



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

Date: Tuesday, 10 October 2023

Committee: Cabinet

Date: Wednesday, 18 October 2023

Time: 10.30 am

Venue: Council Chamber, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, 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

Lezley Picton (Leader)

Cecilia Motley

Ian Nellins

Robert Macey

Gwilym Butler

Dean Carroll

Kirstie Hurst-Knight

Mark Jones

Dan Morris

Chris Schofield

Your Committee Officer is:

Ashley Kendrick Democratic Services Officer

Tel: 01743 250893

Email: ashley.kendrick@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 - 10)

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2023.

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 12 October 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 12 October 2023.

6 Scrutiny Items

7 Financial Strategy 2024/25 - 2028/29 (Pages 11 - 32)

Lead Member - Councillor Gwilym Butler - Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate Resources

Report of Ben Jay, Assistant Director of Finance & ICT (Deputy s151 Officer)

8 Annual Treasury Report 2022/23 (Pages 33 - 44)

Lead Member - Councillor Gwilym Butler - Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate Resources

Report of Ben Jay, Assistant Director of Finance & ICT (Deputy s151 Officer)

9 Affordable Warmth Strategy (Pages 45 - 94)

Lead Member - Councillor Dean Carroll - Portfolio Holder for Housing and Assets

Report of Mark Barrow, Executive Director of Place

- 10 Amended Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Development Plan - for referendum** (Pages 95 - 198)
- Lead Member - Councillor Chris Schofield - Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulatory Services
- Report of Mark Barrow, Executive Director of Place
- 11 Management Options for Shropshire Council Operated Leisure Facilities** (Pages 199 - 206)
- Lead Member - Councillor Robert Macey - Portfolio Holder for Culture and Digital
- Report of Mark Barrow, Executive Director of Place
- 12 Shrewsbury Town Centre Redevelopment Programme: Phase One** (Pages 207 - 218)
- Lead Member - Councillor Mark Jones - Portfolio Holder for Growth and Regeneration
- Report of Mark Barrow, Executive Director of Place
- 13 Public Space Protection Order, Dog Constraints** (Pages 219 - 260)
- Lead Member - Councillor Dan Morris - Portfolio Holder for Highways
- Report of Mark Barrow, Executive Director of Place
- 14 Joint Committee - Marches Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)** (Pages 261 - 272)
- Lead Member - Councillor Lezley Picton – Leader and Portfolio Holder for Policy and Strategy, Policy and Improvement
- Report of Mark Barrow, Executive Director of Place
- 15 Shropshire Council's Response to Government Consultation on Plan - Making Reforms** (Pages 273 - 320)
- Lead Member - Councillor Chris Schofield - Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulatory Services
- Report of Mark Barrow, Executive Director of Place
- 16 Exclusion of Press and Public**
- To resolve that, in accordance with the provisions of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and Paragraph 10.4 [3] of the Council's Access to Information Rules, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items.
- 17 Exempt Minutes** (Pages 321 - 322)
- To confirm the exempt minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2023.

18 Date of Next Meeting

To note that the next meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 22 November 2023 at 10.30am.



Committee and Date

Cabinet

18 October 2023

CABINET

Minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2023

In the Council Chamber, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6ND

10.30 am – 1.04 pm

Responsible Officer: Amanda Holyoak

Email: amanda.holyoak@shropshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01743 257714

Present

Councillor Lezley Picton (Chairman)

Councillors Cecilia Motley, Ian Nellins, Robert Macey, Gwilym Butler, Dean Carroll, Mark Jones, Dan Morris and Chris Schofield

30 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Kirstie Hurst-Knight.

31 Disclosable Interests

None were declared.

32 Minutes

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2023 were confirmed as a correct record.

33 Public Question Time

Public questions were received from the following:

Dr Jamie Russell, in relation to funding of the North West Relief Road. A response was provided by the Portfolio Holder for Highways

Emma Bullard, in relation to budget for the North West Relief Road and costs and funding of it. A response was provided by the Portfolio Holder for Highways

Fleur Mcindoe in relation to the Council's support for Right to Grow and requesting an update on progress for a site on Rocke Street/Old Potts Way and an application in Oswestry. A response was provided by the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Assets.

Charles Green, regarding the Supplementary Planning Document on Sustainable Design and the completion of a sustainability checklist for planning applications. A response was provided by the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulatory Services.

Nicola Squire, regarding the Footbridge Farm intensive poultry application heard on appeal and technical assessments. A response was provided by the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulatory Services.

The full questions and the responses provided to them are available from the [public question item](#) on the web page for the meeting.

34 Member Question Time

Councillor Rosemary Dartnall asked when the set of wooden steps which were the responsibility of Shropshire Council Highways, leading down from Mansel Williams Way to the Reabrook Nature Reserve, would be repaired and why they could not become the responsibility of the Rights of Way Team.

By way of a supplementary question, Councillor Dartnall said that the initial report had been logged correctly but since this had been corrected a substantial amount of time had passed and she wished to know when repairs would be completed. She also asked if there were other anomalous cases where responsibility would be better lodged with Rights of Way rather than highways.

The Portfolio Holder for Highways said that he would look into both matters and report back to Councillor Dartnall.

Councillor Julia Buckley read out a series of question on behalf of Councillor Rachel Connolly relating to 'Fix My Street' and the length of time between reporting an issue and a repair taking place.

Responding to a supplementary question the Portfolio Holder for Highways and Director of Place explained the prioritisation process, that use of white paint meant that an assessment had been made, and if the contractual requirements on Kier were not met, then penalties were in place. He encouraged any member who had examples where contractual requirements were not being met to highlight and report them to the team or himself.

The questions asked and written responses are available from the [member question heading](#) on the web page for the meeting

35 Scrutiny Item - Social Housing and Renewing the Housing Strategy

Councillor Claire Wild, Chair of the Transformation and Improvement Scrutiny Committee provided a brief report of the committee's meeting held on 4 September 2023. The Committee had been able to consider the Quarter 1 financial and performance monitoring reports ahead of their presentation of cabinet and she thanked Portfolio Holders and Directors for attending the meeting. She reported that the committee was in the process of setting up 3 task and finish groups and confirmed that the remits of some would include partnership working and pressures in social care.

Councillor Joyce Barrow, Chair of the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee explained that the report of the Task and Finish Group on Social Housing and

Renewing the Housing Strategy had been considered at the Scrutiny Committee meeting on 20 July 2023. The Committee had been very pleased to endorse all recommendations made by the Group and now asked that Cabinet take them forward. There had been very good cross party attendance for the work of the group and she thanked all those who had participated

She went on to explain the background to the report and work of the Task and Finish Group which initially been established by the then Communities Overview Committee, the nature of the work undertaken, evidence and recommendations to Cabinet which were:

1. Following the implementation of the revised allocations policy and scheme, the Council should ensure that this is adhered to by all registered providers through regular monitoring to guarantee those in the highest need are allocated housing.
2. The Council should recognise the importance of the strategic housing function and how housing is integral to planning policy, social care and economic development, and therefore the need to strengthen the relationship between these functions.
3. The Council should promote a place-based approach to housing and economic development, which includes commissioning affordable and supported housing based on evidenced need so as to ensure that housing priorities are delivered in the right place. Thus, responding to the fact that Shropshire is made up of any different communities across a large geographic area with different needs.
4. Investment in social housing must acknowledge the specific needs of rural settlements, therefore products need to be tailored accordingly. For example, intergenerational supported housing, which could include staff accommodation, would help to promote a preventative agenda in villages and small towns (e.g., preventing admissions to hospital and care homes, and supporting people with learning disabilities and mental health problems to live independently).
5. The Council should explore and pursue opportunities to attract funding, such as Community Land Trusts, and lobby for new products specifically to support the rural economy which will not only deliver the preventative agenda, but also balance the housing market and help to ensure that people can continue to afford to live in communities in Shropshire. For example, innovative funding products to fund intergenerational living and for sub-market private rented accommodation for key workers who are not necessarily able to access social housing, as they are not in a high priority reasonable preference category.
6. The Council should review and implement any new legislation on short-term lets, helping to ensure that the balance is struck between the economic gain to communities and places through increased visitor spend, against the availability of homes to buy and rent where there is local concern.
7. That feedback is shared with the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on the 9 November 2023. This should confirm

which recommendations have been accepted and which have not. An action plan should set out what will be done by when to deliver the accepted recommendations, and where recommendations have not been accepted an explanation should be provided.

The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Assets and other members of the Cabinet warmly welcomed the report and expressed enthusiasm for the recommendations. The Portfolio Holder drew attention to work already underway and to the intention to develop meaningful key performance indicators to measure progress. Group Leaders present at the meeting also endorsed the work undertaken and the recommendations within the report. The Portfolio Holder agreed to attend the meeting of the Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 9 November to provide an update report on progress on recommendations.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet consider the recommendations of the report and provide a response to the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 9 November 2023 confirming which recommendations have been accepted, and which have not, accompanied by an action plan setting out what will be done by when to deliver the accepted recommendations. Where recommendations have not been accepted an explanation will be provided.

36 Performance Monitoring Report Quarter 1 2023/24

Councillor Rob Macey – Portfolio Holder for Culture & Digital, introduced the report, reminding all members of the council of the need to review and consider performance dashboard information alongside it. He referred to the close focus on the alignment of finances to the Shropshire Plan and the need for evidenced decision making to ensure a sustainable future for the Council. He drew attention to the four KPIs currently highlighted as exceptions, explained that this was starting point and that work was underway to review targets, tolerances and benchmarks. The work of the Transformation and Improvement Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet on development of further KPIs. Group Leaders were asked to draw attention to the availability of Power BI datasets

Discussion of the report covered the need to compare performance with similar authorities rather than geographical authorities, for example in relation to school preferences and admissions. It was reiterated that there was more work underway to establish meaningful targets and baseline figures.

Responding to comments on meeting secondary school preference, the Executive Director of Place reported that a briefing for all members was planned on school placement and commended the school admissions team who had worked tirelessly during a difficult year due to the unusually large size of the year group.

The Portfolio Holder Culture and Digital thanked the Head of Service Improvement and team for the hard work to date in establishing the system for creation and update of KPIs.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet reviewed and considered performance dashboard information alongside this exception report and noted progress to date in achieving the outcomes of The Shropshire Plan (TSP) and commented as appropriate.

37 Financial Monitoring Report Quarter 1 2023/24

In presenting the Financial Monitoring report, the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate Support said that performance in Quarter 1 had exceeded expectations and he thanked the finance team and officers for tirelessly working to achieve this result. He acknowledged that there remained much to do, but reiterated that there was no indication of any imminent financial crisis. He reported on the emergency planning exercises; stress testing of the plans and identified contingency arrangements in the event of unforeseen challenges, or under delivery on known challenges.

Responding to questions regarding outstanding savings required, what was meant by 'demand management' and for reassurance and further detail moving forward, he encouraged members to attend meetings of the newly established scrutiny task and finish groups which would be considering this information in detail. Reports for periods 4, 5 and 6 would also be with members as soon as they were ready, ahead of the report on Quarter 2.

Referencing other Councils that had recently issued Section 114 notices, the Portfolio Holder and Leader reiterated that although difficult decisions lay ahead the Shropshire Plan was firmly established and would deliver the savings needed.

RESOLVED:

- A. To note that at the end of Quarter 1 (30th June 2023), the expected level of savings delivery is £34.3m, representing more than the sum total of the last 3 years, and a level of delivery equal to that in recent years.
- B. That savings not yet confirmed amount to £17m.
- C. That demand-led services are forecasting significant overspending of £20.5m in the year, which is likely to continue into the coming year.
- D. The result of those points (A-C above) is a current forecast of overspend of £37.590m
- E. That it is assumed for planning purposes that
 - a. 65% of the remaining savings will be delivered (total: £11.9m) and
 - b. short-term funding will be identified to enable sustainable demand management approaches to be implemented in social care services (total: £20.5m), and that necessary plans are prepared to enable this.
- F. The resulting forecast at quarter 1 is therefore a likely overall overspend of £5.2m once key management actions are implemented. This will leave the General Fund balance at £21.8m, within the target range of £15m-£30m.

38 Treasury Management Update Quarter 1 2023/24

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate Resources introduced the report referencing the impact of interest rates increases.

RESOLVED:

1. To note the summary of the wider economic environment and the Council's borrowings and investments set out in Appendix A
2. To note the performance within prudential indicators for quarter 1, 2023/24 (Appendix B)
3. To approve the delegation to the Section 151 Officer to finalise financial arrangements for investment via CDL in the private rental sector.

39 Capital Strategy 2022/23 – 2027/28 Mid-Year Review

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate Resources introduced the report, explaining that a mid-term capital strategy had been brought forward for the first time to allow all members to be engaged in the development of opportunities across the county. This would facilitate any requests for reassessment through the task and finish group where it would be possible to see the implications to revenue of alternatives. He said that maintenance of a Capital Strategy and associated costs within revenue budgets would be stringently monitored moving forward in relation to cost of delivery and borrowing if required.

The Portfolio Holder and Leader went on to answer questions in relation to appendix C of the Strategy - Amendments to Priority Scheme Schedules, including: the Target Operating Model - Shirehall refurbishment; plans for Shrewsbury Town Centre and a move of a civic hub from Shirehall to Riverside as part of the redevelopment; the North West Relief Road; and LEP funding connected to the Oxon Link Road.

Responding to comments, the Portfolio Holder emphasised that the purchase of the Shrewsbury shopping centres had been about place shaping and the long term vision and future of Shrewsbury, not short term income benefit. The planned town centre redevelopment had generated a significant amount of external interest as well as government investment, would enhance a thriving county town which would in turn, help the rest of the county to flourish. A new civic hub would be designed for multiple use and act as an anchor point, not just functioning as a hub for Shropshire Council, but other organisations as well.

The Portfolio Holder said he looked forward to further discussion at the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group.

RESOLVED:

- 3.1 To approve the updated priority and aspirational capital scheme schedules for inclusion in the draft Capital Strategy, ahead of wider Member engagement.
- 3.2. To approve progression of the schemes detailed in the priority capital scheme schedule to business case to develop and assure the associated costs and funding

proposed.

3.3. To recommend to Council the approval of additional funding of £2.228m in relation to the Multi Agency Hub and the Pride Hill capital schemes which form part of the Shrewsbury Town Centre Redevelopment Programme.

3.4. To recommend to Council the approval of additional match funding of £0.647m in relation to the Council's LUF Round 2 grant award which requires total match funding of £5.043m, £4.396m of which has been previously secured / approved.

3.5. To note the considerations raised in respect of the future direction of the North West Relief Road (NWRR) and the Oxon Link Road (OLR) detailed at section 9.

40 Annual Customer Feedback (complaints) Report

The Portfolio Holder for Culture and Digital introduced the annual report drawing attention to the 2702 cases of customer feedback.

The average time taken to respond to stage 1 complaints had been challenging in the past, at 32 days, and he was pleased to report that the council's target of 30 days had now been surpassed and was now at 26 days. While the long-term trend was of increasing numbers of complaints received, up by 36% since 2016/17, year on year the volume of customer feedback has stabilised, showing a very slight year-to-year reduction for 2022/23.

The number of complaints progressing beyond Stage 1 through either the council's own processes or to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) remained small at 5% of total complaints, of these, 20 (33%) were investigated and of those 16 were upheld by the Ombudsman, representing 0.01% of total complaints investigated. The Ombudsman had recommended a meeting with Shropshire Council to discuss the annual report and the year ahead and this discussion would be helpful to develop a more robust understanding of the ombudsman's recommendations.

The Portfolio Holder for Highways drew attention to the marked reduction in the volume of complaints about highways and transport, which now accounted for 19% of complaints down from 27% the previous year, he thanked the Highways team for the marked improvement in the way it was operating.

RESOLVED:

To note the recommendations and actions in the Annual Customer Feedback Report designed to support and improve robust customer feedback performance.

41 Cross Border Marches Strategic Partnership Memorandum of Understanding

The Leader explained the proposed establishment of a collaboration framework for neighbouring local authority areas with shared characteristics, needs and interests, providing a flexible basis for joint working without the need for formal governing structures and without impacting existing strategic partnerships or individual local authority working arrangements. She reported that the proposed collaboration had received a positive reaction from both Westminster and the Welsh Government. Members referred to numerous potential benefits including areas such as health and social care, public transport and infrastructure and all welcomed the proposal.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet agree to recommend to council:

1. The establishment of a Marches Forward Partnership with neighbouring local authorities.
2. The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the local authorities to reflect the spirit of cooperation and joint working between them.
3. Support the development of the Marches Forward Partnership through representation on a joint local authority Leaders Group.
4. Delegate to the Chief Executive and Executive Director of Place to proceed with development of a work programme to meet the objectives within the Memorandum of Understanding, in consultation with relevant Portfolio Holders (depending on the service under consideration).

42 Shropshire Destination Management Plan 2023- 2025

The Portfolio Holder Culture and Digital introduced the report, explaining that the Shropshire Destination Management Plan would be the blueprint for how the county intends to manage its visitor economy between 2023 and 2025. Shropshire has not had a whole county plan for some years and it would provide impetus and direction for all with a stake in the sector, and help the sector to gain credibility and recognition as an important driver of the county's economy.

The Plan would be used as a reference document for future funding and a basis for future bids into government programmes and could be used by developers and tourism businesses to shape their investment and inform, guide, and influence how resources are used and allocated. It was intended to be a living document that is periodically reviewed and adjusted to take account of the operating environment, the needs and expectations of consumers, businesses and communities, as well as opportunities to develop new products and propositions.

Discussion covered the importance of sustainable transport in supporting the visitor economy, the need to encourage day visitors to stay longer, and the population of around 4.5 million people who lived within an hour and a half of the county. It was confirmed that opportunities for working with Telford and Wrekin would be fully explored and the Plan was welcomed by all.

RESOLVED:

1. To approve and publish the Destination Management Plan.
2. To approve the Council facilitating the creation of a new tourism partnership, with clear governance and terms of reference, comprised of private and public stakeholders including Visit Shropshire, the county DMO, to manage delivery of the DMP action plan.

Responsibility for this work is delegated to the Director for Place, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Digital and Culture.

3. To approve that Shropshire Council work closely with Telford & Wrekin Council, who are about to commence work on a DMP for their unitary area, and to identify where the obvious points of contact and opportunities for cross-border working will be

43 Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED

That, in accordance with the provisions of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and Paragraph 10.4 [3] of the Council’s Access to Information Rules, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items

44 Exempt Minutes

The exempt minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2023 were confirmed as a correct record.

45 Recommendation to Award a Contract for the Integrated Community Equipment Loan Service (ICELS)

RESOLVED

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

Signed (Chairman)

Date:

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Committee and Date

Cabinet
18th October 2023

Item

Public



Financial Strategy 2024/25-2028/29; Update to the March 2023 MTFS

Responsible Officer:	James Walton		
email:	james.walton@shropshire.gov.uk	Tel:	01743 258915
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	Cllr Gwilym Butler, Finance & Corporate Support		

1. Synopsis

The Council's MTFS has been updated to reflect anticipated inflation and other budget pressures that have superseded previous projections. Initial calculations increase the estimated budget gap next year to £23.6m.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. As part of the full budget report for 2023/24, Full Council received a Medium Term Financial Strategy setting out estimated resources and expenditure to 2027/28. This has now been updated for latest information and extended to 2028/29. A routine review and update of the MTFS for latest information helps ensure that the financial and operational decisions of the Council are taken with a clear view of the current and future risks and opportunities being faced.
- 2.2. The update indicates that a combination of pay and price inflation and challenges in delivery of both base budgets and spending reduction plans is adding to the previously identified gap in 2024/25, with a current estimate of the gap now being £23.6m. This is set out below.

Funding Gap	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	2026/27 £	2027/28 £	2028/29 £
Remaining Gap to be Funded @ March Council	1,096,536	2,166,643	2,819,557	3,714,543	NA
change - inflation and budget pressures	22,470,200	18,800,248	15,512,067	12,225,150	5,222,191
Remaining Gap to be Funded @ October Cabinet	23,566,736	20,966,891	18,331,624	15,939,693	5,222,191

- 2.3. The estimated gap will continue to be reviewed and revised as the budget planning process is undertaken through the Autumn period and is expected to continue to change in that time.
- 2.4. A key unknown at present is whether the level of demand currently being experienced in social care services will persist into next financial year. Interventions to ensure that the needs of both adults and children in Shropshire are identified and met at an early stage will undoubtedly help reduce that demand pressure, and the resulting cost pressure. However, the timing and extent of that benefit is not yet known with sufficient confidence to be included in this update, so will be included in the December MTFS update, at which point clearer estimates of overall demand and the impact of mitigations will be available.
- 2.5. A further unknown is the timing and benefit arising from Target Operating Model (TOM) interventions. These were initially drawn up alongside the 2023/24 budget plans, and some projects are included in the 2023/24 spending reductions, while others continue to be developed. Implementation and delivery plans are being worked up as part of the 2024/25 planning cycle and will also be included in the December MTFS update.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. That Cabinet
- Notes the increased gap in 2024/25 and the reasons for it
 - Notes that further information will be forthcoming on how the Council will meet the needs of social care clients and service users earlier in future, and supports Officers in the urgent preparation of effective plans
 - Similarly, notes that further information on TOM proposals will also be forthcoming and urges Officers to bring those plans forward for implementation and delivery rapidly.
 - Notes that the reserves position, previously a cause for considerable concern, is much improved – but also notes that action on current year pressures is needed to safeguard that improved position (including sufficient mitigation of current demand pressures through the remainder of this year and into future years).
 - Notes that, despite some deterioration in outlook in the near-term, the MTFS continue to demonstrate that the outlook is expected to improve substantially in the coming years.
 - Notes the changes to some of the savings plans (virements) set out in the March 2023 Budget Council meeting have seen changes at values in excess of £1m, and so Member approval is requested to confirm these changes (see attachment to Appendix 1, specifically savings EFF102 (TOM projects @ -£3m), EFF105 (GLR-led savings @ +£1m) and EFF108 (Corporate Grants @ +£2m).

Also to note the removal of EFF10 (Market management @ -£1.3m) and the replacement with over-achievement of EFF06 (Reablement) and EFF07 (care at home).

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1. The MTFS is a key part of the risk management approach of the Council, helping to identify the future trajectory of resources and spending and providing early insight into pressures which are emerging. Key risks identified in this report include
- a) the ability to prepare effective early intervention measures in social care in order to improve overall outcomes for residents and reduce overall costs of those services
 - b) the pace with which TOM projects can be planned, implemented and benefits realised.
- 4.2. A further key risk implicit through the report is the ability to maximise the impact of the available staff capacity in securing those aims. Availability of staff to support these innovations is a risk being flagged across the Council at the present time.
- 4.3. Mitigations are:-
- a) Early intervention measures – these are being confirmed and the benefits quantified at the present time, and will be reported back in the December MTFS update.
 - b) TOM project proposals – again, these are being confirmed and the benefits quantified at the present time, and will be reported back in the December MTFS update.
 - c) Staff capacity (both sufficiency of staff time and extent of staff skillsets) – this is held under review by Executive Review Board and Executive Management Team, who hold responsibility for this risk.
- 4.4. The MTFS also presents a trajectory of overall improvement in the finances of the Council. There is a great prize to be won here, something made more apparent in the current climate of financial pressure felt across local government.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. The subject of the report.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

The budget for 2023/24 and the March MTFS provided for ongoing resource in support of mitigating climate change, and this is continued in the current update. The impact of climate change across the MTFS is anticipated to be adverse, so investment would reduce this.

7. Background

- 7.1. The 2 March meeting of Full Council received and approved the budget proposals for 2023/24 and the associated MTFS. This report updates that document.
- 7.2. The 6 September Cabinet meeting received the outturn report for 2022/23, which set out the financial position at the end of that year, with the consequent position at the start of the current year.

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

[Finance outturn 2022/23](#)

[MTFS 2023/24 – 2027/28](#)

[Q1 Finance report 2023/24](#)

Local Member: All

Appendices

Appendix A - Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/25 – 2028/29

Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/25 – 2028/29

October 2023





Foreword

Following engagement with the public, our partners, and local businesses, Shropshire Council agreed 'The Shropshire Plan' at its meeting in May 2022. This plan sets out the Council's vision, purpose and priorities, grouped into 4 themes – healthy people, economy, environment, and organisation.

Nearly 18 months later, these priorities continue to shape the delivery of Council services, and this update to the MTFS demonstrates how we continue to pursue those objectives.

A clear strategy helps us all to stay ahead of issues and to be agile in our response to new challenges. This is ever more important as we witness other Councils struggling with their own financial challenges. Having a clear plan helps us to continue our work in a consistent and coherent way.

As the introduction to The Shropshire Plan concludes: *"The challenges and experiences we have shared over recent years puts us in a strong position to step up and move forwards together and adapt our plans to meet the changing situations we face."*

This updated financial strategy is part of that 'stepping up', meeting both present and future challenges in a controlled and confident way.



Lezley Picton
Leader of the
Council



Andy Begley
Chief Executive

Introduction

This financial strategy continues to ensure that the Council's finances are aligned to the delivery of The Shropshire Plan, as agreed by Councillors in May 2022.

It also builds upon the engagement of the Council with the Local Government Association (LGA) through its 'finance peer challenge'. That review concluded that our financial position was 'precarious – not catastrophic'. The reviewers were unequivocal; the technical and professional resources the Council has at its disposal are of a high standard and provide a sound foundation from which to meet the coming challenges, and the financial position – set out in this report – confirm that, while challenging, the Council's finances continue to demonstrate a positive outlook and engagement.

The work of the current year has started well, as evidenced in the Quarter 1 Finance Report¹, with a strong start to delivering savings, but also facing significant demand pressures in social care.

Work to secure the highest possible level of savings delivery is ongoing, and work to ensure we meet the care needs of adults and children as early as possible is in hand.

These key aspects of work in the current year will secure the best start possible to next year, as described in this report.



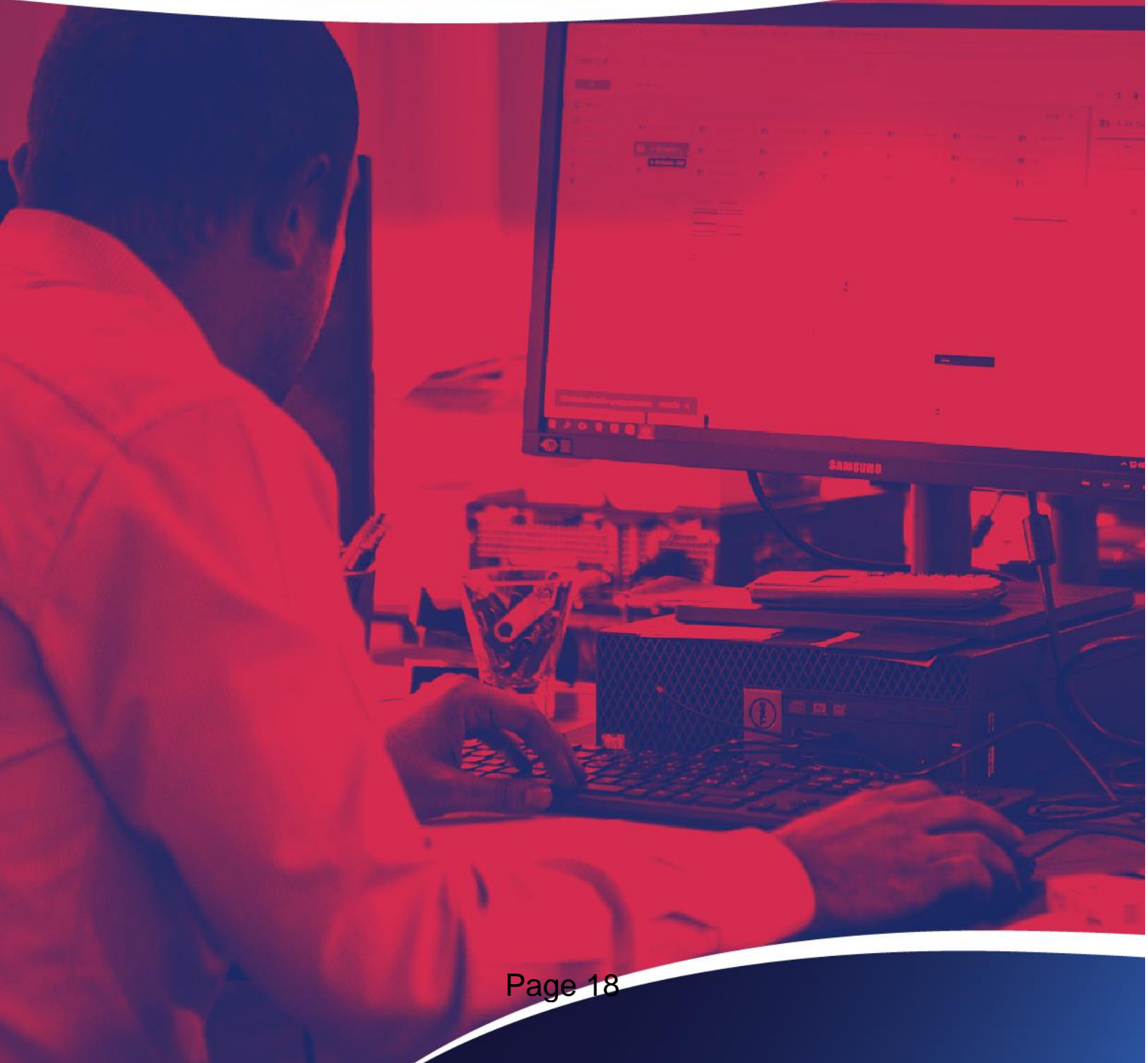
Gwilym Butler
Cabinet Member
for Finance



James Walton
Executive Director
of Resources and
s151 Officer

¹ [Q1 finance report 23-24](#)

Medium Term Financial Strategy – Significant Updates



Inflationary Pressures

The inflationary pressures originally identified in 2022/23 continue to have a cumulative effect across the MTFS period. Inflation levels have remained stubbornly high, impacting on prices for 2024/25.

Pay inflation for 2023/24 was built in but there is a likely shortfall as the pay award is now anticipated to be higher (currently an assumed average 3.88% across all bands, but more in lower bands – due to National Living Wage – and less in higher bands). Carrying this increase forward to next year equated to +£1.8m to be included in the 2024/25 budget. Previously, a 3% increase in the cost of pay had been assumed for 2024/25 and future years. This is expected to increase further for 2024/25 as inflation persists (estimated as +£4.4m against previous provision, although this is highly uncertain). The overall impact of pay inflation for 2024/25, including both the shortfall against assumed increases in 2023/24 and the further increase in 2024/25 is therefore +£6.2m, including both the future impact of the current year negotiations and the further impact of next year's negotiations. (NB – values are for the overall cost to Council budgets, and include employees pay and employers liabilities such as National Insurance Contributions and Pensions Contributions. Percentage increases also refer to changes in levels of provision – not the anticipated outcome of pay negotiations.)

Contract and corporate landlord inflation has previously been built in for an average 3% and has now been uplifted to an average of 9% (although this varies across budget heads). This is based on current levels of RPI and CPI inflation, which may reduce further prior to the start of the financial year. The overall impact on 2024/25 budgets is +£6.1m.

Budget growth pressures

Some of the savings planned to be achieved in the current year are proving challenging to realise. These amount to £4.2m and are set out below. Inclusion in this report is for information, however, and not confirmation of funding in future years as the business planning process will need to consider these alongside other pressures.

Directorate	Unachieved Saving	Amount £m
Place	Staff Turnover and waste (5%)	1.36
	GLR – cashable benefit	0.60
	Rent to University of Chester	0.37
	Decreased us of B&B as temporary accommodation	0.34
	Other	0.32
		2.99
Resources	HB Subsidy loss unachieved re B&B/TA	1.00
Corporate	QICS PFI	0.21
TOTAL		4.20

Figure 1 - current year spending reductions in doubt

Similarly, several areas have been identified as struggling with current budget allocations. These are set out below and total £6.5m. These figures are included in the current update as service pressures but will need to progress through the wider business planning cycle before being approved. Again, inclusion in this report is not confirmation that the pressures will be funded, rather that they will be considered.

Directorate	Budget Pressure	Amount £m
People - Adults	Staff – Regrading of staff	0.32
	Increased employee recharges from Fleet transport	0.30
	Increased ASC transport costs	0.20
	Other	0.19
		1.01
People - Childrens	New Children's Home	0.78
	PLO Support Packages – Court costs	0.60
	Staffing Growth	0.60
	Other	0.28
		2.26
Place	OT equipment	0.20
	SUDS approval body costs (Drainage)	0.20
	B&B costs	0.19
	Other	0.50
		1.09
Resources	HB Subsidy loss add pressures re B&B/TA	0.69
	Staffing Growth	0.48
	Legal Child care pressures	0.28
	Other	0.18
		1.63
Corporate	Reversing previous Insurance Fund contributions	0.49
	Audit fees	0.04
		0.53
TOTAL		6.52

Figure 2- current year base budget pressures where funding is requested for 2024/25

Revised MTFs Summary and Funding Gap

The impact of the inflationary, budgetary, and savings under-delivery pressures is outlined below. The current estimate is that the budget gap for 2024/25 (next financial year) has increased to £23.5m, although this reduces significantly to £5.2m by 2028/29 under current assumptions.

The funding gap is driven by the difference between estimated resources and estimated expenditure, with the level of one-off grants is expected to remain broadly stable across the period (averaging £43m).

Estimated resources in 2023/24 (the current year) are £645m before one-grants are included. This is expected to remain largely unchanged into 2024/25, as £8m of resources arising from collection fund surpluses (collection above anticipated levels for Council Tax and Business Rates) are not anticipated to be repeated, or are already budgeted for, and some one-off grants, such as the Services Grant, are not expected to continue (based on the data published in the February 2023 Local Government Finance Settlement, which included estimates of the funding to be received in 2024/25). This largely offsets resource growth in other areas, such as Council Tax receipts and inflationary uplifts in some social care grants.

Estimated expenditure is anticipated to increase between this year and next year, with slower growth thereafter.

Funding Gap	2022/23 £	2023/24 £	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	2026/27 £	2027/28 £	2028/29 £
Estimated resources (incl savings plans)	597,559,628	645,741,039	645,111,310	651,030,403	663,131,750	675,671,937	688,763,528
Estimated expenditure (incl savings plans)	656,496,475	690,271,309	712,144,745	713,232,507	723,761,942	735,005,453	738,507,655
Gap in year	58,936,847	44,530,271	67,033,435	62,202,105	60,630,192	59,333,516	49,744,127
One off Grants							
Improved Better Care Funding	11,863,403	9,896,143	10,252,045	10,618,624	10,996,201	11,385,105	11,785,676
Rural Services Delivery grant	6,940,755	7,757,314	7,757,314	7,757,314	7,757,314	7,757,314	7,757,314
Social Care Grant - One Off	12,619,529	21,547,059	22,193,471	22,859,275	23,545,053	24,251,405	24,978,947
Services Grant	3,521,312	2,065,886	0	0	0	0	0
Market Sustainability and Fair Cost Fund	940,831	3,263,869	3,263,869	0	0	0	0
TOTAL ONE OFF FUNDING	58,936,847	44,530,271	43,466,699	41,235,213	42,298,568	43,393,823	44,521,936
Remaining Gap/(Surplus) to be Funded	0	0	23,566,736	20,966,891	18,331,624	15,939,693	5,222,191

Figure 3 - summary financial gap for the MTFs period

Medium Term Financial Strategy Summary

Estimated Resources	2022/23 £	2023/24 £	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	2026/27 £	2027/28 £	2028/29 £
Council Tax	180,285,304	193,577,046	206,590,351	216,277,822	226,419,781	237,036,766	248,152,693
Council Tax Collection Fund Surplus/(Deficit)	2,393,399	2,331,437	0	0	0	0	0
Business Rates:							
Business Rates Collected	35,698,519	38,044,253	44,836,978	45,533,409	46,240,656	46,958,889	47,688,278
Business Rates - Energy Renewable Schemes	1,145,182	1,380,207	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Top Up Grant	10,031,260	11,119,831	11,119,831	11,119,831	11,119,831	11,119,831	11,119,831
Business Rate Collection Fund Surplus/(Deficit)	-11,387,762	1,982,243	0	0	0	0	0
Revenue Support Grant	6,450,404	7,478,634	7,777,779	7,933,335	8,092,001	8,253,841	8,418,918
NET BUDGET	224,616,305	255,913,651	271,324,940	281,864,397	292,872,270	304,369,328	316,379,721
Grants included in Core Funding:							
Improved Better Care Fund	11,863,403	11,863,403	12,219,305	12,585,884	12,963,461	13,352,365	13,752,936
New Homes Bonus	4,651,465	1,747,510	0	0	0	0	0
Rural Services Delivery Grant	6,940,755	7,757,314	7,757,314	7,757,314	7,757,314	7,757,314	7,757,314
Social Care Support Grant	12,619,529	21,547,059	22,193,471	22,859,275	23,545,053	24,251,405	24,978,947
Lower Tier Services Grant	397,338	0					
Market Sustainability and Improvement Funding	940,831	3,263,869	3,263,869	0	0	0	0
Discharge Funding		1,663,231	1,663,231	0	0	0	0
Services Grant	3,521,312	2,065,886	0	0	0	0	0
CORE FUNDING	265,550,937	305,821,923	318,422,130	325,066,870	337,138,098	349,730,411	362,868,918
Local Income							
Fees and charges (including income savings deliverable from prior years)	82,293,304	86,918,240	86,918,240	86,918,240	86,918,240	86,918,240	86,918,240
Other Grants and contributions	30,785,140	33,445,280	33,445,280	33,445,280	33,445,280	33,445,280	33,445,280
Specific Grants (excluding Core Funding Grants above)	209,825,807	209,079,856	195,849,920	195,124,273	195,154,393	195,102,265	195,055,350
Internal Recharges	9,104,440	10,475,740	10,475,740	10,475,740	10,475,740	10,475,740	10,475,740
TOTAL FUNDING	597,559,628	645,741,039	645,111,310	651,030,403	663,131,750	675,671,937	688,763,528

Figure 4 - estimated resources for the MTFS period

Estimated Expenditure	2022/23 £	2023/24 £	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	2026/27 £	2027/28 £	2028/29 £
Original Gross Budget Requirement	615,491,946	656,496,475	690,271,309	712,144,745	713,232,507	723,761,942	735,005,453
Inflationary Growth :							
Pay	2,841,967	11,336,970	10,452,858	4,499,091	4,634,064	4,773,086	4,916,278
Apprenticeship Levy	114,200	21,970	27,370	14,930	15,380	15,840	16,320
Pensions	0	-982,060	0	0	0	0	0
Corporate Landlord inflation		2,180,000	805,628	203,575	208,665	213,881	219,228
Contract inflation		23,363,437	11,568,606	3,042,357	3,118,415	3,200,216	3,269,178
Demography & Demand	12,575,656	1,133,830	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
Service Specific Pressures	5,914,099						
Service Specific Pressures		556,270	168,000	-400,000	-500,000		
Ongoing Budget Pressures	8,196,113	7,552,822	10,737,082				
Local Generated Pressures:							
Elections	-740,000			700,000	-700,000		
Specific Grants Changes between years	16,142,601	-154,412	-7,974,562	-4,620,364	1,093,475	1,043,128	1,081,198
Ongoing reduction in New Homes Bonus (pressure)	348,535	2,903,955	1,747,510				
Estimated Cost of Investment - Approved	521,000	508,415	2,032,000	3,104,000	4,452,000		
Additional Staff for Capital Programme	500,000	-500,000					
Adjustment to Gross budget offset by Income changes	2187159	8,631,513					
Contribution to General Fund		19,867,691	0	-10,000,000	-9,867,691		
Contribution to Development Reserve - Transformation		1,000,000			-1,000,000		
MTFS reserve (savings slippage/optimism bias)			4,250,000	14,000,000	-9,250,000	-6,000,000	
Capital Investment/Transformation Fund					15,000,000	6,000,000	-6,000,000
Climate Change/Energy Efficiency Fund					4,000,000	2,000,000	
Savings							
One off saving - Morrissons Lease and Buyout	-1,415,065	1,415,065					
Unachievable Savings agreed in prior years		4,559,010					
Invest to Save Fund for delivery of future savings	103,000	-97,000					
Savings Agreed in Previous Financial Years	-4,771,279	-3,680,737	-11,941,057	-9,455,826	-674,872	-2,640	
Tactical Budget Savings		-8,752,621					
TOM Budget Savings		-15,796,058					
New Savings Proposals		-23,063,885					
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	656,496,475	690,271,309	712,144,745	713,232,507	723,761,942	735,005,453	738,507,655

Figure 5 - estimated expenditure for the MTFS period

Process for Closing the Funding Gap

In the short term, the business planning round for 2024/25 is already under way and will progress through the Autumn. Clearly, spending reductions will continue to be required for next financial year, and their precise extent, and planned mitigation, will be quantified through this process.

