seeks to promote social inclusion.



Cabinet meeting,
22nd March 2023

Item

Public



Local Nature Reserve at Windmill Hill- delegation to Much Wenlock Town Council

Responsible Officer:	Mark Barrow		
email:	mark.barrow@shropshire.gov.uk	Tel:	01743 258919
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	Cllr Rob Gittins		

1. Synopsis

1.1 Much Wenlock Town Council has requested delegated authority from Shropshire Council to dedicate Windmill Hill as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR). The designation will provide environmental and recreational benefits. It is recommended that cabinet grant delegated authority.

2. Executive Summary

2.1 Shropshire Council has the power under the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 to dedicate land as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR). This is an executive function¹ and accordingly can be delegated to another local authority by Cabinet². As Windmill Hill is not owned or managed by Shropshire Council, it cannot designate the land but can delegate the ability to designate the land to Much Wenlock Town Council. Much Wenlock Town Council is required to formally accept the delegation.

¹ Local Government Act 2000 and Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000

² Sections 13 and 19 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Authorities (Arrangements for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012.

2.2 Windmill Hill is a very significant environmental resource within the administrative area of Much Wenlock Town Council. It is a superb and highly visible natural feature on the northern edge of Much Wenlock. Windmill Hill and the adjacent Gaskell Recreation Ground form a large and significant green space on the northern edge of Much Wenlock. Much Wenlock Town Council are in the process of agreeing a nature reserve agreement with the owner and the tenant (Much Wenlock Windmill Trust) of Windmill Hill in order to give the Town Council the necessary legal interest in Windmill Hill for the purpose of declaring a Local Nature Reserve. The Town Council have given their support for the designation as a Local Nature Reserve.

2.3 Environmental designation raises the profile with the public and can increase visitor usage and the health and wellbeing benefits this provides. LNR designation also provides protection for the nature conservation and recreation interest of Windmill Hill. Declaring Windmill Hill as an LNR will offer the following benefits:

- Improving local quality of life, health and wellbeing.
- Creating opportunities for education, enjoyment and recreation, helping attract visitors and preserves links with the local community's past.
- Safeguarding local ecosystem services – the benefits nature provides for people, such as reducing carbon in the atmosphere or absorbing surface water.
- Protecting and enhancing the natural heritage as a key part of building sustainable communities.
- Raising the nature conservation and recreation interest.
- Recognition of the site's wildlife value
- Recognition of local community involvement
- Protection within the planning system from future development.

2.4 The anticipated benefits of a Local Nature Reserve dedication in this location lead to the conclusion that it would be appropriate to formally delegate the Council's power to make a Local Nature Reserve dedication in accordance with Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act in respect of the land known as Windmill Hill to Much Wenlock Town Council.

2.5 Much Wenlock Town Council will therefore also be responsible for undertaking the necessary formalities to give effect to the dedication.

3. Recommendations

3.1 That the Council delegates power to Much Wenlock Town Council to enable the designation of Windmill Hill as a Local Nature Reserve.

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

4.1 Along with the benefits identified above, LNR designation meets the following Shropshire Council strategic outcomes set out in the following Strategies:

- Shropshire Plan - helping deliver across the board: healthy people, healthy economy and healthy environment.
- Vibrant Shropshire - Cultural Strategy for Shropshire 2021-31
- Shropshire's Great Outdoors Strategy 2018-2028
- Shropshire's Economic Growth Strategy - developing the visitor economy, agricultural support post-Brexit, developing skills, improving Quality of Life and ensuring attractive environments.
- Shropshire's Local Plan - Better planning of meaningful greenspace and non-motorised access, new destination country parks, protecting environmentally sensitive sites.
- Shropshire's Health and Wellbeing Strategy - harnessing the power of the outdoors to increase physical activity, address mental health issues and help people stay independent for longer.
- Local Transport Plan for Shropshire - encouraging walking and cycling.

4.2 There are no discernible risks to Shropshire Council of making this delegation.

4.3 The designation of Windmill Hill as a Local Nature Reserve will enhance the site status, giving greater emphasis on community involvement and giving rise to enhanced opportunities for external funding and support. LNR designation will safeguard the site into the future. It will encourage stronger community benefit. The resolution by Much Wenlock Town Council to request delegated powers to designate Windmill Hill as a Local Nature Reserve is attached separately in Appendix 1. The location plan of Windmill Hill and the Local Nature Reserve boundary are below in Appendices 2 & 3.

4.4 Other opportunities and impacts:

- Impact on Looked After Children – No negative impacts are identified
- Impact on Vulnerable Children, Young People and Adults – No negative impacts are identified. There are likely to be enhanced opportunities for experiencing Shropshire's great outdoors contributing to physical and mental well-being.
- Supports family approach and community resilience. Likely impacts are enhanced community cohesion and opportunities for experiencing Shropshire's great outdoors, contributing to physical and mental well-being.
- Human rights – No issues are identified.
- Equalities – No issues are identified.

- Environmental consequences of the proposal – Enhanced protection of the site and access to additional external funding allowing greater protection of habitat and species in the long-term.

4.5 Natural England will be formally consulted in respect of the Local Nature Reserve by Much Wenlock Town Council once the Town Council can demonstrate that they have received delegated powers from Shropshire Council.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications of the delegation following on from this report. Much Wenlock Town Council will be responsible for making a formal resolution to accept the delegation from Shropshire Council and a separate resolution to make the dedication. They will then be responsible for undertaking all relevant procedures with Natural England to give effect to the dedication.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

6.1 Energy and fuel consumption – there may be a slight negative effect if more people visit the site by car as a result of the designation.

6.2 Carbon offsetting and mitigation – this will be positive. Local Nature Reserves are important habitats, offering carbon storage and biodiversity gains helping to mitigate the impact of climate change. More proactive management of the site as a LNR is likely to result in better habitat management.

6.3 Renewable energy generation - no effect is anticipated.

6.4 Climate change adaptation – this will be positive. Management as a LNR should aid nature recovery.

7. Background

7.1 Windmill Hill is a Local Wildlife Site, one of 700 in Shropshire. The main habitat is limestone grassland with small patches of ash woodland and scrub. Windmill Hill is shown as 'Lowland calcareous grassland priority habitat' on the official Multi-Agency Geographical Information for the Countryside. Windmill Hill has one of the best limestone grasslands in Shropshire with 41 axiophytes (notable habitat indicator species of plant) recorded since 2000. The pyramidal orchids are one of the biggest populations in Shropshire (5,700 orchid spikes counted in 2022). The disused quarry at the foot of Windmill Hill is a Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Site (RIGS). The 17th Century windmill tower on the top of Windmill Hill is Grade II listed.

7.2 Windmill Hill is considered to be of high value for educational purposes and is used by students at the William Brookes School that is adjacent to Windmill Hill. Local groups for adult learners with additional needs visit Windmill Hill for

social, emotional, physical and environmental education and well-being (for example, the Broseley Life Skills). The public has unrestricted access to Windmill Hill. The views from Windmill Hill and the windmill over Much Wenlock and the local countryside are a wonderful reward from walking up the hill. The numbers of people to be seen on the hill every day demonstrate the powerful attraction of this very important local feature for residents of Much Wenlock and visitors and tourists. Windmill Hill is used regularly by the 1st Much Wenlock Scout Group, the local Tai Chi group and local walking groups.

- 7.3 Windmill Hill was grazed by sheep and a few young cattle from around 1950 onwards and no fertilisers were used. Ponies were used to graze the Hill from 2000 until 2016. The current grassland management is for cutting and baling in late August followed by harrowing to remove dead vegetation and open up bare ground for colonisation by wildflowers.
- 7.4 In terms of the management of Windmill Hill there will be no change following the dedication. The site will continue to be managed by the Much Wenlock Windmill Trust who have a lease on Windmill Hill until 2100. Windmill Hill will be managed as an area of public open space for quiet recreation and for the enhancement and protection of flora and fauna together with cultural and historic access. Management of Windmill Hill will follow the management plan which will be reviewed on a 10-year basis
- 7.5 Designation will benefit the site in terms of recognition by local residents and visitors, offering encouragement to enable continued positive input by the community.
- 7.6 Windmill Hill has been identified as suitable for an LNR (Appendix 4). Natural England will be formally consulted by Much Wenlock Town Council once the Town Council can demonstrate that they have received delegated powers from Shropshire Council.
- 7.7 Once a decision is approved as a result of this report, Shropshire Council must then write formally to Much Wenlock Town Council to the effect that the appropriate powers have been delegated to Much Wenlock Town Council.
- 7.8 The following steps should then be taken:
- a formal declaration document should be drawn up which accurately shows the LNR boundary.
 - a public notice announcing the declaration should be placed in a local paper and copies of the declaration and map made available for the public to inspect free of charge.
 - Much Wenlock Town Council should formally notify the Natural England regional team of the LNR declaration in writing and send them a copy of the declaration, together with maps and any other details required about the reserve.

8. Additional Information

- 8.1 Schedule 11 (12) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, which replaced Section 15 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (1949 Act), describes a 'nature reserve' as:

- land managed solely for a conservation purpose, or
- land managed not only for a conservation purpose but also for a recreational purpose, if the management of the land for the recreational purpose does not compromise its management for the conservation purpose.

8.2 Land is managed for a conservation purpose if it is managed for:

- providing, under suitable conditions and control, special opportunities for the study of, and research into, matters relating to the fauna and flora of Great Britain and the physical conditions in which they live, and for the study of geological and physiographical features of special interest in the area; or
- preserving flora, fauna, or geological or physiographical features of special interest in the area or for both these purposes.

8.3 Land is managed for a recreational purpose if it is managed for the purpose of providing opportunities for the enjoyment of nature or for open-air recreation.

8.4 The power to dedicate a Local Nature Reserve rests with Shropshire Council as the principal authority under the 1949 Act. However, under that 1949 Act, the local authority must first have or acquire a legal interest in the land in question through ownership, lease or an agreement with the owners and occupiers involved. Shropshire Council does not have a legal interest in Windmill Hill, and therefore cannot dedicate it as a Local Nature Reserve.

8.5 Shropshire Council has powers under Sections 13 and 19 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Authorities and (Arrangements for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012 to delegate its functions in this regard to a parish, town or community council. The Council's Constitution allows Cabinet to delegate Cabinet functions to another local authority or Cabinet of another local authority. Declaration of a Local Nature Reserve is an executive function and accordingly can be delegated to another local authority by Cabinet.

8.6 Natural England believes LNRs should be of high value locally for environmental education and/or research. People are more likely to be aware of and value the natural environment when they can experience it at first hand in places such as LNRs. LNRs can help safeguard not just rare but also more common, locally valued species, habitat and geodiversity. They can play an important part in Local Biodiversity Action Plans and Local Geodiversity Action Plans.

8.7 Windmill Hill contributes to the local delivery of the national Access to Natural Greenspace Standards (Natural England, 2010, Nature Nearby: Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance). Windmill Hill provides an accessible natural greenspace of at least 2 ha within 300 m (5 minutes walk) of the William Brookes School and of homes in the vicinity of this school along Farley Road. The population of Much Wenlock parish was 2,155 at the 2021 Census and the proposed Windmill Hill LNR of 2.8 ha would provide 1.3 ha of LNR for every 1,000 residents which is greater than the minimum greenspace standard of 1 ha of Local Nature Reserve for every 1,000 population.

8.8 The Natural England LNR Visitor Standards set out what an LNR should offer to provide a quality experience for visitors.

9. Conclusions

9.1 It is considered that designation of Windmill Hill as a Local Nature Reserve will enhance the status of the site within Shropshire as an area for quiet recreation, nature conservation and heritage interpretation, along with offering Climate Change mitigation. Management of Windmill Hill in future will follow the management plan which will be reviewed on a 10-year basis. Community involvement with Windmill Hill will be encouraged through the Much Wenlock Windmill Trust in liaison with Much Wenlock Town Council. Therefore, it is recommended that Shropshire Council grant the necessary delegated power to Much Wenlock Town Council.

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

Local Member: *Cllr Dan Thomas (has been fully briefed)*

Appendices

Appendix 1. Resolution by Much Wenlock Town Council to request delegated powers to designate Windmill Hill as a Local Nature Reserve (Draft minutes Feb 23)

Appendix 2. Windmill Hill location

Appendix 3. Windmill Hill LNR plan

Appendix 4. Criteria for designation

Appendix 5. Draft formal declaration

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MUCH WENLOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
 held at The Guildhall, Much Wenlock
 at 7 pm on Thursday, 2nd February 2023

Present: Councillors William Benbow, Susan Crooke-Williams, David Fenwick, Wilfred Grainger, John O'Dowd, Marcus Themans, Daniel Thomas, Christian Toon, Linda West, Duncan White (in the chair).

In attendance: Trudi Barrett – Town Clerk, two members of the public in person and three remotely, including Cllr Tyler.

1. Chairman's Welcome

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and presented the following report:

"Things are now back in full swing. Our work towards obtaining funding for the Guildhall is well underway and after getting the first application through successfully we are now at the next stage to apply for funding for a feasibility study.

I attended the recent surgery at the Museum with Councillor Dan Thomas and PC Andy Boardman.

After a reshuffle of Council personnel, Councillor West has joined the Gaskell Management Committee as a Council representative.

I attended a recent SALC Chairs meeting where I raised the issue of the proposal by Shropshire Council to charge for road closures. There was considerable opposition to the proposal and the matter is going to be raised by the Chair of SALC in upcoming meetings. This matter is on tonight's agenda for discussion.

The Clerk and I met with members of the Windmill Trust in an effort to move forward the proposal to designate Windmill Hill as a Local Nature Reserve - again this is on the agenda.

This morning I attended with others the briefing in respect of the "Ironbridge Passenger Transport Study" for the new development on the "old power station site". This includes the development of rail links for the site and surrounding area and will include other public transport. More information will be released in the coming months.

On the horizon are St Milburga Day on 23rd February and, of course, the Coronation in May. We will discuss arrangements for the Coronation weekend later on the agenda."

2. Apologies for Absence

Councillors Chris Tyler and Linda West – unwell. Councillor Benbow for late arrival.

3. Disclosure of pecuniary interests

Members were reminded that they are required to leave the room during the discussion and voting on matters in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest, whether or not the interest is entered in the register of members' interests maintained by the monitoring officer.

4. Dispensations

None requested.

5. Public Session

There had been no requests to speak.

6. Policing

The local policing team had sent apologies. Members noted with thanks the written police report provided and were pleased to read about some of the local team's recent successes.

7. Shropshire Council Report

Shropshire Councillor, Daniel Thomas, presented the following report:

"Parking Proposals: on 11th January, I was joined by Cllr Chris Tyler, representing the Town Council, in a meeting with WSP to discuss the latest parking map. We made several alterations, including those from the Town Council, which included Station Road, Sytche Close and Farley Road. WSP agreed to amend the map and re-issue it within two weeks, and they achieved this! I've sent it to all Town Councillors, and from here, we will start the preparations for the public consultation.

Traffic Survey: on 17th January, another meeting about the Gaskell Corner Feasibility Study took place. Local resident and retired transport planner Paul Hanafin and Cllr Chris Tyler joined me. The meetings are proceeding well, and an excellent working relationship is being established between WSP, Shropshire Council and ourselves. Paul's expert input is being appreciated and respected by the WSP members. The highlighting of rat-running issues features highly in the considerations.

As mentioned previously, WSP agreed that the feasibility study will consider all options "from doing nothing, signing and lining; up to signalised option and a bypass". With our urging, the feasibility study is being expanded to look wider. As Councillors know, you cannot look at the corner in isolation, so modelling is being done on King Street, Sheinton Street and others to survey the rat running. A further meeting is to take place in February.