A key area of focus is the level of demographic and demand growth in social care (marked in the table above as “TBC”). This is a pressure across local government as a sector, and we are not different in that respect. Work is in hand to identify the overall level of pressure and the mitigations which can be identified to reduce that pressure – particularly, ensuring that management of client needs is put in place sufficiently early.

In parallel, preparations for delivery of improved and more efficient operating models in all council services are also in place, and TOM projects designed to support long term sustainability are being worked through in greater detail, for delivery across the MTFS period.

The Council can then continue to develop its longer term strategic plans to encourage economic growth, improved resource position through growth within the taxbase, and manage growth pressure through early intervention and prevention strategies.

Movement in 2024/25 estimates from the March Council MTFS

The following tables show the movement in estimates for the 2024/24 financial year from the March 2023 MTFS agreed by Full Council to the current estimates at October 2023.

Overall, it shows a deterioration of £22.5m to a potential gap of £23.6m. This change is due to a small loss in estimated resources, and a more significant increase in estimated expenditure driven by pay and prices inflation and some budget growth pressures.

Funding Gap	2024/25 @	Movement	2024/25 @
	Mar Council		Oct Cabinet
	£	£	£
Resources (incl savings plans)	646,324,105	-1,212,795	645,111,310
Expenditure (incl savings plans)	690,887,339	21,257,406	712,144,745
Gap in year	44,563,234	22,470,200	67,033,435
One off Grants & Reserves:			
Improved Better Care Funding	-10,252,045	0	-10,252,045
Rural Services Delivery grant	-7,757,314	0	-7,757,314
Social Care Grant - One Off	-22,193,471	0	-22,193,471
Services Grant	0	0	0
Market Sustainability and Fair Cost Fund	-3,263,869	0	-3,263,869
TOTAL ONE OFF FUNDING	-43,466,699	0	-43,466,699
Remaining Gap/(Surplus) to be Funded	1,096,535	22,470,200	23,566,736

Figure 6 - movement in the estimated 2024/25 gap from March to April estimates

The change in estimated resources is the net impact of larger movements with some loss in anticipated funding, plus some additional funding arising from new funding streams as well as inflationary uplifts for pre-existing grants.

Estimated Resources	2024/25 @ Mar Council £	Movement £	2024/25 @ Oct Cabinet £
Council Tax	206,590,351	0	206,590,351
Council Tax Collection Fund Surplus/(Deficit)	0	0	0
Business Rates:			
Business Rates Collected	44,836,978	0	44,836,978
Business Rates - Energy Renewable Schemes	1,000,000	0	1,000,000
Top Up Grant	11,119,831	0	11,119,831
Business Rate Collection Fund Surplus/(Deficit)	0	0	0
Revenue Support Grant	7,478,634	299,145	7,777,779
NET BUDGET	271,025,795	299,145	271,324,940
Grants included in Core Funding:			
Improved Better Care Fund	10,252,045	1,967,260	12,219,305
New Homes Bonus	0	0	0
Rural Services Delivery Grant	7,757,314	0	7,757,314
Social Care Support Grant	22,193,471	0	22,193,471
Market Sustainability and Improvement Funding	3,263,869	0	3,263,869
Discharge Funding	0	1,663,231	1,663,231
Services Grant	0	0	0
CORE FUNDING	314,492,494	3,929,636	318,422,130
Local Income			
Fees and charges (including income savings deliverable from prior years)	86,918,240	0	86,918,240
Other Grants and contributions	33,445,280	0	33,445,280
Specific Grants (excluding Core Funding Grants above)	200,992,351	-5,142,431	195,849,920
Internal Recharges	10,475,740	0	10,475,740
TOTAL FUNDING	646,324,105	-1,212,795	645,111,310

Figure 7 - movement in the estimated resources from March to October estimates

The change in estimated expenditure is due to pay and price inflation, as set out above, as well as some budget savings now not expected to be fully achieved.

Estimated Expenditure	2024/25 @	Movement	2024/25 @
	Mar Council £		Oct Cabinet £
Original Gross Budget Requirement	690,271,309	0	690,271,309
Inflationary Growth :			
Pay	3,968,420	6,484,438	10,452,858
Apprenticeship Levy	14,110	13,260	27,370
Pensions	305,669	-305,669	0
Corporate Landlord inflation	185,447	620,181	805,628
Contract inflation	6,059,096	5,509,510	11,568,606
Demography & Demand	289,455	TBC	TBC
Service Specific Pressures			
Service Specific Pressures	168,000	0	168,000
Ongoing Budget Pressures	0	10,737,082	10,737,082
Local Generated Pressures:			
Specific Grants Changes between years	-6,462,621	-1,511,941	-7,974,562
Ongoing reduction in New Homes Bonus (pressure)	1,747,510	0	1,747,510
Grants Rolled into RSG, Core Funding	0	0	0
Estimated Cost of Investment - <i>Approved</i>	2,032,000	0	2,032,000
Contribution to General Fund	0	0	0
Contribution to Development Reserve - Transformation		0	0
MTFS reserve (savings slippage/optimism bias)	4,250,000	0	4,250,000
Savings			
<i>Savings Agreed in Previous Financial Years</i>	<i>-2,279,811</i>	<i>-9,661,246</i>	<i>-11,941,057</i>
<i>Tactical Budget Savings</i>	<i>-2,788,000</i>	<i>2,788,000</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>TOM Budget Savings</i>	<i>-7,143,796</i>	<i>7,143,796</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>New Savings Proposals</i>	<i>270,550</i>	<i>-270,550</i>	<i>0</i>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	690,887,339	21,257,406	712,144,745

Figure 8 - movement in estimated expenditure from March to October estimates

Financial Stability; Reserves and balances



General Fund Balance

The General Fund Balance (GFB) held as at 1 April 2023 is £27.0m.

The balance held of £27m is comprised of £7m brought forward (as set out in the 2022/23 Finance Outturn report²) plus £19.9m contribution identified in the 2023/24 budget³.

The Council is working to ensure that the General Fund Balance is protected at a level of at least £20m from 2024/25, to ensure a greater level of overall financial resilience. This can be achieved through:

- contributions into the balance (as above)
- measures to reduce future calls on the GFB such as wider rebalancing of council budgets and reduction of likely risks
- review of earmarked reserves (the GFB is an unearmarked reserve), with reallocation of some balances into the GFB where this is permissible and appropriate.

Scope exists for a further contribution of £19.9m to the GFB in at the start of 2024/25, but this is under review.

Earmarked Reserves

The Council has assumed in previous financial strategies that it would use earmarked reserves, particularly the Financial Strategy Reserve, to help balance the budget. The Financial Strategy Reserve was fully applied in 2022/23 and remains at zero in 2023/24. The March 2023 MTFS does however provide for a £4m contribution to be made in 2024/25.

The total value in Earmarked Reserves as at 1 April 2022 was £79.2m, and was £31.7m at 1 April 2023 (excluding schools related reserves).

The Council's March 2023 financial strategy includes provision to replenish reserves, although the exact level will depend on the progress made in rebalancing the budget. This will afford the Council the resources to be able to deal with unexpected challenges, and investment in further transformation and improvement of its services

² [Finance outturn 2022/23](#)

³ [MTFS 2023-24 - 2027-28](#)

Attachment 1 – Spending reduction measures included in the March 2023 MTFs, with updates on progress and, where needed, indication of Member approval being requested for proposed changes

Savings Reference	Directorate	Description of Saving	2023/24 £	Status (delivered i.e. in year to date; in delivery - delivery through remainder of the year; under review - delivery is in doubt, or not yet fully planned)	Member approval requested (due to change of plan and materiality, where > £1m requires Full Council approval; £0.5m-£1m requires Cabinet approval, and under £0.5m can be made within Officer delegations)
POL05	Place	Installation of battery units at Shirehall and Theatre Severn to store electricity generated from rooftop photovoltaic cell installations, to support reduced local energy use from the Grid and more locally generated energy, and to replace 'selling back' energy to the Grid.	-75,000	revised delivery (reduced use of utilities in corporate buildings) - plan in place	N
POL06	Place	Reduce small grant funding to local groups	-25,000	delivered	N
POL07	Place	Review of collection charges for bulky waste	-15,000	delivered	N
POL08	Place	Savings in the Museum Service	0		N
EFF44	Place	Review PFI contract costs to secure greater efficiency	-4,286,240	delivered	N
EFF101	Place	Target Operating Model - staffing budget turnover and wastage increase by 5% (year-end review).	-1,356,450	under review	N
EFF105	Place	Target Operating Model/Workforce Strategy - Getting Leadership Right - cashable benefit of improved organisation-wide performance management	-595,230	under review	N
EFF18	Place	Decreased use of B&B accommodation as temporary accommodation for 2022/23 (including associated costs) in view of current action to reduce or divert demand.	-344,000	under review	N
EFF51	Place	Shopping Centres - Pride Hill and Riverside base budget reduced as not required once the demolition works begin. To be reinstated in 2026-27	-265,450	delivered	N
EFF46	Place	Increased charges for car parking including changes to permit schemes and some reduction in concessions.	-2,000,000	delivered	N
EFF60	Place	Increased income generation by Register Office	-60,000	plan in place	N
EFF61	Place	Registrars and Estates increased income	-50,000	plan in place	N
EFF66	Place	Increased income generation within Museums and Archives	-10,000	plan in place	N
EFF45	Place	Charge staffing costs to capital budgets where possible and appropriate (capital project support or transformation of revenue services).	-2,019,310	in delivery	N
EFF49	Place	Removal of budgets for vacant posts (avg. 3%)	-818,850	in delivery	N
EFF48	Place	Review application of grant funding.	-976,000	delivered	N
EFF50	Place	Fees and charges increased in line with cost inflation.	-426,060	in delivery	N
EFF55	Place	Revised service structure for Communities, Leisure and Tourism functions.	-105,000	in delivery	N
EFF17	Place	Review of support contracts	-346,620	in delivery	N
EFF58	Place	Review of housing costs and attribution to general fund functions versus attribution to Housing Revenue Account.	-80,000	in delivery	N
EFF09	Place	Removal of budgets for vacant posts (avg. 3%)	-77,020	delivered	N
EFF28	Place	Increase private sector housing fees	-100,000	in delivery	N
EFF26	Place	Use external grant funding to support staff costs	-136,680	in delivery	N
EFF56	Place	Revise Shire Services cleaning contracts to improve efficiency and reduce net costs.	-100,000	in delivery	N
EFF59	Place	Review of youth centres and other accommodation used for youth activities	-69,300	in delivery	N
EFF64	Place	Enhanced income through use of Planning Performance Agreements and increased fees	-25,000	in delivery	N
EFF36	Place	Optimise Occupational Therapy service delivery by ending 'just checking' contract.	-30,000	in delivery	N
EFF47	Place	Once-only use of adverse weather reserves while other savings plans are put into place.	-1,561,000	delivered	N
EFF52	Place	Reshape Planning Services to become closer to cost neutral by 2025/26	-200,000	delivered	N
EFF24	Place	Review the Independent Living Service to ensure value for money.	-150,000	delivered	N
EFF53	Place	Public Health funding to increase health improvement benefits through leisure services.	-140,000	delivered	N
EFF54	Place	Repurposing unclaimed developer bonds.	-125,000	delivered	N
EFF57	Place	Increased efficiency in drainage maintenance operations	-100,000	delivered	N
EFF33	Place	Improve value for money of housing security provision	-74,000	delivered	N
EFF62	Place	Recovery of insurance costs (prev. agreed)	-30,000	delivered	N
EFF63	Place	Recovery of insurance costs (additional to EFF62)	-30,000	delivered	N
EFF65	Place	Enhanced income through the commercial activities in the Natural and Historic Environment Team.	-30,000	delivered	N
EFF77	Place	Change to staff charges to CDL/Cornovii (reduced charges to CDL, increased costs to the Council)	40,980	delivered	N

Medium Term Financial Strategy Summary

POL01	People	Review the transport arrangements for SEND education placements to ensure efficient use of resources whilst providing appropriate support.	-100,000	in delivery	N
POL03	People	Review the transport arrangements for placements at the Tuition Medical Behaviour Support Service to ensure efficient use of resources.	-202,000	in delivery	N
EFF101	People	Target Operating Model - staffing budget turnover and wastage increase by 5% (year-end review).	-2,589,430	under review	N
EFF10	People	Managing predicted growth	-1,300,000	no longer achievable - fully mitigated through over achievement of EFF06 and EFF07	Y
EFF11	People	Increase numbers of local foster carers to enable reductions in independent foster care costs (local foster carers, engaged by the Council, are less costly than independent foster carers)	-1,000,000	plan in place	N
EFF13	People	Reduce numbers of childcare placements in long-term residential placements, where appropriate ('Stepping Stones' project, implementing the proven North Yorkshire model of children's social care management).	-1,000,000	in delivery	N
EFF14	People	Prevent the need for residential care	-832,198	under review	N
EFF105	People	Target Operating Model/Workforce Strategy - Getting Leadership Right - cashable benefit of improved organisation-wide performance management	-722,220	under review	N
EFF09	People	Removal of budgets for vacant posts (avg. 3%)	-1,247,980	in delivery	N
EFF21	People	Review exceptionally high-cost children's residential care placements to identify the optimum care arrangements for each child, reflecting their changing levels of need.	-250,000	plan in place	N
EFF22	People	Review care at home model.	-240,437	under review	N
EFF23	People	Review the Council contribution to maintained school redundancy costs.	-180,000	delivered	N
EFF30	People	Review funding arrangements across Learning and Skills to maximise the use of the Central School Services Block (CSSB) grant funding, in line with Government guidance, to rebalance the Council contribution to the service.	-86,180	delivered	N
EFF34	People	Review service model to deliver wellbeing training and capacity building offer.	-66,610	delivered	N
EFF37	People	Review the 'Enhance' contract	-21,000	delivered	N
EFF07	People	Review care at home model	-2,759,563	in delivery	N
EFF12	People	Review supported living model	-1,000,000	in delivery	N
EFF20	People	Reduce transport costs through improved efficiencies	-300,000	in delivery	N
EFF27	People	Review of arrangements for personal budgets	-110,000	in delivery	N
EFF35	People	Charge for sourcing care to self funders	-43,000	plan in place - part of this target is now being achieved through over achievement of EFF06	N
EFF40	People	Contract review for supported living	-7,480	under review	N
EFF06	People	Expand and enhance reablement model to improve people's outcomes get better and to remain independent.	-3,844,860	in delivery	N
EFF08	People	Review client contributions in line with national guidance	-1,800,000	in delivery	N
EFF15	People	Deliver efficiencies across the ISF model	-500,000	in delivery	N
EFF19	People	Develop flexible support model to support people to remain at home	-325,000	in delivery	N
EFF25	People	Increase joint training opportunities.	-150,000	in delivery	N
EFF32	People	Review of Day Services model.	-75,000	in delivery	N
EFF41	People	Increase Fees and Charges relating to Day Services	-7,000	in delivery	N
EFF42	People	Remove use of external venues	-5,000	in delivery	N
EFF16	People	Improving public health to reduce social care costs	-500,000	delivered	N
EFF29	People	Review the 'Enable' services budget	-88,000	delivered	N
EFF31	People	Review grants (non-statutory)	-80,000	delivered	N
EFF38	People	Review of Enable	-12,000	delivered	N
EFF39	People	Review of care packages jointly funded with health services	-10,000	target overachieved and mitigates inability to fully deliver EFF08.	N
EFF101	Health	Target Operating Model - staffing budget turnover and wastage increase by 5% (year-end review).	-111,550	delivered	N
EFF04	Health	Review future model of pest control delivery	-40,000	delivered	N
EFF01	Health	Review application of grant funds	-218,930	delivered	N
EFF02	Health	Additional capacity to support transformation programme	-128,960	delivered	N
EFF105	Health	Target Operating Model/Workforce Strategy - Getting Leadership Right - cashable benefit of improved organisation-wide performance management	-87,310	delivered	N
EFF03	Health	Removal of budgets for vacant posts (avg. 3%)	-61,420	delivered	N
EFF05	Health	Reduce the cost by providing the minimum statutory duty for Public Health Funerals.	-5,000	delivered	N

EFF101	Health	Target Operating Model - staffing budget turnover and wastage increase by 5% (year-end review).	-111,550	delivered	N
EFF04	Health	Review future model of pest control delivery	-40,000	delivered	N
EFF01	Health	Review application of grant funds	-218,930	delivered	N
EFF02	Health	Additional capacity to support transformation programme	-128,960	delivered	N
EFF105	Health	Target Operating Model/Workforce Strategy - Getting Leadership Right - cashable benefit of improved organisation-wide performance management	-87,310	delivered	N
EFF03	Health	Removal of budgets for vacant posts (avg. 3%)	-61,420	delivered	N
EFF05	Health	Reduce the cost by providing the minimum statutory duty for Public Health Funerals.	-5,000	delivered	N
EFF78	Resources	Review of customer contact teams across the Council - Channel shifting to promote more streamlined and cost-efficient responses.	-1,112,000	under review - partial delivery planned in year, with further delivery identified for next year; review to seek to bring forward benefit into the current year.	N
EFF79	Resources	Reduce housing benefit subsidy loss arising from use of expensive bed and breakfast accommodation (reverses budget growth from 2021/22 into 2022/23)	-1,000,000	under review - partial delivery planned in year arising from negotiated reduced B&B rates for TA. Further mitigations being pursued to ensure that services to housing and schools are recovered at full cost (i.e. on a nil gain or loss to either party) approach - some cross-charging not reviewed in recent years)	N
EFF101	Resources	Target Operating Model - staffing budget turnover and wastage increase by 5% (year-end review).	-942,570	in delivery	N
EFF105	Resources	Target Operating Model/Workforce Strategy - Getting Leadership Right - cashable benefit of improved organisation-wide performance management	-595,250	in delivery	N
EFF87	Resources	Operating Model - Digital County - Reduce/remove uneconomical Service Delivery	-100,000	under review	N
EFF88	Resources	Review of single person discount and housing benefit applications against data warehouse to reduce error and fraud.	-100,000	under review	N
EFF89	Resources	CCTV provision and management - Seek partner funding contributions	-75,000	under review	N
EFF82	Resources	Legal and Governance restructure to include deletion of some vacant posts and the movement of others into transformation	-231,850	largely delivered - some under-delivery to be mitigated	N
EFF86	Resources	Contract rebates and spending reductions	-129,500	in delivery	N
EFF81	Resources	New Operating Model - Charge staffing costs delivering transformation to capital budgets where possible and appropriate (Workforce and Improvement).	-645,222	in delivery	N
EFF80	Resources	Removal of budgets for vacant posts (avg. 3%)	-717,730	delivered	N
EFF85	Resources	Income savings from 22/23 - 26/27 Capital Strategy (ICT Equipment Replacement Fund)	-130,000	delivered	N
EFF83	Resources	New Operating Model - Charge staffing costs to capital budgets where possible and appropriate (Legal and Democratic).	-57,330	delivered	N
EFF90	Resources	Review of ICT contracts to streamline supplier use	-50,000	delivered	N
EFF91	Resources	Full recovery of legal and other recovery costs for unpaid council tax and business rates	-46,000	delivered	N
EFF92	Resources	Review use of Customer Relationship Management system	-25,000	delivered	N
EFF93	Resources	Increase fees and charges in line with cost inflation	-21,000	delivered	N
EFF84	Resources	New Operating Model - Charge staffing costs to capital budgets where possible and appropriate (Finance and IT).	-20,740	delivered	N
EFF94	Resources	Reduce use of printers and copiers (Multi-Functional Devices - MFDs)	-12,000	delivered	N
EFF95	Resources	Complete migration to SharePoint document management and sharing software	-10,000	delivered	N
EFF96	Resources	SMS reminder - Debt recovery (council tax)	-6,000	delivered	N
EFF100	Corporate	Review PFI contract costs to secure greater efficiency	-213,760	under review	N
EFF102	Corporate	Target Operating Model - sixty projects already identified but benefits not yet costed; estimated benefits of £0.050m per project.	nil	March MTFS target of £3m. Deferred following review of TOM planning maturity and alignment with wider objectives. Replaced by EFF108 and increased EFF105	Y
EFF103	Corporate	Target Operating Model - Transformation partner delivers 4 x end-to-end process reviews yielding £0.5m per project.	-2,000,000	under review	N
EFF106	Corporate	Budget review – treasury investment returns.	-700,000	in delivery	N
EFF107	Corporate	Contract Spend Analysis and Contract Management Review	-250,000	delivered	N
EFF108	Corporate	Application of corporate grants	-2,000,000	- review of existing and new grants to ensure that full potential benefit of delivery cost allowances are recovered, with a target value of £2m (i.e. full mitigation)	Y
EFF104	Corporate	Increase interest receivable budgets based on changing bank rates	-1,300,000	delivered	N
EFF105	Corporate	Target Operating Model/Workforce Strategy - Getting Leadership Right - cashable benefit of improved organisation-wide performance management	-2,000,000	. Target originally £1m, with £1m in next financial year. The two years are now brought together, so total target of £2m. In delivery, but under review.	Y
			-53,390,310		

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	Committee and Date Audit Committee 20 th July 2023	Item
	Cabinet 18 th October 2023	Public
	Council 14 th December 2023	









Annual Treasury Report 2022/23

Responsible Officer:	James Walton		
email:	james.walton@shropshire.gov.uk	Tel:	01743 258915
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	Cllr Gwilym Butler, Finance & Corporate Support		

1. Synopsis

During 2022/23 the Council stayed within all required indicators for managing its financing arrangements, including day to day cashflow, short term investments and longer term borrowings. Additional income of £2.5m was secured.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 During 2022/23, the Council complied with its legislative and regulatory requirements. The key actual prudential and treasury indicators detailing the impact of capital expenditure activities during the year, with comparison to the target set in the Treasury Strategy, are detailed in Appendix C.

- 2.2 The internal treasury team outperformed their investment benchmark by 0.03% in 2022/23 achieving a return of 1.81%. Treasury activities during the year have been within approved prudential and treasury indicators set and have complied with the Treasury Strategy.

3. Recommendations

The Council is recommended to:

- 3.1. Approve the actual 2022/23 prudential and treasury indicators in this report
- 3.2. Note the annual treasury management report for 2022/23

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1. The recommendations contained in this report are compatible with the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998.
- 4.2. There are no direct environmental, equalities or climate change consequences arising from this report.
- 4.3. Compliance with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management, the Council's Treasury Policy Statement and Treasury Management Practices and the Prudential Code for Capital Finance together with the rigorous internal controls will enable the Council to manage the risk associated with Treasury Management activities and the potential for financial loss.
- 4.4. The Council's Audit Committee is the committee responsible for ensuring effective consideration of the Council's Treasury Management Strategy and policies. The Audit Committee will consider the report and appendices on 20 July before approval is sought at Full Council on 21 September.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. The Council makes assumptions about the levels of borrowing and investment income over the financial year. Reduced borrowing as a result of capital receipt generation or delays in delivery of the capital programme will both have a positive impact of the council's cash position. Similarly, higher than benchmarked returns on available cash will also help the Council's financial position. For monitoring purposes, assumptions are made early in year about borrowing and returns based on the strategies agreed by Council in the preceding February. Performance outside of these assumptions results in increased or reduced income for the Council.
- 5.2. The 2022/23 performance is above benchmark for the reasons outlined in paragraph 2.2 of this report and has delivered additional income of £2.546 million which has been reflected in the Financial Outturn report for 2022/23.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.1. The Council's Financial Strategy includes proposals to deliver a reduced carbon footprint for the Council therefore the Treasury Team is working with the Council in order to achieve this. There are no climate change impacts arising from this

report. Shropshire Council's investment portfolio has no level 1, 2 or 3 emissions. It comprises of straightforward cash deposits with financial institutions and other Local Authorities.

7. Background

- 7.1 The Council is required by regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003 to produce an annual treasury management review of activities and the actual prudential and treasury indicators for 2022/23. This report meets the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management, (the Code), and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities, (the Prudential Code).
- 7.2 During 2022/23 the minimum reporting requirements were that the full Council should receive the following reports:
- an annual treasury strategy in advance of the year
 - a mid-year treasury update report
 - an annual review following the end of the year describing the activity compared to the strategy, (this report)
- 7.3 In addition, Cabinet has received quarterly treasury management update reports during the course of the year.
- 7.4 The regulatory environment places responsibility on members for the review and scrutiny of treasury management policy and activities. This report is, therefore, important in that respect, as it provides details of the outturn position for treasury activities and highlights compliance with the Council's policies previously approved by members.
- 7.5 The Council has complied with the requirement under the Code to give prior scrutiny to all of the above treasury management reports by Cabinet before they were reported to the full Council.
- 7.6 The Council's treasury management debt and investment position is organised by the treasury management service in order to ensure adequate liquidity for revenue and capital activities, security for investments and to manage risks within all treasury management activities. Procedures and controls to achieve these objectives are well established both through member reporting detailed in the summary, and through officer activity detailed in the Council's Treasury Management Practices.

8. Borrowing Strategy and Outturn for 2022/23

- 8.1. The Council's Borrowing Strategy and Outturn position for 2022/23 can be found in Appendix A.

9. Investment Strategy and Outturn for 2022/23

- 9.1. The Council's Investment Strategy and Outturn position for 2022/23 can be found in Appendix B.

10. Compliance with Treasury Limits and Prudential Indicators

10.1. Compliance with the Council's Treasury Limits and Prudential Indicators can be found in Appendix C.

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

Council, 24 February 2022, Treasury Strategy 2022/23.

Council, 15 December 2022, Treasury Strategy 2022/23 Mid-Year Review.

Council, 2 March 2023, Treasury Strategy 2023/24.

Cabinet, 7 September 2022, Treasury Management Update Quarter 1 2022/23.

Cabinet, 14 December 2022, Treasury Management Update Quarter 2 2022/23.

Cabinet, 15 February 2023, Treasury Management Update Quarter 3 2022/23.

Cabinet, 7 June 2023, Treasury Management Update Quarter 4 2022/23.

Local Member: All

Appendices

Appendix A - Borrowing Strategy and Outturn 2022/23

Appendix B - Investment Strategy and Outturn 2022/23

Appendix C – Prudential Indicators 2022/23

APPENDIX A - BORROWING STRATEGY AND OUTTURN 2022/23

Borrowing Strategy for 2022/23

The Council's borrowing requirement identified within the capital programme 2022/23 to 2024/25 was self-financing prudential borrowing of £65.228m therefore no external borrowing was required but based on the prospects for interest rates outlined in the treasury strategy, the council would adopt a pragmatic approach if circumstances changed when considering any new borrowing.

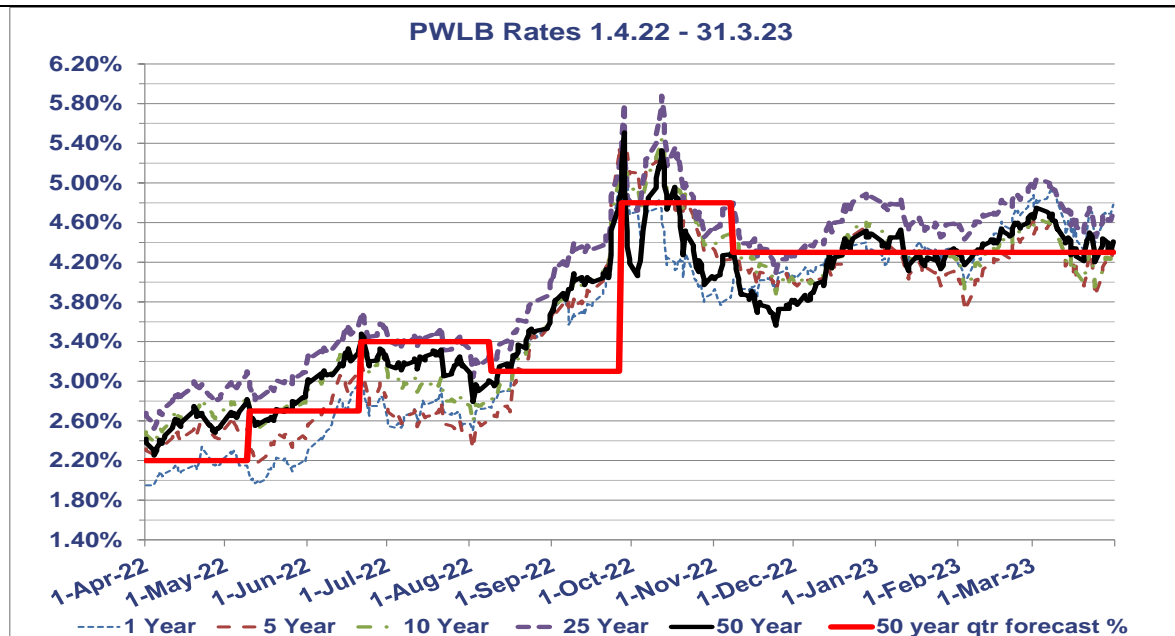
Short term Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) rates were expected to be significantly cheaper than longer term borrowing rates during the year therefore borrowing in the under 10 year period early on in the financial year when rates were expected to be at their lowest would be considered. Variable rate borrowing was also expected to be cheaper than long term fixed rate borrowing throughout the year.

An alternative strategy was to defer any new borrowing as long term borrowing rates were expected to be higher than investment rates during the year. This would maximise savings in the short term and also have the added benefit of running down investments which would reduce credit risk.

Consideration of changing strategy would be taken if it was felt that there was a significant risk in a sharp fall in long and short term rates then long term borrowings will be postponed. If it was felt there was a significant risk of a sharp rise in long and short term rates then the portfolio position would be re-appraised with the likely action that fixed rate funding will be drawn whilst interest rates were still relatively cheap.

Borrowing Outturn for 2022/23

The Treasury Team take advice from its external treasury advisor, Link Asset Services, on the most opportune time to borrow. Movements in rates during 2022/23 are shown in the graph below.



Members have previously been advised of the unexpected change of policy on PWLB lending arrangements in October 2010 following the Comprehensive Spending Review. In addition, in October 2019, the Treasury and PWLB announced an increase in rates of 1% across all borrowing periods. This made new borrowing more expensive and repayment relatively less attractive. That increase was then, at least partially, reversed for some forms of borrowing on 11th March 2020, but not for mainstream non-HRA capital schemes. A consultation was then held with local authorities and on 25th November 2020, the Chancellor announced the conclusion to the review of margins over gilt yields for PWLB rates; the standard and certainty margins were reduced by 1% but a prohibition was introduced to deny access to borrowing from the PWLB for any local authority which had purchase of assets for yield in its three year capital programme.

The table below shows PWLB borrowing rates for a selection of maturity periods. The table also shows the high and low points in rates during the year, average rates during the year and individual rates at the start and the end of the financial year.

	1 Year	5 Year	10 Year	25 Year	50 Year
As at 1/4/22	1.95%	2.32%	2.49%	2.68%	2.42%
As at 31/3/23	4.78%	4.31%	4.33%	4.70%	4.41%
Low	1.95%	2.18%	2.36%	2.52%	2.25%
Date	01/04/2022	13/05/2022	04/04/2022	04/04/2022	04/04/2022
High	5.11%	5.44%	5.45%	5.88%	5.51%
Date	28/09/2022	28/09/2022	12/10/2022	12/10/2022	28/09/2022
Average	3.57%	3.62%	3.76%	4.07%	3.74%
Spread	3.16%	3.26%	3.09%	3.36%	3.26%

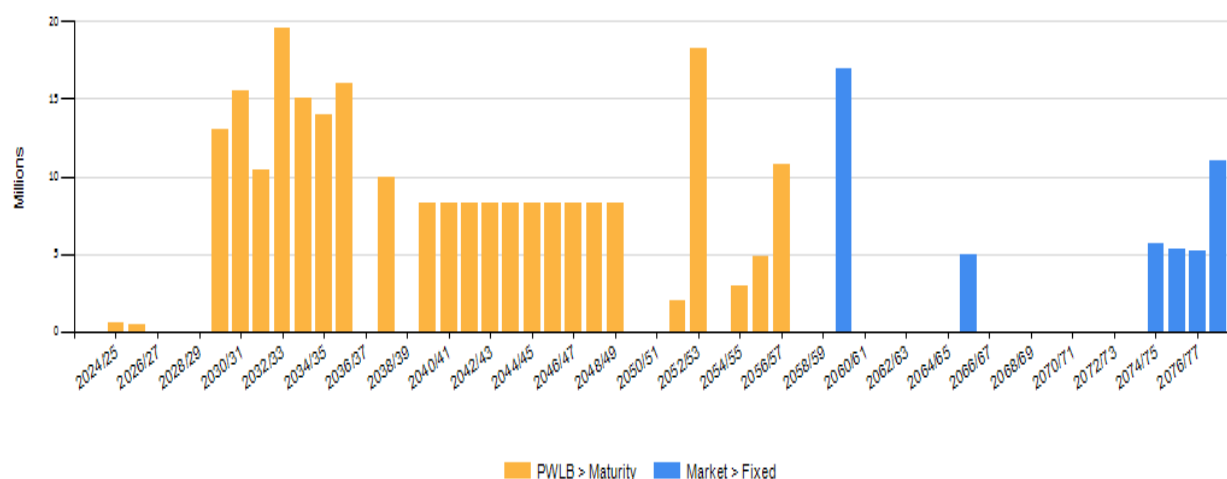
Following discussions with Link, as general fund borrowing rates were significantly higher than investment rates during the year it was agreed that if any new borrowing was required during the year it would be deferred in order to maximise

savings in the short term and reduce credit risk by reducing investments. No new external borrowing was required in 2022/23. The council's total debt portfolio at 31 March 2022 is set out below:-

Type of Debt	Balance £m	Average Borrowing Rate 2022/23
General Fund Fixed Rate – PWLB	153.52	4.86%
HRA Fixed Rate - PWLB	83.35	3.51%
Fixed Rate - Market	49.20	4.10%
Variable Rate	0	N/A

The maturity profile of the debt is evenly spread to avoid large repayments in any one financial year. The average debt period for PWLB loans is 16 years, market loans have an average debt period of 48 years. The total debt portfolio has a maturity range from 1 year to 55 years.

The Treasury Strategy allows up to 15% of the total outstanding debt to mature in any one year. It is prudent to have the Council's debt maturing over many years so as to minimise the risk of having to refinance when interest rates may be high. The actual debt maturity profile is within these limits



Debt Rescheduling

No debt restructuring was undertaken during 2022/23. The introduction of a differential in PWLB rates on the 1 November 2007, which was compounded further following a policy change in October 2010 and subsequent changes in 2019 and 2020, as outlined above has meant that large premiums would be incurred if debt restructuring was undertaken, which cannot be justified on value for money grounds.

Although these changes have restricted debt restructuring, the current debt portfolio is continually monitored in conjunction with external advisers in the light of changing economic and market conditions to identify opportunities for debt rescheduling. Debt rescheduling will only be undertaken:

- to generate cash savings at minimum risk.
- to help fulfil the treasury strategy.
- to enhance the balance of the long term portfolio by amending the maturity profile and/or volatility of the portfolio.

APPENDIX B - INVESTMENT STRATEGY AND OUTTURN 2022/23

Investment Strategy 2022/23

When the Treasury Strategy was approved in February 2022, our treasury advisor had outlined how difficult it would be to forecast Bank rate increases during 2022/23 due to the uncertainty around the inflation rate although it was anticipated that the bank rate would incrementally increase through 2022.

The below forecast table was included in the Treasury Strategy report 2022/23.

Link Group Interest Rate View	20.12.21													
	Dec-21	Mar-22	Jun-22	Sep-22	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25
BANK RATE	0.25	0.25	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.25
3 month ave earnings	0.20	0.30	0.50	0.50	0.60	0.70	0.80	0.90	0.90	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
6 month ave earnings	0.40	0.50	0.60	0.60	0.70	0.80	0.90	1.00	1.00	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
12 month ave earnings	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.80	0.90	1.00	1.10	1.10	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20
5 yr PWLB	1.40	1.50	1.50	1.60	1.60	1.70	1.80	1.80	1.80	1.90	1.90	1.90	2.00	2.00
10 yr PWLB	1.60	1.70	1.80	1.80	1.90	1.90	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.10	2.10	2.10	2.20	2.30
25 yr PWLB	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.10	2.20	2.20	2.20	2.30	2.30	2.40	2.40	2.50	2.50
50 yr PWLB	1.50	1.70	1.80	1.90	1.90	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.10	2.10	2.20	2.20	2.30	2.30

Given significant increases in the Bank Rate during the early part of the year, the below forecast table was included in the Mid-Year Treasury Strategy report 2022/23.

Link Group Interest Rate View	08.11.22													
	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25	Dec-25	
BANK RATE	3.50	4.25	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.00	3.75	3.50	3.25	3.00	2.75	2.50	2.50	
3 month ave earnings	3.60	4.30	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.00	3.80	3.30	3.00	3.00	2.80	2.50	2.50	
6 month ave earnings	4.20	4.50	4.60	4.50	4.20	4.10	3.90	3.40	3.10	3.00	2.90	2.60	2.60	
12 month ave earnings	4.70	4.70	4.70	4.50	4.30	4.20	4.00	3.50	3.20	3.10	3.00	2.70	2.70	
5 yr PWLB	4.30	4.30	4.20	4.10	4.00	3.90	3.80	3.60	3.50	3.40	3.30	3.20	3.10	
10 yr PWLB	4.50	4.50	4.40	4.30	4.20	4.00	3.90	3.70	3.60	3.50	3.40	3.30	3.20	
25 yr PWLB	4.70	4.70	4.60	4.50	4.40	4.30	4.10	4.00	3.90	3.70	3.60	3.50	3.50	
50 yr PWLB	4.30	4.40	4.30	4.20	4.10	4.00	3.80	3.70	3.60	3.40	3.30	3.20	3.20	

In 2022/23 investment of surplus cash continued to be managed by the internal treasury team. The investment priorities are the security of capital and the liquidity of its investments. The Council also aims to achieve the optimum return on its investments commensurate with proper levels of security and liquidity. Investments are made in line with the Council's policy on creditworthiness which was approved in the Annual Investment Strategy.

Investment Outturn 2022/23

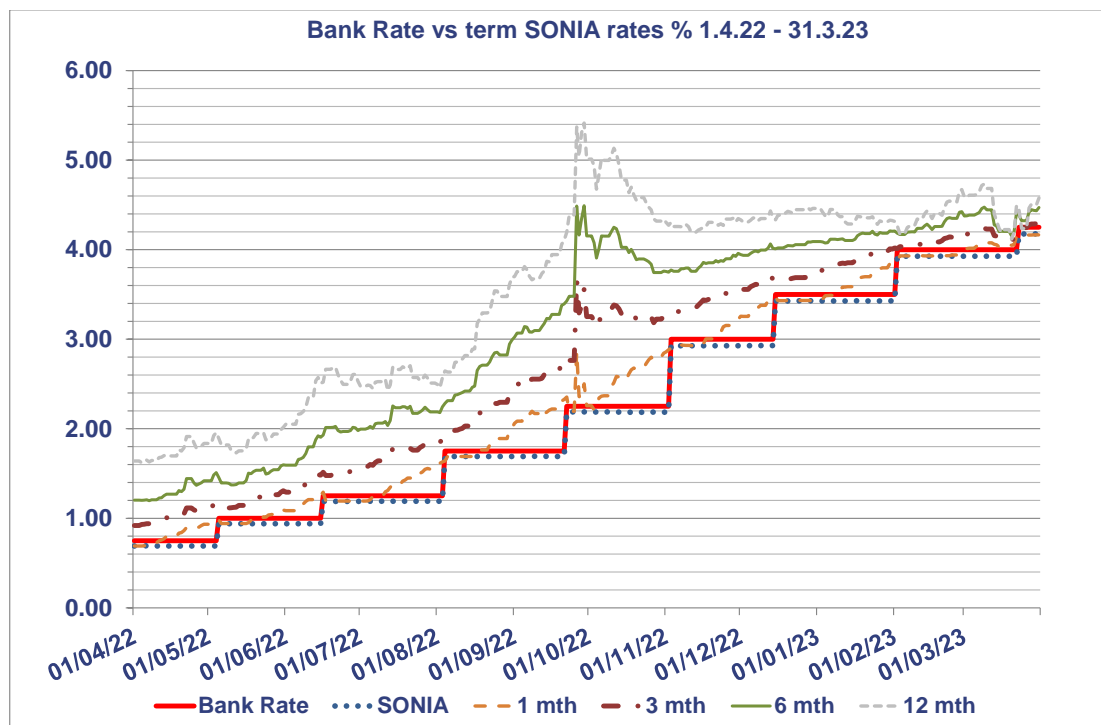
Investment returns picked up throughout the course of 2022/23 as central banks, including the Bank of England, realised that inflationary pressures were not transitory, and that tighter monetary policy was called for.

Starting April at 0.75%, Bank Rate moved up in stepped increases of either 0.25% or 0.5%, reaching 4.25% by the end of the financial year, with the potential for a further one or two increases in 2023/24.

The sea-change in investment rates meant local authorities were faced with the challenge of pro-active investment of surplus cash for the first time in over a decade, and this emphasised the need for a detailed working knowledge of cashflow projections so that the appropriate balance between maintaining cash for liquidity purposes, and "laddering" deposits on a rolling basis to lock in the increase in investment rates as duration was extended, became an on-going feature of the investment landscape.

Meantime, through the autumn, and then in March 2023, the Bank of England maintained various monetary policy easing measures as required to ensure specific markets, the banking system and the economy had appropriate levels of liquidity at times of stress.

Movements in short term rates through the year are shown in the graph below.



At 31 March 2023 the allocation of the cash portfolio was as follows:

Maturity Date	£m
Under 1 month	46.4
1-3 months	8.0
3-6 months	23.0
6-9 months	0
9-12 months	7.0
TOTAL	84.4

The average return on cash investments for the internal treasury team during the year was a return of 1.81%. Recognising the need to manage short term cash flow requirements, the target for the internal team is the 3 Month SONIA rate (1.78%). Therefore the internal treasury team have outperformed the benchmark by 0.03%.

APPENDIX C – PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2022/23

The Prudential Code requires the Council to set Prudential Indicators in the Treasury Strategy and report performance against those indicators in the Annual Treasury Report.

As can be seen from the table below, with the exception of Indicator 2, all of the actual indicators are below the targeted level that was set out in the Treasury Strategy for 2022/23. Prudential Indicator 2 states that gross external borrowing should not exceed the capital financing requirement, so whilst the actual net borrowing (£208m) is in excess of the target (£198m), the borrowing is still less than the total capital financing requirement (£486m) and so meets the requirements of the indicator.

PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS	2022/23	2022/23
	Indicator	Actual
1. Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream	%	%
Non - HRA	9.9	7.6
Non HRA (net of investment income)	9.5	8.8
HRA	37.9	27.4
2. Net Borrowing & Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)	£m	£m
Non – HRA	431	417
HRA	95	92
Commercial activities/non-financial investments	19	8
TOTAL CFR	545	517
Movement in CFR	36	38
Gross Borrowing (including HRA)	348	292
Investments	150	84
Net Borrowing	198	208
3. Capital Expenditure	£m	£m
Non - HRA	159.4	77.7
HRA (applies only to housing authorities)	16.5	13.5
Commercial activities /non-financial investments	13.0	9.2
TOTAL	188.9	100.4
Financing of capital expenditure	£m	£m
Capital receipts	27.0	9.0
Capital grants	69.9	34.2
Other contributions	23.0	14.3
Major Repairs Allowance	3.8	4.2
Alternative Funding Options	3.3	0.9
Revenue	3.4	1.4
Net financing need for the year	58.5	36.4
Commercial activities/non-financial investments	£m	£m
Capital expenditure	13.0	9.2
Financing costs	0.4	0.4
Net financing need for the year	12.6	8.6
Percentage of total net financing need	97%	96%

4. Authorised Limit for External Debt		£m	£m
Borrowing		528	292
Other long term liabilities (PFI)		92	91
Commercial activities/non-financial investments		13	0
TOTAL		633	383
5. External Debt - Operational Boundary:		£m	£m
Borrowing		460	292
Other long term liabilities (PFI)		92	91
Commercial activities/non-financial investments		13	0
TOTAL		565	383
6. External Debt:		£m	£m
Borrowing		298	292
Other long term liabilities (PFI)		96	94
TOTAL		394	386
7. Borrowing Limits	Lower Limit £m	Upper Limit £m	£m
Fixed Interest Rate Exposure	264	528	292
Variable Interest Rate Exposure	0	264	0
8. Investment Limits	Lower Limit £m	Upper Limit £m	£m
Fixed Interest Rate Exposure	0	250	84
Variable Interest Rate Exposure	0	250	0
9. Maturity Structure of Fixed /Variable Rate Borrowing During 2022/23	Upper Limit %	Lower Limit %	%
Under 12 mths	15	0	2
12 mths & within 24 mths	15	0	0
24 mths & within 5 years	45	0	0
5 years & within 10 years	75	0	20
10 years & within 20 years	100	0	30
20 years & within 30 years	100	0	24
30 years & within 40 years	100	0	12
40 years & within 50 years	100	0	2
50 years and above	100	0	9
10. Investment Limits		£m	£m
Upper Limits for Total Principal Sums Invested for over 365 days:			
Externally Managed		50	0
Internally Managed		70	0



Committee and Date

Cabinet

18 October 2023

Item

Public



Sustainable Affordable Warmth Strategy

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Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	Dean Carroll		

1. Synopsis

The creation of this Council's Sustainable Affordable Warmth Strategy is key to tackling inequality, an important outcome supported by The Shropshire Plan. The proposed Strategy sets out an action plan to tackle fuel poverty, inequality, and improve energy efficiency across all tenures of housing.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The proposed Sustainable Affordable Warmth Strategy ("the Strategy") which has completed an eight-week public consultation period, helps to deliver key aspects of the Healthy People and Healthy Environment priorities of The Shropshire Plan. Specifically, it seeks to tackle fuel poverty, this being when households must spend a high proportion of their income to keep their home at a reasonable temperature; and tackle climate change, through reducing carbon emissions from residential dwellings.
- 2.2. Cold homes can have negative impacts on both mental and physical health, directly contributing towards excess winter deaths. Health impacts of cold homes include increased risk of cardio-vascular problems; damp and mould exacerbating respiratory illnesses; poor diet due to "heat or eat" choices; mental ill health; and worsening or/slow recovery from existing conditions, for example, arthritis. Those

most at risk of ill health from fuel poverty include children, older people and people with disabilities.

- 2.3. Fuel poverty can be alleviated by improving a household's income, reducing their fuel costs, and improving the energy efficiency of their home, thus reducing the amount of energy needed to heat their home.
- 2.4. Sustainable affordable warmth is about improving the energy efficiency of homes, whilst also ensuring energy costs and the associated energy efficiency measures remain affordable. Reducing fuel usage, especially fossil fuels, helps to reduce carbon emissions. Moreover, it is also important to move towards using sustainable non-fossil fuels to provide heat and power, whilst ensuring these are affordable to the household.
- 2.5. Central government set out an expectation that by 2030 all social housing will reach Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) Band C and that by 2050 all domestic dwellings will have net zero carbon emissions. These targets require extremely high levels of investment to retrofit energy efficiency measures to existing stock. Whilst the detail of regulations are subject to change, such as the Government's recent announcements regarding private sector housing standards, the principles of reducing carbon emissions from homes, and making them more affordable for residents to heat, remain in place.
- 2.6. The Strategy summarises the challenges faced in Shropshire, including the estimated investment needs, the current approaches which seek to tackle fuel poverty and reduce carbon emissions, and contains priority actions which form an action plan.
- 2.7. The work of the Council's Affordable Warmth & Energy Efficiency Team has been recognised at the National Energy Efficiency Awards 2023. The team were named Council of the year and won second place for Insulation and Fabric Project of the Year. This provides a solid foundation to continue to achieve sustainable affordable warmth across Shropshire.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. Cabinet is asked to approve and adopt the Sustainable Affordable Warmth Strategy, attached at Appendix I.

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1. The Homes Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA) requires all local authorities in England to submit biennial reports to central government setting out the energy measures they have adopted to improve energy efficiency of residential accommodation. Although it is not a statutory requirement for a local authority to produce an actual affordable warmth strategy, it is good practice to do so. Such a strategy establishes the importance of tackling fuel poverty, improving energy efficiency and reducing carbon emissions from residential dwellings. It can then

set out the challenges faced by the local area and establish a plan of action to seek to meet these challenges.

- 4.2. Given the importance of the link between a household's health and being able to afford a warm home, and thus the need to ensure dwellings are energy efficient, it is important that Council sets out the work that it is currently undertaking to tackle fuel poverty and promote affordable warmth. In addition, it is also important to recognise the level of carbon emissions from domestic accommodation and how improved energy efficiency and the use of low-carbon heating measures reduce these.
- 4.3. An Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA) initial screening record has been completed; this is at Appendix II. The screening process ahead of the proposed consultation indicated a likely medium positive impact across the Protected Characteristic groupings as set out in the Equality Act 2010, particularly Age and Disability, Pregnancy and Maternity, and Sex (caring responsibilities). There are also anticipated medium positive impacts for those individuals and households who find themselves in circumstances where they may be considered to be vulnerable and at risk of social exclusion. This includes individual and households who present as homeless, and households living in fuel poverty, as well as intersectionality for individuals with regard to Age, for example young people who are care leavers and may also have a learning disability, and with regard to the circumstances in which people may find themselves, for example veterans and serving members of the armed forces and their families. For the groupings of Race and of Religion or Belief, the impact is anticipated to be neutral to low positive with outreach efforts to engage with those for whom English is not their first language, for example, refugee families.
- 4.4. Babies, children, older people, people with disabilities and those with pre-existing health problems are at greatest risk of health problems as a result of living in cold homes, and therefore are particularly at risk from the health consequences of fuel poverty. Households particularly at risk of fuel poverty include low-income households, households with dependent children, people living with disabilities and minority ethnic minority households, many of which already face many health inequalities.
- 4.5. A review of the Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESHA) has been completed following consultation and remains unchanged from the initial screening process.
- 4.6. The main risk to Shropshire Council from adopting the Strategy would be from the commissioning of capital work programmes. This is in relation to arrangements where a contractor may fail to deliver against the terms of the contract for installing measures in the homes of residents. However, this risk is mitigated by the Affordable Warmth and Energy Efficiency Team working closely with Legal Services, Finance, Procurement and Risk colleagues to ensure that robust contracts, tendering processes and monitoring regimes are in place and that when an issue is identified rapid action is taken to ensure this is resolved. Additionally, this risk is an extremely low risk to the Council because of the financial controls around the funding regimes. The capital works programmes are externally funded Government grants, which have their own strict financial controls and monitoring processes to ensure that schemes are well managed and deliver high value outcomes to the residents of Shropshire.

5. Financial Implications

5.1. A number of the priorities in the proposed action plan are already taking place or have been agreed, therefore, will be funded by existing resources, for example, grant funding from central Government or through the HRA Business Plan. All others, for example, the proposed loan scheme, will be subject to business cases, availability of funding and appropriate approvals.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

6.1. The Strategy seeks to tackle fuel poverty through a range of sustainable measures to provide affordable warmth whilst increasing the energy performance of homes and reducing carbon emissions, with the ultimate aim of homes being net zero carbon. The strategy therefore aims to create a positive impact on the below areas:

Energy and fuel consumption (buildings and/or travel):

- Data clearly shows that the greatest challenge lies within our existing housing stock and there is a clear need to develop renewal programmes which adopt a retrofit fabric first approach, prioritising repairs, insulation, draught-proofing, and ventilation ahead of 'add-ons' such as solar panels.
- The Council will utilise 'Parity Pathways' to model carbon savings in dwellings for all of the schemes that the Affordable Warmth & Energy Efficiency Team are delivering. The team are confident that with some coordination, the Council can work with our partners like STAR Housing to make sure that all of the datasets are up to date and ensure that data is provided across all housing tenures.
- To measure the improvement in living conditions and on demand for Health and Social Care, the Affordable Warmth & Energy Efficiency Team have been successfully utilising the BRE Housing Health & Safety Rating System Cost Calculator. This system allows the Council to measure the cost benefits in reducing or eliminating Category 1 hazards for 'excess cold' in the home and calculating the potential savings to Health and wider Society from reduced visits to the Doctors or Hospital admissions.
- A fabric first approach has many benefits, making homes more comfortable and easier to keep warm and healthy, reducing the need for maintenance and protecting the building fabric. This can help reduce carbon emissions and improve energy efficiency.
- The Council has successfully secured significant amounts of private and public funds to deliver a fabric first approach across the private and social housing sectors. This has resulted in grant funding programmes for Air-source heat pumps, internal, external, and underfloor insulation measures, window, and door replacements.
- Moreover, the Strategy sets out how social housing is required to meet EPC Band C by 2030, and the challenges associated with this.

Renewable energy generation:

- Grant funding is available to assist in the installation of solar panels and battery storage systems to help make homes more sustainable and energy secure.

Carbon offsetting or mitigation and climate change adaptation:

- These relate to: the promotion of fabric first retrofitting and new build; the Passivhaus pilot planned by the Council's ALMO STAR Housing; and the London Road Innovation Low Carbon Development planned by the Council's housing company CDL.

7. Background

- 7.1. Unaffordable fuel bills can lead to choices such as heat or eat; and cold homes can both lead to and exacerbate health problems and health inequalities. In some circumstances, health problems may be exacerbated to such a degree that they may cause death. In addition, the use of fossil fuels as a form of heating results in carbon emissions which pollute the environment and cause climate change. By making homes more energy efficient and by using low-carbon heating measures, then homes should be more affordable to heat, with an associated reduction in carbon emissions.
- 7.2. Fuel poverty relates to households who must spend a high proportion of their household income to keep their home at a reasonable temperature. It is affected by a household's income, their fuel costs, their energy consumption, and the energy efficiency of their home.
- 7.3. The current central government definition of fuel poverty in England is 'Low Income Low Energy Efficiency' (LILEE). A household is fuel poor if:
- they are living in a property with an energy efficiency rating of band D, E, F or G, as shown by an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC); and
 - their disposable income (income after housing costs and energy needs) would be below the poverty line.
- 7.4. Fuel poverty can be alleviated by improving a household's income, reducing their fuel costs, and improving the energy efficiency of their home, thus reducing the amount of energy needed to heat their home. Therefore, the ability to keep a home warm becomes affordable, this being "affordable warmth".
- 7.5. Sustainable affordable warmth is about improving the energy efficiency of homes, which reduces energy consumption, whilst also ensuring costs for these energy efficiency measures are affordable.
- 7.6. Reducing fuel usage, especially fossil fuels, helps to reduce carbon emissions. Moreover, it is also important to move towards using sustainable non-fossil fuels to provide heat and power, whilst ensuring that the capital outlay for non-fossil fuel technologies is not prohibitively expensive and does not result in households facing higher fuel costs in the longer term.
- 7.7. Central government's 2017 Clean Growth Strategy sets out that by 2030 all social housing is expected to reach EPC Band C. In addition, the Climate Change Act 2008 requires all domestic dwellings to have net zero carbon emissions by 2050. These targets require extremely high levels of investment to retrofit existing stock.
- 7.8. The Council has an energy advice service, Keep Shropshire Warm. It also seeks to attract funding for energy efficiency and decarbonisation measures through the Energy Company Obligation and from central government grant schemes.

7.9. The Strategy helps to deliver the Healthy People and Healthy Environment priorities of the Shropshire Plan. The Strategy has three objectives:

- Raising awareness of the importance of tackling fuel poverty and improving energy efficiency – cold homes can worsen health problems and contribute towards excess winter deaths. It is estimated that in 2020 16.5% of households in Shropshire were in fuel poverty.
- Establishing a pathway to zero-carbon housing - the Climate Change Act 2008 set legally binding targets to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050. It is estimated that it will cost over £4 billion for all Shropshire’s domestic dwellings to reach net zero; this includes an estimated £477 million to decarbonise all the county’s social housing.
- Attracting funding to deliver affordable warmth and improve energy efficiency- the Council provides an energy advice service, which includes provision of energy efficiency measures to eligible households; and seeks to access central government funding for energy efficiency and decarbonisation measures for eligible dwellings.

7.10. Each of the Strategy’s objectives contain “Priorities for action” which together form an action plan, allowing for monitoring and review of the Strategy. It is proposed that the Strategy is reviewed annually, to provide the opportunity to reflect changes in Government policy and funding streams.

7.11. The feedback from the public consultation was generally supportive of the Strategy. A summary of feedback received and subsequent proposed changes to the strategy to reflect comments received is provided at Appendix III.

8. Conclusions

8.1. The Strategy aims to set out the importance of tackling fuel poverty, improving energy efficiency and reducing carbon emissions from domestic dwellings. It seeks to establish the challenges faced in Shropshire, especially the estimated cross-tenure investment needs to reach net zero by 2030 and summarises the current approaches to tackling fuel poverty and reducing carbon emissions.

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

- 30 November 2022 Cabinet Report: Draft Sustainable Affordable Warmth Strategy for Consultation

Local Member: All

Appendices

Appendix I: Sustainable Affordable Warmth Strategy

Appendix II: ESHIA

Appendix III: Responses to Consultation



Shropshire
Council

APPENDIX I

Sustainable Affordable Warmth Strategy

2023-2030

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Foreword

The Council sees its role as one of leadership within Shropshire, setting out the need to find genuinely sustainable ways for our population to live in healthy and comfortable homes in the face of climate change and rising fuel and living costs.

Whilst the Council is ambitious in its goals and intentions, we recognise that for our residents, as for the Council itself, we have to manage with limited resources and through times of uncertainty. Our intention is therefore to set out our principles and approach, to support those who want to invest, and challenge ourselves and others to be more ambitious on this agenda.

In doing so we will be flexible in order to identify and access new sources of funding when it becomes available, and work in partnership with our residents, social and private landlords, manufacturers, and contractors, to achieve best outcomes for Shropshire.



Dean Carroll, Portfolio Holder for Growth, Regeneration and Housing

1. Introduction

- 1.1. A key impact on a household's health and wellbeing is being able to keep their home warm. Unaffordable fuel bills can lead to choices such as heat or eat, cold homes can both lead to and exacerbate health problems and health inequalities, and the use of fossil fuels as a form of heating results in carbon emissions which pollute the environment and cause climate change (it is estimated that housing is currently responsible for approximately 20% of UK carbon emissions). By making homes more energy efficient and by using low-carbon heating measures, then homes should be more affordable to heat, with an associated reduction in carbon emissions.
- 1.2. The Sustainable Affordable Warmth Strategy sets out the Council's aims to tackle fuel poverty through sustainable measures to provide affordable warmth whilst increasing the energy performance of homes and reducing carbon emissions.
- 1.3. The vision of the **Shropshire Plan 2022-25** is: ***Shropshire living the best life.***
- 1.4. The Sustainable Affordable Warmth Strategy helps to deliver two of the Shropshire Plan's priorities:

Healthy People: We will tackle inequalities, including rural inequalities, and poverty in all its forms; providing early support and interventions that reduce risk and enable children, young people, adults and families to achieve their full potential and enjoy life; and

Healthy Environment: We will deliver the Council's Corporate Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, promoting the means to tackle climate change and reduce the carbon footprint including the adoption of low carbon energy for council's assets and for communities.

- 1.5. Fuel poverty can be alleviated by improving a household's income (and their ability to pay bills), reducing their fuel costs, and improving the energy efficiency of their home, thus reducing the amount of energy needed to heat their home. Therefore, the ability to keep a home warm becomes affordable, this being "affordable warmth".
- 1.6. Ensuring affordable warmth, is about improving the energy efficiency of homes, which reduces energy consumption, whilst also ensuring costs for energy efficiency measures, for example solid wall insulation, is affordable. Moreover, reducing fuel usage, especially fossil fuels, helps to reduce carbon emissions.
- 1.7. Fuel poverty relates to households who must spend a high proportion of their household income to keep their home at a reasonable temperature. It is affected by a household's income, their fuel costs, their energy consumption, and the energy efficiency of their home. Moreover, it can potentially result in a household disconnecting themselves from a fuel supply as they cannot afford the cost.

- 1.8. In addition to having energy efficient homes, it is also important to move towards using sustainable non-fossil fuels to provide heat and power.
- 1.9. The vision of the Housing Strategy 2020-25 is:

All homes are well designed decent homes of high quality, which will protect Shropshire's unique urban and rural environments and ensure it is a great place to live. That all Shropshire residents have access to the 'right home in the right place' to support and promote their health and wellbeing throughout their lives.

- 1.10 An important objective of the Housing Strategy is to minimise the environmental impact of existing housing stock and future housing development in the interest of climate change, to maximise resource efficiencies and to ensure optimum use of sustainable construction techniques.

- 1.11 The Sustainable Affordable Warmth Strategy is a sub-strategy of the Housing Strategy and seeks to deliver this key objective, whilst ensuring the most vulnerable households are protected from the associated costs of the low carbon transition and that these costs do not prohibit their participation.

- 1.12 The Strategy also links to other housing policies, strategies, and plans, for example, the Private Housing Assistance Policy, the Health Inequalities Plan, the Integrated Care Board Health Protection Strategy, the Climate Change Strategy and the Local Plan.

- 1.13 In May 2019 Shropshire Council declared a Climate Emergency and formally adopted a Climate Strategy in February 2021. The vision of the Climate Strategy is to, "Reduce Shropshire Council's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to net carbon zero by 2030".

- 1.14 The draft Local Plan reflects the need to promote energy efficiency and minimise carbon emissions. Proposed policies seek:

- to promote fabric first and renewable energy technologies to ensure energy efficiency for both new build and retrofit;
- for planning applications to consider design and layout to maximise energy efficiency and to minimise carbon emissions; and
- to strongly encourage development proposals to meet zero net-carbon emissions and to maximise the use of district heating and cooling systems, especially where these utilise renewable energy.

- 1.15 The Sustainable Affordable Warmth Strategy has three objectives:

Objective 1: Raising awareness of the importance of tackling fuel poverty and improving energy efficiency.

Objective 2: Establishing a pathway to zero-carbon housing.

Objective 3: Attracting funding to deliver affordable warmth and improve energy efficiency.

1.16 Each objective contains several “priorities for action”; these form an Action Plan at Appendix I which will allow monitoring and review of the Strategy. It is proposed that the Strategy is reviewed annually, to provide the opportunity to reflect changes in Government policy and funding streams.

Objective 1: Raising awareness of the importance of tackling fuel poverty and improving energy efficiency.

- 2.1 Cold homes can have negative impacts on both mental and physical health, adding demand, thus additional cost, to the NHS and social care, and directly contributing towards excess winter deaths. Health impacts of cold homes include increased risk of heart attack or stroke, respiratory illnesses, poor diet due to “heat or eat” choices, mental ill health, and worsening or/slow recovery from existing conditions. Those most at risk of ill health from fuel poverty include children, older persons, and people with disabilities.
- 2.2 Cold homes are linked to both an increased risk of developing and worsening a wide range of health conditions including respiratory conditions, cardiovascular diseases, poor mental health, dementia, hypothermia, as well as problems with childhood development and unintentional injury. In some circumstances, health problems may be exacerbated to a degree that they may cause death.
- 2.3 In 2019 it was estimated the NHS spends at least £2.5 billion per year on treating illnesses that are directly linked to cold, damp and dangerous homes. Cold homes and fuel poverty contribute to the phenomenon of excess winter deaths. England saw an estimated 63,000 excess winter deaths in 2020–21. Estimates suggest that some ten per cent of excess winter deaths are directly attributable to fuel poverty and 21.5% are attributable to cold homes.
- 2.4 Babies, children, older people, people with disabilities and those with pre-existing health problems are at greatest risk of health problems as a result of living in cold homes, and therefore are particularly at risk to the health consequences of fuel poverty. Households particularly at risk of fuel poverty include low-income households, households with dependent children, people living with disabilities and minority ethnic households, many of which already face many health inequalities.
- 2.5 High fuel costs reduce available resources for transport, particularly important in Shropshire, socialising and meeting with family and access to essential services, all of which are important social determinants of health and wellbeing. In particular, households facing fuel poverty can be priced out of having sufficient and healthy foods, and there may be further limitations in the resources available to prepare and cook nutritious meals. This will further exacerbate poorer health and health inequalities.¹
- 2.6 In line with NICE guidance² it is important that the Council and its partners identify people at risk of ill-health due to living in a cold home through the risk assessment process. Moreover, it is essential to raise awareness of how to keep warm at home and train practitioners to help people with cold homes keep warm.
- 2.7 While much progress has been made with affordable warmth by Shropshire Council and its partners, in a County as large and sparse as Shropshire there

¹ Lee et al (2022) Fuel poverty, cold homes and health inequalities, Institute of Health Equity

² NICE (2015) Excess winter deaths and illness and the health risks associated with cold homes, NICE

will inevitably always be more to do to ensure that all residents who are at risk of cold related ill health, are identified and helped as soon as possible. We will continue to work to ensure that vulnerable people are not put at risk of ill health through living in a cold home.

The work of the Council’s Affordable Warmth & Energy Efficiency Team has been recognised at the National Energy Efficiency Awards 2023. The team were named ‘Council of the Year’ and won second place for ‘Insulation and Fabric Project of the Year’. This provides a solid foundation to continue to achieve sustainable affordable warmth across Shropshire.

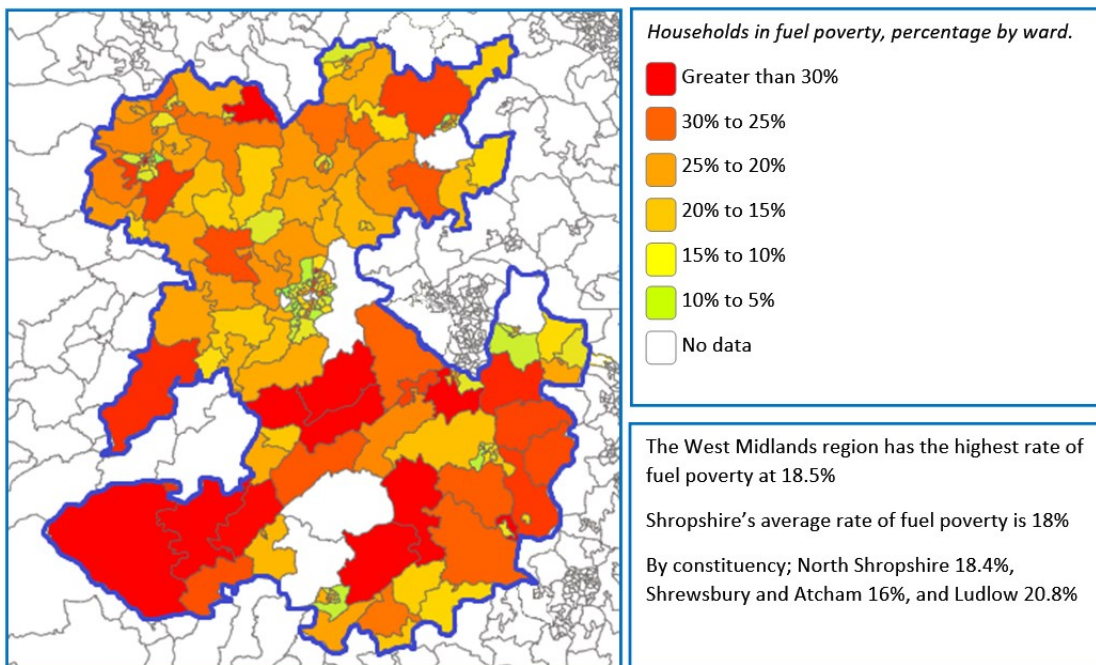
For a full list of the NICE Recommendations on preventing Excess Winter Deaths, see Appendix 2.

2.8 The current Government definition of fuel poverty in England is ‘Low Income Low Energy Efficiency’ (LILEE). A household is fuel poor if:

- they are living in a property with an energy efficiency rating of band D, E, F or G, as shown by an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC³); and
- their disposable income (income after housing costs and energy needs) would be below the poverty line.

Figure 1: Fuel poverty across Shropshire in 2020

All data from DESNZ Sub-regional fuel poverty report 2021



³ An EPC is a rating of how energy efficient a property is. The certificates are graded on a scale of A (most efficient) to G (least efficient). An EPC is a legal requirement when a property is bought, sold or rented. It should be noted the EPC methodology is skewed towards the cost of fuel, therefore, is not necessary the optimum measure of energy efficiency.

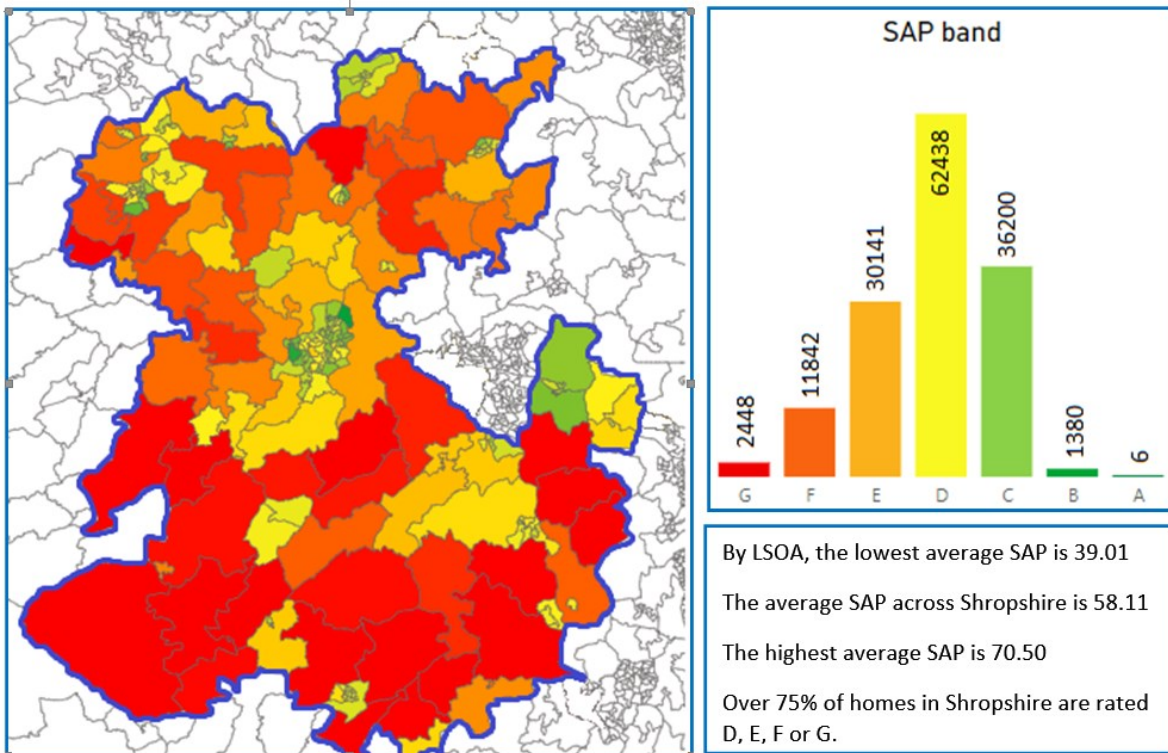
2.9 In the latest year for which statistics are available (2020) an estimated 3.2 million households in England were in fuel poverty under the LILEE definition. This was 13.4% of households. In Shropshire almost 23,000 households were estimated to be in fuel poverty, this being 16.5% of households.

2.10 As shown by Figure 1, Fuel Poverty is a concern in both urban and rural areas of Shropshire, however, there are areas of significantly high fuel poverty in isolated rural areas. In 13 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in 2020 over 18% of all households were deemed to be in fuel poverty; eleven of these LSOAs are 'rural'. Given the energy price cap increasing numbers of households in fuel poverty are predicted to increase by over 50%.

2.11 EPC data held by the Council shows that almost 108,000 dwellings (75%) have an EPC with a Band D, E, F or G. The average Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) score across Shropshire is just under 58, which equates to an EPC Band D⁴. As can be seen in Figure 2, SAP ratings are typically worse in rural parts of Shropshire, where properties are often older and typically rely on off-gas heating fuels such as LPG and Oil.

Figure 2: Average SAP Bands per LSOAs in Shropshire

Data based on 24/06/2023 refresh of Parity Projects SAP scores



2.12 With respect to social housing stock in Shropshire which comprises just over 20,000 dwellings for rent and low-cost home ownership, it is estimated that

⁴ EPC Band D = 55 – 68 SAP points

between 40% to 50% of dwellings have a SAP Banding below C. In terms of Council owned housing stock (managed by the Council's ALMO, STAR Housing), just over 2,200 dwellings (55% of stock) have an EPC Banding below C.

- 2.13 The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA) requires all local authorities in England to submit reports to central Government setting out the energy conservation measures they have implemented to improve the energy efficiency of owner-occupied, private rented and affordable housing. Currently these reports are required to be submitted on a two-yearly cycle; the most recent submission was in 2021 and the next will be made in 2023.
- 2.14 The Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000 defined fuel poverty as a household living on a lower income in a home which cannot be kept warm at reasonable cost. The Act placed an obligation on central Government to make Regulations which set a target to reduce fuel poverty. Subsequently the UK Fuel Poverty Strategy was launched in November 2001. This committed to eradicating fuel poverty for vulnerable households in England by 2010 and for all households by 2016.
- 2.15 In 2000 central Government set out a target to ensure all social housing met standards of decency by 2010. The Decent Homes Standard requires all social housing providers to ensure their stock meets the current statutory minimum standard for housing; is in a reasonable state of repair; has reasonably modern facilities; and provides a reasonable degree of thermal comfort. Although all rented social housing stock⁵ is required to meet the Decent Homes Standard, there will be a small number of dwellings that do not meet this. The usual reason for not all dwellings meeting the Decent Homes Standard is because the tenant has refused works, which they are entitled to do. Subsequently these works will be undertaken when the property becomes empty.
- 2.16 The Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) Order 2002 introduced a general power for local authorities to provide financial assistance to deal with poor conditions in private sector housing. Local authorities are also expected to identify external sources of funding and assistance, including working in partnership with other authorities and organisations, to improve energy efficiency and tackle fuel poverty.
- 2.17 The Housing Act 2004 introduced the Housing health and safety rating system (HHSRS). The HHSRS stresses the need for a warm and healthy home and for excess cold to be reduced through measures, for example, the provision of a heating system or insulation. Local authorities have the power to act where the condition of a dwelling could pose a threat to the health and wellbeing of the household. This includes requiring landlords to improve standards by installing heating or insulation to improve thermal comfort. Moreover, local authorities can impose civil penalties of up to £30,000 per offence and can carry out works to improve heating in default.