Benthall Grange: like many residents of Much Wenlock and beyond, I have concerns regarding Harworth calling the 1,000-home development at Buildwas Power Station 'Benthall Grange'; there's already a house called Benthall Grange in Benthall, it's not fair on them, not to mention people getting lost looking for Benthall Hall. But ultimately Benthall is its own place with its own history. Harworth could choose a different name for their new development representing it as a new town. I met with Harworth's Development Director to raise my concerns and look for a better name; I was joined by Shropshire Councillor for Severn Valley, Cllr Claire Wild, who echoed my concerns.

Today I attended a virtual meeting looking at the transport for the Buildwas Power Station development with other Town Councillors, where there was a focus on using the rail line to get into Telford.

Local Plan: on 17th January there was an extra public hearing looking at whether Shropshire Council met their requirements regarding the Duty To Cooperate, particularly with the Black Country authorities. We were advised we would get a letter within two weeks if the examination was not permitted to proceed to the second stage, but we haven't had one yet. One presumes, therefore, that the Examination will now look at sites in detail.

Barrow Street & Back Lane: I'm delighted with the recent works on Barrow Street which have repaired the potholes in the road and pavement. Similarly, since our last meeting, Back Lane has also undergone repair.

Electric Car Charging Points: I'm pleased to see that work has started on the 12 new electric car charging points, six on Falcons Court and six on St Mary's public car parks. It should be completed and opened soon, helping residents and tourists visit our town.

Surgery: the next Council surgery will be held on Saturday, 11th February, between 10.30 am and 12 noon at the museum. No appointment is necessary. I'll be joined by Town Cllr Christian Toon and a representative from the Police."

8. Minutes

a. **It was RESOLVED to approve and adopt the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 5th January 2023.**

b. Clarification was provided for minute 11 of the Planning & Environment Committee minutes from the meeting on 29th November 2022: it was expected that Shropshire Council would invite the Town Council to review the Neighbourhood Plan following approval of the Local Plan. However, this would not prevent the Town Council from commencing a review of the Neighbourhood Plan at an earlier date, should Councillors agree to do so.

It was RESOLVED to adopt the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 29th November 2022.

c. **It was RESOLVED to adopt the minutes of the Finance & Asset Management Committee meeting held on 22nd November 2022.**

Cllr Benbow joined the meeting.

9. Town Clerk's Report

Members noted the written and verbal report from the Town Clerk on outstanding matters and action taken since the last Council meeting. The Clerk reported that a proposal for a new CCTV system had now been received and this would be circulated to all Councillors for information.

10. Interim Internal Audit Report

Members noted the Interim Internal Audit Report from the inspection carried out on 16th January 2023. All was in order and no action was required. Thanks were expressed to the RFO and Clerk.

11. The Guildhall Renovation

a. It was noted that a meeting had been held with Greenwood Projects on 10th January 2023 to discuss the Architectural Heritage Fund grant and next steps.

- b. It was RESOLVED to approve submission of a grant application to the National Heritage Lottery Fund for further funding towards the feasibility study for the Guildhall.

12. Annual Town Meeting – 9th March 2023

Members noted that the Annual Town Meeting would be held on Thursday, 9th March at the Priory Hall.

It was RESOLVED that the meeting should follow a similar format to the previous year and be publicised widely.

13. Windmill Hill – Designation as Local Nature Reserve

- a. It was RESOLVED to request that Shropshire Council delegate power to Much Wenlock Town Council to enable the designation of Windmill Hill as a Local Nature Reserve.
- b. It was RESOLVED to agree to the principle of a Local Nature Reserve Agreement between Much Wenlock Windmill Trust, Wenlock Estates and Much Wenlock Town Council.
- c. It was RESOLVED that Tony Jones and John Box, Trustees of Much Wenlock Windmill Trust, be given authority to begin the process of drafting the Nature Reserve Agreement, for discussion between Wenlock Estates, Much Wenlock Town Council and Much Wenlock Windmill Trust.
- d. It was RESOLVED to approve the location plan drawn up by Shropshire Wildlife Trust to support the designation of Windmill Hill as a Local Nature Reserve.

14. New Electric Vehicle Charging Points in Much Wenlock

Members noted that Shropshire Council were installing six new electric vehicle charging points in St Mary's Lane car park and six new charging points in Falcon's Court car park and that the parking spaces would be restricted to use by electric charging vehicles only.

15. Shropshire Council Proposals to Charge for Road Closures

Members considered draft proposals from Shropshire Council to charge for road closure applications. It was noted that the proposals had been withdrawn from the Shropshire Council Cabinet meeting on 18th January. It was understood that Shropshire Council's Place Scrutiny Committee had recommended charging for commercial events only, not for community events.

Town Councillors were concerned about the effect that the introduction of charges, whether for commercial or community events, would have on the vitality and economic performance of small towns. It was noted that there was little Shropshire Council administration involved in straightforward road closures and that the Town Council undertook much of the work: printing and displaying the required signs and putting out the barriers.

It was RESOLVED to write to the portfolio holder for Highways and Regulatory Services, Councillor Richard Marshall, to express Much Wenlock Town Council's strong objection to the introduction of any charges for road closures.

16. Draft Shropshire Local Plan Review 2016 - 2038

An extra public hearing had been held on 17th January 2023 concerning the Duty To Cooperate, particularly with the Black Country associations. The subsequent report from the Inspectors was still awaited.

17. Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III

- a. It was noted that the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III would take place on Saturday, 6th May 2023 and that an additional bank holiday had been proclaimed on Monday, 8th May 2023 in honour of the event.
- b. Members considered how the coronation might be marked in Much Wenlock. The PCC of Holy Trinity Church had given permission for the Church green to be used for celebrations and a community picnic on the green was suggested for Sunday, 7th May.

It was RESOLVED to set up a working group to consider how the coronation might be celebrated in Much Wenlock and to report back to the Council. Councillors Susan Croke-Williams, David Fenwick, Wilfred Grainger, Daniel Thomas, Christian Toon and Duncan White volunteered to join the working group.

It was noted that members of the Much Wenlock Women's Institute were keen to be involved and had offered to help with arrangements.

18. Voters in England to show ID at Polling Stations from May 2023

It was noted that from 4th May 2023 voters in England would need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations in some elections.

19. Consultation

Members considered a response to the following consultation:

- a. Shropshire Council revision to Extremely Hazardous Routes Policy (home-to-school transport policy on unsafe walking routes for school children) – deadline for response 10th February 2023.

It was RESOLVED to respond to the consultation, making no comment on the policy but raising concerns about specific routes in town: no current 20 mph speed limit on Racecourse Lane outside the primary school, the need for a crossing point on the A458 near to the primary school, the lack of a footpath in part of Bourton Road, the difficulty in crossing the Gaskell junction, the risk from silent electric vehicles and the issue of vehicles cutting through town centre roads, in particular Sheinton Street.

- b. Shropshire Council Draft Sustainable Affordable Warmth Strategy – deadline for response 5th March 2023.
It was RESOLVED to make no response.
- c. Draft Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site Supplementary Planning Document – deadline for response 20th February 2023. **It was RESOLVED to make no response.**

20. Correspondence

Members noted the following items, which had been circulated via email:

- a. SALC information bulletins and other information
- b. NALC newsletters and other information
- c. Press releases from Shropshire Council
- d. Rural Bulletins from the Rural Services Network
- e. Information from the RSN Rural Market Town Group
- f. Police Neighbourhood Matters alerts
- g. Notification of Shrewsbury & Telford Hospital NHS Trust news and events
- h. South Shropshire Climate Action Newsletter January 2023
- i. TREES (Together Reducing & Ending Exploitation in Shropshire) Newsletter Winter 2023
- j. Letter from Shropshire Council regarding 'Warp It' scheme and other climate action information
- k. Shropshire Council Leader's Update – January 2023 Levelling Up Funding
- l. Zero Carbon Shropshire newsletter – February 2023 Green News
- m. Friendly Bus Newsletter – February 2023
- n. Shrewsbury & Telford Hospital NHS Trust – January update
- o. Safer Neighbourhood Team Newsletter – February 2023
- p. Shropshire Rural Housing Association Board & Committee Recruitment Campaign

21. Agenda items for next Town Council meeting

Members were invited to suggest items for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting: Coronation celebrations

22. Date of next meeting

Members noted that the next meeting would be held at 7.00pm on Thursday, 2nd March 2023 at the Guildhall.

Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the above Act it was **RESOLVED** that, due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press should not be present.

23. 2 Burgage Way

Members noted the Sale Report prepared by the Council's solicitor relating to the sale of 2 Burgage Way.

It was RESOLVED to approve and sign the lease between the Town Council and the buyer and the accompanying lease plan.

It was RESOLVED to approve and sign the Contract for the sale of 2 Burgage Way.

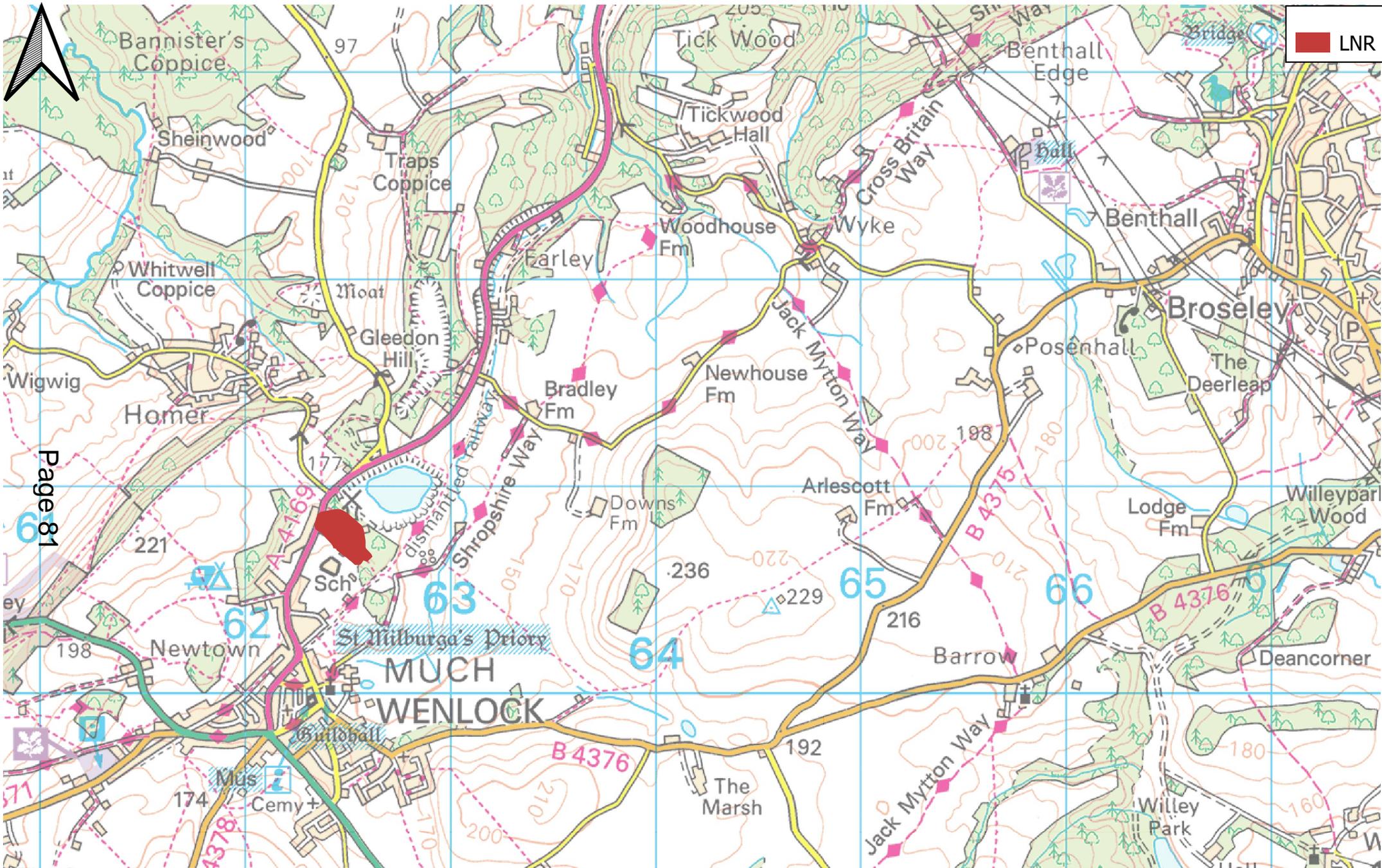
It was RESOLVED to complete and sign the Payment Instruction Form for the proceeds from the sale of 2 Burgage Way.

24. Gaskell Recreation Ground

It was RESOLVED to approve the proposals concerning the Gaskell Recreation Ground contained within the confidential report submitted to the meeting

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

Signed Town Mayor Date



Windmill Hill LNR Location Plan

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Windmill Hill Local Nature Reserve

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Appendix 4- Criteria for designation

Is the site the focus of local community interest and concern, or does it have the potential to capture people's imagination? Have local people (both those living and working nearby, and interested groups and users) been involved in the selection process?

Windmill Hill is the focus of local community interest and it captures the imagination of local residents, visitors and tourists

Will interested communities be involved in steering the site's development, management and monitoring?

Yes, through Much Wenlock Town Council and the Much Wenlock Windmill Trust who hold the lease and undertake habitat management using local contractors and volunteer work parties and botanical monitoring through annual orchid counts and regular grassland condition monitoring using expert botanists and the Shropshire Wildlife Trust.

Is the site reasonably close to schools, community education centres and/or field study centres? Will there be opportunities for local schools to get involved and for schemes such as the Forest School programme or a Watch group to be set up?

Yes, the site is used by the William Brookes school for educational visits.

Are there areas where children are welcome to play?

Yes, informally.

Is the site in an area generally lacking in publicly accessible natural heritage?

No

Is there some public access – rights of approach, entry or use that are legally defined or established through long-standing use? Is the site linked to wider public access networks, green networks, other open spaces, etc?

Yes, there are two public footpaths through the site. There is direct access from Much Wenlock to Windmill Hill through the Gaskell Recreation Ground (also known as the Linden Field). Windmill Hill forms part of The Wenlock Walk that provides a delightful stroll around Much Wenlock to see its hidden treasures and understand its history (<http://www.visitmuchwenlock.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/WenlockWalk.pdf>).

Is it safe and physically easy to get into and around the site, accepting that access to highly sensitive areas may need to be restricted wholly or periodically?

Yes. There are a number of informal footpaths in addition to two public footpaths and there are four wooden benches.

Can people enjoy the access rights and feel comfortable about using the site, for example without fear of crime?

Yes

Can people get to the site by active and public transport? Does the site have, or could it have, car parking, and provision for safe delivery and pick-up for educational visits?

The public has unrestricted access to Windmill Hill. There are public transport links by local buses and car parking in Much Wenlock. There is direct access from Much Wenlock to Windmill Hill through the Gaskell Recreation Ground.

Does the site lend itself to being a safe educational resource, for example with good site interpretation, without adversely affecting its special interest?

Yes

Is the site safeguarded, notably through the development plan process, or can safeguarding be included in the next Local Plan revision?

The Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan 2013-2026 (adopted July 2014) covers Windmill Hill in Objective 7: Green and open spaces, where Windmill Hill is designated as 'Local Green Space' in Plan 2, and in Objective 8: The local landscape and wildlife (<https://www.muchwenlock-tc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Much-Wenlock-Neighbourhood-Plan-201326-Adoption-Version.pdf>).