⁵ Including housing owned by the Council, there are almost 19,000 social rented dwellings in Shropshire.

- 2.18 The Fuel Poverty (England) Regulations 2014 set out a fuel poverty target to ensure that as many fuel poor homes as is reasonably practicable achieve a minimum energy efficiency standard of Band C by 2030. This was reiterated in central Government's 2015 fuel poverty strategy, 'Cutting the cost of keeping warm', set out a statutory fuel poverty target to ensure that as many fuel poor homes as is reasonably practicable achieve a minimum energy efficiency rating of Band C, by 2030.
- 2.19 The Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Property) (England and Wales) Regulations 2015 set new standards for energy efficiency in rented homes. The legislation required that from as of 1 October 2016, domestic private rented property, must have a minimum level of energy performance certificate band E and that if the property is below the minimum energy efficiency requirements, a landlord of a domestic private rented property must not grant a new tenancy of the property after 1st April 2018, and must not continue to let the property after 1st April 2020. The Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) came into effect in 2018 making it unlawful to grant new tenancies to dwellings with an F or G Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating. Local authorities can impose civil financial penalties of up to £5,000. Following a recent consultation exercise by central Government it is possible that the minimum standard of those dwellings which can be lawfully let may be increased.
- 2.20 The 2017 Clean Growth Strategy set out an ambition to upgrade social housing to at least EPC Band C by 2030 and included a broader target of upgrading all rented homes to EPC Band C by 2035, where practical, cost-effective, and affordable.
- 2.21 In September 2020, central Government published a consultation on proposals to improve the energy performance of privately rented homes. The Government committed to upgrade as many private rented sector homes as possible to EPC Band C by 2030, where practical, cost-effective, and affordable.
- 2.22 In February 2021 Central government published a policy paper, 'Sustainable Warmth; protecting vulnerable households in England' which set out a plan to meet fuel poverty targets, whilst decarbonising housing. This reiterated the policy approach to continue to: invest in retrofitting social housing; require larger domestic energy suppliers to install heating, insulation or other energy efficiency measures in the homes of people who are on low incomes and vulnerable or fuel poor; and to invest in energy efficiency of homes.
- 2.23 There are also requirements for energy efficiency in new buildings enforced through building regulations. The Future Homes and Buildings Standard introduces changes to building regulations from June 2022 for new levels of energy efficiency from 2025.

Priorities for action

- Undertake quantitative and qualitative research at a Shropshire level to evidence the positive impact on health and wellbeing of warm homes.
- Staff awareness training to ensure incidences of fuel poverty are reported and excess cold hazards are acted upon by providing advice on how people can keep warm at home and referring for specific advice and support as appropriate.
- Ensure all relevant domestic private rented properties meet the minimum energy efficiency standard (MEES).
- Encourage housing developers to build to the Future Homes and Building Standard prior to it becoming mandatory.
- Work with partners to develop stronger messaging and support for self-funded householders to encourage them to invest in their homes for affordable warmth and carbon reduction.

Objective 2: Establishing a pathway to zero-carbon housing.

- 3.1 The Climate Change Act 2008 set legally binding targets to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050.
- 3.2 In England 90% of households use fossil fuels for heating, cooking and hot water and 86% of dwellings are connected to the gas network. In Shropshire only 63% of households are connected to the gas network.
- 3.3 In October 2021 central Government published its 'Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener' and a 'Heat and Buildings Strategy'. The latter sets out how it plans to achieve net zero heating, in line with the 2017 Clean Growth Strategy and the ambitions of 'Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution' published in November 2020:
 - The aim to phase out the installation of new natural gas boilers by 2035.
 - Ambition for industry to reduce the costs of installing a heat pump by at least 25-50% by 2025 and to ensure heat pumps are no more expensive to buy and run than gas boilers by 2030.
 - Improving heat pump appeal by continuing to invest in research and innovation.
 - Ensuring affordability by providing financial support to households to purchase heat pumps (Boiler Upgrade Scheme).
 - Growing the supply chain for heat pumps and developing a skilled workforce.
 - By 2025 ensuring all new homes are fitted with low-carbon heating and are highly energy efficient so that they do not have to be retrofitted in the future.
 - Phasing out the installation of fossil fuel heating systems to off-gas dwellings from 2026.
 - Scaling up UK production of heat pumps.
 - Ensuring the electricity system can accommodate the increased demand.
 - Developing hydrogen as an option for heating homes.
 - Improving the energy performance of existing homes.
 - Supporting social housing, low income, and fuel poor households to switch to low-carbon heating and improve the energy efficiency of their homes.
 - Accelerating the growth of the low-carbon heat network market (district heating).
 - Increasing the proportion of biomethane from anaerobic digestion injected into the gas grid.
- 3.4 In April 2022 the Government published its Energy Security Strategy. This set out plans to increase offshore wind and nuclear power generation and accelerate hydrogen utilisation. However, the Strategy did still recognise the need to continue to use domestic oil and gas in the short term. In May 2022

the Government published the draft Energy Security Bill, which aimed to “build a sustainable homegrown energy system” by delivering the commitments in the Energy Security Bill and the Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution.

- 3.5 The Council has modelled the energy efficiency for the housing stock across the local authority and estimates the total cost of reaching net zero to be in excess of £4 billion. This equates to an average investment per home of just over £29,000. The data suggests only 64 properties in Shropshire will require less than £5,000 investment to reach the net zero target. The modelling shows that in reaching net zero, and a target heat demand figure of 80 kWh/m²/per annum, the average SAP rating in Shropshire would be 82.9, resulting in a final average fuel bill improvement (at August 2022 prices) of £1,161.
- 3.6 The Council has purchased Parity Pathways Plan Builder an online tool which allows local residents to model various energy efficiency improvements on their home and the predicted outcomes in terms of energy cost and carbon savings. www.shropshire-planbuilder.parityprojects.com
- 3.7 The Council will utilise Parity Pathways to model carbon savings in dwellings for all of the schemes that the Affordable Warmth & Energy Efficiency Team are delivering. The team are confident that with some coordination, the Council can work with our partners like STAR Housing to make sure that all of the datasets are up to date and ensure that data is provided across all housing tenures.
- 3.8 To measure the improvement in living conditions and on demand for Health and Social Care, the Affordable Warmth & Energy Efficiency Team have been successfully utilising the BRE Housing Health & Safety Rating System Cost Calculator. This system allows the Council to measure the cost benefits in reducing or eliminating Category 1 hazards for ‘excess cold’ in the home and calculating the potential savings to Health and wider Society from reduced visits to the Doctors or Hospital admissions.
- 3.9 Shropshire Council has joined a Retrofit Infrastructure Partnership with Herefordshire Council, Telford & Wrekin Council and The Retrofit Academy CIC (TRA) as part of a 3-year partnership arrangement to provide support to both employers and education and skills providers to improve the local availability of building retrofit skills. The Council is investing revenue funding (£8,400) for at least one year, as well as some limited staff capacity to support the Partnership work. There is growing concern around the availability of adequate skilled labour in Shropshire to both assess and recommend appropriate retrofit measures and then install these to an accredited standard. Such constraints have already affected the delivery of our extensive Local Authority Delivery Grants (LAD), Home Upgrade Grants (HUG) and Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) programmes and will significantly affect access to appropriate advice for the ‘able to pay’ sector in the county. For Shropshire, we can see a range of benefits:

- Opportunities of upskilling to support career progression, as well as upskilling of delivery staff in terms of train the trainer
- Potential opportunities around skills boot camps and developing these in the Marches, inclusive of opportunity for NEET support/programmes
- Utilising local supply chain
- Level 4 and 5 training should provide higher level job opportunities.

Initial work will focus on assembling data to help TRA on the ground by providing contracts, information and raising awareness of opportunities, including:

- Housing stock assessment
- Report on achievements through LAD, HUG, SHDF etc
- Statistics on the number of NEETS in the County
- Number of registered installers, size, and type of businesses etc.,

3.10 From research undertaken by STAR Housing and two housing associations with high numbers of stock in Shropshire, it is estimated that the average cost to decarbonise a social housing dwelling in the local authority is almost £24,000. This suggests that it could cost around £477 million to decarbonise all social housing in Shropshire.

3.11 Moreover, in order to meet the 2017 Clean Growth Strategy, aim for all social housing dwellings to reach EPC Band C, it is estimated to cost around £35 million. However, research undertaken by the National Housing Federation, estimates that if all social rented homes were upgraded to EPC Band A, B or C, then this results in an average annual saving of £567 per household.

3.12 Independent research⁷ undertaken in 2021 for the STAR Housing found that in order to decarbonise the Council's housing stock of just over 4,000 dwellings by 2030 there was a need to invest almost £125 million. This equates to an average investment of almost £31,000 per dwelling. In real terms this is a funding gap of £116.5 million (an average of almost £29,000 per dwelling). Even in order to reach EPC rating C by 2030 (as required by the Clean Growth Strategy) it is estimated that there is a need to invest at least £10 million, with high inflation likely to keep increasing this cost. STAR Housing is developing a strategy to achieve this target, a key component of which is to upgrade dwellings on void and to persuade tenants as to the benefits of installing energy efficiency measures over and above the Decent Homes Standard.

3.13 STAR Housing's Environmental Sustainability Strategy sets out how the organisation seeks to manage the impact of its activities on the environment, including reducing carbon emissions and promoting sustainability. This includes an investment programme to install Air Source Heat Pumps in existing

⁶ National Housing Federation (2022) How much would social housing residents save if their homes were made energy efficient

⁷ Bratch Consultancy Services Ltd (2021) A strategic approach for delivering zero carbon emission within the housing stock

stock (over 350 have been installed to date). In addition, with respect to new build delivery, gas is no longer used as a heating or cooking fuel but instead Air Source Heat Pumps are installed.

- 3.14 When delivering new build housing STAR Housing aims to achieve the highest energy efficiency rating possible, whilst ensuring that the scheme is financially viable. As stated above, there is a huge pressure to ensure the existing housing stock meets EPC rating C by 2030 and is decarbonised by as soon as reasonably practicable. Therefore, this means that a balance needs to be achieved in terms of ensuring investment is made into existing dwellings where tenants may be in fuel poverty and in new build homes. Hence, when procuring work costs, instead of the works specification containing a set energy efficiency requirement (other than no longer using gas), prices are sought for both building regulations compliant works cost; and works cost to deliver a scheme with high energy efficiency levels exceeding building regulations minimum.
- 3.15 Wherever financially viable STAR Housing will deliver sustainable housing schemes with high energy efficiency levels which exceed the building regulations minimum compliant level, however, increasing works costs are resulting in this becoming more of a challenge. STAR Housing not only uses a fabric first approach, but also fits air source heat pumps to all new build housing, irrespective of the opportunity to connect to the gas network. As a pilot, STAR Housing is to deliver two Passivhaus dwellings on one of its schemes.
- 3.16 Housing associations in Shropshire are also facing similar challenges relating to being required to improve existing dwellings to have a EPC Band of C or above and decarbonising the housing stock, yet are faced with increasing costs and limited subsidy. In some instances where it is not considered financially viable to invest in dwellings with very low SAP ratings (in particular “hard to treat” dwellings with EPC Bands F and G), the decision may be taken to dispose of a dwelling when it becomes vacant, as it more cost effective to use the receipt to fund replacement dwellings elsewhere.
- 3.17 The Council’s housing development company, Cornovii Developments Ltd (CDL) currently develops housing to meet the Future Homes and Building Standard. Moreover, CDL intends to deliver a number of net zero carbon homes for open market sale within a wider development of new build low carbon and Self/Custom Build Homes. Although the model for delivering open market housing differs from that of social housing providers, in a sense it is simpler as it is only financially viable to build if the total scheme cost, including a viable profit margin, is below the open market value. In reality this means that higher energy efficient homes which exceed building regulations will only be sold to people who decide to pay a premium for a home which will have lower running costs and lead to less carbon emissions.
- 3.18 In terms of retrofitting homes in the private sector, by March 2023 the Council will have facilitated the installation of over 150 heat pumps and a range of insulation measures to over 300 homes. This is part of a rolling programme of works that will run to 2030, gradually increasing in scale over time.

Furthermore, the Council is keen to facilitate other measures to retrofit homes and is investigating how funding can be sourced which ensures these measures can be deployed and remain affordable to residents. This includes the provision of a revolving loan scheme for homeowners and the introduction of an approved contractors list.

3.19 In addition, the Council recognises that in promoting and facilitating retrofitting and the use of new clean technologies, it must work to develop the local supply chain, which includes having a skilled local workforce with the capacity to deliver the activity that is needed. The Council is using the procurement process to establish models of retrofit delivery that engage and upskill the local supply chain. Moreover, it is essential to understand the impacts of retrofitting and using new technologies and the Council is committed to monitoring and evaluating retrofit works to ensure intended outcomes are realised.

Priorities for action

- All council owned housing stock to aim to have a minimum EPC of Band C by 2030.
- All housing association rented stock to aim to have a minimum EPC of Band C by 2030 and, where this is not financially viable, 2035.
- Work with STAR Housing and housing association partners to develop a good practice guide for reducing carbon emissions in new build affordable housing.
- Assess the impact of STAR Passivhaus pilot.
- Attract resources and develop a loans scheme to enable private households to undertake retrofit measures,
- Establish an approved contractors' scheme.
- Develop the local supply chain.
- Introduce a monitoring and quality control system to establish the actual impact of retrofitting and new build technologies across all tenures.
- Delivery of the London Road Innovation Low Carbon Development by 2025.

Objective 3: Attracting funding to deliver affordable warmth and improve energy efficiency.

Council Investment

4.1 The Council is committed to ensuring residents can access affordable warmth and in doing so we have invested in increasing the staffing resource and capacity of the Affordable Warmth & Energy Efficiency Team. The team now consists of 5 FTE officers to deliver this essential work and to ensure that the Council can continue to bid for and secure funding to realise the ambitions of the strategy.

Energy advice

4.2 [Keep Shropshire Warm](#) is an energy advice service owned by Shropshire Council and currently run by Marches Energy Agency (MEA). The service also offers free home visits and low-cost measures to help residents improve their situation. In the financial year 2021-22 the service directly supported 1,500 residents. The service offers advice on:

- heating and hot water;
- insulation and heating grants;
- pre-payment meters; and
- energy bills, tariffs and suppliers and tips for keeping warm at home.

4.3 The service can help residents access a range of energy efficiency grants:

- for loft, cavity and solid wall insulation;
- park home insulation;
- to improve floor and roof insulation;
- to help install air source heat pumps, as first-time central heating or to replace old or broken LPG, oil or solid fuel heating systems;
- To install modern high heat retention electric storage heating;
- For first-time double glazing and external door upgrades;
- Solar PV panels and battery storage technology; and
- To replace broken gas boilers.

HeatSavers Scheme

4.4 The Council's HeatSavers scheme enables front line workers from partner organisations to refer low-income, vulnerable households who find themselves in a 'no-heat' situation due to a breakdown of heating. Qualifying households are then referred for works to restore heating and hot water.

Household Support Fund

4.5 The Council has been using elements of the Government's Household Support Fund (HSF) to help tackle fuel poverty. Funding has been used to enable the Keep Shropshire Warm service to provide additional support to fuel poor households across the local authority, particularly those struggling with costs as a result of the ongoing 'energy crisis'. In addition, funding has been used to help enable larger energy efficiency measures, by funding additional works required that are preventing the installation of measures. Examples include assistance for vulnerable residents to help clear hoarding in properties to enable the installation of insulation or new central heating systems.

Accessing the Energy Company Obligation funded measures

4.6 The Energy Company Obligation (ECO) scheme requires obligated energy suppliers to install energy efficiency measures such as insulation and boiler replacements in eligible homes (those of low income, fuel poor, and vulnerable households). The scheme is paid for by a levy on all consumers bills though recipients may need to contribute to the cost of their installation which may not be fully covered by their energy supplier. It is for obligated suppliers to decide where to provide assistance, and permission from the property owner is required to have such work done. The latest iteration of the scheme, ECO4, will run from April 2022 to March 2026. The scheme is expected to deliver works across the UK to the value of £4bn.

4.7 ECO flexible eligibility is available to owner-occupiers, private tenants and their landlords who meet Government guidance for assistance. The scheme widens the pool of eligible households who can benefit from funding through ECO, and particularly focusses on those who have not qualified for help under previous schemes. The Council published its [ECO4 flexible eligibility statement of intent](#) in July 2023. The Council's Keep Shropshire Warm service acts as a delivery vehicle for ECO flexible eligibility in Shropshire. Almost 700 households in Shropshire have been assisted to date.

Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund

4.8 In February 2022 a bid led by the Council was awarded £2.7m of central government funding under Wave 1 of the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund. The funding is for the Council's housing and for four partner housing associations (who have housing stock not only in Shropshire, but also in the neighbouring local authorities of Telford and Wrekin and Herefordshire) to use a fabric first approach to improve dwellings currently at SAP rating D, E and F to a minimum SAP rating of C and a 90 kWh/m²/pa heat demand target. It is anticipated that 26 Council and up to 86 housing association dwellings in Shropshire will receive energy efficiency improvement works. All works are required to be completed by the end of August 2023.

Sustainable Warmth Competition: Local Authority Delivery (LAD) Phase 3

4.9 The LAD phase 3 scheme is delivered by local authorities and provides grants to improve the energy efficiency, of eligible on-gas households, using a fabric-first approach. This helps residents by improving the warmth and comfort of their homes, whilst reducing energy bills, carbon emissions and levels of fuel poverty. The scheme is open to private owner occupiers and landlords of private rented properties (this includes housing associations). Landlords are required to contribute at least a third of the costs. The scheme is part of the Government's Sustainable Warmth Competition. All works are required to be completed by the end of September 2023. Shropshire Council has been allocated £1.6 million under the scheme which due to support around 160 households.

MEES Enforcement Funding

4.10 In 2022 Shropshire Council was successful in being awarded government funding from the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) to raise awareness and enforce the Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Property) (England and Wales) Regulations 2015 (as amended) (the Regulations) which require privately rented homes to meet minimum energy efficiency standards.

Under the regulations, it's an offence for landlords of domestic properties to grant a new tenancy or continue to let and property with an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating below E, unless the landlord has registered a valid exemption on the governments Private Rented Sector Exemptions Register.

The Council continues to actively contact landlords who have properties that don't meet the minimum energy efficient standards to ensure that they make improvements to their properties to reach the minimum rating or to direct them to apply for an exemption. Landlords who don't bring their properties up to the minimum standard face enforcement action which can lead to a fine of up to £5,000.

Meeting these minimum requirements can be as simple as draught proofing and installing low energy lighting or may require more substantial improvements such as loft insulation, double glazing, and cavity wall insulation.

Future Ready Homes

4.11 Working across Shropshire, Herefordshire and Powys the Future Ready Homes Project will be looking to create and test a delivery pathway for domestic retrofit, guiding and supporting residents to better understand retrofit and feel confident in pursuing whole house energy improvements for their homes. This project is inclusive for all, including those that are able to pay, those eligible for financial support and those who will be seeking green finance to support their improvements. The project offers a limited number of funded surveys for residents in Shropshire (and the other areas) to help support them on their first

step on their retrofit journey. For those that have applied to the project we will also be offering webinars, events, and other guidance as well. From this, we are hoping to develop a plan for getting retrofit to scale.

Sustainable Warmth Competition: Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) Scheme

- 4.12 The HUG scheme is delivered by local authorities. It aims to provide energy efficiency upgrades and low-carbon heating to low-income households living in the least energy-efficient off-gas homes, tackling fuel poverty and helping property and residents on the path to net zero. Upgrades made through HUG will include fabric first measures (insulation and draught-proofing) in combination with low carbon heating installations to make homes thermally efficient and suitable for our net zero future. Eligible owner-occupier households will receive a 100% grant for the cost of eligible upgrades. Landlords of eligible tenants will however need to make a financial contribution to the cost of upgrades of at least one third, with the remaining costs provided by HUG. Phase 1 of the scheme concluded in May 23 and supported 76 households with investment totalling £910,000.
- 4.13 The Council AWEE team has been successful in a competitive funding application to the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero and has received HUG 2 funding worth circa £11 million and will support 530 households between now and the end of March 2025. The team have also secured additional funding via the Midlands Net Zero Hub which would support circa 500 additional households and would result in an additional £10 million of investment.

Priorities for action

- Ensure the income maximisation of fuel poor households by making sure that residents are receiving the state benefits that they are entitled to. Advising people to sign up to the Warm Homes Discount. Advising residents on the most cost-effective energy tariffs and where appropriate assisting people to switch energy supplier.
- Continue to promote the take up and support the delivery of energy efficiency measures.
- Ensure the Council and its partners bid for available funding for measures to reduce fuel poverty and reduce carbon emissions.

Appendix 1: Action Plan

Priority for action	Timescale	Outcome	Responsible service / organisation
Objective 1: Raising awareness of the importance of tackling fuel poverty and improving energy efficiency			
Undertake quantitative and qualitative research at a Shropshire level to evidence the positive impact on health and wellbeing of warm homes.	2023	Evidence base setting out how energy efficiency measures improve health and wellbeing, financially quantified where possible.	Housing Strategy and Development Affordable Warmth and Energy Efficiency
Staff awareness training to ensure incidences of fuel poverty are reported and excess cold hazards are acted upon by providing advice on how people can keep warm at home and referring for specific advice and support as appropriate.	Ongoing	Council and other public sector workers recognise instances of fuel poverty and know how to provide advice and refer as appropriate.	Affordable Warmth and Energy Efficiency
Ensure all relevant domestic private rented properties meet the minimum energy efficiency standard (MEES).	Ongoing	Private rented dwellings all are SAP Banding E or above.	Housing Enforcement
Encourage housing developers to build to the Future Homes and Building Standard prior to it becoming mandatory.	Ongoing	New homes produce 75% to 80% less carbon emissions as compared to those built under the current regulations.	Development Management
Work with partners to develop stronger messaging and support for self-funded householders to encourage them to invest in their homes for affordable warmth and carbon reduction.	2023	Greater number of owner-occupiers invest in their homes to improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions.	Affordable Warmth and Energy Efficiency Climate Change

Objective 2: Establishing a pathway to zero-carbon housing			
All council owned housing stock to aim to have a minimum EPC of Band C by 2030.	2030	Improved energy efficiency of Council housing stock, resulting in reduced fuel bills and carbon emissions.	STAR Housing
All housing association rented stock to aim to have a minimum EPC of Band C by 2030 and, where this is not financially viable, 2035.	2030 (2035)	Improved energy efficiency of housing association stock, resulting in reduced fuel bills and carbon emissions.	Private Registered Providers
Work with STAR Housing and housing association partners to develop a good practice guide for reducing carbon emissions in new build affordable housing.	2024	A good practice guide based on developing energy efficient and low carbon affordable housing in Shropshire.	Planning Policy Housing Strategy and Development
Assess the impact of STAR Passivhaus pilot.	2024	Appraisal providing a full cost / benefit analysis.	STAR Housing
Attract resources and develop a loans scheme to enable private households to undertake retrofit measures.	2024	Scheme in place which provides loans for private households to retrofit their homes in order to reduce carbon emissions.	Affordable Warmth and Energy Efficiency Climate Change
Establish an approved contractors' scheme.	2024	List of approved contractors in place	Building Control
Develop the local supply chain.	2023 and ongoing	Sufficient suppliers, manufacturers and trained installers of energy efficiency measures in Shropshire.	Affordable Warmth and Energy Efficiency Climate Change
Introduce a monitoring and quality control system to establish the actual impact of retrofitting and new build technologies across all tenures.	2023	Monitoring and quality control system in place which measures performance of retrofitting and new build technologies, ensuring quality installation of measures.	Affordable Warmth and Energy Efficiency

Delivery of the London Road Innovation Low Carbon Development by 2025.	2025	Development of low carbon open market homes in Shrewsbury.	Cornovii Developments Ltd
Objective 3: Attracting funding to deliver affordable warmth and improve energy efficiency			
Ensure the income maximisation of fuel poor households.	Ongoing	Fuel poor households offered advice and assistance, signposted to other agencies where required.	Affordable Warmth and Energy Efficiency
Continue to promote the take up and support the delivery of energy efficiency measures.	Ongoing	Promotion of the importance of installing energy efficiency measures – to reduce fuel bills and carbon emissions.	Affordable Warmth and Energy Efficiency
Ensure the Council and its partners bid for available funding for measures to reduce fuel poverty and reduce carbon emissions.	Ongoing	Maximising the level of central Government subsidy available for affordable warmth and low carbon initiatives.	Affordable Warmth and Energy Efficiency

Appendix 2: NICE Recommendations on Excess Winter Deaths and the Health Risks Associated with Cold Homes

1. Develop a strategy
2. Ensure there is a single point-of-contact health and housing referral service for people living in cold homes
3. Provide tailored solutions via the single point-of-contact health and housing referral service for people living in cold homes
4. Identify people at risk of health from living in a cold home
5. Make every contact count by assessing the heating needs of people who use primary health and home care services
6. Non-health and social care workers who visit people at home should assess their heating needs
7. Discharge vulnerable people from health or social care settings to a warm home
8. Train health and social care practitioners to help people whose homes may be too cold
9. Train housing professionals and faith and voluntary sector workers to help people whose homes may be too cold for their health and wellbeing
10. Train heating engineers, meter installers and those providing building insulation to help vulnerable people at home
11. Raise awareness among practitioners and the public about how to keep warm at home
12. Ensure buildings meet ventilation and other building and trading standards

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APPENDIX II

Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA) Initial Screening Record 2021-2022

A. Summary Sheet on Accountability and Actions

Name of proposed service change
Draft Sustainable Affordable Warmth Strategy for consultation

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?		✓

Actions to mitigate negative impact or enhance positive impact of the service change in terms of equality, social inclusion, and health considerations
<p>The screening process ahead of the proposed consultation indicates a likely medium positive impact across the Protected Characteristic groupings as set out in the Equality Act 2010, particularly Age and Disability, Pregnancy and Maternity, and Sex (caring responsibilities). There are also anticipated medium positive impacts for those individuals and households who find themselves in circumstances where they may be considered to be vulnerable and at risk of social exclusion. This includes individual and households who present as homeless, and households living in fuel poverty, as well as intersectionality for individuals with regard to Age, for example young people who are care leavers and may also have a learning disability, and with regard to the circumstances in which people may find themselves, for example veterans and serving members of the armed forces and their families. For the groupings of Race and of Religion or Belief, the impact is anticipated to be neutral to low positive with outreach efforts to engage with those for whom English is not their first language, eg refugee families.</p>

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

The proposed action plan will be subject to regular monitoring and the Strategy will be reviewed on an annual basis. Opportunities to enhance positive impacts will be at the forefront of monitoring and review, although no negative impacts are anticipated, regular monitoring will ensure such impacts are identified and changes made to project delivery.

ADD The Council has been using elements of the Government's Household Support Fund (HSF) to help tackle fuel poverty. Funding has been used to enable the Keep Shropshire Warm service to provide additional support to fuel poor households across the local authority, particularly those struggling with costs as a result of the ongoing 'energy crisis'. In addition, funding has been used to help enable larger energy efficiency measures, by funding additional works required that are preventing the installation of measures. Examples include assistance for vulnerable residents to help clear hoarding in properties to enable the installation of insulation or new central heating systems.

ADD The portfolio holder will continue to be involved and engaged along with SC councillors and other stakeholders, alongside the local authority keeping abreast of good practice in comparator rural authorities.

Associated ESHIAs

Health Inequality Plan

Climate Change Strategy

Local Plan Partial Review ESHIAs

ESHIA in relation to housing policy approaches

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

As set out below the draft Sustainable Affordable Warmth Strategy is inextricably linked to tackling climate change and improving health and wellbeing. As noted above, these positive impacts can be enhanced through attracting additional resources and ensuring buy-in.

Climate change

The draft Sustainable Affordable Warmth Strategy seeks to tackle fuel poverty through a range of sustainable measures to provide affordable warmth whilst increasing the energy performance of homes and reducing carbon emissions, with the ultimate aim of homes being net zero carbon. Therefore, aims to ensure a positive impact on the below areas:

As set out below the draft Sustainable Affordable Warmth Strategy is inextricably linked to tackling climate change and improving health and wellbeing. As noted above, these positive impacts can be enhanced through attracting additional resources and ensuring buy-in.

Climate change

The draft Sustainable Affordable Warmth Strategy seeks to tackle fuel poverty through a range of sustainable measures to provide affordable warmth whilst increasing the energy performance of homes and reducing carbon emissions, with the ultimate aim of homes being net zero carbon. Therefore, aims to ensure a positive impact on the below areas:

- energy and fuel consumption (buildings and/or travel);
- renewable energy generation;
- carbon offsetting or mitigation; and
- climate change adaptation.

Health and well being

Cold homes are linked to both an increased risk of developing and worsening a wide range of health conditions including respiratory conditions, cardiovascular diseases, poor mental health, dementia, hypothermia, as well as problems with childhood development and unintentional injury. In some circumstances, health problems may be exacerbated to a degree that they may cause death.



In 2019 it was estimated the NHS spends at least £2.5 billion per year on treating illnesses that are directly linked to cold, damp and dangerous homes. Cold homes and fuel poverty contribute to the phenomenon of excess winter deaths. England saw an estimated 63,000 excess winter deaths in 2020–21. Estimates suggest that some ten per cent of excess winter deaths are directly attributable to fuel poverty and 21.5% are attributable to cold homes.

Babies, children, older people, people with disabilities and those with pre-existing health problems are at greatest risk of health problems as a result of living in cold homes, and therefore are particularly at risk to the health consequences of fuel poverty. Households particularly at risk of fuel poverty include low income households, households with dependent children, people living with disabilities and minority ethnic minority households, many of which already face many health inequalities.

Economic and societal/wider community

High fuel costs reduce available resources for transport, particularly important in Shropshire, socialising and meeting with family and access to essential services, all of which are important social determinants of health and wellbeing. In particular, households facing fuel poverty can be priced out of having sufficient and healthy foods, and there may be further limitations in the resources available to prepare

Scrutiny at Part One screening stage

People involved	Signatures	Date
Lead officer carrying out the screening		8 November 2011
Any internal service area support*		
Any external support** Mrs Lois Dale, Rurality and Equalities Specialist		15 th November 2022

**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
Lead officer's name		
Accountable officer's name		

**This may either be the Head of Service or the lead officer*

A. Detailed Screening Assessment

Aims of the service change and description
<p>Unaffordable fuel bills can lead to choices such as heat or eat; and cold homes can both lead to and exacerbate health problems and health inequalities. In addition, the use of fossil fuels as a form of heating results in carbon emissions which pollute the environment and cause climate change. By making homes more energy efficient and by using low-carbon heating measures, then homes should be more affordable to heat, with an associated reduction in carbon emissions.</p> <p>Fuel poverty relates to households who must spend a high proportion of their household income to keep their home at a reasonable temperature. It is affected</p>

by a household's income, their fuel costs, their energy consumption, and the energy efficiency of their home.

The current central government definition of fuel poverty in England is 'Low Income Low Energy Efficiency' (LILEE). A household is fuel poor if:

- they are living in a property with an energy efficiency rating of band D, E, F or G, as shown by an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC); and
- their disposable income (income after housing costs and energy needs) would be below the poverty line.

Fuel poverty can be alleviated by improving a household's income, reducing their fuel costs, and improving the energy efficiency of their home, thus reducing the amount of energy needed to heat their home. Therefore, the ability to keep a home warm becomes affordable, this being "affordable warmth".

Sustainable affordable warmth is about improving the energy efficiency of homes, which reduces energy consumption, whilst also ensuring energy costs and the associated energy efficiency measures remain affordable.

Reducing fuel usage, especially fossil fuels, helps to reduce carbon emissions. Moreover, it is also important to move towards using sustainable non-fossil fuels to provide heat and power, whilst ensuring that the capital outlay for non-fossil fuel technologies is not prohibitively expensive and does not result in households facing higher fuel costs in the longer term.

Central government's 2017 Clean Growth Strategy sets out that by 2030 all social housing is expected to reach EPC Band C. In addition, the Climate Change Act 2008 requires all domestic dwellings to have net zero carbon emissions by 2050. These targets require extremely high levels of investment to retrofit existing stock.

The Council has an energy advice service, Keep Shropshire Warm. It also seeks to attract funding for energy efficiency and decarbonisation measures through the Energy Company Obligation and from central government grant schemes.

Intended audiences and target groups for the service change

The draft Sustainable Affordable Warmth Strategy is for all Shropshire residents, elected Members, STAR Housing, parish and town councils, housing associations and private landlords. It also can be used to support funding bids to organisations such as BEIS and Homes England.

Stakeholders include all those involved in health care across Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin, as well as neighbouring local authorities and rural local authorities and organisations with whom we work through the Rural Services Network and through the County Councils Network.

Evidence used for screening of the service change

The draft Sustainable Affordable Warmth Strategy sets out the current challenges in relation to fuel poverty and reaching net zero carbon, with current approaches and proposed actions to seek to achieve affordable warmth and reduce carbon emissions. Therefore, it is not a service change, but a document setting out the challenges and the approaches the Council is currently taking and proposing to explore to tackle these challenges.

The draft Strategy has been further informed by the Council's Climate Change Strategy and the Housing Strategy 2020-2025, and by national legislation and guidance including the Decent Homes Standard and the UK Fuel Poverty Strategy (and any others that could usefully be mentioned here)

The actions set out in the draft Strategy themselves include specific proposed action to add to the evidence base, ie to undertake quantitative and qualitative research at a Shropshire level to evidence the positive impact on health and wellbeing of warm homes.

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

Public consultation with elected Members, parish and town councils, housing associations, private landlords, council and housing association tenants, the NHS, neighbouring local authorities, and Members of Parliament.

ADD this will involve a range of communication and engagement mechanisms and is scheduled to take place (insert dates). Results will be fed back in subsequent ESHIA and Cabinet report.

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)			Medium positive	
<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)			Medium positive	
<u>Gender re-assignment</u> (please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				Neutral
<u>Marriage and Civil Partnership</u> (please include associated aspects: caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				Neutral
<u>Pregnancy and Maternity</u> (please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)			Medium Positive	
<u>Race</u> (please include ethnicity, nationality, culture, language, Gypsy, Traveller)				Neutral to low positive
<u>Religion and belief</u> (please include Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism, Nonconformists; Rastafarianism; Shinto, Sikhism, Taoism, Zoroastrianism, and any others)				Neutral to low positive
<u>Sex</u> (this can also be viewed as relating to gender. Please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)			Medium Positive (caring responsibility)	

<u>Sexual Orientation</u> (please include associated aspects: safety; caring responsibility; potential for bullying and harassment)				Neutral
<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)			Medium Positive	

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> on an individual's health, mental health and wellbeing? For example, would it cause ill health, affecting social inclusion, independence and participation? .			Medium Positive	
Will the proposal <i>indirectly impact</i> an individual's ability to improve their own health and wellbeing? For example, will it affect their ability to be physically active, choose healthy food, reduce drinking and smoking? .			Medium Positive	
Will the policy have a <i>direct impact</i> on the community - social,			Medium Positive	

<p>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>Will there be a likely change in <i>demand</i> for or access to health and social care services?</p> <p>For example: Primary Care, Hospital Care, Community Services, Mental Health, Local Authority services including Social Services?</p>			<p>Medium Positive (reduced demand)</p>	

<p>Identification of likely impact of the service change in terms of other considerations including climate change and economic or societal impacts</p>
<p>The fundamental action to enhance the positive impact of the proposed draft Sustainable Affordable Warmth Strategy is attracting additional resources, capital funding is paramount, but also ensuring supply chains and a trained workforce is in place.</p> <p>The Council recognises that in promoting and facilitating retrofitting and the use of new clean technologies, it must work to develop the local supply chain, which includes having a skilled local workforce with the capacity to deliver the activity that is needed. The Council is using the procurement process to establish models of retrofit delivery that engage and upskill the local supply chain. Moreover, it is essential to understand the impacts of retrofitting and using new technologies and the Council is committed to monitoring and evaluating retrofit works to ensure intended outcomes are realised.</p> <p>In addition, residents across all tenures need to fully appreciate the importance of improving energy efficiency and reducing carbon emissions, therefore this is not only about continued awareness raising, but recognising that it is about gaining trust and buy-in.</p>

Appendix III - Feedback from the public consultation

- A number of respondents asked why para. 1.7 & 1.8 are duplicates.
This was an administrative error and no information had been lost.
- There was a query raised as to what Figure 1 was actually showing.
This has resulted in a refresh of the way the data is presented in the Strategy. Again, for Figure 2 an issue was raised in relation to the colouring of the maps. This has been reviewed with revisions to the way that the data is displayed.
- A respondent felt that the original 2022-2025 timescale was far too short.
We have reviewed the timescale and have extended this to be in line with the Council's 2030 'Net Zero' target. There will be annual reviews and updates as necessary.
- A number of respondents suggested different approaches to the way that the Strategy and the Action Plan are presented. Also, the many references to other Council strategy documents.
The reference to other strategy documents is used to highlight the corporate approach across the organisation and sets the backdrop of government strategy and the frameworks which a local authority must operate. The delivery of the affordable warmth strategy is not dependent on the other strategies.
- A respondent felt that that there was no evidence of adopting best practice from elsewhere in the UK or Europe.
The Strategy sets out the Council's approach which utilises national best practice, fabric first and whole house retrofit model. The Council is regularly participating in national forums where best practice is shared and is a member of the Association of Local Energy Officers (ALEO) and is a member of the Retrofit Academy.
- A respondent stated that they felt that the Strategy does not set any targets /volumes of activity or measurable objectives. Similarly, it does not set out how funding will be sort or allocated.
Due to the nature of government funding waves which have to be bid for in competition it is not possible to structure the report or action plan in that way. There is no annual grant paid to the Council to carryout a programme of improvement works. However , as a Council we have been very successful in recent funding rounds and have secured significant levels of funding for affordable warmth and energy efficiency measures. These programmes have a full range of targets, volumes of activity and measurable objectives and will be reported in the annual review of the strategy document.

- A couple of respondents queried the approach of trying to get developers and Housing Associations to deliver to a higher thermal quality housing ahead of any mandatory requirement as naïve, suggesting that builders build down to a standard, not up to an expectation and therefore Supplementary Planning Documents in advance of the adoption of the new Local Plan. A further concern was that trying to achieve the Council's Net Zero goal by 2030 may result in lost government investment by achieving Net Zero by 2030 instead of the Government's target of 2050.

The Strategy recognises that increasing standards outside of any mandatory requirement is a challenge, but an important part of the strategy is to work across multiple fronts to improve affordable warmth and energy efficiency. In response to lost investment the team are actively securing all sources of available government funding to improve the housing stock in Shropshire now and through to 2030 and beyond.
- A respondent felt that there were no details about how Shropshire Council plans to improve households' income.

Further explanation and detail have been added to the document to explain how the AWEE team working in partnership with the Council commissioned Keep Shropshire Warm Service, which includes income maximisation for fuel poor households, warm Homes Discount, state benefits and the most cost-effective energy tariffs.
- A respondent felt that the document contained no information about the current situation or baseline.

The Strategy does contain baseline data on fuel poverty in Shropshire (2020), EPC data, modelling costs in reaching net zero in Shropshire. The same respondent went on to say that they felt that there was insufficient information about how Shropshire Council intends to fund the delivery of the actions needed now and the changes needed in the future. The strategy has been amended to identify the specific funding streams Local Authority Delivery (LAD) and Home Upgrade Grant (HUG). Information has also been included on the Council taking the opportunity to bid twice for HUG 2 funding and that we were also successful standalone bid plus joining a consortium bid with Midlands Net Zero Hub. Information has also been provided in the Strategy on how the Council is investing resources into the Retrofit Academy Infrastructure Partnership alongside Telford & Wrekin and Herefordshire Councils.
- A respondent commented on the format of the report and suggested that the Action Plan should not be in the Appendix, and that it should immediately follow the introduction.

The Action Plan is standalone and referred to as an appendix and follows council guidelines.
- A respondent suggested that the priorities for action in the plan, listed under the three objectives should be merged in to the Action Plan to make it more credible and easier to monitor.

Again, the Action Plan is seen as a standalone document and has been retained as an Appendix.

- A query was raised to say that Objective 2 would benefit from a financial balance sheet of cost estimates and funding possibilities for each year of the strategy to determine what breadth of pathway is possible.

Due to the complex funding regimes and the variation of the reporting requirements between each wave of funding it is not possible to present cost estimates in a meaningful way. However, all funding streams have detailed project plans, which have detailed financial forecast based on specific energy efficiency measures, which complement our fabric first retrofit model and would therefore use this to benchmark our success on our pathway to net zero. It is also very hard to predict future government policy which is highlighted by the closedown of the Local Authority Delivery scheme which supports on gas homes. At the time of writing this scheme is due to end the end of September 2023, the government has announced no additional support for on gas properties going forward.
- A suggestion that the use of words such as 'ongoing' should stop, and their meaning be more precisely defined to make progress measurable.

Where possible and where appropriate the use of 'ongoing' has been limited and specific timelines used.
- A respondent said that the information on pages 4 -16 should become Appendices because they contain the legal and research background underpinning the strategy.

The Strategy is set out and written in accordance with council guidelines. The legal and research background is a main part of the Council's strategy.
- A respondent states that that Strategy refers to ECO4 a government initiative for insulating homes for poorer households and which Shropshire Council has adopted in its ECO 4 flexible eligibility statement of intent in July 2022.

The Council continues to adopt and support funding for energy efficiency measures to eradicate fuel poverty through ECO4 flexible eligibility statement of intent. An updated statement was published on 18 July 2023 and is available here <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/media/50qn5vdj/shropshire-council-eco4-flexible-eligibility-statement-of-intent-18-july-2023.pdf>

A new website to help local residents to engage in the scheme will launched on 31 July 2023 www.shropshireflex.org
- A respondent urged the Council to tap into the new funding initiative ECO+, a £1bn scheme focusing on installing loft and cavity wall insulation. which the government is due to unveil in April and will run alongside ECO4 and advise that cavity wall insulation should be suitable and good quality otherwise it can generate damp which creates problems in the future.

The Council is engaging in the newly named Great British Insulation Scheme (GBIS) and is being delivered alongside ECO4.

- A respondent referred to the Norwich Passivhaus Project, the winner of the 2019 Stirling Prize 100% social housing development for Norwich Council, comprising 93 Passivhaus homes spread across 7 blocks aligned in 4 simple rows on a traditional street pattern. On completion in 2019 it took the title of the UK's largest Passivhaus certified residential scheme. If this can be done in Norwich why not in Shropshire? They then went on to ask whether planning permission could only be given to builders in the private sector who are building to Passivhaus standards? Surely the fastest way to cut energy bills and carbon reduction is to ensure that from now on we only also Passivhaus build in Shropshire, becoming a leading Council!

In response the Council would welcome such a ground breaking scheme such as the Norwich Project in Shropshire. As outlined in the Strategy the Council will continue to maximise opportunities to bring external funding into Shropshire to fund a full range of fabric first retrofit improvements to our existing stock. At the same time working with our ALMO STAR and property company CDL to incorporate the latest energy efficiency and low carbon technologies in new build designs. To trial approaches such as Passivhaus and where possible look to scale this up in future developments.

- A respondent asked where the Councils acknowledgement of the larger pool of older properties that are either listed and/or in conservation areas? Properties that the Council imposes restrictions upon in terms of upgrading their energy efficiency? Properties that due to their town centre locations do not have the ground space for heat pumps? The respondent went on to say that this document [Sustainable Affordable Warmth Strategy] reflects the total lack of interest shown by the Council in addressing this issue, although I'm sure that there will be great enthusiasm for imposing penalties on properties not reaching EPC standards, should such a strategy be introduced in the future.

In response to these concerns, the Strategy provides a high-level overview of our intended approach to deliver an affordable warmth strategy across the entire council area. The Council appreciates that there are a number of intricate factors when delivering projects on such scale and complexity and that 'one size' does not fit all. The example provided will require an innovative approach utilising the available types of heating solutions that are currently available at this time and that these would need to be implemented within the current planning constraints applicable to each locality.

In regard to the point about listed and conservation properties the AWEE Team have been working closely with the Historic Environment Team and are actively delivering measures to these types of properties through the LAD (Local Authority Delivery) and HUG (Home Upgrade Grant) schemes. This in despite of government funding streams often not offering the flexibility in finance levels in order to effectively treat these properties. The Council continues to raise these issues with the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero.

- A respondent made the following comment, I simply observe that it [Sustainable Affordable Warmth Strategy] is full of aspirational wording but very little in the way of how the needs will be actually achieved. What exactly is the Council going to do to improve the housing stock!!

The Council has committed to establishing and developing an Affordable Warmth and Energy Efficiency Team. The team is actively bidding for all types of external funding that is available to address fuel poverty and improve energy efficiency across its housing stock. Examples of funding include Home Upgrade Grants (HUG) Local Authority Delivery (LAD) and Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) which have helped to fund a whole range of measures outlined in the strategy to improve heating and insulation. All schemes are utilising a 'fabric first retrofit' approach. The Council's own ALMO STAR is undertaking a Passivhaus pilot. To underpin this work, the Council is working hard with partners to develop a supply chain, which is discussed in the Strategy.
- A view was raised that the Council's roadmap to reach 'Net Zero' by 2030 should match the Government's target of 2050. If not potentially miss out on funding streams. It is logical to assume that during the 27-year period to 2050 the Government will launch funding initiatives to help home owners, landlords and house builders to meet this ambitious target. The respondent stated that if all homes in Shropshire are net zero by 2030 it means investors, landlords and homeowners could miss out on 20 years plus of funding. In a sector that has seen more than double the inflation than the national average for a longer period of time, 2030 is an incredibly difficult target that will make investors think twice about future investment strategies. Also, need to factor in emerging technologies. We are finding that often "sustainable solutions" that we are piloting are causing higher fuel bills for tenants. This is partly down to lack of understanding/fear of new, but also because with each passing year technologies are becoming more efficient.

The Council's 'Sustainable Affordable Warmth Strategy' timescale has been reviewed and extended to 2030 in line with the Council's 'Net Zero' target. There will be annual reviews and updates as necessary to reflect the levels of government funding secured to improve the housing stock during this period. The Council remains committed to accessing a range of funding to improve the energy efficiency of housing stock across all tenures.
- A query was raised to say that 'District Heating Systems' are very expensive and require extensive new infrastructure work. Where used "successfully" in the UK has always been in city areas. Is Shropshire really suited to this solution?

District heating systems are just one of many options available and therefore listed as an example along with other technologies. The Council's Affordable Warmth & Energy Efficiency Team will continue to devise schemes working closely with our partners to utilise the most appropriate technologies at that time. Currently this is primarily standalone air source heat pumps. In addition, the current iterations of government funding streams don't support the installation of district heating systems. Should this change in the future the Council will of course consider this approach.

- A respondent said that it would be useful to understand who the ‘practitioners’ are who will be educated to give advice.
Shropshire Council has created an Affordable & Energy Efficiency Team and recruited a team of specialist professionals in this field. With the aim to maximise new funding opportunities and to deliver these complex programmes of work for the benefit of Shropshire residents and businesses.
- A respondent stated that the monitoring and inspection of private landlords is not sufficient. There will continue to be an “underclass” of housing provision. This is largely due to fear of reporting incidents from vulnerable tenants. A big issue in cities but will certainly be the case in the parts of Shropshire too.
Shropshire Council recognises that some tenants maybe reluctant to seek assistance. The Council’s specialist Housing Officers are experienced in dealing with such cases in a sensitive and supportive manner to secure the best outcome for the tenant. For example, the Council has recently been successful in accessing external funding to employ dedicated resource to work specifically on Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) in the private rented sector.
- A respondent asked what does “Encourage housing developers to build to the ‘Future Homes and Building Standard’ prior to it becoming mandatory” look like? Could put investors and developers off if build costs become more prohibitive (already stretching viability).
As stated, it is to encourage investors and developers to build to a higher standard where possible.
- A respondent felt that the 2025 ban on gas boilers in new build homes needs to be the priority for now and the focus area. This is a huge issue that does not need to be further complicated by introducing additional targets that are ahead of national Government targets. The cost of install and running of non-gas options is still prohibitive. In addition, in Shropshire (and other LA areas) the infrastructure is not capable of carrying and powering the load required for all electric developments. An example was provided for a small community led scheme had a £300k additional cost to bolster the additional electric supply. That is a real unavoidable cost that will be replicated at many other new development locations across the County.
The Council has limited influence over national legislation.
- A respondent asked why do this now? The technology is still evolving. As the new build sector has to move to non-gas solutions post 2025 the investment in new and better technologies will undoubtedly increase, and as demand and use increases the cost will decrease. Pursuing this now will likely result in soon to be outdated technology being installed at a cost that is likely at or near its peak.
The Council would be at risk of failing to act if it insisted on waiting for the next best technological solution. The Council is taking full advantage of government funding streams and many of these prioritise certain technologies over others depending on national policy.

- A respondent said that national developers are still struggling to introduce “eco-homes” premiums on new build homes, hence why they are not doing it until they have to.

Eco-homes is an approach that the Council is keen to support through the Sustainable Affordable Warmth Strategy.

- A respondent stated that the opportunity to work with STAR Housing and Housing Association partners to develop a good practice guide for reducing carbon emissions in new build affordable housing is something that they totally agree with such a fabric first approach here. The respondent explained that they have been building all new homes with a building envelope (except windows) that meets Future Homes Standard U-values since April 2021. The respondent suggests the focus is here while the sustainable heating systems evolve and improve. Pilot projects are required now, but more with a tenant usability focus.

The Council would welcome the continued support of its Housing Association Partners in collaborative projects.

- A respondent suggested that there was a need to assess the impact of STAR Passivhaus pilot, which is still 30%+ more than building simply to regulations. The introduction of a monitoring and quality control system to establish the actual impact of retrofitting and new build technologies across all tenures is something that they as an organisation would want to be part of along with the Council and other Residential Providers on this crucial piece of work.

The Council and the Affordable Warmth & Energy Efficiency Team would welcome the support of partners in this research.

- A respondent made a general comment to say that they felt the document is trying to achieve both an environmental and a financial target which is commendable but difficult. It makes assumptions that changes to properties will lead to less fuel poverty where changes to properties at this point in time might actually be more expensive for the tenant. The respondent said that they were not sure that there shouldn't be two documents, one around financial inclusion and one about saving the planet, maybe as an Appendix A and B. There does appear to be a mismatch between the aspiration of being 'Zero Carbon' by 2030 and the Action Plans. But the Action Plans look more realistic.

The Council recognises that this is a complex area of work which cuts across both financial and environmental targets. All of our Sustainable Warmth Schemes are carefully constructed utilising best available advice and practice at the time. Government design many of the Sustainable Affordable Warmth Scheme, like many local authorities Shropshire Council share their knowledge and experience through 'lessons learned reviews' and respond to consultations etc., to help inform scheme design.

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Committee and Date

Item

Public



Recommendation for Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Plan to Proceed to Referendum

Responsible Officer:	Mark Barrow		
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Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	Cllr Chris Schofield		

1. Synopsis

This report seeks Cabinet approval to proceed to local referendum on the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Development Plan.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval for the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Development Plan (the Plan) to proceed to referendum to determine whether the Plan should become part of the statutory Development Plan for the neighbourhood area, and therefore be used in the determination of planning applications in the neighbourhood.
- 2.2. The Shropshire Plan recognises the importance of creating a Healthy Environment with a strategic objective to '*maintain, protect and enhance our outstanding natural and historic environment, promoting positive behaviours and greater biodiversity and environmental sustainability*'. The Cleobury Neighbourhood Development Plan contains policies which strive to encourage development to achieve these objectives alongside those contained within the wider Development Plan for Shropshire.

- 2.3. The Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Development Plan (also referred to as the Neighbourhood Plan) has been produced in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (referred to in this report as 'the Regulations'). The plan has been prepared by the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, with Cleobury Mortimer Town Council acting as the local 'Qualifying Body'. Work on the plan began in 2017 and has included several consultation stages. Cleobury Mortimer Town Council submitted the draft version of the plan to Shropshire Council in January 2023, after which Shropshire Council undertook further statutory consultation and appointed an independent person to conduct the examination into the plan.
- 2.4. The purpose of the independent examination process is to ensure Neighbourhood Development Plans meet a set of nationally prescribed 'Basic Conditions', and to recommend if the Plan should proceed to a local referendum. The examination into the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Plan concluded in August 2023. The Examiner's Report is attached as Appendix 1.
- 2.5. The Examiner has recommended the Plan can proceed to local referendum, subject to a number of modifications being made. It is now Shropshire Council's role to consider the outcome of the Examiner's report, including the proposed modifications, and to agree if the plan can proceed to referendum.
- 2.6. The schedule of modifications is shown in Appendix 2. This schedule has followed consideration of the Examiner's conclusions and proposed modifications. Appendix 3 of this report sets out the proposed final 'referendum' version of the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Development Plan. It is therefore recommended that the 'referendum' version of the Plan proceed to referendum.
- 2.7. If agreed, the referendum will take place on a date to be arranged, but, must be between 30th November 2023 and 11th January 2024. Should the Plan gain public support at the referendum, Shropshire Council's Full Council will be asked to formally 'make' (adopt) the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Development Plan to form part of the Statutory Development Plan for Shropshire.

3. Recommendations

Cabinet agrees:

- 3.1. The Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Plan meets the 'Basic Conditions' and all the other legal requirements as summarised in the Independent Examiner's Report, subject to the modifications proposed in the Schedule of Modifications (Appendix 2)
- 3.2. The required modifications be agreed, and that the final 'referendum' version of the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Development Plan (September 2023) (Appendix 3) proceed to local referendum.
- 3.3. The referendum area be that as defined as the designated area to which the Neighbourhood Development Plan relates, i.e. the Cleobury Mortimer Town Council boundary.

- 3.4. The Executive Director of Place be authorised to exercise all the relevant powers and duties and undertake necessary arrangements for the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Development Plan final referendum version (September 2023) (Appendix 3) to now proceed to referendum and for the referendum to take place asking the question 'whether the voter wants Shropshire Council to use this neighbourhood plan for the Cleobury Mortimer neighbourhood plan area to help it decide planning applications in this neighbourhood area'.

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1. Having received a draft Neighbourhood Plan from a qualifying body (normally a Parish or Town Council), it is the responsibility of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), under regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, to publicise and to seek representations on the Plan. It is also the responsibility of the Local Planning Authority under paragraph 7 of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (TCPA 1990) to appoint an independent person to assess the Plan. In following these requirements Shropshire Council published and consulted on the submission version of the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Development Plan for eight weeks between 16th January 2023 to 10th March 2023 and appointed Tony Burton to examine the Plan in May 2023. As required Mr Burton's appointment was agreed by Cleobury Mortimer Town Council.
- 4.2. Only a draft Neighbourhood Plan that meets the basic conditions can be put to a referendum and be 'made' (adopted) by the Local Authority. The basic conditions, as set out in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B of the TCPA 1990 that are applied to Neighbourhood Development Plans by section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 are:
- Having regard to national policies and advice contained within guidance issued by the Secretary of State it is appropriate to make the Neighbourhood Plan;
 - The making of the Neighbourhood Plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development;
 - The making of the Neighbourhood Plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area);
 - The making of the Neighbourhood Plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with retained EU obligations;
 - Prescribed conditions are met (in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan) and prescribed matters have been completed in connection with the proposal for the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 4.3. In assessing the Plan, the examiner has three options:
- a) That the Plan proceeds to referendum as submitted;
 - b) That the Plan is modified by the LPA to meet 'basic conditions' and then the modified version proceeds to referendum; or
 - c) That the Plan does not proceed to referendum

The Neighbourhood Development Plan examination is therefore a particularly focussed process, unlike that of an examination applied to Local Plans prepared by Local Planning Authorities. This leaves little in the way of opportunity to actively make change to improve the plan at this stage, unless these changes (or modifications) are to ensure the Plan meets one or more of the basic conditions.

- 4.4. The Examiner's Report is included as Appendix 1 to this report. It is the role of Shropshire Council to consider the overall conclusions and the proposed modifications in the Examiner's Report. Whilst the Examiner's Report is not binding on the Authority, it is considered there is a risk of legal challenge if the Local Authorities conclusions were to differ significantly from that of the Examiner's without appropriate rationale. However, it is considered that there will be occasions where it may be necessary for the Local Authority to propose different modification to that proposed by the Examiner or indeed to disagree with the need for a modification.
- 4.5. The Examiner's Report into the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Development Plan has concluded that it should be modified by the Local Planning Authority to meet the basic conditions. It is this modified version of the Plan which should proceed to referendum. The Schedule of Modifications attached as Appendix 2 to this report show how the Local Planning Authority has considered each of the proposed modifications proposed by the Examiner.
- 4.6. In this case, officers have considered in detail the recommendations of the Examiner, supported by further discussions with Cleobury Mortimer Town Council. In summary it is proposed that all but two of the recommended changes to the Plan are incorporated into the final 'referendum' version. It is this version which is before Cabinet and included as Appendix 3. The two recommendations not considered suitable for inclusion relate to the manner in which site specific development guidelines contained in policies M3 and M6 are visually represented within the Plan. In summary, it is not considered the proposed level of specificity is beneficial to the delivery of these two allocated sites and provide an unhelpful inconsistency between these allocations and other allocations in the wider development plan. It is not considered this modification alters the Plan meeting the basic conditions. Therefore, it is considered there to be little risk of challenge
- 4.7. It is considered all other proposed modifications are necessary and support the Plan meeting the 'basic conditions'. The changes involve partial amendments to wording of the policies and in some cases replacement with a suggested alternative. It is not considered that these changes taken as a whole fundamentally impact on the wider objectives of the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Plan.
- 4.8. The Examiner's report recommends that the Referendum Area be restricted to the Neighbourhood Plan Area, i.e. the Town Council boundary, as the Plan does not have a substantial, direct and demonstrable impact beyond the Neighbourhood Area. Assuming the Cabinet approve the Plan to proceed to referendum, the Councils Electoral Services will administer this process in line with the Neighbourhood Plan Regulations, which specifies that this should take place no more than 56 days from publication of the decision statement. Taking into account the necessary notice periods it is considered the referendum will take place between 30th November 2023 and 11th January 2024. It is considered there is little risk to the Council if this process follows the regulations closely.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. The Localism Act and Regulations provide that the following costs would fall to Shropshire Council: delivering a supporting role particularly in the latter stages of the Plan's development; appointing an Examiner for the Plan; conducting an Examination and holding a Referendum. Current provisions allow an application for these additional costs to be met, and a reimbursement of the costs will therefore be sought from Central Government. From previous experience of organising and managing Neighbourhood Planning referendums, it is considered that the likely cost of this process will be met in full by the reimbursement.
- 5.2. It is considered likely the robustness of the Neighbourhood Plan Policies will be tested over time by independent Planning Inspectors on Planning Appeals made under Section 78 of the TCPA 1990. Members are advised that the liability for the future appeal costs rests with Shropshire Council as the Local Planning Authority and as such the usability of such plans and their impact on local decision making will need to be carefully monitored. However, it should be noted that in seeking approval to proceed to referendum on this Plan, there is agreement that the content of the Neighbourhood Development Plan is in broad conformity with the policies of Shropshire's adopted Local Plan. It is therefore considered that there is very limited risk to Shropshire Council and additional financial liability as a result of this report and recommendations.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.1. **Energy and fuel consumption:** The recommendations propose that Cabinet agree to proceed to referendum with the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Development Plan. If successful at referendum, and the Plan is subsequently adopted by the Council, it will become part of the statutory Development Plan for the area and will be used in the determination of planning applications. Policy CM6 of the Plan requires housing proposal to demonstrate they have had regard to the Plans good residential design principals, which includes reference to the provision of energy efficient homes.
- 6.2. **Renewable energy generation:** The Plans good residential design principals supported through Policy CM6 encourages the use of renewable energy.
- 6.3. **Carbon offsetting and mitigation:** The referendum version of the Plan includes an objective seeking carbon neutral development and the Plans good design principles, supported by Policy CM6 seeks to encourage the use of materials, design, orientation, and technology which has a zero-carbon impact.
- 6.4. **Climate change adaptation:** Whilst not specifically identified within the Neighbourhood Development Plan, the Plan is in general conformity with the current adopted Local Plan and the emerging Local Plan Review, which includes a positive policy framework for mitigating and adapting to the impacts on climate change.

7. Background

- 7.1. Shropshire Council support Neighbourhood Development Plans being brought forward under the Localism Act and the 2012 Neighbourhood Planning Regulations, indeed the Council is legally obliged to do so. The Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) supports the principle of Neighbourhood Plans and their status as part of the Development Plan. The NPPF states "Neighbourhood plans should support the delivery of strategic policies contained in the local plans or spatial development strategies; and should shape and direct development that is outside of these strategic policies". It is also made clear that Neighbourhood Development Plans should not promote less development than set out in the strategic policies for the area or undermine those strategic policies.
- 7.2. Neighbourhood Development Plans must follow a defined regulatory process in both their preparation and adoption. This includes the formal designation of the area (Regulation 6 stage), the consultation on a draft version of the Plan (Regulation 14 stage), submission to the Local Planning Authority (Regulation 15 stage), and consultation and examination of the Final Draft version of the Plan (Regulation 16 stage).
- 7.3. Cleobury Mortimer Town Council formally requested that the parish of Cleobury Mortimer be designed as a Neighbourhood Area in July 2017 and following a period of consultation was formally agreed by Shropshire Council in May 2018. A Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group was established locally to undertake the preparation of the Plan. This group included representatives from the Town Council and community members. From an early point in this process the Steering Group provided positive opportunities for the local community to have their say in the vision and objectives of the Plan through a range of means, including public meetings, circulation of a newsletter, flyers, conduction of a community survey. Information was also provided on the Town Councils website and social media throughout the process.
- 7.4. Between 12th July to 27th August 2021 Cleobury Mortimer Town Council undertook a statutory six-week consultation into the pre-submission version of the Neighbourhood Development Plan (Regulation 14 stage). This consultation was suspended due to the landowner's withdrawal of their sites for the proposed housing allocations. The pre-submission version of the Neighbourhood Development Plan was updated following a further call for sites and a fresh statutory consultation was carried out between 27th May to 11th July 2022. The draft version of the Plan responded to the initial community consultation and survey results and included a proposed housing allocation site and a number of development management policies.
- 7.5. In November 2022 Cleobury Mortimer Town Council submitted the Neighbourhood Development Plan to Shropshire Council (Regulation 15 stage), along with the required Consultation Statement and Basic Conditions Statements. In meeting our statutory requirement, Shropshire Council proceeded to carry out the Regulation 16 stage consultation between 16th January 2023 to 10th March 2023 with statutory consultees and other locally interested individuals and organisations. In May 2023 Tony Burton was appointed to examine the Plan. As required by the Regulations, the appointment was agreed by Cleobury Mortimer Town Council.
- 7.6. Mr Burton's examination of the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Development Plan was carried out by written representations only. As well as the Plan

documents, Mr Burton also considered the representations made to the Regulation 16 stage consultation. The conclusions of this consultation were subsequently considered in the Examiner's final report. Officers have liaised with Cleobury Mortimer Town Council on the updated version of the Plan, which takes account of the conclusions of the Examiner's report and they are satisfied that this version of the Plan should now proceed to referendum.

- 7.7. If Cabinet agree for the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Development Plan to proceed to referendum, the question will be:

Do you want Shropshire Council to use the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Plan to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?

- 7.8. The Plan will need to gain the support of over 50% of those who cast a vote to be able to move forward to be 'made' (adopted) by Shropshire Council. If this is the case the decision to 'make' the Plan will need to be taken to Full Council. A date for the referendum will be formalised after 18th October 2023 assuming the recommendations are agreed.

8. Additional Information

- 8.1. The appendices to this report provide information on the Examiner's report into the Neighbourhood Plan, the proposed modifications, and the final 'referendum' version of the Plan which incorporates all the required modifications.

9. Conclusions

- 9.1. Further to the outcomes of the Examiner's report into the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Development Plan, it is recommended that all the necessary modifications are agreed and that the final version of the Plan proceed to local referendum.

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

Cabinet Report 02nd May 2018 – application by Cleobury Mortimer Town Council to be considered as a Neighbourhood Plan Area

Local Member: Cllr Gwilym Butler and Cllr Simon Harris

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Examiner's Report

Appendix 2 – Schedule of Modifications

Appendix 3 – Final 'referendum' version of Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Plan

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CLEOBURY MORTIMER NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Report to Shropshire Council of the Independent Examination

By Independent Examiner, Tony Burton CBE BA MPhil (Town Planning) HonFRIBA FRSA

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August 2023

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1. Executive Summary

1. I was appointed by Shropshire Council with the support of Cleobury Mortimer Town Council to carry out the independent examination of the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Plan.

2. I undertook the examination by reviewing the Plan documents and written representations, and by making an unaccompanied visit to the Neighbourhood Area.

3. I consider the Plan to be an adequate expression of the community's views and ambitions for Cleobury Mortimer. It is based on an effective programme of public consultation which has informed a Vision to 2038 supported by plan objectives. This is to be achieved through a set of seven objectives and eight planning policies largely dealing with issues distinct to the locality. The Plan is supported by a Consultation Statement and Basic Conditions Statement and a Strategic Environmental Assessment. A Habitats Regulations Assessment is not required and the consequences of the Appropriate Assessment undertaken for the emerging Local Plan have been addressed by inclusion of a relevant policy. There is supporting evidence provided and, notwithstanding mixed views about the residential site allocation, there is evidence of community support and the involvement of the local planning authority.

4. I have considered the seven separate representations made on the submitted Plan. These are addressed in this report as appropriate.

5. Subject to the recommended modifications set out in this report I conclude that the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Plan meets all the necessary legal requirements, including satisfying the Basic Conditions. I make a number of additional optional recommendations.

6. I recommend that the modified Plan should proceed to Referendum and that this should be held within the Neighbourhood Area of Cleobury Mortimer parish.

2. Introduction

7. This report sets out the findings of my independent examination of the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Plan. The Plan was submitted to Shropshire Council by Cleobury Mortimer Town Council as the Qualifying Body.

8. I was appointed as the independent examiner of the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Plan by Shropshire Council with the agreement of Cleobury Mortimer Town Council.

9. I am independent of both Cleobury Mortimer Town Council and Shropshire Council. I do not have any interest in any land that may be affected by the Plan. I possess the appropriate qualifications and experience to undertake this role.

10. My role is to examine the neighbourhood plan and recommend whether it should proceed to referendum. A recommendation to proceed is predicated on the Plan meeting all legal requirements as submitted or in a modified form, and on the Plan addressing the required modifications recommended in this report.

11. As part of this process I must consider whether the submitted Plan meets the Basic Conditions as set out in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended). To comply with the Basic Conditions, the Plan must:

- have regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State; and
- contribute to the achievement of sustainable development; and
- be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan in the area; and
- be compatible with European Union (EU) and European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) obligations, including the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

12. An additional Basic Condition was introduced by Regulations 32 and 33 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) in 2018 that the making of the neighbourhood development plan does not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. I am also required to make a number of other checks under paragraph 8(1) of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

13. In undertaking this examination I have considered the following documents as the most significant in arriving at my recommendations:

- the submitted Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Plan
- the Basic Conditions Statement
- the Consultation Statement
- the Strategic Environmental Assessment
- the relevant parts of the development plan comprising the Shropshire Core Strategy (2006-2026) and Shropshire Site Allocations and Management of Development (SAMDev) Plan (2006-2026)
- relevant parts of the draft Shropshire Local Plan 2016-2038, currently at Examination
- representations made on the submitted neighbourhood plan
- relevant material held on the Cleobury Mortimer Town Council and Shropshire Council websites
- National Planning Policy Framework (2021)
- Planning Practice Guidance
- relevant Ministerial Statements

14. The Plan was largely prepared under an earlier version of the National Planning Policy Framework than that used for my examination but the second Regulation 14 consultation on the draft Plan took place after the most recent NPPF's publication in July 2021 and this is the version addressed in the Basic Conditions Statement.

15. No representations were received requesting a public hearing and having considered the documents provided and the representations on the submitted Plan I was satisfied that the examination could be undertaken by written representations without the need for a hearing.

16. I carried out an unaccompanied visit to the Neighbourhood Area on a weekend during May. I visited the main locations addressed in the Plan, including the proposed changes to the development boundary and the sites allocated for residential, employment and cemetery use. I visited a mixture of old and new development in Cleobury Mortimer and its Conservation Area as well as experiencing some of the surrounding countryside and small settlements.

17. Throughout this report my recommended modifications are bulleted. Where modifications to policies are recommended they are highlighted in **bold** print with new wording in “speech marks”. Existing wording is in *italics*. Modifications are also recommended to some parts of the supporting text. These recommended modifications are numbered from M1 and are necessary for the Plan to meet the Basic Conditions. A number of modifications are not essential for the Plan to meet the Basic Conditions and these are indicated by [square brackets]. These optional modifications are numbered from OM1.

18. Producing the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Plan has clearly involved significant effort over many years led by the Steering Group. The process began in 2018 and is informed by significant community involvement. There is evidence of collaboration with Shropshire Council and continuing this will be important in ensuring implementation of the Plan. The commitment of all those who have worked so hard over such a long period of time to prepare the Plan is to be commended and I would like to thank all those at Shropshire Council and Cleobury Mortimer Town Council who have supported this examination process.

3. Compliance with matters other than the Basic Conditions

19. I am required to check compliance of the Plan with a number of matters.

Qualifying body

20. The neighbourhood plan has been prepared by a suitable Qualifying Body – Cleobury Mortimer Town Council – which being a town council is the only organisation that can prepare a neighbourhood plan for the area.

Neighbourhood Area

21. I am satisfied that the Plan relates to the development and use of land for a designated neighbourhood area which comprises the parish area of Cleobury Mortimer Town Council and was agreed by Shropshire Council and became effective on 15 May 2018.

22. The boundary of the neighbourhood area is shown in Figure 1. This is not at a scale that allows the detailed boundary to be determined and provision of a link to where the boundary is available at a larger scale would be helpful. The Key to Figure 1 is misleading in showing the boundary as “*Cleobury Mortimer CP*”. Although the parish boundary and neighbourhood area are coincident the purpose of Figure 1 is to show the neighbourhood area.

- M1 – Amend the title and key to Figure 1 to read “Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Area” and provide a link to where the boundary can be viewed at a larger scale

Land use issues

23. I am satisfied that the Plan’s policies relate to relevant land use planning issues.

Plan period

24. The period of the neighbourhood plan runs from 2020 to 2038 and the 2038 end date aligns with the period of the Shropshire Local Plan review. It is also the period of the Plan's Vision. The period is shown on the cover and included in a header on each page of the Plan.

Excluded development

25. I am satisfied that the neighbourhood plan makes no provisions for excluded development (such as national infrastructure, minerals extraction or waste).

4. Consultation

26. I have reviewed the Consultation Statement and relevant information provided on the Cleobury Mortimer Town Council website. This provides a clear record of the consultation process that has been undertaken since a visioning event in January 2018. The process was guided by a Steering Group which included a mix of town councillors and interested members of the public. The public consultation process has been adequately open and transparent.

27. A number of different engagement methods have been used, including newsletters, public meetings, use of the Town Council website and the Big Cleobury Survey promoted online and through posters, newsletters, advertisements and social media. Regular updates on progress with the Plan were provided. The Plan was informed by two calls for sites and meetings with landowners and other interests were held.

28. Participation levels have been good with more than 500 households responding to the Big Cleobury Survey and significant interest in some of the consultation events. There is evidence of support from the public for the approach presented in the Plan with more mixed views over the residential site allocation.

29. An early consultation was held in Spring 2019 ahead of formal Regulation 14 consultation on the draft Plan intended to run between 12 July and 27 August 2021. This was suspended following withdrawal of landowner support for two of the sites allocated for housing. A further call for sites was undertaken during the remainder of 2021. A second formal Regulation 14 consultation was undertaken on the revised Plan from 27 May 2022 and the last response accepted was on 1 November 2022. This consultation included a flyer being distributed to all households and local advertising. A hard copy was made available for public access and informal drop-in sessions about the Plan were held. There is evidence of the consultation including the required statutory and other consultees and more than 30 responses were received. The Consultation Statement summarises the issues raised and

details how they have been responded to. Changes to the Plan were made as a result of public consultation.

30. Seven representations have been made on the submitted Plan including from, statutory bodies and two national charities. All the representations have been considered and are addressed as appropriate in this report.

31. I am satisfied with the evidence of the public consultation undertaken in preparing the Plan since 2018. The Plan has been subject to wide public consultation at different stages in its development. Participation rates have generally been adequate. The process has allowed community input to shape the Plan as it has developed and as proposals have been firmed up. Local landowners, development interests and the local planning authority have been engaged through the process.

5. General comments on the Plan's presentation

Community Vision and Objectives

32. The Plan includes a Vision to be delivered through seven objectives and eight planning policies. The Vision is widely drawn and addresses the area's future environmental, social and economic needs. It is consistent with sustainable development and reflects the feedback received through consultation.

Other issues

33. The Plan is clearly structured and presented. Policies are distinguished from the rest of the Plan by being presented in distinctively coloured boxes. The same boxes are used for the design and environmental principles and I recommend a different presentation for these.

34. There are a small number of presentational issues. A variety of photographs are provided throughout the document. Their location is not identified and some create awkward page breaks (such as page 13). There are a few prominent issues regarding spelling – e.g. Foreword and Environmental and Design Principles. Paragraph 10 is missing and paragraphs 75 and 76 run horizontally contrary to the rest of the document where paragraph numbering runs vertically. There are some examples of different point sizes being used (e.g. paragraph 135).

35. The Contents on page 3 omits the three main section headings – Introduction, About Cleobury Mortimer and Policies. Its structure also confusingly results in two “*Development Boundary*” headings.

- OM1 – [Address the presentational issues identified in this report]

36. The Plan includes references to a number of documents which comprise the evidence base. It does not provide details or links to many of these documents and there is no single source for the Plan's evidence base provided online. The majority of the evidence base documents are not made available on the Town Council's website.

- OM2 – [List all the evidence base documents used in the Plan in an Appendix along with links where available and consider providing a section of the Town Council’s website which brings together all the documents in the Plan’s evidence base into a single location]

6. Compliance with the Basic Conditions

National planning policy

37. The Plan is required to “*have regard*” to national planning policies and advice. This is addressed in the Basic Conditions statement which relates each of the Plan’s policies relevant paragraphs in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (July 2021) and provides a short commentary. No conflicts are identified and it is stated that the analysis “*provides a summary of how CMNDP policies conform to the NPPF*”. The assessment omits Policy CM8 which was included late in the plan-making process. I requested an update to the Basic Conditions Statement to address this and one was provided. The assessment identified no conflicts. Overall the analysis does serve to demonstrate that appropriate consideration has been given to national planning policy.

38. I address some conflicts with national planning policy in my consideration of individual policies and recommend some modifications. There are also some areas where the drafting of the Plan’s policies needs to be amended in order to meet the National Planning Policy Framework’s requirement for plans to provide a clear framework within which decisions on planning applications can be made. The policies should give a clear indication of “*how a decision maker should react to development proposals*” (paragraph 16). It is also important for the Plan to address the requirement expressed in national planning policy and Planning Practice Guidance that “*A policy in a neighbourhood plan should be clear and unambiguous. It should be drafted with sufficient clarity that a decision maker can apply it consistently and with confidence when determining planning applications. It should be concise, precise and supported by appropriate evidence. It should be distinct to reflect and respond to the unique characteristics and planning context of the specific neighbourhood area for which it has been prepared.*” (NPPG Paragraph: 041 Reference ID: 41-041-20140306). The Plan’s policies do not always meet these requirements and a number of recommended modifications are made as a result.