Has the site been (or is it likely to be) identified of local importance in the Local Biodiversity Action Plan or Local Geodiversity Action Plan?

Windmill Hill contributes to both the Local BAP and Local GAP with the limestone grassland and the small limestone quarry is a regionally important geological & geomorphological site.

Are there any implications for neighbouring areas, or other sites or facilities?

No

Is the site's future secured for some time? There is limited benefit in investing resources in an LNR that will be de-declared and subsumed into the development cycle in the short, or perhaps even medium-term.

Windmill Hill is leased to the Much Wenlock Windmill Trust until 2100. Much Wenlock Town Council is negotiating a nature reserve agreement with the Trust and the landowner.

What is the existing use of the site and how can this be taken into account when planning the LNR development? Will alternative provision have to be made, and will there be an overall public benefit?

Windmill Hill is currently used for informal recreation, education and the enjoyment of nature by the public. It is managed to enhance local biodiversity with community involvement and interpretation for a wider audience.

Is the site a viable management unit with appropriate access for management, etc?

Yes. There is a gated access from Farley Road that is used for agricultural machinery.

What are the likely costs to be incurred during the life-cycle of the LNR (including initial developmental, establishment, staffing costs, etc), and has provision been made for these?

Costs are on-going and unaffected by LNR designation. Windmill Hill is subject to a Countryside Stewardship agreement (Higher Level and Entry Level) with the Much Wenlock Windmill Trust. The Much Wenlock Town Council provides money for specific projects as part of its overall grant programme.

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MUCH WENLOCK TOWN COUNCIL

DRAFT DECLARATION

WINDMILL HILL LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949

In pursuance of Sections 19 and 21 of the above-mentioned Act, and all other powers enabling them in that behalf the Much Wenlock Town Council hereby declares that the land containing 2.83 hectares or thereabouts situated in the Parish of Much Wenlock in the County of Shropshire and shown edged red on the attached plan is the subject of a Nature Reserve Agreement entered into with the Council for the purpose of Section 21 of the above-mentioned Act, AND in pursuance of Section 19(2) of the above-mentioned Act and all other powers the aforesaid Town Council hereby further declares that the said land is being managed as a Nature Reserve.

This declaration may be referred to as The Windmill Hill Local Nature Reserve Declaration 202X

Given under the Common Seal of the Council this XX day of Two thousand and TwentyXXXX

Signed.....

Signed.....

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Committee and Date

22 March 2023

Item

Public



Regulation of Social Housing

Responsible Officer:	Mark Barrow		
email:	mark.barrow@shropshire.gov.uk	Tel:	01743 258919
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	Councillor Dean Carroll		

1. Synopsis

This report updates Cabinet on the progress of the Social Housing Regulation Bill and sets out the Council's key responsibilities under the new social housing regulatory regime, which will bring forward a new proactive regulatory regime focused on an enhanced set of consumer standards.

(Can we tighten up and explain what this is about ?)

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. This report has been produced to provide insight into the Council's monitoring of the management of its housing stock, carried out by the Council's Arms Length Management Organisation (ALMO) Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing (STAR), under a Management Agreement and to outline the steps being taken to ensure the Council will be in compliance with increasing regulation and inspection by the Regulator of Social Housing (RSH).
- 2.2. The report outlines the actions required by the Homes and Communities department to ensure Shropshire Council has the necessary oversight and monitoring of the housing management functions carried out on its behalf by STAR Housing in order to respond to the Consumer Standards and any

inspection that the RSH carries out of Shropshire Council as landlord of its housing stock.

- 2.3. Strong, well governed decision making processes that delivers services and projects for Shropshire communities is a key outcome for the Healthy Organisation priority of the Shropshire Plan, responding to the new regulatory approach through revised governance and oversight arrangements will not only ensure compliance with standards, but it will also strengthen the Council's role in shaping and delivering services to Council housing tenants and the wider communities in which the homes are situated.
- 2.4. Councillors and senior leaders at Shropshire Council have a responsibility to ensure the Council is meeting the consumer standards with which registered providers of social housing must comply. This responsibility applies to the Council, regardless of the arrangements in place with STAR Housing to provide housing management services. The new regulatory regime will necessitate a fundamental change in the way the Council engages with STAR, requiring the Council to become more directly involved in the oversight of landlord services. STAR can continue as the supplier of housing management and maintenance services, but under enhanced direction and supervision of the Council, with in-depth scrutiny of all areas of service delivery, focused on Consumer Standards.
- 2.5. Proactive consumer regulation will begin in 2024, it is therefore necessary to bring this change in regulatory approach to the attention of Cabinet and to set out the work that needs to be undertaken to best place the Council to respond to this change. The report also seeks to signify a change in the way the Council will interact with its ALMO and to set out how it will become more directly involved in direction and oversight of the management of Council owned homes and delivery of services to Council tenants.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. Cabinet is asked to consider the report and receive a further update on the implementation of changes required to comply with the new requirements as they emerge
- 3.2. Cabinet is asked to note the responsibilities of the Council with regard to the Consumer Standards, in particular the requirements to:
 - Maintain an oversight of the housing stock
 - Understand the performance of its ALMO, STAR Housing
 - Understand the compliance and legislative requirements

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1. Failure to comply with the RSH Consumer Standards may lead to the Regulator taking intervention and enforcement action including penalties against the Council.
- 4.2. The standards being introduced by the Regulator to improve oversight and accountability by Councils for the delivery of good quality council housing management creates an opportunity to benchmark STAR Housing against the sector. Responding to updated performance indicators will create a positive challenge and ensure that Shropshire's Council housing residents will receive housing services to the best possible standard.
- 4.3. Any service change proposed as a result of the regulatory changes will be subject to an Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment. As the RSH objective for the Consumer Standards is *to make sure that tenants get quality accommodation and have choice and protection and can hold their landlord to account* it is likely that any change will result in a medium/ high positive impact.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. There are no direct financial implications associated with this report. Housing Management services delivered by STAR are funded through the Management Fee, paid through existing Housing Revenue Account budgets.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.1. There are no direct energy and fuel consumption, carbon offsetting or mitigation, renewable energy generation or climate change adaptation implications arising from this report.
- 6.2. However, the Council's HRA stock is expected to meet appropriate standards of energy and thermal performance, in line with Government guidance. STAR Housing will be required to manage the HRA capital programme to ensure that appropriate investment is made available to meet carbon zero targets, and the Council will be monitored for its compliance.

7. Background

- 7.1. The management of the Council's housing stock was transferred to its newly formed Arm's Length Management Organisation (ALMO), Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing in 2013.
- 7.2. The areas of management that are covered by the Management Agreement include: tenancy management, estate management, repairs, maintenance, lettings and voids, collection of rents, leasehold and other charges, tenant

participation and asset management. Other services are delivered by STAR Housing under separate agreements rather than under the Management Agreement. This includes management services at St Michaels Street (temporary accommodation) and services at New Century Court, a supported living scheme.

- 7.3. In advance of the 10-year Management Agreement coming to an end in March 2023, Shropshire Council commissioned a Strategic Housing Review of the Housing Revenue Account, having regard to the existing arrangements between Shropshire Council and STAR. The review concluded that STAR has operated effectively within the terms of its Management Agreement, it has delivered Decent Homes, delivers high quality services and has developed valued community connections.
- 7.4. The recommendation of the review was that STAR was retained in its role managing the Council's housing. However, for this to be a viable option moving forward the Company's remit should be re-aligned with, and clearly delivered against Shropshire Council priorities. In May 2022 Shropshire Council approved the recommendation that STAR is retained and approved the award of a further 10-year extension to the Management Agreement. It should be noted that the recommendation was made prior to the extent of the regulatory changes being fully known.
- 7.5. Since the 2018 social housing green paper set out initial proposals to rebalance the relationship between tenants and landlords the RSH has been working with central government, social housing tenants and social landlords on how best to strengthen the regulation of social housing. The Social Housing Regulation Bill is currently in Parliament, with the RSH gearing up to implement new consumer regulations in just over a year's time.
- 7.6. The new regime the RSH plans to introduce will be a step change in the regulation of social housing, moving from an emphasis on economic factors to placing significant focus upon consumer standards. This involves setting new expectations about the services that social landlords provide for their tenants and introducing a proactive regime for the inspection of landlords to measure their adherence with the consumer standards.
- 7.7. As the regulated entity, that is the landlord, it is Shropshire Council and not STAR Housing that has the relationship with the regulator. It is therefore the Council who will be inspected for compliance with the consumer standards. The RSH currently regulates the consumer standards on a reactive basis. Under the new regime this will become proactive, with regular inspections for providers with over 1,000 homes, scheduled to take place every four years. Under the new regime, providers will be subject to unlimited fines if they fail to meet the standards set.