39. Generally, I conclude that the Plan has regard to national planning policy and guidance but there are exceptions as set out in my comments below. These cover both

conflicts with national planning policy and the need for some policies to be more clearly expressed and/or evidenced or for duplication with other planning policies to be avoided.

40. I am satisfied that the Plan meets this Basic Condition other than where identified in my detailed comments and recommended modifications to the Plan policies.

Sustainable development

41. The Plan must *“contribute to the achievement of sustainable development”*. This is addressed in the Basic Conditions Statement by identifying which Plan policies contribute to each of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. It concludes that *“The plan will serve an economic, social and environmental objective”*

42. The assessment is exceptionally brief. Policy CM4 amending the development boundary also has economic and environmental implications and the analysis omits Policy CM8. I requested an update to the Basic Conditions Statement to address this and one was provided.

43. Although the Basic Conditions Statement provides a bare minimum of information my own assessment of the Plan is that the overall contribution of the Plan to sustainable development is positive and it meets the Basic Condition.

Development plan

44. The Plan must be *“in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan”*. The Basic Conditions Statement addresses this by describing how the most relevant Local Plan policies and those in the emerging Local Plan are addressed in the neighbourhood plan. It notes areas of difference, such as amendments to the development boundary, and some instances where changes have been made to ensure conformity.

45. The assessment states that the Plan is in *“conformity”*. The approach is high level and does not address specific Plan policies.

46. Shropshire Council made representations on the consultation draft Plan. These did not raise material general conformity issues and when a view on the submitted Plan was requested it said *“Shropshire Council does consider the submitted Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Plan to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the current and emerging development plan”*.

47. In the absence of strong evidence in the Basic Condition Statement I have paid particular attention to general conformity in my own assessment of each of the Plan’s policies. I am satisfied the Plan meets this Basic Condition other than where identified in my detailed comments and recommended modifications to the Plan policies.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

48. The Plan must be informed by a Strategic Environmental Assessment if it is likely to have significant environmental effects. Following advice from Shropshire Council, Cleobury Mortimer Town Council published a full Strategic Environment Assessment prepared by AECOM. This addressed options for the two main site allocations as well as the Plan’s other policies. It concludes that *“Overall, the delivery of up to 120 new homes and additional employment land, alongside the cemetery expansion and a new community recreation place is predicted to deliver predominately positive effects overall in relation to the SEA objectives”*. I am satisfied by the robustness of the Strategic Environment Assessment.

49. Natural England, Environment Agency and Historic England provided responses to the SEA scoping report. Environment Agency has identified a constraint impacting Policy CM2 which is addressed later in this report. No other issues have been identified following publication of the SEA.

50. I conclude that the Plan meets this Basic Condition.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

51. The Plan must be informed by a Habitats Regulations Assessment if it is likely to lead to significant negative effects on protected European sites. The Basic Conditions Statement explains that no such assessment has been undertaken because *“the neighbourhood area is*

not in close proximity to any European site". The nearest site is over 18km away. I note that Natural England's representation on the draft Plan state that *"We are not aware of significant populations of protected species which are likely to be affected by the policies/proposals within the plan"*. I requested further information on the decision not to screen for a Habitats Regulations Assessment. This confirmed the view of Shropshire Council that the Plan does not impact on any designated sites.

52. The Government's guidance on Habitats Regulations Assessments is that *"you only need to carry out an HRA if the proposal might affect a European site"* and Planning Practice Guidance is also clear that the requirements of the Habitats and Birds Directives *"may"* apply (Paragraph: 078 Reference ID: 41-078-20140306). An Assessment is not a universal requirement. Natural England has raised no issue regarding the Habitats Regulation Assessment.

53. I conclude that the Plan meets this Basic Condition.

Other European obligations

54. The Plan must be compatible with European Union (EU) and European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) obligations. The Basic Conditions Statement does not directly address this issue but no evidence challenging compatibility has been presented. My assessment is that there has been adequate opportunity for those with an interest in the Plan to make their views known and representations have been handled in an appropriate manner with changes made to the Plan.

55. I conclude that the Plan meets this Basic Condition.

7. Detailed comments on the Plan policies

56. This section of the report reviews and makes recommendations on each of the Plan's policies to ensure that they meet the Basic Conditions. I make comments on all policies in order to provide clarity on whether each meets the Basic Conditions. Some of the supporting text, headings and the Contents will need to be amended to take account of the recommended modifications.

57. The context for the first four policies is the emerging draft Local Plan's development strategy for Cleobury Mortimer provided in Policy S6.1 which identifies both a quantum of residential and employment development and the role of the neighbourhood plan in accommodating it:

"1. Cleobury Mortimer will act as a Key Centre and contribute towards strategic growth objectives in the south of the County, providing around 200 dwellings and around 2 hectares of employment development over the plan period. New housing and employment development will respond to local needs.

2. Neighbourhood Plan is being progressed for the Cleobury Mortimer Parish area. The Neighbourhood Plan will include the strategy for achieving the housing and employment guidelines for the Key Centre of Cleobury Mortimer.

3. New residential development will primarily be delivered through the saved SAMDev residential allocations and any residential development allocated within the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Plan.....

4. New employment development will be delivered through the saved SAMDev employment allocation and any employment development allocated within the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Plan."

58. Additionally, the supporting text to the emerging Local Plan states *“Should the Neighbourhood Plan propose site allocations and alterations to the development boundary the Policies map will be amended to reflect these changes”* (paragraph 5.95).

59. **Policy CM1** – This allocates land for both residential and cemetery use, establishes a capacity for 120 new homes and provides a range of relevant planning considerations to inform future development.

60. The site allocation would meet the outstanding requirement for 120 homes alongside the 80 completions to meet the Local Plan requirement for 200 homes in the neighbourhood area. Policy CM1 takes a different approach to the emerging Local Plan which anticipates a proportion of the outstanding residential requirement being met by *“appropriate small-scale windfall residential development within the Cleobury Mortimer development boundary”* (Policy S6.1). The Plan states that *“It is unlikely that the requirement for 120 dwellings can be met through windfall development”* and in doing so acknowledges that any windfall development that does take place *“will be in excess of the identified need”*. (paragraph 129). Current Local Plan Policy MD3 and emerging Local Plan Policy SP7 both state that the Local Plan housing requirements are a *“significant policy consideration”* while acknowledging that additional development may come forward which exceeds the requirement. Additional policy considerations are provided to be considered in such circumstances.

61. The Plan provides no evidence on how much of the housing requirement can be expected to be met through windfall development and the policy approach is one that meets the housing requirement without any windfall development. This compares to an emerging Local Plan which makes a windfall allowance of 120 homes. I requested any further information on the assumptions around windfall development and was told by Cleobury Mortimer Town Council that *“it was clear that there was not capacity for 120 homes”*. It was stated that the number of homes could not be accurately calculated because of uncertainty over where the land would come from. This is, however, the essence of a windfall site. Such sites are defined as *“sites not specifically identified in the development plan”* (NPPF, Glossary). No further justification was provided. In light of the

fact that Policy CM1 will almost certainly result in the housing requirement for Cleobury Mortimer being exceeded I have considered whether this is in strategic conformity with existing and emerging development plan policy and has appropriate regard to national planning policy.

62. National planning policy is for strategic policies to establish the *“minimum number of homes needed”* (paragraph 61, NPPF) and both the existing and emerging Local Plan recognise that housing requirements may be exceeded. In the event that additional development does come forward the additional policy considerations in the Local Plan will apply. Additionally, the emerging Local Plan explicitly recognises that the neighbourhood plan may choose to allocate additional land and make amendments to the development boundary.

63. This understanding is shared by Shropshire Council when I invited its views on the potential conflict. It said *“Policy MD3 (2) of the adopted SAMDev Plan and draft Policy SP7 (3) of the emerging Local Plan state that the settlement guideline is a significant policy consideration, but allow for the opportunity for these guideline to be exceeded where certain considerations are met. In this regard the opportunity for additional residential windfall is in conformity with both these policies. It should also be noted that the Neighbourhood Plan’s period is largely consistent with the emerging Local Plan period to 2038. The Examining Inspectors in their Initial Findings letter of February 2023 stated that the housing requirement for the County should be identified as a minimum, rather than an ‘around’ figure. The Council will be proposing to accept this conclusion, and this would add further support to additional windfall, where appropriate, being considered in conformity with the emerging Local Plan position”*.

64. I am satisfied that despite Policy CM1 most likely resulting in a level of housing development that exceeds the Local Plan housing requirement and despite this being a *“significant policy consideration”* and there being no evidence provided that significant windfall development will not come forward there is nevertheless no conflict causing the Plan to conflict with the Basic Conditions.

65. The selection of the site identified in Policy CM1 is explained by a detailed statement of *“Evidence on Residential Site Allocations”* submitted with the Plan. It was informed by site assessments undertaken by Shropshire Council as part of the Local Plan process and two call for sites. The second call for sites followed the landowner’s withdrawal of the preferred site included in plan initially published for Regulation 14 consultation in 2021.

66. Four sites were considered against a range of criteria and the results of this assessment are provided in the evidence base. The chosen site scores significantly better than the alternatives. The Strategic Environment Assessment also considered these sites and three sites that have come through the Local Plan site assessment process as part of its consideration of reasonable alternatives. The chosen site performs better than the three other sites that came forward in the call for sites and is preferred amongst all the alternatives for the way it can integrate with the cemetery expansion.

67. There were objections from residents to the site allocation during the Regulation 14 consultation but none have been made in relation to the submitted Plan. It is acknowledged that the chosen site is less preferable to that originally proposed but it has the benefit of being deliverable.

68. There is an overlap between the site allocated in Policy CM1 and that withdrawn at an earlier stage by the landowner. I sought clarification on this matter to be confident in the deliverability of the site and was informed that the site included in the Plan had been resubmitted by the landowner.

69. The site capacity based on an assumption of 30 dwellings per hectare is broadly consistent with the Local Plan even allowing for the expectation of a significant area of open space.

70. There is duplication between Policy CM1 and Policy CM2 as both allocate land for the cemetery extension and require its provision as part of the build out of any future residential consent. The provision of cemetery space can be achieved through a number of routes and need not necessarily involve a transfer of ownership.

71. Parts B, C, D and F overlap with and duplicate other Plan policies. The considerations in Part C do not all relate to *“fabric energy efficiency”* and along with Part D are addressed in Policy CM7. The decision over the appropriateness of the provision for play and recreation in Part E iii. is a matter for the local planning authority and the Town Council has no formal status. A tree planting strategy will be required for the whole site, including the proposed corridor.

72. Representations from Severn Trent support inclusion of reference to sustainable urban drainage and propose a more detailed and prescriptive wording. I recommend more minor changes to the drafting which avoid being unduly restrictive and addressing more detail than intended.

73. The policy drafting is unduly restrictive in stating what *“will”* be provided. I also recommend a consistent structure to the policies which relates the lettered policy considerations to the first paragraph.

74. The site is shown in Figure 13. This does not locate either the access from Ludlow Road or the pond near Catherton Road. It also does not adequately represent the *“tree shelter belts”*, *“wildlife corridor”* and *“accessible open/green space”* included in Policy CM1 and there is an overlap between these and inconsistent use of terms. Figure 13 lacks a scale and its role in illustrating the allocation of land for a cemetery extension in Policy C2 can be more clearly presented. The continuation of the existing development boundary at either end should also be shown.

75. The benefit of a tree shelter belt will extend to more properties than *“No 10 Catherton Road”*. I also recommend some other minor improvements to the drafting.

76. Policy CM1 does not meet the Basic Conditions

- **M2 – Amend Policy CM1 to:**
 - **In the first paragraph**

- replace “5.7” with “5.2”
 - delete “*cemetery extension*”
 - add “subject to the following” at end
 - Replace A. with “0.5 hectares of land allocated in Policy CM2 and shown in Figure 13 will be provided as cemetery space before completion of the 20th dwelling”
 - Delete Parts B, C and D
 - Replace “*will*” with “*should*” in Parts E, F, G and I
 - Delete “*No. 10*” in Part Ei.
 - Delete from “*in*” to end in Part Eiii.
 - Replace Part F with “A tree planting strategy should be provided and existing trees and hedgerows should be preserved wherever possible”
 - In Part H replace “*should resist adding to surface water run-off*” with “additional surface water run-off avoided”
 - Insert “; and” at end of penultimate Part
- M3 – Amend Figure 13 to:
 - Clearly distinguish between the allocation of land for residential development in Policy CM1 and for a cemetery extension in Policy CM2
 - Identify what is currently shown as “*accessible open space*” as the “wildlife corridor”
 - Identify what is currently shown as “*wildlife corridor and footpath*” as the “walking and cycling route”
 - Show the location of the access point from Ludlow Road
 - Show the location of the pond near Catherton Road
 - Show the location of the tree shelter belts
 - Provide a scale
 - Show the existing development boundary where it continues unchanged at either end of the revised boundary

77. **Policy CM2** – This allocates land for a cemetery extension and provides a range of relevant planning considerations.

78. Although not referenced in the supporting text the need for *“additional burial land”* is identified in Shropshire Council’s Place Plan for Cleobury Mortimer and its surrounding area (page 13). The Policy is supported by a brief analysis of likely future needs based on an assessment of existing capacity and future demand. The allocation would comprise a second extension to the original cemetery. It became clear during the Plan’s preparation that recent Government guidance on protecting groundwater will restrict use of the cemetery and prevent human burials. I requested further information on the evidence base used to support the allocation and the impact of the new guidance on future capacity. I was informed that the area of land to be allocated was not altered so as to provide reasonable flexibility as to how it is used, including in conjunction with the existing cemetery. I consider this to be a reasonable approach.

79. As with Policy CM1 the policy drafting is unduly restrictive in stating what *“will”* be provided and I recommend a consistent structure to how the policies relate the lettered policy considerations to the first paragraph.

80. The need for the cemetery space to be provided as part of the delivery of new homes on the adjacent site is now addressed in Policy CM1 and reference to this should be provided in the supporting text and not repeated in the Policy. The detail of how the site can be used is not directly a planning consideration and is controlled by a permit issued by the Environment Agency. A working link should be provided in footnote 16. The treatment of the site allocation in Figure 13 is addressed in my proposed modifications relating to Policy CM1.

81. Policy CM2 does not meet the Basic Conditions.

- **M4 - Amend Policy CM2 to:**
 - **Delete *“requirements”* at the end of the second line**

- **Delete Part A and make reference to this requirement in Policy CM1 in the supporting text**
- **Replace “will” with “should” in Parts B. and C.**
- **Insert “; and” at end of penultimate Part**
- **Replace Part D. with “Use of the land as a cemetery complies with the requirements of the relevant Government guidance on protecting groundwater from human burials” and provide a working link**

82. **Policy CM3** – This allocates 1.3ha of employment land and provides a range of relevant planning considerations.

83. The Policy provides for the additional employment land necessary to meet emerging Local Plan Policy S6.1’s requirement for *“around 2 hectares of employment development”* in Cleobury Mortimer.

84. The selection of the site identified in Policy CM3 is explained by a detailed statement of *“Evidence on Employment Land Site Allocations”* submitted with the Plan. It informed by site assessments undertaken by Shropshire Council which initially identified 10 potential sites for residential and/or employment development. Further assessments of their suitability for residential use were undertaken and the neighbourhood plan was identified as the most appropriate mechanism to determine final allocations and the approach to these. The Strategic Environment Assessment considered the two main options for employment sites as reasonable alternatives. It found only marginal differences with some advantages in the chosen site for its integration with existing employment land. Consultation on the Plan demonstrated clear support for the allocated site, which involves the expansion of an existing employment area. I was provided with correspondence confirming the landowner is supportive. I am content with the approach to site selection and have received no contrary views.

85. The Policy does not specify the Use Classes considered appropriate for the proposed employment uses. Given the intention to align with the emerging Local Plan and the need

for clarity I recommend alignment with those identified in emerging Local Plan Policy SP13.2. This can be addressed in the supporting text.

86. The Town Council has proposed a restructuring of the Policy to separate the designation of the land from the subsequent criteria. I am nevertheless content with the general approach in the submitted document and do not recommend making a structural change to the Policy which has been subject to public consultation. As with Policy CM1 the policy drafting is unduly restrictive in stating what “*will*” be provided and I recommend a consistent structure to how the policies relate the lettered policy considerations to the first paragraph, including confirming all Parts need to be considered.

87. Provision of superfast broadband is not directly a planning consideration. It is appropriate to expect developments to be designed in such a way that it can be provided and I recommend a modification to Part E to address this. Part G specifies a need to achieve a BREEAM Good rating on major development. BREEAM is a voluntary standard and there is no evidence presented as to why it should be required by planning policy due to specific circumstances within the neighbourhood area. National planning policy is that “*any local requirements for the sustainability of buildings should reflect the Government’s policy for national technical standards*” (NPPF, paragraph 154) and the Plan can support but not require development to deliver higher voluntary standards.

88. Part I duplicates emerging Local Plan policy and the detail of this may be amended before the new Local Plan is adopted. Given that pollution issues are already addressed in national planning policy (e.g. paragraph 185, NPPF) and no additional evidence specific to the neighbourhood area is provided, this part of the Policy serves no clear purpose.

89. Representations from Severn Trent support inclusion of reference to sustainable urban drainage in Part J. and propose a more detailed and prescriptive wording. I recommend more minor changes to the drafting which avoid being unduly restrictive and addressing more detail than intended. There is no evidence provided as to why “*natural water management techniques*” should be used to provide sustainable urban drainage. Such an approach can be supported, as in Policy CM1, but not required. I was informed that

the reference to *“natural water management techniques”* is intended to be a reference to *“natural flood management”* as advocated by Environment Agency and this can be addressed by providing an appropriate reference in the supporting text. Other small improvements to the drafting will improve clarity of the Policy.

90. The site is shown in Figure 14. From my visit it is apparent that the boundaries are not obvious on the ground and a larger scale map enabling the detailed boundary to be determined is required to provide necessary clarity. Figure 14 shows a gap between the site boundary and the proposed development boundary when they should be coincident. The approximate location of the footway in Part D should be identified in Figure 14. To ensure the Policy is deliverable this footway should also be required to be provided before occupation of the development. The Figure also lacks a scale. The location is identified as *“Tenbury Road Employment Site”* in the Policy and *“Tenbury Road employment area”* in Figure 14 and this should be consistent.

91. Policy CM3 does not meet the Basic Conditions.

- **M5 – Amend Policy CM3 to:**
 - **Replace the title and first two lines with:**
**“Extension of Tenbury Road employment area
1.3 ha of land is allocated at Tenbury Road employment area , shown in Figure
14, for provision of employment uses subject to the following:”**
 - **Replace “will” with “should” in Parts A, C, D and H**
 - **Replace “to attract new and local businesses and should seek to add to the” with “capable of attracting new and local businesses and should support” in Part A**
 - **Insert “before occupation of the extension land” after “provided” in Part D**
 - **Replace Part E with “Provision for superfast broadband to all premises should be designed in where possible”**
 - **Delete “Commercial” and add “will be supported” to the end of Part F**
 - **Delete “Where” and replace “are being undertaken, maximising” with “should maximise” in Part G**

- **Delete Part I.**
 - **Insert “; and” at end of penultimate Part**
 - **Delete “*use natural water management techniques to*” and insert “and use of natural water management techniques will be supported” at end of Part J.**
- M6 - Amend Figure 14 to:
 - Provide a map at sufficient scale to enable to detailed boundary to be determined
 - Show the location of the new footway
 - Provide a scale
 - Show the site boundary and revised development boundary as coincident
 - Show the existing development boundary where it continues unchanged at either end of the revised boundary
 - M7 – In the supporting text:
 - Explain that Policy CM3 relates to the employment uses identified in emerging Local Plan Policy SP13. 2.
 - Provide an Environment Agency reference for “*natural water management techniques*”

92. **Policy CM4** – This amends the development boundary to accommodate the site allocations made in the Plan.

93. Amendment through the neighbourhood plan of the development boundary as defined in the existing and emerging Local Plan is consistent with the Local Plan’s strategic approach. The emerging Local Plan states “*Should the Neighbourhood Plan propose site allocations and alterations to the development boundary the Policies map will be amended to reflect these changes*” (paragraph 5.95).

94. The Plan references Figure 15 as showing the revised boundary and Figure 21 as showing how the changes to the boundary should be made. Neither Figure is present in the Plan. On request I was given corrected numbering but the supporting text does not relate

to the revised Figures. Figure 13 shows only the amended development boundary along Ludlow Road and Figure 14 shows only the revised development boundary for the Tenbury Road employment area.

95. Although the development boundary amendments are evident in Figures 13 and 14 the inclusion of a Figure showing the full boundary and where it is being amended will provide helpful clarity to the Plan.

96. The Policy drafting references specific Local Plan policies which are likely to be superseded by the emerging Local Plan very early in the Plan period. This is a potential source of confusion and I recommend a simpler approach which explains the development boundary in the supporting text. Shropshire Council has indicated the revised development boundary will be shown on an updated online Policies Map

97. Policy CM4 does not meet the Basic Conditions

- **M8 – Replace Policy CM4 with “The development boundary is amended to include the three site allocations in Figures 13 and 14 and is shown in Figure ??.”**
- M9 – Provide a new Figure showing the full development boundary as amended by the three site allocations and an appropriate link to the revised development plan Policies Map online
- M10 – Provide an explanation of where the development boundary is defined in the existing and emerging Local Plan in the supporting text and provide appropriate references to the Figures

98. **Policy CM5** – This specifies an 80/20% breakdown between market and affordable housing and proportions of bungalows, self-build homes and numbers of bedrooms within each category.

99. The Policy draws on the results of the Big Cleobury Survey and a housing need survey undertaken by Homepoint on behalf of Shropshire Council. Both surveys were undertaken in 2018. No details of or link to the Homepoint study was provided.

100. The breakdown between market and affordable housing duplicates that provided by emerging Local Plan Policy DP3. Policy DP3 applies only to “*sites of 0.5 ha or more; sites of 5 or more dwellings in designated rural areas; and sites of 10 or more dwellings*” whereas Policy CM5 includes no thresholds. This is consistent with neither the emerging Local Plan nor national planning policy (paragraph 64, NPPF). No evidence justifying a different approach is provided. There is also insufficient evidence in the Homepoint study or Big Cleobury Survey to justify prescribing the proportion of new homes that should be bungalows and as an evidence base this is not up to date. I recommend that the Policy addresses housing mix by reference to the most recent housing need study without prescribing the approach.

101. Policy CM5 does not meet the Basic Conditions.

- **M11 – Replace Policy CM5 with “New residential development proposals should demonstrate how the proposed housing mix will assist in meeting identified local needs.”**
- OM3 – [Provide details of and a link to the most recent housing need study for the area]

102. **Policy CM6** – This addresses the design of new housing by reference to local design principles and makes specific provisions for parking and electric vehicle charging points.

103. The main purpose of the Policy is to secure good residential design. This is done by expecting “*conformity with the Cleobury Mortimer Good Design Principles*”. The Principles have been developed by the Plan’s Steering Group. They do not have an explicit evidence base nor are they informed by specific consultation feedback or community input. Given

this, I consider the requirement that all new housing proposals “*demonstrates conformity*” to be unduly restrictive. The principles also apply generally to proposals and not just to “*masterplanning and detailed design*”.

104. Representations from Severn Trent support the inclusion of water as well as energy efficiency in the Principles. While this would be appropriate, its omission, as with other proposals made in Severn Trent’s representations, is not a matter for the Basic Conditions.

105. The Principles are provided in a tinted box very similar to those used for the Plan’s policies and using a similar tint. This is a source of potential confusion. They are presented as being of general application but apply only to residential development.

106. The individual principles are largely general in nature and require only minor drafting changes to improve their clarity and avoid unnecessary detail. Contrary to their title, they relate only to residential development.

107. Representations from British Horse Society express surprise at the lack of any mention of equestrians, horses or bridleways in the Plan. They highlight the inclusion of support for “*better access for people to the countryside*” in the Principles. I consider the drafting to include not only walkers and cyclists but also horse riders and other forms of access. The broader issues raised by these representations should be addressed through a future review.

108. The requirement to “*meet or exceed the minimum County Parking Standards*” serves no clear purpose. It duplicates existing standards and no evidence is provided for why these should be exceeded in the neighbourhood area. The Plan does not provide a reference for where the County Parking Standards can be found.

109. The desirability of providing electric vehicle charging points is best addressed within the Principles rather than as a separate part of the Policy and it is already addressed by Policy DP11 of the emerging Local Plan.

110. Policy CM6 does not meet the Basic Conditions.

- **M12 – Replace Policy CM6 with “All new housing proposals should demonstrate they have had regard to the Cleobury Mortimer Good Residential Design Principles”**
- M13 – Amend the Cleobury Mortimer Good Design Principles by:
 - Retitling them “Cleobury Mortimer Good Residential Design Principles”
 - In h. replacing “no” with “avoid use of” and delete from “netting” to end
 - In j. deleting “environmental surveys should” and insert “in environmental surveys” at end
 - Replacing n. with “Discourage anti-social parking where on-street parking is provided”
 - In r. replacing “Ensure that wherever possible” with “Ensure that”
 - Adding “Provide electric vehicle charging points”
 - Presenting the Principles in a form which can be clearly distinguished from the tinted boxes used for the Plan’s policies.

111. **Policy CM7** – This addresses the need for new development to improve the environment and biodiversity by reference to environmental principles and makes specific provisions for the tree canopy coverage to be achieved by major development.

112. The main purpose of the Policy is to secure environmental and biodiversity improvements. This is done by expecting “conformity with the Cleobury Mortimer environmental principals”. The Principles have been developed by the Plan’s Steering Group. They do not have an explicit evidence base nor are they informed by specific consultation feedback or community input. Given this, I consider the requirement that all new development “demonstrates conformity” to be unduly restrictive.

113. The individual principles are largely general in nature and require only minor drafting changes to improve their clarity and avoid unnecessary detail. The principles are not limited

to issues of *“biodiversity net gain”* as indicated by the Policy’s title. There will be some development in the neighbourhood area to which the Principles are not relevant.

114. The expectation of major development providing 20% tree canopy within 15 years lacks an evidence base and is not mentioned in the supporting text. I was informed that the approach expresses a community wish based on *“the community conversation that surrounded the production of the neighbourhood plan”*. This understandable wish does not provide the evidence needed to support a requirement that needs to be met by all major development. I consider the issue is best addressed within the Principles rather than as a separate part of the Policy and for it to be confirmed in the supporting text that the definition of *“major development”* is as provided in the National Planning Policy Framework.

115. Policy CM5 is referenced twice in paragraph 163 although it does not address issues relating to biodiversity net gain which is the subject of the paragraph. Policy CM6 and Policy CM7 are not mentioned although they do address issues relating to biodiversity net gain.

116. Policy CM7 does not meet the Basic Conditions.

- **M14 - Replace Policy CM7 with:**
“Environment and biodiversity
All new development proposals should demonstrate they have had regard to the Cleobury Mortimer Environmental Principles as appropriate.”

- M15 – Amend the Cleobury Mortimer Environmental Principles by:
 - Retitling them “Cleobury Mortimer Environmental Principles”
 - In g. replacing *“should wherever possible be”* with “in the form of” and insert “wherever possible” after *“trees”*
 - In h. replacing the first *“should”* with “that” and the second *“should”* with “are”, deleting *“be”* and replacing the final *“and”* with “or”
 - In i. deleting *“will be supported”*
 - In j. deleting *“etc. will be supported in all applications”*

- In k insert “A management plan for” at the beginning, replace “*should be accompanied by a management plan that will demonstrate*” with “that demonstrates” and remove the italics from “*life*”
 - Adding a principle that major development results in 20% tree canopy coverage of the development site within 15 years of completion
 - Presenting the Principles in a form which can be clearly distinguished from the tinted boxes used for the Plan’s policies
- M16 – Amend paragraph 163 to include references to the appropriate Plan policies and clarify the definition of “major development” in the supporting text

117. **Policy CM8** – This requires development to demonstrate adequate provision is made for water, foul drainage, wastewater and sewerage, including where phasing is required or capacity improvements are provided via agreement.

118. The Policy is supported by an assertion that water infrastructure “*has been deemed inadequate in many cases*” and there is support from the Local Plan for additional capacity.

119. On request I was informed the Policy is a response to the need identified in the Local Plan’s Appropriate Assessment for mitigation against unacceptable impacts on the Severn Estuary European Marine Site. On request I was provided with a copy of the Habitats Regulation Assessment (including the Appropriate Assessment) for the emerging Local Plan. It will be helpful to explain this context in the supporting text.

120. The infrastructure addressed by the Policy is being considered as part of the Local Plan review which is at Examination. As the Plan is proceeding ahead of the Local Plan review it is necessary, therefore, for it to include appropriate mitigations. Planning Practice Guidance is supportive of neighbourhood plans addressing infrastructure (Paragraph: 045 Reference ID: 41-045-20190509).

121. Policy CM8 meets the Basic Conditions.

- OM4 – [Provide an explanation in the supporting text of the Policy’s role as a mitigation measure identified in the Appropriate Assessment]

8. Recommendation and Referendum Area

122. I am satisfied the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Plan meets the Basic Conditions and other requirements subject to the modifications recommended in this report and that it can proceed to a referendum. I have received no information to suggest other than that I recommend the referendum area matches that of the Neighbourhood Area.

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	Section	Necessary Modification	Optional Modification	Agreed (Y/N/Partially)
M1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amend the title and key to Figure 1 to read “Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Area” • and provide a link to where the boundary can be viewed at a larger scale 		Y
OM1			<p>Address the presentational issues identified in this report –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies are distinguished from the rest of the Plan by being presented in distinctively coloured boxes. The same boxes are used for the design and environmental principles and I recommend a different presentation for these. • A variety of photographs are provided throughout the document. Their location is not identified and some create awkward page breaks (such as page 13). • issues regarding spelling – e.g. Foreword and Environmental and Design Principles • Paragraph 10 is missing • paragraphs 75 and 76 run horizontally contrary to the rest of the document where paragraph numbering runs vertically. • There are some examples of different point sizes being used (e.g. paragraph 135) 	Y

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Contents on page 3 omits the three main section headings – Introduction, About • Cleobury Mortimer and Policies. • Its structure also confusingly results in two “Development • Boundary” headings. 	
OM2			List all the evidence base documents used in the Plan in an Appendix along with links where available and consider providing a section of the Town Council’s website which brings together all the documents in the Plan’s evidence base into a single location	
M2	CM1	<p>M2 – Amend Policy CM1 to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the first paragraph replace “5.7” with “5.2” • delete “cemetery extension” • add “subject to the following” at end • Replace A. with “0.5 hectares of land allocated in Policy CM2 and shown in Figure 13 will be provided as cemetery space before completion of the 20th dwelling” • Delete Parts B, C and D • Replace “will” with “should” in Parts E, F, G and I • Delete “No. 10” in Part Ei. • Delete from “in” to end in Part Eiii. • Replace Part F with “A tree planting strategy should be provided and existing trees and hedgerows should be preserved wherever possible” 		Y

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Part H replace “should resist adding to surface water run-off” with “additional surface water run-off avoided” Insert “; and” at end of penultimate Part 		
M3	CM1	<p>Amend Figure 13 to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly distinguish between the allocation of land for residential development in Policy CM1 and for a cemetery extension in Policy CM2 Identify what is currently shown as “accessible open space” as the “wildlife corridor” Identify what is currently shown as “wildlife corridor and footpath” as the “walking and cycling route” Show the location of the access point from Ludlow Road Show the location of the pond near Catherton Road Show the location of the tree shelter belts Provide a scale Show the existing development boundary where it continues unchanged at either end of the revised boundary 		<p>Partially</p> <p>It is not considered appropriate for a Development Plan allocation to indicate the precise location of: the accessible open space, the wildlife corridor and footpath, the precise location of the proposed access off Ludlow Road, the location of the pond near Catherton Road and the location of the tree shelter belt. The delivery of these items forms part of the detailed development guidelines contained in Policy MD3, and their precise location will be a determined through a future planning application(s) on this site.</p>
M4	CM2	<p>Amend Policy CM2 to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delete “requirements” at the end of the second line 		Y

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delete Part A and make reference to this requirement in Policy CM1 in the supporting text • Replace “will” with “should” in Parts B. and C. • Insert “; and” at end of penultimate Part • Replace Part D. with “Use of the land as a cemetery complies with the requirements of the relevant Government guidance on protecting groundwater from human burials” and provide a working link 		
M5	CM3	<p>Amend Policy CM3 to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace the title and first two lines with: “Extension of Tenbury Road employment area 1.3 ha of land is allocated at Tenbury Road employment area , shown in Figure 14, for provision of employment uses subject to the following:” • Replace “will” with “should” in Parts A, C, D and H • Replace “to attract new and local businesses and should seek to add to the ”with “capable of attracting new and local businesses and should support” in Part A • Insert “before occupation of the extension land” after “provided” in Part D • Replace Part E with “Provision for superfast broadband to all premises should be designed in where possible” • Delete “Commercial” and add “will be supported” to the end of Part F • Delete “Where” and replace “are being undertaken, maximising” with “should maximise” in Part G 		Y

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delete Part I. • Insert “; and” at end of penultimate Part • Delete “use natural water management techniques to” and insert “and use of natural water management techniques will be supported” at end of Part J. 		
M6	CM3	<p>Amend Figure 14 to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a map at sufficient scale to enable to detailed boundary to be determined • Show the location of the new footway • Provide a scale • Show the site boundary and revised development boundary as coincident • Show the existing development boundary where it continues unchanged at either end of the revised boundary 		<p>Partially</p> <p>It is not considered appropriate for a Development Plan allocation to indicate the precise location of the proposed new footpath within the allocated site. The delivery of this items forms part of the detailed development guidelines contained in Policy M6, and its precise location will be a determined through a future planning application(s) on this site.</p>
M7	CM3	<p>In the supporting text:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain that Policy CM3 relates to the employment uses identified in emerging Local Plan Policy SP13. 2. • Provide an Environment Agency reference for “natural water management techniques” 		Y
M8	CM4	<p>Replace Policy CM4 with “The development boundary is amended to include the three site allocations in Figures 13 and 14 and is shown in Figure ??.”</p>		Y
M9	CM4	<p>Provide a new Figure showing the full development boundary as amended by the three site allocations</p>		Y

		and an appropriate link to the revised development plan Policies Map online		
M10	CM4	Provide an explanation of where the development boundary is defined in the existing and emerging Local Plan in the supporting text and provide appropriate references to the Figures		Y
M11	CM5	Replace Policy CM5 with “New residential development proposals should demonstrate how the proposed housing mix will assist in meeting identified local needs.”		Y
OM3	CM5		Provide details of and a link to the most recent housing need study for the area	Y
M12	CM6	Replace Policy CM6 with “All new housing proposals should demonstrate they have had regard to the Cleobury Mortimer Good Residential Design Principles”		Y
M13	CM6	Amend the Cleobury Mortimer Good Design Principles by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retitling them “Cleobury Mortimer Good Residential Design Principles” • In h. replacing “no” with “avoid use of” and delete from “netting” to end • In j. deleting “environmental surveys should” and insert “in environmental surveys” at end • Replacing n. with “Discourage anti-social parking where on-street parking is provided” • In r. replacing “Ensure that wherever possible” with “Ensure that” • Adding “Provide electric vehicle charging points” 		Y

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presenting the Principles in a form which can be clearly distinguished from the tinted boxes used for the Plan's policies. 		
M14	CM7	<p>Replace Policy CM7 with: "Environment and biodiversity All new development proposals should demonstrate they have had regard to the Cleobury Mortimer Environmental Principles as appropriate."</p>		Y
M15	CM7	<p>Amend the Cleobury Mortimer Environmental Principles by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retitling them "Cleobury Mortimer Environmental Principles" In g. replacing "should wherever possible be" with "in the form of" and insert "wherever possible" after "trees" In h. replacing the first "should" with "that" and the second "should" with "are", deleting "be" and replacing the final "and" with "or" In i. deleting "will be supported" In j. deleting "etc. will be supported in all applications" In k insert "A management plan for" at the beginning, replace "should be accompanied by a management plan that will demonstrate" with "that demonstrates" and remove the italics from "life" Adding a principle that major development results in 20% tree canopy coverage of the development site within 15 years of completion Presenting the Principles in a form which can be clearly distinguished from the tinted boxes used for the Plan's policies 		Y

M16	CM7	Amend paragraph 163 to include references to the appropriate Plan policies and clarify the definition of “major development” in the supporting text		Y
OM4	CM8		Provide an explanation in the supporting text of the Policy’s role as a mitigation measure identified in the Appropriate Assessment	Y

CLEOBURY MORTIMER NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2020-2038

For Referendum 2023



FORWARD BY CHAIRPERSON

Cleobury Mortimer is a strong, independent minded and resilient community and so has embraced the opportunity to take control of planning for future development. A high level of engagement and participation has enabled the steering group to draw on a wide range of ideas in coming up with the plan.

Fundamental to the Plan has been a detailed and aspirational vision for the future of the town that informed our policies and decision making.

A guiding principle has been to accept the need for new housing balanced by economic development, but to do it in a way that provides the type of housing that we need whilst recognizing we are in a rural setting. From the outset, environmental reinforcement, a love of wildlife, trees and walking have all been constant themes.

This formal consultation document is the culmination of listening to positive inputs and heart felt concerns of residents, landowners, community groups and organisations and their reactions to initial plans published. We have tried to reach a balanced compromise within what is viable and achievable.

If passed, Cleobury Mortimer, through its Town Council will have laid down planning protection for its plans and policies and exert greater influence over proposed developments to make sure they follow the vision for the town and meet its needs. It will also mean a greater contribution from development towards infrastructure to support development.

Powers are limited, but at least residents will have more of a say. The plan is reviewable as soon as it is adopted, although the time horizon for the plan is some 18 years.

Peter Blackburn

This draft was prepared by Cleobury Mortimer Steering Group
working with Andrea Pellegram Ltd.



Andrea Pellegram Ltd.

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Introduction

Introduction and Background

1. Our Neighbourhood Plan has been developed by volunteers alongside members of the Town Council and has been informed by a survey and consultation with those that reside and work in our community. County planning policy indicates that we will require a minimum of 200 houses, which, including those already permitted, requires an extra 120 new houses before 2038. Our goal within this Neighbourhood Plan is that alongside the building of those houses, our community will preserve the things we love and appreciate about Cleobury Mortimer. Those aspects of our living environment are the sense of community and the natural environment: the trees, hedges, brooks and wildlife that enhance our lives. We seek to protect and enhance that environment.
2. The Cleobury Mortimer (CM) Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) covers the period 2020-2038 to be aligned to the plan period for the emerging Shropshire Local Plan. It has been prepared to be in conformity with the strategic policies in the Development Plan and with the agreement of the Local Planning Authority (LPA) also addresses economic and housing policies in the emerging Local Plan that is being prepared contemporaneously with the CMNDP.

Purpose

3. Neighbourhood planning gives communities the power to develop a shared vision for their area. Neighbourhood plans can shape, direct and help to deliver sustainable

development, by influencing local planning decisions as part of the statutory development plan. Neighbourhood plans should not promote less development than set out in the strategic policies for the area or undermine those strategic policies¹. Neighbourhood plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in any development plan that covers their area².

4. Once a neighbourhood plan has been brought into force, the policies it contains take precedence over existing non-strategic policies in a local plan covering the neighbourhood area, where they are in conflict; unless they are superseded by strategic or non-strategic policies that are adopted subsequently³.
5. Plans should set out the contributions expected from development. This should include setting out the levels and types of affordable housing provision required, along with other infrastructure (such as that needed for education, health, transport, flood and water management, green and digital infrastructure). Such policies should not undermine the deliverability of the plan⁴.

¹ National Planning Policy Framework 2021, para. 29.

² Ibid., footnote 18.

³ Ibid., para. 30.

⁴ Ibid., para. 34.

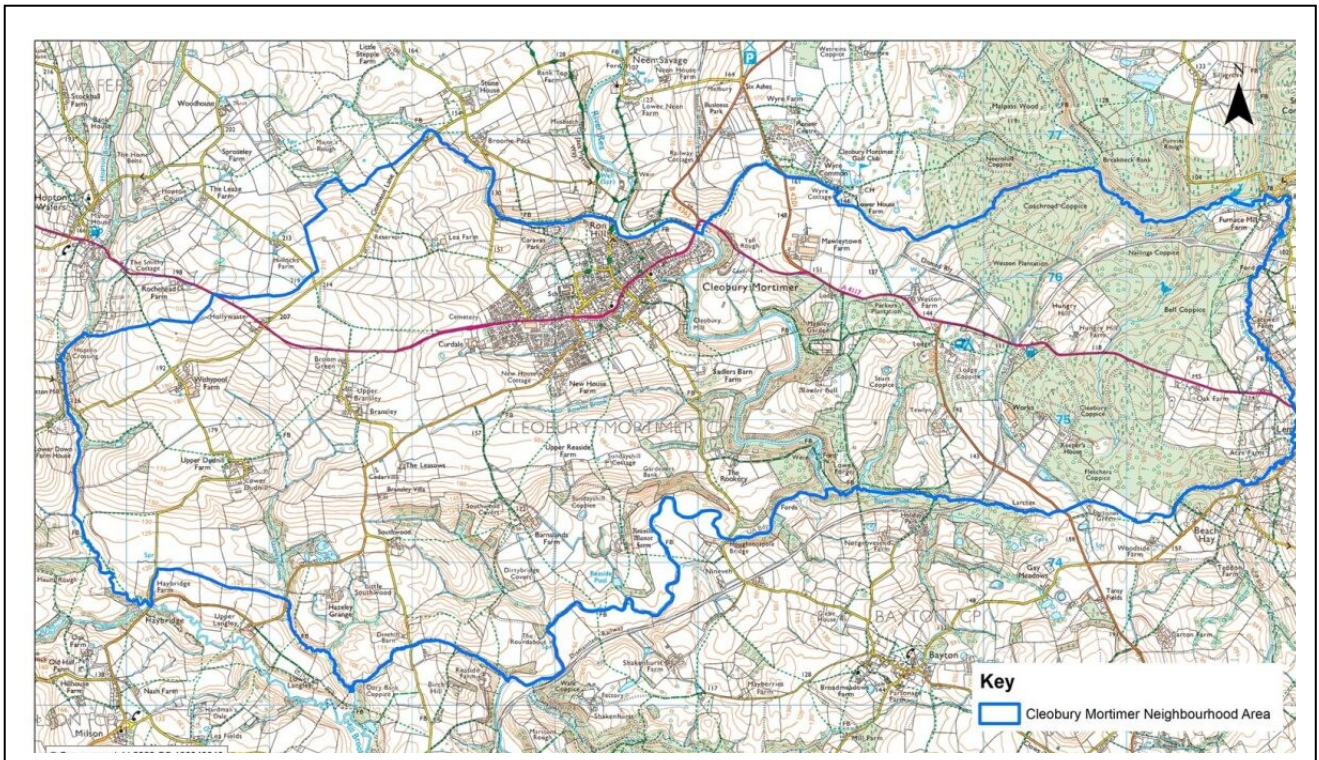
Submitting Body

6. Under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 and Part 2 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, Cleobury Mortimer Town Council was recognised as the relevant body for the designated area with regards to the Regulations.⁵
7. Cleobury Mortimer Town Council is the qualifying body. Professional support has been provided by Andrea Pellegram MRTPI, AECOM and Locality.

Neighbourhood Area

8. Under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 and Part 2 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, the town of Cleobury Mortimer in Shropshire was designated as a Neighbourhood Area. The extent of the designation is shown in **Figure 1**.

Figure 1: Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Area



⁵ Effective date 15/05/2018 following Shropshire Council Cabinet meeting 02/05/2018

<https://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?AllId=10950>

Community Infrastructure Levy

9. Once this plan is “made”, i.e. it is passed at Referendum and becomes part of the Development Plan, the Town Council will receive 25% of all Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds collected from development within the Parish Boundary. The funding is intended to be used for improvement, replacement, operation, or maintenance of infrastructure: or anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on the area. The policies in this plan set out detailed guidance for applicants on infrastructure that they should provide in support of their schemes, but CIL payments to the Town Council can assist in providing additional infrastructure and maintenance.

Sustainable Development

10. The National Planning Policy Framework 2021 states that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to sustainable development. The planning systems has three overarching objectives in achieving sustainable development: economic, social, and environmental.

The policies in the CMNDP together meet the objectives of sustainable development which is summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: How policies in the CMNDP contribute to sustainable development

NPPF 2021 objectives for sustainable development	CMNDP policies that meet the sustainability objectives in the NPPF 2021 section 2
Economic	CM3: Extension at Tenbury Road employment area
Social	CM1: Ludlow Road residential allocation CM2: Cleobury Mortimer cemetery extension CM4: Cleobury Mortimer development boundary CM5: Housing Mix CM6: Housing Design
Environmental	CM1: Ludlow Road residential allocation CM6: Housing Design CM7: Environmental and biodiversity net gain

The Context

11. Cleobury Mortimer (population 3,410 (2015 mid-year estimates Shropshire Council) lies on the Worcestershire border, between Ludlow to the west and Kidderminster to the east. It is a small market town in south east Shropshire which acts as an important Key Centre for the wider area. It lies on the A4117 around 10 miles to the east of Ludlow and six miles to the west of Bewdley. Much of the town centre lies within a Conservation Area, and there are a number of listed buildings including the Grade I listed St Mary's Church, the crooked spire of which is a feature of the landscape. Physical constraints to development include the River Rea and its tributaries and the town's setting in the wider landscape⁶.
12. Cleobury Mortimer is identified as a Key Centre in the SAMDev plan and in the Emerging Shropshire Local Plan 2016 to 2038. The settlement provides local services, jobs, education, retail and recreational opportunities to the other smaller settlements in the Cleobury Mortimer area. The settlement supports a reasonably high level of employment self-containment given its size, though the number of workplaces is limited, there are important employers and manufacturing jobs are a higher than average proportion of the workforce. Housing tenures at the time of the 2001 Census was 77% owner occupied, 14% private rented and 9% social rented.



⁶ Shropshire Core Strategy, 4.52.

Vision for the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Plan

In 2038, our vision for Cleobury Mortimer is that it will be a place where:

- Any future building development is done in location(s) and a manner, which protects public safety;
- The natural space in which we live is protected, green spaces are improved and enhanced, and local trees of importance are protected;
- Development will be sympathetic to the living environment;
- People of all ages can live happily and enjoy a strong sense of community and the security that this brings and where there are sufficient opportunities for the whole community to come together to meet and celebrate;
- The age profile of the community will be balanced because suitable housing will be available for people and families in all phases of their lives;
- There is a well-connected public transport system that allows people of all ages and mobility to travel on foot or by bus on safe, convenient and direct routes;
- Access to the beautiful countryside is available for all with good connections between rural and urban areas;
- There is a prosperous local economy that meets the needs of the town and surrounding villages and that also provides well-paid local jobs, including working from home due to high speed internet connectivity for businesses and those working from home;
- Mental and physical health is good for all members of the community because there are ample opportunities to exercise, meet others, and obtain specialist support when it is required;
- There is energy self-sufficiency and the opportunity to benefit from renewable sources of energy and cleaner energy including vehicle charging points;
- Tourists will visit and contribute to the local economy.

13. The vision for our NDP was to produce a plan that was informed and supported by our community that gives the community agency in influencing the development of the town, including the required housing to be built, to safeguard the future of our town that makes it a safe and familiar place for the existing residents, a thriving town with working and living opportunities for the younger members of our population and an attractive and welcoming place for newcomers who might move into our growing community.

14. A Task and Finish Group was established by the Town Council, including members of the Town Council, for the specific purpose of creating the Neighbourhood Plan to benefit those who live and work in our community today and to 2038. We seek to preserve the things that our residents like about Cleobury Mortimer such as the sense of community, the natural environment and a sense of safety and friendliness and address some of the concerns that residents raised during the preparation period of the CMNDP.

Methodology

15. The emerging Local Plan will cover the period to 2038. It has produced more up to date evidence that will be used to inform policies in this NDP.

16. Our original aim was to:

- Find out what people want and need which can guide planners, developers, businesses and the council;
- Influence the development of more and better jobs, transport and homes of the right type, in the right place;
- Promote a socially inclusive and caring community;
- Preserve and enhance the traditions, character and heritage unique to Cleobury Mortimer;

- Foster partnership working to achieve a thriving and safe place to live;
- Influence on national planning for housing, road, transport and infrastructure.

17. We developed a Communication Strategy to create engagement with our community to ensure that the plan is community-led and to make sure that our community felt involved in the process and, of course, that we were able to meet the statutory requirement to consult on the draft plan at Regulation 14 stage of the plan's progress.

Community Engagement

18. The key to a successful Neighbourhood Development Plan is the engagement of the community to inform and eventually, to support the plan. The emerging CMNDP has been subject to wide consultation including:

- Initial qualitative meetings with businesses, key organisations and community groups from August 2017-January 2018.
- The Town Planning Meeting in January 2018.
- The Vision for Cleobury 2038 – an output from the Town Planning Meeting.
- Public consultations at The Annual Town Meeting and Primary School Expo in April 2018 and May 2019.
- Local Joint Council (LJC) drop in sessions.
- May/June 2018 - The Big Cleobury Survey (BCS) – 510 household responses – 28% of households. Distributed door to door, info points and via e-mail, web and Facebook.
- Interim Town planning meeting October 2018 with outcome of BCS and maps of potential development sites.

- 3 x 4 page A4 colour printed Newsletters distributed house to house or via the Cleobury Clarion local newsletter.
 - 3 drop in open surgeries post draft plan issue
 - E-mail feedback route with over 60 responses
 - Council website regular updates with status reports
 - Council Facebook page updates and comments on Cleobury Community websites with responses adding up to 300+
 - Regular updates in the Cleobury Clarion via independent articles or via the Council update page – Circulation 1,000, readership circa 2,300.
 - Research by the Task and Finish Group into public data and best practices.
 - Input from our independent planning consultant Andrea Pellegram MRTPI.
 - Input from Shropshire Planning Department and the Local Plan Consultation.
 - Regulation 14 Consultation was undertaken in summer 2020 and all the responses have been considered and changes have been made to the plan as a result.
 - The SEA was completed in Spring 2021 and the Regulation 14 consultation was repeated.
 - The site proposer for Ludlow Road withdrew the site in July 2021 and a new call for sites was undertaken.
 - The Steering Group discussed the proposed sites with proposers and other landowners and a call for sites “refresh” took place in January/February 2022.
 - An informal community consultation was held to consider the proposed site allocations which ran from 18 March 2022 to 8 April 2022.
 - The SEA was updated April 2022.
19. In May 2018, the Steering Group established a questionnaire of 49 questions (see Appendix 1) to seek the views of the community regarding housing, health, community facilities, transport, the economy, traffic and safety and the natural environment. We asked what residents and those who work in Cleobury Mortimer like and dislike about the community and gave respondents the opportunity to comment on their wishes for the town in the future. We called it The Big Cleobury Survey (BCS).
20. The community was encouraged to complete the BCS electronically and this was shared by email with contacts that had been made through the initial meetings with businesses and community groups, shared on social media and hard-copies were also made available to those without access or who preferred to complete on paper. 510 households or individuals responded to the BCS from a total population of 3,410 and 1,349 households representing a good proportion of the community.
21. The majority of those that responded to the BCS were within the 49-65 age range with good numbers in the immediately below and above age categories. However, the results reflected that the highest proportion of those living in the house was below the age of 11. Therefore, there is some concern that the BCS results are not entirely representative of the whole community, and young children in particular. The needs of children has been taken into account in the policies.
22. Of those that responded to the BCS, 10.5% live in housing association or shared-

ownership housing (Cleobury has 23% overall). 76% owned their own home, either with or without a mortgage, 85% of respondents live in a house and most of these houses have three bedrooms (41%), a further 34% live in a four-bedroom house.

23. Of the BCS respondents, 39% are full-time employed and nearly 30% retired with a narrow majority working in the ‘manufacturing, construction and agriculture’ industry. 56% of respondents work outside of Cleobury, 25% work in the town but not at home and there were 18% that work from home.

Evidence Base Overview

24. The analysis and proposals contained in the CMNDP are based on a variety of information sources but mainly the BCS, follow-up engagement events, and research by the Steering Group.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

25. As part of the Regulation 14 consultation in 2020, the Steering Group requested a screening opinion from the Local Planning Authority whether Strategic Environmental Assessment of the CMNDP was required. Because the CMNDP site allocation methodology was based upon that developed by the Local Planning Authority, the planning authority gave the opinion that SEA was required for stages not covered by the Local Plan’s SEA.

26. The Steering Group commissioned AECOM through Locality to undertake the screening process and to produce the final Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report (April 2022). The SEA report is attached as a separate document.

27. With regard to alternative site options, the SEA did not indicate that any one site was favourable over another. However, in assessing the CMNDP proposals as a whole, including the proposed allocation, the SEA concluded that:

Overall, the delivery of up to 120 new homes and additional employment land, alongside the cemetery expansion and a new community recreation place is predicted to deliver predominately positive effects overall in relation to the SEA objectives.

28. The SEA did not recommend that any changes to the CMNDP policy approach would be required.

NDP Objectives

29. The objectives of our policies are to:
- Ensure any future building development is done in location(s) and a manner, which protects public safety.
 - Provide existing and future residents with the opportunity to live in a decent home.



- Minimise the impact of new development on the surrounding countryside, landscape, and ecosystems.
 - Reduce harm to the environment by seeking, where achievable, for new development to be carbon neutral.
 - Ensure that town community spirit is preserved and, where possible, enhanced.
 - Ensure road traffic risks to public safety are assessed and minimized.
 - Ensure that opportunities for local businesses and associated employment are maximized.
30. The national need for extra housing and employment land compels Cleobury Mortimer to be involved in allocating suitable land for at least 120 houses and 1.3 hectares of employment land by 2038. The Town Council has chosen to take a major role in the process of that land allocation through its Neighbourhood Plan. It established criteria to judge where and how that allocation should be made.
31. The BCS showed that more than 84% of respondents valued or greatly valued the

countryside, its wildlife, trees, hedges and wildlife corridors. They wanted them to be protected and sustainable and to minimise impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures. There is extensive work already in progress to identify, map and safeguard the primary habitats closely associated with wildlife corridors, stepping stones, register of trees especially veteran and notable trees, rivers and streams as well as park land and woodland and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration and creation. This is complemented by the Grade I manorial estate Mawley Hall who are undertaking a substantial program of river restoration, native tree planting, rare old English breed sheep grazing, red deer park and other wildlife development programs. This will aid the overall habitat improvement in the parish.

32. The Town Council has identified that its cemetery space will run out within the CMNDP period and has sought to find additional burial space.



About Cleobury Mortimer

Clebury Mortimer - Our Town

33. The wishes of those who live and work in the town provide the essential context to the Clebury Mortimer NDP. This section provides a brief overview of the town; its location, surroundings, size, housing, heritage and a summary of what residents think about living in the town.

The Town

34. Clebury Mortimer is a small market town in South Shropshire between Clee Hill and the Wyre Forest. The town has a predominantly agricultural economy together with a small amount of local industry within a very rural, naturally beautiful environment. The town is dominated by the twisted spire of St Mary's Church which can be seen from miles around as well as the new landmarks of two wind turbines which power local businesses.

35. The name of the town is thought to be derived from the old English *clifu* meaning a steep place and *burg* meaning dwellings

within a fortified settlement. Another suggested origin is from the old English word for clay which describes the soil of the area. Mortimer originates from Ranulph de Mortimer of Normandy who was granted the land after the Norman Conquest. The town is included in the Domesday Book (1086) and is described as *Claiberie*, with 45 households under the head of the Manor, including 20 villagers, 8 smallholders, 14 slaves, 1 priest, 2 riders and a mill. The Lord and Tenant-in-chief in 1086 was Ralph of Mortimer. The town was granted its town market charter in 1253 and regular farmers markets continue to be held.

36. Clebury Mortimer has a Conservation Area (**Figure 2**) along its main street reflecting the original residential development of the town. There are 86 properties and historic artefacts listed with Historic England within the town; most of these are houses, but they also include a manor house, water trough, milestone markers and the war memorial (**Figure 3**).



Figure 2: Cleobury Mortimer Conservation Area

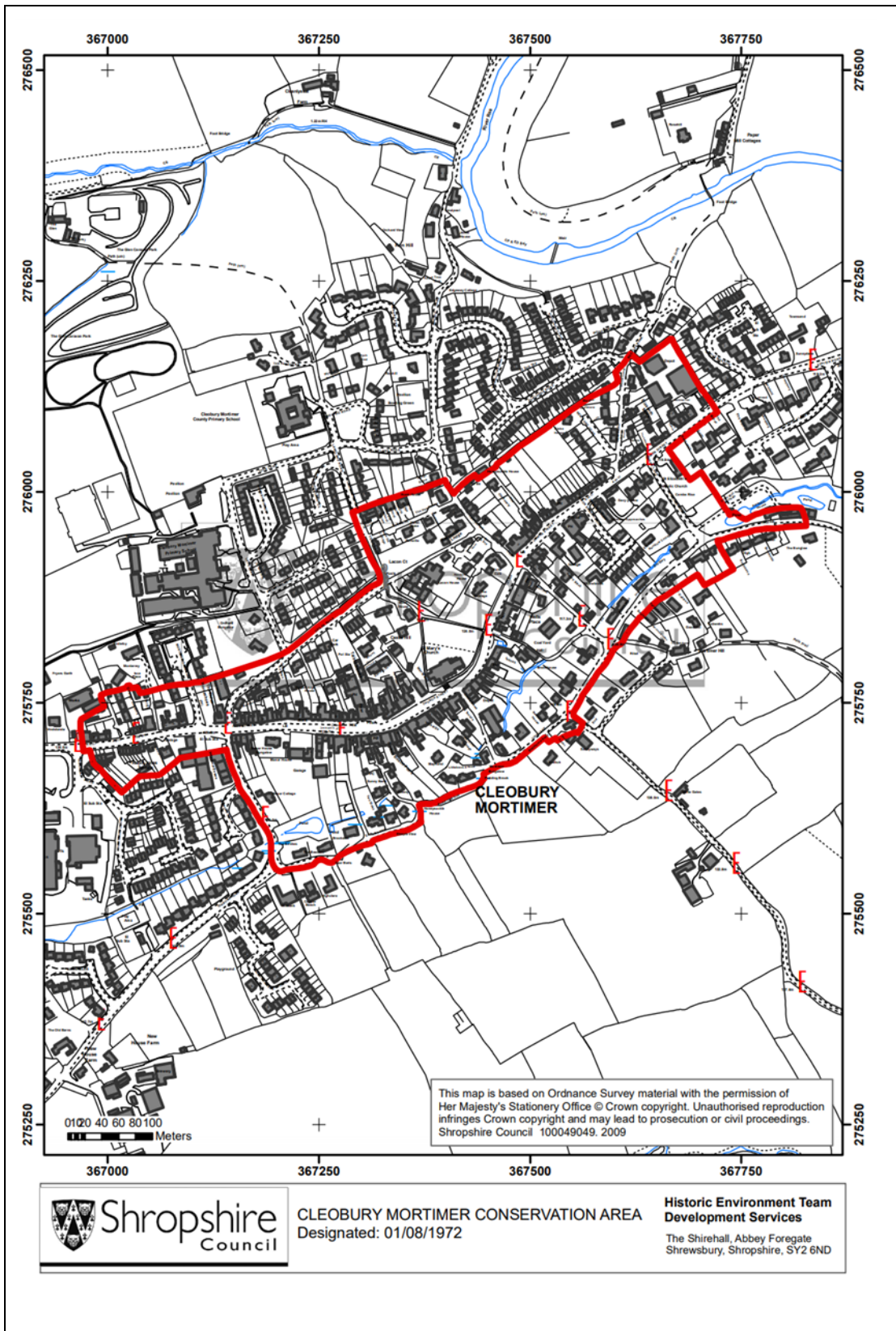


Figure 3: Listed Buildings



Source: Historic England crown Copyright: Ordnance Survey 100024900

- 37. A Conservation Area is an area of a town or village considered worthy of preservation or enhancement because of its special architectural or historic interest. The scheme was introduced by the Civic Amenities Act 1967 and superseded by the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
- 38. Cleobury Mortimer has developed along the A4117, the main road through the town, which provides links to the train stations and more significant amenities of Kidderminster, 12 miles to the east and Ludlow, 11 miles to the west. The smaller towns of Tenbury Wells (south) and Bridgnorth (north) are also within 14 miles.
- 39. The River Rea skirts the eastern end of the town with Rowley Brook running to the south of the town and a further brook across the north. Pudding Brook⁷ rises on the western approach to the town on Curdale Farm and runs through close to the western side of the main road and high street. It is breached and culverted by four roads before reaching the River Rea. Despite this, it has a vibrant amount of wildlife and is a key corridor for birds such as owls, swifts, swallows, bats, etc.

⁷ Perhaps originally “put-in-brook”.



Living in the Town

40. There is a strong sense of community in Cleobury Mortimer highlighted by the large number of clubs and pastimes (circa 80). The community is served by the Cleobury Clarion (circulation 1,000 – readership 2,500), which is the most regular means by which respondents to the BCS found out about what was going on in their community. The sense of community and the people that live in the town are top among the things that respondents most like about living in the town. Everything in the town is walkable by most of the residents, however, it does serve a much larger area within the parish and further afield as can be seen in the number of buses that bring students into the town and the busyness of the main street.
41. The town has a growing and slightly ageing population. Quality of life in Cleobury Mortimer is generally high and there are no areas of high deprivation. Jobseekers Allowance is paid to a smaller proportion of the population than Shropshire and Great Britain as a whole. Crime levels are very low compared to the country as a whole and large parts of Shropshire.⁸ This is supported by work with community and youth groups as well as a comprehensive CCTV system and Smartwater anti theft program praised

by the Police and Crime Commissioner and local MP.

42. Despite the high quality of life and the sense of community there are also frustrations and challenges living and working in the town. These were highlighted in the questions that asked what the least favourite thing about Cleobury Mortimer was.

Rural Look and Feel

43. Cleobury Mortimer sits within rolling south Shropshire countryside between the Wyre Forest and Clee Hill. Protecting the countryside came out top in the BCS when asking how important these factors were.
44. The importance of trees was recognised by the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, which made special provision for trees in conservation areas that aren't already protected by a tree preservation order. The law requires that anyone proposing to cut down or carry out any work on any tree with a stem diameter of more than 75 mm, when measured at 1.5 metres height above ground level, in a conservation area must give the council 6 weeks' notice of their intentions. Work may only be undertaken either when permission has been given or the six weeks has expired.

Evidence base from BCS :

45. 91% said the local Countryside was important or very important.
46. 89% wanted to encourage wildlife and biodiversity.
47. Development of new wildlife corridors along the outside of the town was important or very important to 81% of households.

⁸ Monthly crime statistics reviewed by our Council and its volunteer run Crime Reduction Group

- 48. 85% agree strongly or very strongly that they regularly use the footpath network.
- 49. Planting more trees and hedges was very important or important to 81%.
- 50. A tree warden and 2 deputies have been appointed by the council following this

work and are very active. A tree register of veteran trees has been established and target spaces within the town identified for a tree planting program run by uniformed children's groups.

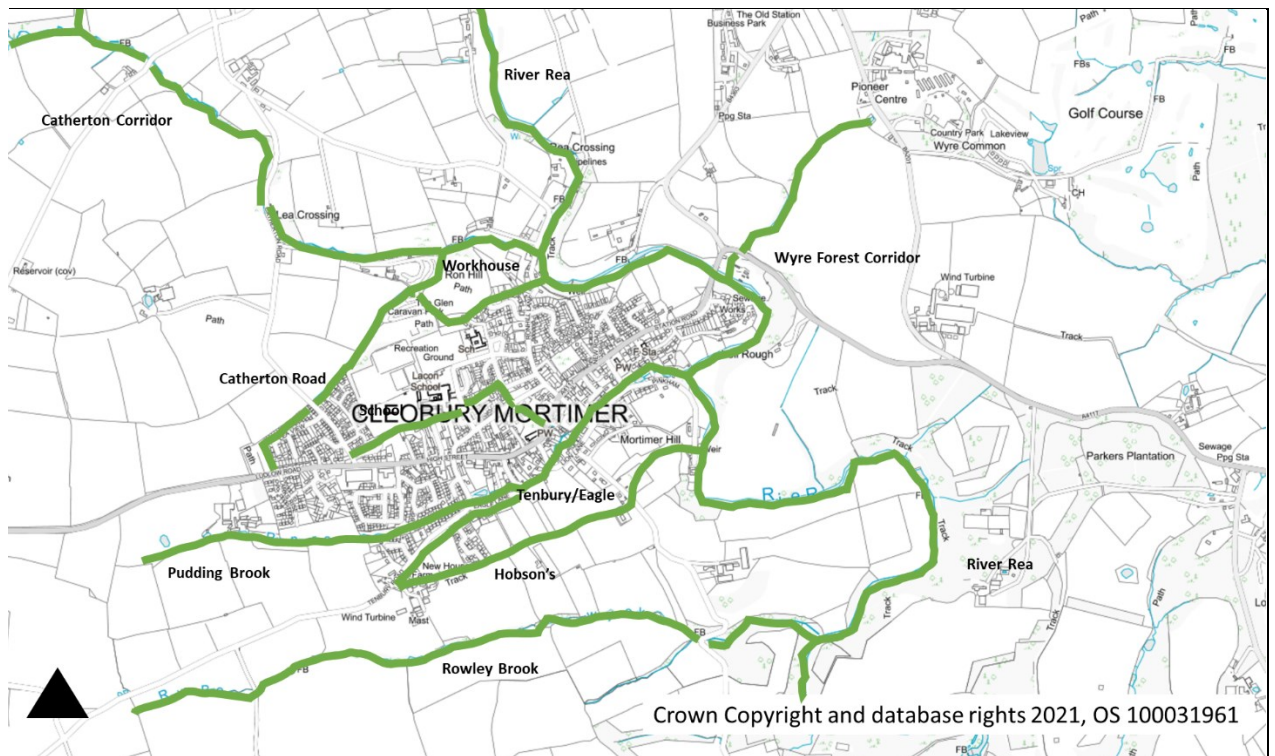


Existing wildlife corridors

51. Natural lines of vegetation in and around the Town with high biodiversity are all named mapped and well known by community. These include: Workhouse, School, Pudding Brook, Tenbury Road, Hobsons, Rowley Brook, River Rea, Catherton and Wyre Forest

Corridors (**Figure 4**). Their total length is over 8 km and all are now interconnected and mostly terminate at the River Rea. These corridors offer shelter, security, feeding and breeding grounds for wide biodiversity as well as having easy access for walkers.

Figure 4: Existing wildlife corridors



Trees

52. The Council adopted a Tree Charter in 2018 and a tree Warden and two deputies have been appointed who are very active. They and the NDP Steering Group have reviewed the five tree surveys carried out over the past decade.
53. The Town Council owns and has responsibility for three areas and their trees: the graveyard of St. Mary's Church in the town, QEII Park, and the active Cemetery to the west of the town. A professional survey was carried out in 2017 and the Council have acted upon the recommendations in that report. There is an ongoing commitment to maintain the trees on these sites.
54. One of the deputy Tree Wardens has been photographing prominent trees within the parish. This has resulted in a collection of over 200 photographs and is a record of over 200 trees together with specific data on each tree. This includes: the map reference, landowner, tree height, trunk circumference and hence age estimate, species and relevant notes. It is expected that this work will continue to be a lasting and valuable reference book of the trees of Cleobury.
55. In 2018, the new owner of the Estate commissioned survey (yet to be published), of all the trees on the Estate. This forward thinking approach by the Estate is very welcome. The CMNDP Steering Group is committed to working in partnership with key stakeholders overseeing such important initiatives. Other landowners have been managing their trees and planting new ones mostly under the Farm Stewardship Scheme, which is a farm subsidy for environmental work. This may well change as the EU subsidies are replaced by UK schemes.
56. A Desk Top Survey of the Parish Tree Population was carried out in September 2020 using Google Earth Mapping to estimate the total number of trees and their age profile in that part of the Parish to the west of the River Rea. It showed that there are over 8,500 trees older than 10 years of which 3500 are older than 130 years.
57. The desktop study revealed that over the last 50-100 years, an imbalance in the age profile of the trees has developed. If the present success rate for self-sown trees surviving to adulthood is not increased, there will be fewer trees in the future. Therefore a tree replacement program needs to be established to secure the long term future of trees, especially oak trees.
58. To help deal with this identified need, over 1,000 acorns have been harvested by a group of volunteers under the banner of "Plant a Tree in 23" and are being sown in support of developing a tree replacement program. They should provide a bank of saplings within 3-5 years. Alongside this, a new initiative of community acorn growing at home has begun. Tree planting of mature sapling/bare roots are also being acquired from free tree sources to be planted by the Council and by uniformed youth groups in the 2020-21 period. A further option of creating an Oak Avenue by planning more mature trees along the A4117 on the approach to the town is under consideration.
59. A similar desk top survey in October 2020 established a data base recording the importance of the trees within the seven Wildlife Corridors. Wildlife Corridors are not only just avenues/alleyways that join up areas of high biodiversity, they are also safeguarded areas of high biodiversity and habitat in their own right. A mature oak can provide habitats for over 1,000 species of fauna and flora according to the Woodland Trust and RSPB. The table in **Table 2** shows that there are over 600 such trees in these Wildlife Corridors.

Table 2: Table showing age of trees in some Cleobury Mortimer wildlife corridors

Wildlife Corridor	Length in metres	Trees over 10 years old	Trees over 130 years old
Workhouse	1.4 Km	144	28
School	1.2Km	67	18
Pudding Brook	1.8Km	325	29
Tenbury Road	0.45 KM	20	4
Hobsons	0.75KM	29	10
Rowley Brook	1.75Km	134	15
River Rea	>8Km	7500	500
Total Trees		8219	604

Community and Recreational Facilities

60. For a community of around 3,400⁹, Cleobury Mortimer is well served with community and recreational facilities. Cleobury Mortimer is served by a retained fire station. The town has a Market Hall next to the church with meeting rooms and a number of offices for local businesses, bank, post office, library and the town council. There is a Parish Hall and a (former) Methodist Hall which is now the Community Hub providing a range of services including coffee shop, climbing wall and range of activities for all ages. There is a Leisure Centre and a Sports and Social Club alongside the sports field that is used

for football, rugby and cricket. **Figure 5** shows some of the many clubs and community groups that use these facilities and others.

⁹ Shropshire Council 2015.

Figure 5: Diagram of existing community groups in Cleobury Mortimer



Source: Big Cleobury Survey

61. The BCS identified that the best opportunities for groups to get together and have fun are available for those over 65 with the fewest opportunities for those between 12 and 18, however, the respondents identified that there was the greatest need for more facilities for those over 65.

62. A number of additional facilities were suggested in the BCS including:

- **Community Bus Service** – set routes to towns and villages not currently served – paid for by users – some discounts, this has subsequently been researched and found to have insufficient demand at present as a paid service.
- **Community Hub** (design informed by young people and run by a local

charity. Services are available to all ages – including Dance Studio, Café, Climbing Wall, music studio)

- **Outdoor Gym Trail** – free to use (this has been implemented)
- **Community car service** - (For work/school/leisure/self-drive and bookable)
- **Bike Trail** – Through trees in park (with jumps) - free to use (this has been implemented)
- **Dog training and exercise area** - Free/Bookable as private for small cost. (this has been implemented)

63. All of these ideas received support with the Community Bus Service getting the most support from respondents to the BCS.

64. The rural location of the town is also an important asset with an active Footpath Association and a Walkers are Welcome designation bringing many walkers into the area to walk on well-cared for footpaths and to prepared walking routes.

Provision of a Community Hub and Recreation Space

65. The BCS identified that the greatest need for the town going forward was for activities and facilities for younger age group children. As this was known at the qualitative stage the proposal was put in the BCS, 78% strongly or somewhat supported a Youth Hub designed and run by youth but to support the whole community. A phase 1 is in place at a temporary venue, The Methodist Church under a 5-year lease whilst a business case is being developed for the eventual community hub.

66. St. Mary's Youth Project (SMYP) have tested the concept of how a community hub would be used in Cleobury Mortimer. This has the support of the Town Council and wider community. A 5-year agreement has been reached with the Methodist Church and their hall has been given over to a trial Community Hub which opened in Autumn 2019.

67. The Shropshire Open Space and Recreation Needs Assessment (2018) indicated that Cleobury Mortimer has a 4.4 ha. open space deficit. The housing land allocation will provide at least 1 ha of public open space however a 3.4 ha deficit will remain. Access to open countryside is well served with a comprehensive network of public footpaths.

Health and Health Care

68. Life expectancy in Shropshire is higher than the national average. Life expectancy for births in Shropshire between 2013- 15 are 80.3 for males and 83.8 for females. This compares to an average of 79.5 and 83.1 for England.¹⁰

69. Of the 3,288 residents of Cleobury Mortimer in the last census reporting on their health conditions:

- 246 reported that their day-to-day activities were limited a lot.
- 338 reported that their day-to-day activities were limited a little.
- 2,704 reported that their day-to-day activities were not limited at all.

70. The rate of people expressing that their day-to-day activities were limited a lot was 7.5% which is lower than the rate for Shropshire 8.4% and England 8.3%.

71. This was reflected in the BCS, with 86% of respondents stating that their health was good or very good.

72. Cleobury Mortimer is served by its own extended access Medical Centre with an attached pharmacy. They are based in a recent, purpose-built facility which was completed 6 years ago, it has plenty of available parking and is situated to the west of the town in a residential area and opposite the soon-to-be-opened care facility. The medical centre uses only part of the new building they occupy and there is potential that the other part of the building could be occupied by medical/health services or for office space. There are hospital services available in Tenbury Wells, Ludlow and a minor injuries unit at Kidderminster Hospital. The nearest

¹⁰ Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), Department of Communities and Local Government, Crown Copyright 2017.

Accident and Emergency departments are in Worcester, Telford and Dudley.

73. The town has its own NHS dentist and NHS optician services, as well as a number of

other practitioners that offer other well-being services such as podiatry, chiropody, physiotherapy and osteopathy.



Mobile and Broadband Services

74. The broad band service is of a reasonable standard given the Town has fibre broadband and some residents are able to secure superfast broadband if they are willing to pay for upgrades which can boost speeds to circa 30-75 megabits. A similar service should be secured at of the expanded in any future developments. There is a BT station in the town the main road opposite the Co-Op .
75. Good broadband is not available in all rural areas of the parish, with outlying properties and businesses suffering from poor speeds. There are offers available for improvement but roll-out is still being reported as problematic.
76. The emerging Local Plan contains detailed policies on broadband and electronic access

and these policies will therefore not be repeated in the NDP.

Town Services

77. Cleobury Mortimer has a range of shops and services available including a bank (limited hours), a Post Office, licenced restaurants, small supermarkets, Public Houses, tradespeople and local businesses. These services are greatly valued with the Post Office and Bank coming top in the BCS when respondents were asked which services should be protected.
78. Online facilities to shop for groceries and clothes have changed the nature of all shopping, and there remain no clothes shops in Cleobury Mortimer. The closest towns with clothes shopping options are Ludlow and Kidderminster.

79. There are two small, free to use official car parks in the town with toilet facilities in the car park on Love Lane. There is on-street parking through most of the town with most parts of the main street lined by

housing. There are parts of the main street that are not suitable for parking and these have been marked with double-yellow lines, however, there is minimal enforcement of the parking restrictions.