8. Social Housing Regulation Bill

- 8.1. The Social Housing Regulation Bill will change the RSH objectives and powers so that it can implement the regulatory reforms needed to deliver the vision set out in the social housing white paper. Once the bill has gained Royal Assent, the RSH will begin the process of consulting on changes to its consumer standards and implanting its new regulatory approach in full.

- 8.2. The Bill includes new standard setting powers, upon which the RSH is consulting, as well as updating consumer regulations as a whole. Subject to the Bill being passed by Parliament, the RSH is anticipated to consult on the new standards by the summer of 2023.
- 8.3. The Bill will alter how the RSH can apply some of its existing enforcement powers and will give the regulator new powers. Importantly it will remove the 'serious detriment' test which currently places a high legal threshold on the regulator's ability to use its powers when they find a breach of the standards. Removing the test will mean it can take action in a wide range of circumstances.
- 8.4. Staff working for social housing providers will be required to meet new professional competency standards – making it a requirement for landlords (in Shropshire's case the Council) to ensure that staff have the right skills, experience and knowledge and are appropriately qualified to deliver a high-quality service to tenants.

9. Consumer Standards

- 9.1. Subject to the Bill being passed by Parliament, the RSH will consult on the new standards by the summer of 2023. The RSH has already identified a number of themes that the standards should cover. These themes are to be used to structure the work to develop the new consumer standards.

Safety: *All landlords must provide homes and services that are safe*

Quality: *All landlords must provide good quality homes*

Neighbourhood: *Landlord's role in working with other agencies, to contribute to the wellbeing of neighbourhoods in which tenants live*

Transparency: *Landlords must be transparent with their tenants and provide the information they need to hold them to account*

Engagement and Accountability: *Landlords listen to tenants and take their views into account and will deliver better outcomes for tenants*

Tenure: *Landlords must have a fair and transparent allocations process*

- 9.2. Housing Provider Boards, and in the case of a local authority, Councillors are responsible for ensuring that the Consumer Standards are met. This is a fundamental part of a registered provider's commitment to co-regulation. Registered Providers should have the systems and processes in place to provide assurance to their Board and Councillors that the standards are being met, with the responsibility remaining solely with the Council and not STAR Housing.
- 9.3. Once the new consumer regulation is introduced, the RSH through its proactive inspection programme will be seeking assurance that both the service outcomes for tenants' experience and the accountability arrangements are consistent with the expectations of the new standards. The RSH is currently developing its

approach to inspections and will be refining it following further engagement with tenants and landlords.

- 9.4. The RSH approach to regulating the standards, focuses on co-regulation and the adaptation of the in-depth assessments (IDAs) to fit with the consumer regulation regime. Currently the RSH through its IDA, reviews the Governance and Financial Viability of Private Registered Providers, to which Local Authority Registered Providers are not subject. Consumer inspections will in future look at new sources of evidence and assurance, including information from tenants, to ensure the Council is delivering the outcomes expected by the regulator. For example, the RSH will seek feedback from Council tenants, consider a wide range of STAR Housing's Board/ council reports on service performance, evidence from tenant satisfaction measures and evidence from the Housing Ombudsman.
- 9.5. STAR Housing is currently undertaking a gap analysis of compliance against the standards and has recently completed a self-assessment of its complaints procedures against the Housing Ombudsman's Complaint Handling Code, the outcome of which has been reported to the Asset Assurance Board, which is responsible for monitoring STAR's performance in accordance with the requirements set out in the Management Agreement. Findings from the gap analysis will be included in an action plan for the Council and STAR to work through.
- 9.6. In addition to the gap analysis, it is necessary for the Council to review its governance framework, ensuring that it has the right level of oversight, direction and control necessary to provide assurance that the standards are being met.

10. Next Steps

- 10.1 The Council must ensure it is prepared for the new consumer regulation to start in April 2024. Along with the gap analysis a review of the current arrangements between the Council and STAR is required, specifically the design and implementation of an accountability structure that provides the Council with the required oversight of the performance of STAR in complying with the Consumer Standards.
- 10.2 An Accountability Structure will focus on:
- Client Management – Formalised and Formal Arrangements
 - Leadership – Focus at Cabinet and Senior Leadership Level
 - Clarity of responsibility between the Council and STAR – backed by effective reporting and assurance
 - Data Accuracy and Integrity – Clear line of sight to data which underpins performance reporting and compliance with consumer standards
- 10.3 The Council is also required to identify a responsible person for consumer standards compliance and clarify roles of senior staff, with regard to arrangements and relationship with STAR, to include nominating a person responsible for health and safety.

- 10.4 A further report setting out a proposed accountability structure will be presented at a future Cabinet.

11. Conclusion

Cabinet is requested to consider and note the content of this report and receive further updates as the new requirements emerge.

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

STAR Housing Management Arrangements – Council. 12 May 2022.

Local Member: n/a

Appendices [Please list the titles of Appendices]

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Committee and Date

22 March 2023

Item

Public



Community Asset Transfer of Monkmoor Lodge to Shropshire Youth Association

Responsible Officer:	Leela Cottey		
email:	leela.cottey@shropshire.gov.uk	Tel:	
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	Cllr Dean Carroll –Portfolio Holder Highways& Assets Cecilia Motley –Portfolio Holder for Communities		

1. Synopsis

Report seeking Cabinet approval of a revised Community Asset Transfer of Monkmoor Lodge to Shropshire Youth Association.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The CAT policy supports and contributes to the Shropshire Plan through contributing to the Healthy People priority - strengthening our local towns and villages. The Strategic Asset Management team works with town and parish councils, as well as the voluntary sector, to enable the transfer of suitable land and buildings to community groups and organisations. [The Community Asset Transfer \(CAT\) policy](#) provides a framework and guidance to assess which transfers are viable and implement their transfer.
- 2.2. Cabinet previously approved (01.03.17) the Community Asset Transfer of the former Monkmoor Lodge Youth Centre (a demountable building) to the Shropshire Youth Association by way of a 30-year lease.

- 2.3. Since that approval Shropshire Youth Association has secured funding to replace the building and has now requested that the lease includes demolition and replacement of the current building, and be extended to 99 years to reflect the increased investment in the site and potential to provide wider and more long-lasting community benefit through the development of improved facilities.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. Cabinet approves the principle of a 99-year lease that includes provision to demolish the existing demountable building and rebuild with a permanent community structure.
- 3.2. Cabinet grants delegated authority to the Head of Property and Development - in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Growth, Regeneration and Housing - to finalise terms of the lease and complete the transaction.

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1. The risk in not approving the demolition term to the lease is that Shropshire Youth Association will not have the necessary permissions to redevelop the site using the external funding that the organisation has secured. The risk in not approving the extension to the lease is that Shropshire Youth Association may reconsider their position as to the viability of the scheme and their ability to commit. The consequence of both risks is the same - a missed opportunity in respect of delivering improved community facilities that will adversely impact the local community, potential reputational damage to the Council, and an adverse impact on relationships with local organisations.
- 4.2. If Shropshire Youth Association withdrew from the lease it would result in an opportunity for the Council to redevelop the site. However, whilst the site has potential for residential development, current planning policy seeks to protect community facilities and as such it is considered that the achievement of the Council's aims and objectives are better realised through facilitating the delivery of the Shropshire Youth Association's project.
- 4.3. Following the Council's decision to decommission direct management of youth services, the building was declared surplus to Council requirements and was advertised on the CAT Register between October 2014 and April 2015; publicising the building as available so that interested groups could express an interest. A transfer to Shropshire Youth Association gives the potential for youth activities to remain at the centre, along with other uses that will benefit other sectors of the community.
- 4.4. In respect of the demolition and construction period, there is a risk that should the project fail the site will returned to the Council at a lesser value and potentially with

an unfinished project with external funding requirements. This risk has been mitigated through the inclusion of specific clauses in the Heads of Terms: if the project fails at the demolition stage the Council will regain possession of a cleared site that can be disposed/redeveloped. The proposed transferee is obliged to have all plans approved by the Council and to appoint a reputable approved contractor.

- 4.5. Post-construction, if Shropshire Youth Association fails to maintain the (new) building the risk is that the site will return to the Council with maintenance liabilities. It is considered that this risk is acceptable, as the site will be returned with a new and improved building, with which the Council will be able to support community activities, either directly or through a Community Asset Transfer to another organisation.
- 4.6. There are no equalities, human rights, impact on vulnerable children or adults, or human rights implications.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. The building is currently maintained by Shropshire Council as part of its corporate estate. The majority of the annual running costs of the building are incurred by the corporate landlord. The savings identified in reducing the revenue burden of operating the centre equate to £3,160 (net) per annum. This would contribute to the £69,300 saving identified in Commercial Services 'Review of youth centres and other accommodation used for youth activities' There are approximately £74,400 of condition works identified in the building, that the Council will no longer be liable for should the transfer be implemented.
- 5.2. A nominal rent of £1 from Shropshire Youth Association is proposed as the organisation will not be operating the facility on a commercial basis. This will enable the (current and new) building to be kept in good repair and lettings to be kept at an affordable rate for the community.
- 5.3. The potential capital receipt of the site is in the region of £100,000 if considered as a residential development site. This potential cannot be realised if the Community Asset Transfer is approved.
- 5.4. The potential market rent for the site over the next 60 years is limited with the building its current form and is likely to be in the region of £5,000 pa. The opportunity for any rental income will be lost however if a Community Asset Transfer application is approved.
- 5.5. The financial implication of not approving the new lease to Shropshire Youth Association is that the external funding - being applied for by Shropshire Youth Association will not be available to develop the site and benefit the local community.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.1. The proposed new facility will be more energy efficient than the current demountable, which is very inefficient with no insulation on the roof, blown double glazing units, visible gaps around outside doors, outdated heating systems and fluorescent tube lighting. The new building will be built to an A rating with full insulation, solar panels, LED lighting and efficient heating.

7. Background

- 7.1. The Community Asset Transfer policy contributes to the Shropshire Plan as set out in the [Asset Management Strategy](#) Section 5: Commission and work in partnership to empower communities. Release where appropriate through freehold transfer or leasehold transfer, properties to communities reducing revenue or maintenance burdens for non-core assets.
- 7.2. A report summarising the assessment of the Community Asset Transfer application made by Shropshire Youth Association in respect of Monkmoor Youth Centre, SY2 5RR was considered in 2017 by the Director of Place and Enterprise with the recommendation to progress to transfer by way of a 30-year lease which, in accordance with the CAT policy, is subject to Cabinet approval. Cabinet granted that approval.
- 7.3. The Executive Director of Place supports the adjustment of the leasing arrangement to extend the duration to 99 years and permit the redevelopment of the site.
- 7.4. SYA has been awarded sufficient funding to build a two storey, 400m² energy efficient new building.
- 7.5. Subject to planning, it is anticipated that construction will take place between September 2023 and March 2024.
- 7.6. Monkmoor Youth Club on Upton Lane has been the home of youth activities in the locality for several years. The facility has hosted weekly junior and senior youth clubs and a weekly session for young people with learning difficulties. The venue has also accommodated training sessions, community meeting and events for a range of local organisations.
- 7.7. Shropshire Youth Association has occupied the building via a tenancy at will dated 28.09.15. Under this arrangement Shropshire Youth Association occupy the office rooms edged red shown on the attached plan, and, along with other users of the building, occupy the toilet/kitchen facilities and circulation areas edged blue. They contribute to the facility's running costs.

On initial review the proposed transfer complies with the new Subsidy Control regime, However relevant advice will be sought prior to completion of the transfer to ensure that this is still the case.

- 7.8. The proposed grant of the lease for a £1 is a sum that is less than market value for a lease of the building. The disposal by way of the grant of the lease at a nominal rent is covered by Circular 6/03 under the Local Government Act 1972 General Disposal Consent 2003. This consent allows for the disposal of a property at less than best consideration where the disposal contributes to the promotion or

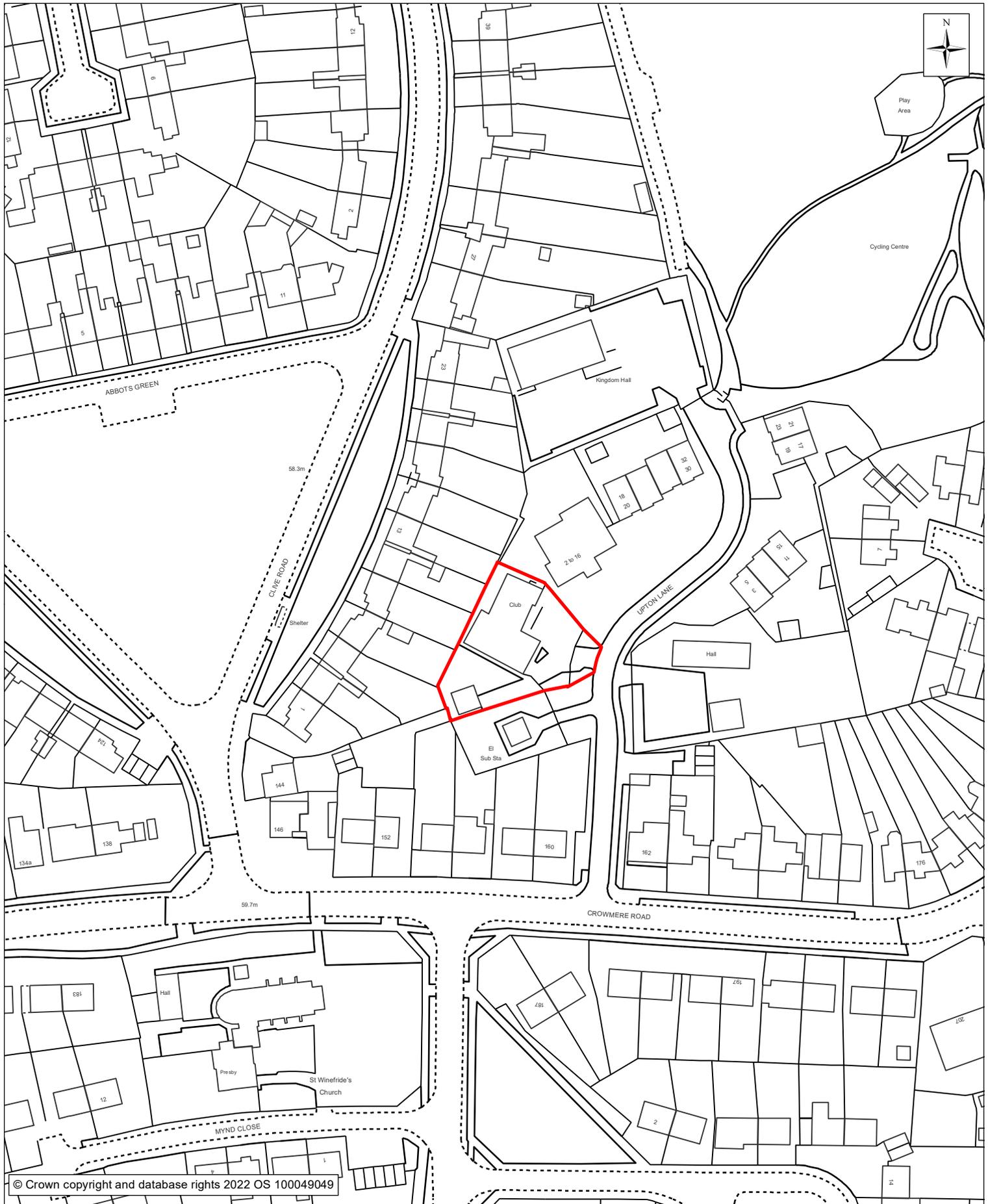
improvement of one or more of economic, social and environmental wellbeing in the Council's area and where the difference in value is less than £2 million. The criteria is met as the applicant delivers social benefits as set out in 7.10 and as demonstrated in their CAT application.

- 7.9. The lease will be on a full repairing and insuring basis, with a tenant only 12-month break clause.
- 7.10. Shropshire Youth Association delivers social benefits through providing infrastructure support to voluntary youth clubs across Shropshire, as well as direct delivery of youth activities. It aims to help young people develop their physical, mental and spiritual capacities. The CAT will enable the organisation to establish a base to administer services, including the training of youth workers.
- 7.11. Shropshire Youth Association has a proven track record of youth activities and infrastructure provision. The Chief Executive Officer is a professionally qualified youth worker with a management qualification and 30 years' experience in delivering and managing youth work.
- 7.12. The governing body consists of 7 trustees, 3 board members and approximately 100 member groups. Shropshire Youth Association has a dedicated finance and administration officer. Accounts are independently audited. Key policies (including insurance) and procedures are in place and up to date.
- 7.13. Shropshire Youth Association's activities contribute to meeting the following Council's youth activity priorities:
- 7.13.1. ensure all children and young people are safe and well looked after in a supportive environment
 - 7.13.2. narrow the achievement gap in education & work
 - 7.13.3. ensure the emotional wellbeing of children and young people by focusing on prevention and early intervention
 - 7.13.4. keep more children healthy and reduce health inequalities

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

Local Member: *Pam Moseley*

Appendices [Please list the titles of Appendices] [The New Lodge Upton Lane Shrewsbury CAT Plan Final.pdf](#)
[CAT CABinet Monkmoor Youth Centre 01 Mar 17.pdf](#)



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Property and Development

Shirehall, Abbey Foregate
 SHREWSBURY
 SY2 6ND

Title:

The New Lodge, Upton Lane, Shrewsbury SY2 5RR
 Page 105

Drawing No: 294-001-238c

Scale: 1:1,250

Date: December 2022

Drawn by: JM

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COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER: MONKMOOR YOUTH CENTRE

Responsible Officer: Steve Law, Strategic Asset Manager

Email: steve.law@shropshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01743 258676

1. Summary

- 1.1 As part of the Council's core objective to strengthen our local towns and villages, the Strategic Asset Management team are working with town and parish councils, as well as the voluntary sector, to enable the transfer of suitable land and buildings to community groups and organisations. The Community Asset Transfer (CAT) policy provides a framework and guidance to assess which transfers are viable and implement their transfer.
- 1.2 The policy contributes to the Council's objectives as set out in the Asset Management Strategy Section 5: Commission and work in partnership to empower communities. Release where appropriate through freehold transfer or leasehold transfer, properties to communities reducing revenue or maintenance burdens for non-core assets.
- 1.3 A report summarising the assessment of an application made by Shropshire Youth Association in respect of Monkmoor Youth Centre, SY2 5RR has been considered by the Director of Place and Enterprise and the recommendation is to progress to transfer by way of a 30-year lease which, in accordance with the CAT policy, is subject to Cabinet approval.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That, in principle, Shropshire Youth Association ("the Organisation") are granted a 30-year lease of Monkmoor Youth Centre with delegated authority to the Strategic Asset Manager to agree final terms of the lease and to complete the transaction.

REPORT

1. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 1.1. Commissioning out youth services has meant that the building is now surplus to Shropshire Council's requirements. A transfer to Shropshire Youth Association gives the potential for youth activities to remain at the centre, along with other uses that will benefit other sectors of the community. Those youth services currently commissioned out will remain at the centre but this may change in the future subject to the delivery intentions of the appointed party.
- 1.2. If the Organisation fails to maintain the building the risk is that the building will return to the Council with some or no building improvements and the cost of operation would revert back to the Council.

2. Equalities and Diversity Issues

- 4.1 The continuation of the use of the building and its availability for local groups will mean its accessibility continues into the future for the community.

1. Financial Implications

- 2.1. The building is currently maintained by Shropshire Council as part of its corporate estate. The majority of the annual running costs of the building are incurred by the corporate landlord. The savings identified in reducing the revenue burden of operating the centre equate to approximately £14,000 per annum. There are £7,075 of condition works identified at the building that the Council will no longer be liable for.
- 2.2. A nominal rent of £1 from Shropshire Youth Association is proposed as the Organisation will not be operating the facility on a commercial basis. This will enable the building to be kept in good repair and lettings to be kept at an affordable rate for the community.

6 Additional Information

- 6.1 Monkmoor Youth Club on Upton Lane has been the home of youth activities in the locality for several years. The facility has hosted weekly junior and senior youth clubs and a weekly session for young people with learning difficulties. The venue has also accommodated training sessions, community meeting and events for a range of local organisations.
- 6.2 SYA have occupied the building via a tenancy at will dated 28.09.15. Under this arrangement SYA occupy the office rooms edged red shown on the attached plan, and, along with other users of the building, occupy the toilet/kitchen facilities and circulation areas edged blue. They contribute to the facility's running costs.

- 6.3 The proposed transfer complies with State Aid. The applicant will provide services for the local community and as such are not the subject of competition across Europe.
- 6.4 The proposed grant of the lease for a £1 is a sum that is less than market value for a lease of the building. The disposal by way of the grant of the lease at a nominal rent is covered by Circular 6/03 under the Local Government Act 1972 General Disposal Consent 2003. This consent allows for the disposal of a property at less than best consideration where the disposal contributes to the promotion or improvement of one or more of economic, social and environmental wellbeing in the Council's area and where the difference in value is less than £2 million.
- 6.5 The lease will be on a full repairing and insuring basis, with a tenant only 12-month break clause.
- 6.6 In summary:
- 6.6.1 The Organisation delivers social benefits through providing infrastructure support to voluntary youth clubs across Shropshire, as well as direct delivery of youth activities. It aims to help young people develop their physical, mental and spiritual capacities. The CAT will enable the organisation to establish a base to administer services, including the training of youth workers.
- 6.6.2 The Organisation has a proven track record of youth activities and infrastructure provision. The Chief Executive Officer is a professionally qualified youth worker with a management qualification and 30 years' experience in delivering and managing youth work.
- 6.6.3 The governing body consists of 7 trustees, 3 board members and approximately 100 member groups. The Organisation has a dedicated finance and administration officer. Accounts are independently audited. Key policies (including insurance) and procedures are in place and up to date.
- 6.6.4 The Organisation's activities contribute to meeting the following Council's youth activity priorities:
- ensure all children and young people are safe and well looked after in a supportive environment
 - narrow the achievement gap in education & work
 - ensure the emotional wellbeing of children and young people by focusing on prevention and early intervention
 - keep more children healthy and reduce health inequalities

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Shropshire Council Community Asset Transfer Policy

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Councillor Michael Wood - Portfolio Holder for Corporate Support

Local Members

Councillor Pamela Moseley

Appendices

A. Plan of site