Education

80. Cleobury Mortimer has a small number of pre-school, nursery care providers, a primary school and a secondary school. Lacon Childe Secondary School is a community school with approximately 500 pupils who travel from a wide catchment area, employing over 100 staff and with its own transport system. The Cleobury Primary School employs a further 41 staff. The two schools educate approximately 750 pupils. Further education is delivered in several neighbouring towns combining limited public and local transport solutions to get there. The Secondary and Primary School are part of an Academy group with neighbouring Clee Hill and Stottesdon Primary Schools forming the Shropshire Gateway Academy Trust.
81. The net capacity of Cleobury Primary School is 264 with an approved annual admission of 37 pupils. The school has 262 pupils on roll (2020/2021 data) plus 30 in nursery (built in 2015) which will better prepare children for school. The percentage of pupils eligible, at any time during the past six years, for Free School Meals is 22.5%, below the national average of 23.5%. The percentage of pupils whose first language is not English is very low (1.6%) compared to 20.5% nationally. It achieved an Ofsted Rating of Good in November 2017. The number of children with SEND support is 13.7%, slightly above the national average of 12.6%, but SEND with EHC plan is 3.1%, above the average of 2.0%. This partly

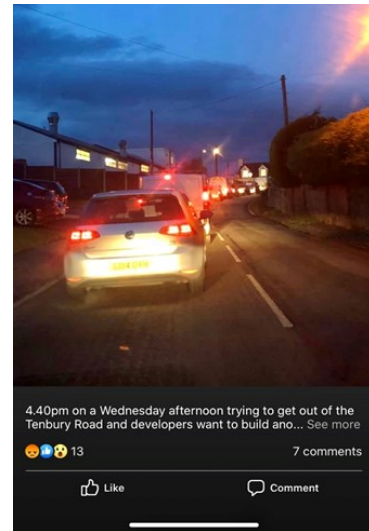
reflects the lack of provision elsewhere in South Shropshire and pockets of poverty in the town.

82. Lacon Childe Senior School has a net capacity of 540 with an approved annual admission of 108 pupils. The school has 558 pupils on roll (Mar 2022). The percentage of pupils eligible, at any time during the past 6 years, for Free School Meals is 13.1%, lower than the national average of 19.7%. It also has an Ofsted Rating of Good from November 2017. There is also a Local Authority managed Special Educational Needs Hub based within the school with capacity for 20 students for years 7 to 11.
83. Large coaches, mini-buses and cars, taking and collecting pupils to and from school, congest the lanes surrounding the schools and on the main street during the periods at the start and end of the school day.

Traffic

84. Cleobury Mortimer developed along the A4117 which is a significant route from Birmingham to the east through to Wales in the west. It is a busy route that sees lorries from the nearby quarry at all times of the day, lorries, motorbike groups, cyclists, bin lorries, school traffic and agricultural vehicles alongside the normal day-to-day traffic of a small, rural town. There is also parking along the entire route. **Figure 6** illustrates lorry traffic causing congestion at 2.00 pm – this level of congestion is exacerbated when school buses travel to and from the schools.

Figure 6: Photo of lorry congestion in Cleobury Mortimer town centre (weekday)



- 85. One of the key concerns of residents raised in the BCS was traffic and congestion through the town and the danger to pedestrians which was reflected again in the Regulation 14 consultation responses.
- 86. Traffic congestion is generated because of the significant role that the town plays to many smaller villages and communities in the area, such as for the school and medical centre, the fact that the A4117 is a major route and the often large number of the lorries and agricultural vehicles that make their way through the town. On-street parking in the town centre adds to congestion. The growth of housing further west in Ludlow where in excess of 1,000 houses are planned, will lead to further through traffic since around 20-25% of those residents will commute to the Black Country through Cleobury Mortimer.

- 87. The on-street parking and congestion can lead to parts of the town feeling unsafe for pedestrians and the BCS asked which areas of Cleobury Mortimer felt unsafe. The top five areas that it is felt were unsafe for pedestrians were the Tenbury Road junction (**Figure 7**) with the high street, High Street, New Road, the Lion Lane junction with the high street and around the Primary School. Those roads deemed most congested were: High Street (90%), Lower Street, Tenbury Road junction with High Street and the Primary School. Traffic calming measures would be supported at: High Street, Lower Street; around the Primary School and Secondary School, the Tenbury Road junction with High Street and outside the Manor House.
- 88. Additional traffic from new homes will add to existing congestion and road safety concerns and this is considered in this plan.

Figure 7: Tenbury Road junction illustrating lack of pedestrian footways

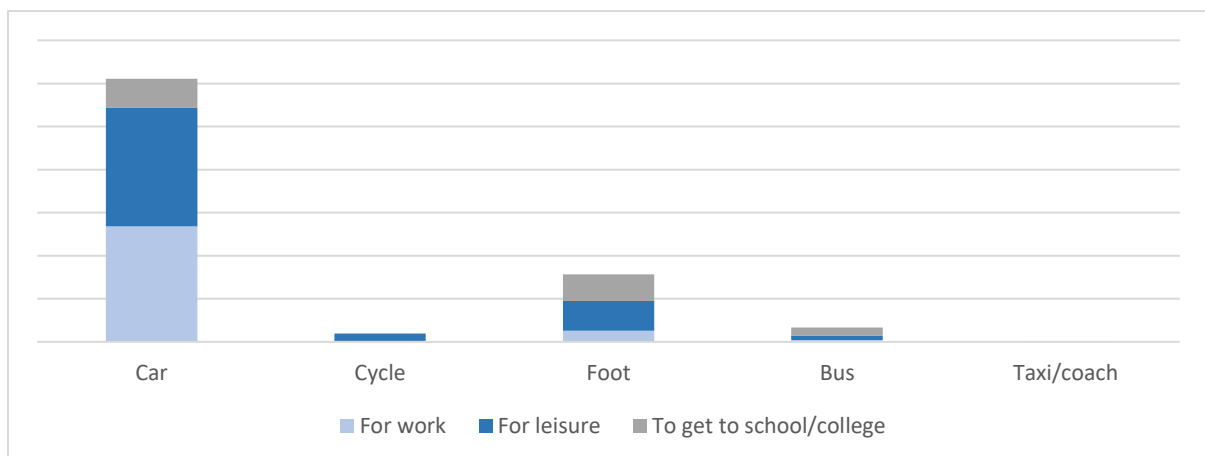


Local Travel

- 89. The BCS showed that for respondents, the main form of transport to work is the car (89%) though around 9% walked to work. More people walked to leisure activities (19%) and 74% drove. There is an even split between those walking or being driven to school (Figure 8)
- 90. Bus services were not generally considered good or very good across a range of criteria such as customer service, days, value for money, routes and reliability. Those

responding to the BCS were asked whether they would use community bus services if they were offered. A community bus service initially looked viable given 37% said they would definitely or probably use it. Potential for building on the current community car scheme or setting up a separate trust or joining a neighbouring scheme. The school minibuses are a viable option if managed independently and contracts are revised but this has not been possible to negotiate. Lift sharing and self-drive were not as popular an option.

Figure 8: Big Cleobury Survey Q42: What is your household's main form of transport



91. The Town Council has recently considered how to provide a community bus service and identified an indicative route network (Figure 9), It has considered feasibility but has not confirmed sufficient demand to make it commercially viable.

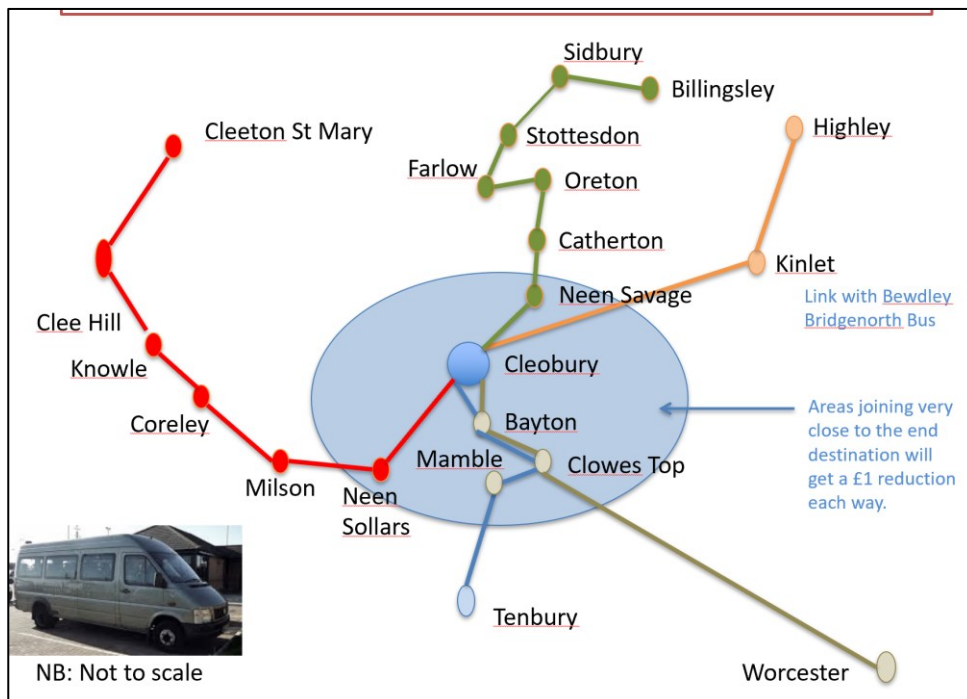
92. The aims and objectives of the community bus service would have been:

- To reduce isolation by increasing independence through providing low-cost transport.
- To prevent exclusion and marginalisation of individuals and groups because of a lack of suitable transport.
- To make best use of current transport resources, collaborating with other community transport services, private and public operators.

- Develop partnerships with public, private and statutory and voluntary bodies, particular local community groups.
- Identify and quantify transport demands ongoing, evaluate the service against these principals and seek as soon as feasible to provide a more inclusive, door to door and fully accessible service.

93. Sadly subsidies have dried up from Shropshire Council and a paid for service, even with volunteer drivers does not now look viable. The Town Council will review this in the future.

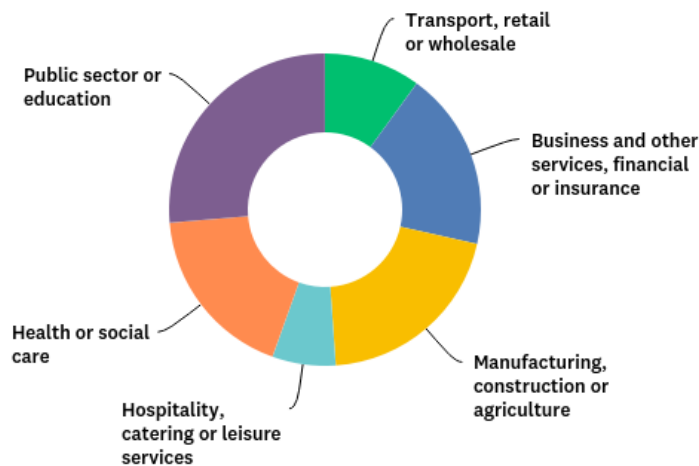
Figure 9: Potential route map for community bus service



Employment

94. The BCS showed that 30% of the respondents were retired, and 55% were employed either full time, part time or were self-employed. Only 3% described themselves as unemployed. 44% worked in Cleobury Mortimer, and 56% worked outside the town. Income levels are relatively high for those living in Cleobury Mortimer and deprivation levels are low.
95. The local economy is very mixed in terms of type, with the schools being significant employers, plus 5 medium sized businesses; Kudos Blends (B2B Baking additives), Muller Engineering, Amodil (Steel), Hobsons Brewery and Capulet Care. Most local employment opportunities come from organisations of four employees or less. These businesses together with self-employment are mixed, but with a high proportion of builders and craftspeople as well as those working in healthcare. This distribution of employment is typical for Shropshire, as shown in **Figure 10**.
96. The BCS indicates that the future economy will probably require local people to travel outside the town and that local jobs are not well paid. There was a belief that new businesses were likely to focus around tourism, leisure, crafts, followed by light industrial, retail and healthcare. 80% say we should invest more in promoting tourism, but it is not important to everyone.
97. Cleobury Mortimer needs more employment land, however the majority view via the BCS is that commercial land increase should not exceed the local plan identified requirements.
98. Cleobury Country Centre is a not for profit organisation based in Cleobury but serving adjacent parishes. Its remit is to promote local businesses, tourism and the life of the town. It also runs the local library and houses the Town Council Offices.

Figure 10: Distribution of economic sectors in Shropshire, 2018



Source: Shropshire Council Business Strategy 2018.)

99. The Town Council, Cleobury Country Centre and supportive local organisations will need to work together to promote the available employment land with a bias towards employment opportunities with better pay and skills to balance the local economy and the need for fewer people to travel for employment (**Figure 11**). This is especially important, as public transport is poor (see Transport and Traffic section).

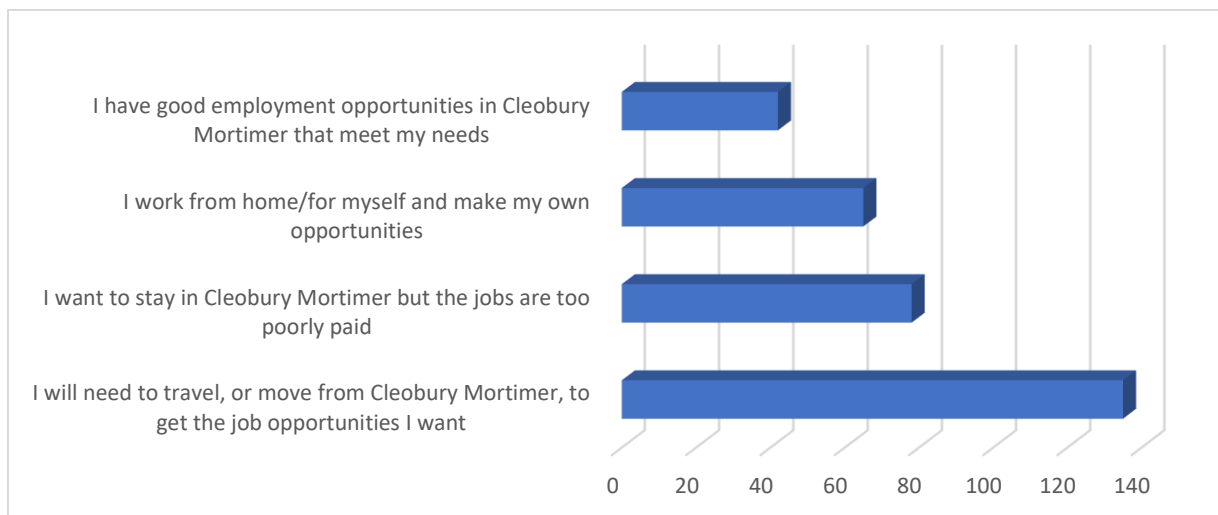
100. Slightly more people work outside Cleobury Mortimer (54%) than inside. This is a consequence of an increase in new housing and limited employment opportunities of a higher value. The Town Council and many of the BCS respondents want to make sure that we work for a more vibrant and integrated community that discourages dormitory status.

101. Consequently we want to encourage new and better employment locally as well as enabling self-employment through better infrastructure such as superfast broadband and high quality mobile coverage, ideally offering to be a 5G pilot site.

102. Cleobury Country Centre acts as a hub for businesses and this should be encouraged and supported to help bring about greater and more relevant employment opportunities.

103. To reduce the number of commuters (54%) and those leaving the town for work and to encourage employment in the town, the Town Council will work with Cleobury Country and existing property owners and investors to encourage an increase in shared office space and office rental opportunities in the town. We should focus on existing premises ahead of any new buildings during the plan period.

Figure 11: Q36 If you are in employment or seeking employment, tick the options you believe to be true for your household



104. We hope to provide further shared office space for the self-employed and emerging small businesses. Cleobury Country Centre and the Market Hall are currently fully occupied. Therefore, we would look to make available more shared office space managed by Cleobury Country or if not possible, another investor. The Medical Centre has space available that has been vacant for some time.

105. Tourism adds employment and earning potential to the town. As a gateway to the Shropshire Hills, it is its rural setting which is its greatest asset. The walking

opportunities, local B&Bs, Farm stays, pubs and tea rooms are a draw for people from the Birmingham conurbation and some from as far away as London. We seek to improve promotion of this offer via a new tourist strategy and a modest investment in its support. A modest investment was the predominant verdict of the BCS.

106. The site considered the most suitable for the addition of up to two hectares of commercial land is on the Tenbury Road, attached to the Newhouse Farm Industrial Site. **Table 3** illustrates the types of new businesses that may arise.

Table 3: Big Cleobury Survey Q38 What types of Businesses do you think would want to locate to Cleobury Mortimer?

Type	Responses	
Tourism, leisure, crafts	60.40%	209
Light industrial, advanced manufacturing	40.46%	140
Shops and retail	39.02%	135
Healthcare, homecare and complementary therapies	37.86%	131
Community services and social enterprises	35.26%	122
Pubs, restaurants, cafes	31.79%	110
Food, drink, ingredient production and processing	28.32%	98
Building contractors, decorators, manual trades	23.12%	80
Financial and professional services	18.21%	63
Total Respondents: 346		

Policies

Development Plan policies

107. Neighbourhood Plans must meet certain ‘basic conditions’ and other legal requirements (as set out in paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)) before they can come into force. These are tested through an independent examination before the neighbourhood plan may proceed to referendum.
108. Paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as applied to NDPs by section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, outlines the basic conditions that a NDP must adhere to in order to proceed to a referendum and be ‘made’.
109. “A draft plan meets the basic conditions if:
- It has regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State;
 - The making of the plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development;
 - The making of the plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area);
 - The making of the plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations;
 - Prescribed conditions are met in relation to the plan and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the plan.”
110. Planning law requires that applications for planning permission be determined in accordance with the Development Plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The Development Plan includes
- adopted Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans that have been approved at referendum.
111. The **Development Plan** for the CMNDP is:
- Shropshire Local Development Framework, **Adopted Core Strategy**, March 2011;
 - The Shropshire Council Site Allocations and Management of Development (**SAMDev**) Plan, Adopted 17/12/2015;
112. The Development Plan is informed by the **Place Plan** for Cleobury Mortimer and surrounding area September 2019. Information in support of the review of the Place Plan was submitted by the Town Council in June 2019.
113. The Local Plan is currently under review and was subject to Regulation 19 consultation in December 2020.
114. Cleobury lies in the “South Spatial Zone” in the Core Strategy settlement strategy (Table 1). The Core Strategy (CS1) indicates that Key Centres will maintain and enhance their traditional roles in providing services and employment, accommodating around 40% of Shropshire’s residential development over the plan period to 2026. In Cleobury Mortimer, the Core Strategy seeks to promote development that balances environmental constraints with meeting local needs (CS3). Cleobury Mortimer is also identified as a District Centre (CS15).
115. Key Centres are identified by their role and sphere of influence, both existing and potential, not simply by their size and their scope for future development. They are, and could be stronger, focal points for local transport networks, employment opportunities and services. They provide sustainable places in which development can contribute to a “virtuous circle” of greater self-sufficiency within the towns, reducing the need to travel, maximising the potential for sustainable transport and

strengthening local markets, thereby helping reduce our carbon dioxide emissions and strengthening local resilience in a changing world.¹¹

116. SAMDev MD1.1 identifies CM as a market town and Key Centre¹² which is surrounded by a number of villages and hamlets set out as “community cluster settlements”¹³. MD3 seeks to ensure that there is not an oversupply of housing permissions in particular areas and will seek to identify

housing land in areas of undersupply, outside the settlement boundary if necessary. The supporting text states that there is an expectation that windfall sites will make a contribution.

117. SAMDev S6 allocates two sites for housing (CMO002; CMO005 which have been built out) and one site for employment (ELRO68CM) (**Figure 12**). It also identifies the development boundary of the settlement.

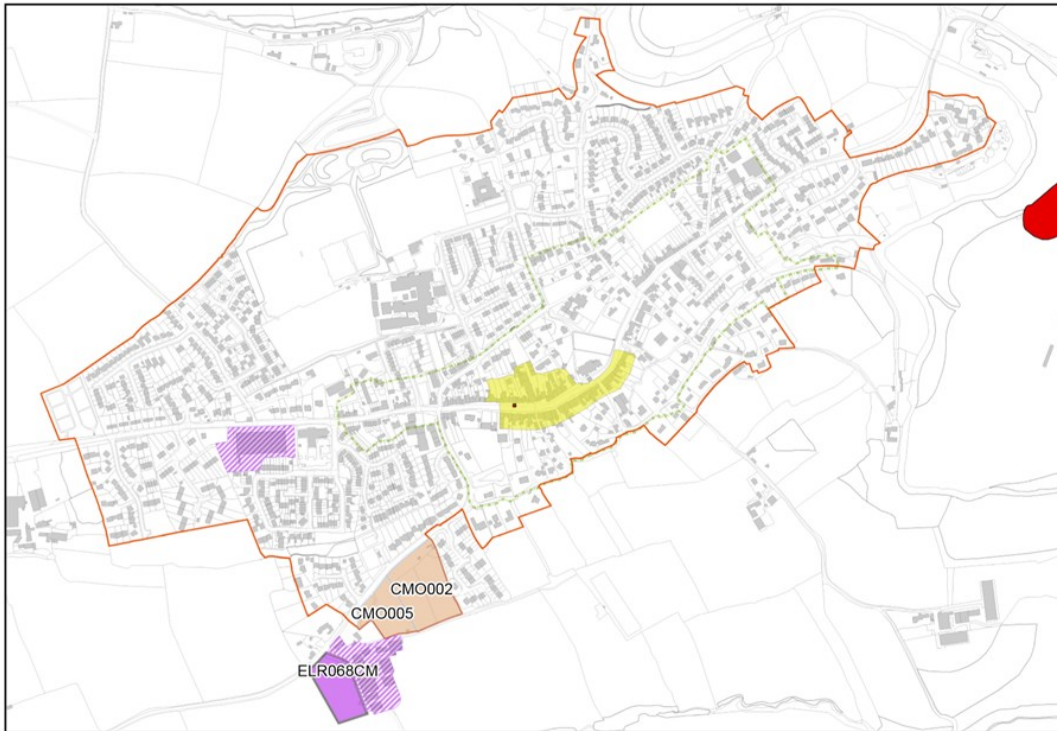
¹¹ Core Strategy, 4.30.

¹³ SAMDev page 17.

¹² SAMDev page 15.

Figure 12: SAMDev designations and allocations in Cleobury Mortimer

S6 Inset 1 Cleobury Mortimer



Shropshire Council
Adopted Policies Map 2015

Cleobury Mortimer Place Plan Area
S6 INSET 1, 2, 3, 4

Key

-  Protected Employment Area
-  Housing
-  Employment
-  Development Boundary
-  Scheduled Ancient Monument
-  Town Centre
-  Conservation Area

© Crown copyright 2015 OS 100049049



Source: SAMDev policies map for Cleobury Mortimer

118. In 2020 in support of the Regulation 19 draft Local Plan, Shropshire identified that there was a 6.05 year supply of deliverable housing land against the housing requirement within the adopted Core Strategy and 8.11 years supply of deliverable housing land against the housing need identified using the Government’s standard methodology.¹⁴
119. Emerging Local Plan policy SP2 will deliver 30, 800 new dwellings and around 300 hectares of employment land for the plan period of 2016 to 2038. Cleobury Mortimer is identified as a Key Centre in Schedule SP2.1 and policy SP2 states that “Key Centres will accommodate significant well-designed new housing and employment development, supported by necessary infrastructure. Growth within these diverse settlements will maintain and enhance their roles, support key services and facilities and maximise their economic potential.”
120. Cleobury Mortimer was identified as a Key Centre in Schedule SP2.1 in the Emerging Local Plan. This considered the needs for additional housing allocations in the Cleobury Mortimer area and in Policy S6 (S6.1) identifies that 200 dwellings and 2 ha of employment land will be required over the plan period to 2038.
121. Emerging Local Plan policy SP12 supports economic growth in Key Centres and policy S6 sets out detailed policy aspirations for the Cleobury Mortimer Plan Area. It acknowledges the role of the Cleobury Mortimer NDP. Figure 1 of the Site Allocations document shows site allocations saved from the Core Strategy which are not discussed in this NDP.
122. Appendix 5 of the emerging Local Plan sets out residential development guidelines for Cleobury Mortimer. Overall, 200 dwellings are required for the plan period with a windfall allowance of 120 dwellings required to account for what has already been permitted and completed.
123. It is unlikely that the requirement for 120 dwellings can be met through windfall development and therefore, the CMNDP will allocate land for this number of dwellings. Any windfall development not on allocated sites will be in excess of the identified need and this NDP therefore makes provision for housing land in excess of the identified requirement.
124. If the NDP were not to allocate land to meet this provision, and the need could not be met within the currently defined settlement boundary, it must be assumed that speculative housing development will be allowed. If this were to occur, then it would be more difficult to secure developer contributions arising from the developments to meet local need, since these would not be set out clearly in Development Plan policies. The English planning system is planned, and the CMNDP seeks to take a proactive approach to meeting the identified housing need and necessary infrastructure.
125. The overall identified need for 2 ha. of employment land to 2038 is considered against permissions, completions and allocations in Appendix 6, Schedule A6 of the Regulation 19 draft of the Local Plan. The 2 ha requirement, taking account of available land supply of 0.7 ha, indicates that the CMNDP should make provision for 1.3 ha. of additional employment land.

¹⁴ Shropshire Council Five Year Housing Land Supply Statement: Executive Summary Data to: 31st March 2020 Published: 23rd March 2021.

Development boundary

126.The Regulation 19 draft leaves it to the CMNDP to identify a revised development boundary that considers land allocations which will be included in the Policies Map¹⁵.

Cleobury Mortimer Development Strategy

127.The original advice from the Local Planning authority underpinning the Regulation 14 consultation was to make provision for 138 dwellings. This has now been revised downwards to 120 dwellings. The 2020 Regulation 14 version of the CMNDP made provision for 140 dwellings and no windfall but this will now be reduced to an allocation for 120 dwellings and no windfall. Windfall can therefore be considered to be in excess of the identified need for additional housing.

128.The full justification for the housing and employment allocations is set out in a separate document which accompanies the CMNDP: **Cleobury Mortimer Site Assessments**. The revised development boundary will respect the existing development boundary but will include the new site allocations. In this respect, all other Development Plan and emerging Local Plan policies will prevail outside the Development Boundary.

Housing Land Allocations

129.The Planning Authority’s approach to site allocation is summarised in the Cleobury Mortimer Place Plan Area Site Assessments Published (August 2020). The CMNDP Site Allocation extends this assessment in a Stage 4 assessment of local development considerations and requirements.

130.The CMNDP undertook extensive consultations since 2018. The full background to this is set out in the accompanying document “Residential Site Allocations”.

131.The January/February 2022 call for site yielded 4 sites, one of which was clearly preferred. The site at Ludlow Road would be able to provide land for 120 homes at 30 dwelling per hectare, a 0.5 hectare cemetery extension which was required for the future of the town, and an adequate proportion of open space and green infrastructure with walking and cycling routes connecting with the town centre. The site allocation and infrastructure requirements are set out in **Figure 13**.

132.The site has been assessed against both the adopted SAMDev and the Emerging Local Plan. Development criteria in Policy 1 area based on these development plan documents as well as the emerging CMNDP policies. The ownership of the land will be transferred to Cleobury Mortimer Town Council before completion of the 20th dwelling of proposals in CM1.

¹⁵ Regulation 19 Draft of the Shropshire Local Plan, para 5.95.

Figure 13: Land allocation at Ludlow Road



CM1: Ludlow Road residential allocation

5.2 hectares of land is allocated between Catherton Road and Ludlow Road for the delivery of 120 homes at a density of 30 dwellings per hectare, and open space shown in Figure 13 subject to the following:

- A. 0.5 hectares of land allocated in Policy CM2 and shown in Figure 13 will be provided as cemetery space before completion of the 20th dwelling.
- B. An accessible wildlife corridor with a minimum overall area of 1 hectare should be created linking Ludlow Road with Catherton Road. This will include:
 - i. Tree shelter belts to protect the privacy and amenity of residential properties on Lea View and Catherton Road;
 - ii. Substantial planting with native species to create new habitats along the route;
 - iii. An accessible green space that will make provision for play and recreation;
 - iv. A segregated walking and cycling route (suitable for pushchairs and mobility scooters) that will complement but not disturb the newly created wildlife corridor;
 - v. Improvements to the pond near Catherton Road;
 - vi. Way signage; and
 - vii. A long term management strategy.
- C. A tree planting strategy should be provided and existing trees and hedgerows should be preserved wherever possible;
- D. The site should have a single road access from Ludlow Road;
- E. Sustainable Drainage Systems should control water run-off on-site and avoid pollution impacts from surface water. Natural Flood management will be welcomed and garden paved areas should be permeable and additional surface water run-off avoided; and
- F. Broadband and mobile phone provision should be implemented where possible.

Cleobury Mortimer Cemetery Extension

133. The Cemetery was opened in 1895, with the top section opening in 1961 running concurrently with the older section for many years for additional burials (re-opens). To determine future burial land required over next 30 years based on future population trends and forecastable burial trends, the Town Council considered current capacity based on current trends, changes in demographics, preferences of type of burial

and death/burial rates. There are currently 280 spaces available and there is an estimated 21.5 years capacity remaining at current levels. A 120 year supply of additional space would be in the order of 0.6 ha if the population were to grow to accommodate new housing development.

134. The existing cemetery space is 0.7 ha broken into two equivalent parcels and it is proposed here that additional cemetery space of 0.5 ha is required which is approximately 100 years' requirement. The required cemetery space is shown in **Figure 13**.

135. In 2022, new guidance was issued which will prevent human burials at the cemetery extension for reasons of groundwater protection. It will still be possible to have a garden of remembrance, a structure or wall containing multiple urns, or sealed caskets for ground interments of ashes.¹⁶ Applicants

who propose to use the site for ceremonial purposes are advised to consult this guidance in the event that an environmental permit will be required.

CM2: Cleobury Mortimer cemetery extension

Land is allocated west of the existing cemetery, shown in Figure 13, for 0.5 hectares of additional cemetery space subject to the following:

- A. The perimeter of the site should be planted with a screening hedge at least 1.5 metres in height when mature, and including native tree species;
- B. Consideration should be given to the parking needs of visitors and suitable provision will be made; and
- C. Use of land as a cemetery complies with the requirements of the relevant Government guidance protecting groundwater from human burials

¹⁶

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protecting-groundwater-from-human-burials/protecting-groundwater-from-human-](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protecting-groundwater-from-human-burials/protecting-groundwater-from-human-burials#:~:text=The%20Environment%20Agency%20encourages%20cemetery,risk%20to%20the%20water%20environment.)

[burials#:~:text=The%20Environment%20Agency%20encourages%20cemetery,risk%20to%20the%20water%20environment.](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protecting-groundwater-from-human-burials#:~:text=The%20Environment%20Agency%20encourages%20cemetery,risk%20to%20the%20water%20environment.)

Employment Land

136. The Emerging Local Plan indicates that an additional 1.3 ha. of employment land is required in Cleobury Mortimer. At the same time that the CMNDP steering group consulted landowners and the community on the preferred location of the housing developments, it consulted on where and how local businesses should be located.

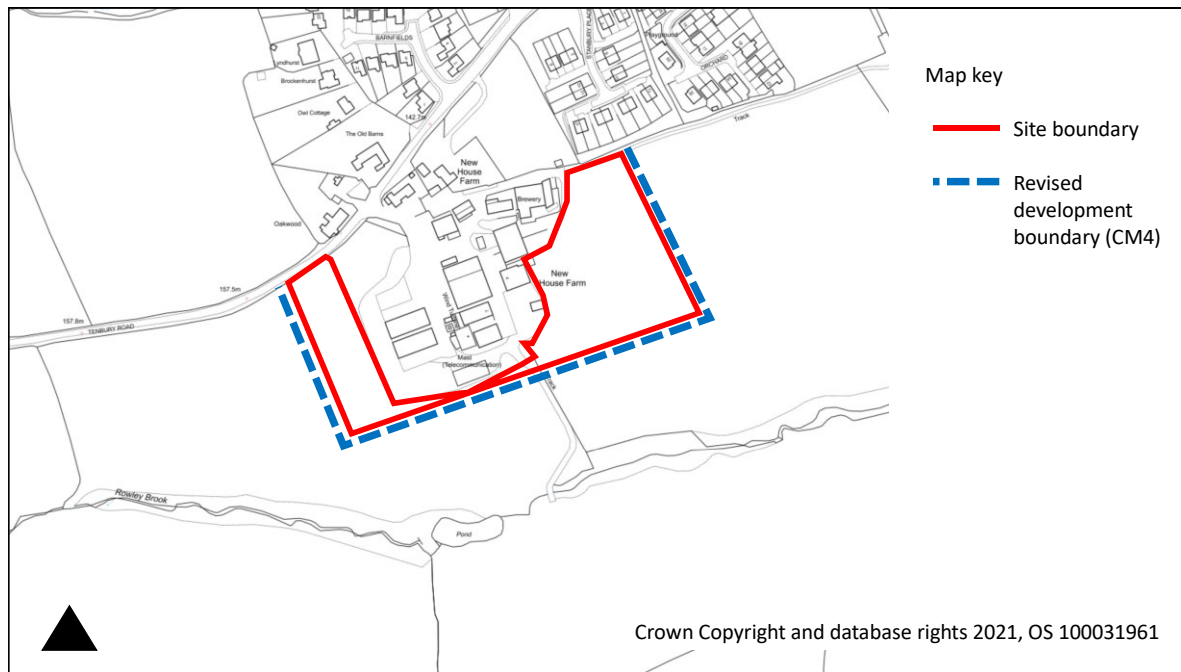
137. There was a very strong consensus in the community that the best location for additional employment land would be the extension of the existing employment site with the provision of necessary improvements to the highways infrastructure including footways along Tenbury Road and a requirement that new employment development would be of a high standard so that it would attract growing businesses and provide high paid

employment. The types of employment generating uses which maybe appropriate at the extended employment site under policy CM3 should align with the emerging local plan policy SP13, which at paragraph (2) sets out a list of employment generating uses. The extent of the allocation is shown in **Figure 14**. The use of natural water management techniques for sustainable urban drainage systems includes, swales, wetlands in urban areas, green roofs, permeable pavements, detention ponds, filter strips and is advocated by the Environment Agency.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/natural-flood-management-part-of-the-nations-flood-resilience>

<https://www.gov.uk/flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-research-reports/the-natural-flood-management-nfm-manual>

Figure 14: Extension of Tenbury Road employment area



CM3: Extension of Tenbury Road employment area

1.3 ha of land is allocated at Tenbury road employment area, shown in Figure 14, for provision of employment uses subject to the following:

- A. New development should be of a high standard capable of attracting new and local businesses and should support overall improvement of the industrial area.
- B. Smaller start-up units will be supported.
- C. New development, or modifications of existing development, should not lead to a deterioration of the amenity of neighbouring properties.
- D. A footway should be provided before occupation of the extension land along the full length of the Tenbury Road site boundary to allow safe pedestrian access to the remainder of the settlement.
- E. Provision for superfast broadband to all premises should be designed in where possible.
- F. Development of 1,000m² or more floorspace or with a gross site area of 1ha or more will achieve the BREEAM Good rating or equivalent standard within an alternative assessment endorsed by Shropshire Council will be supported.
- G. Changes to existing buildings, including extensions and alterations, should maximise opportunities to increase fabric energy efficiency, reduce carbon emissions and integrate on-site renewable energy technologies.
- H. All development should deliver at least a 10% biodiversity net gain in accordance with the Environment Act 2021.
- I. Where necessary, sustainable urban drainage systems should manage all surface water risks and use of natural water management techniques will be supported; and
- J. Proposals for renewable and low carbon infrastructure will be supported where these do not cause harm to local amenity and character.

Development Boundary

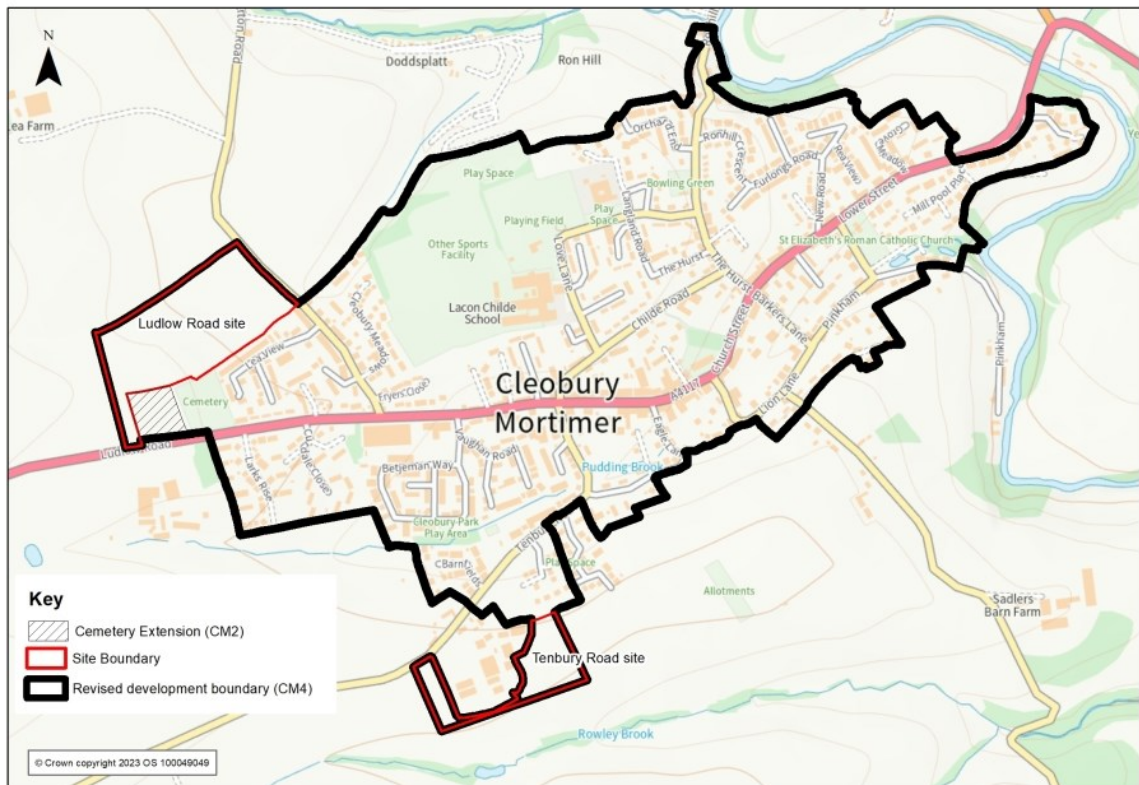
138. Land at Tenbury Road (both housing and employment allocations) and Ludlow Road is currently outside the development boundary. The Development Boundary must therefore be modified to regularise future development decisions.

139. Core Strategy policy Adopted Policies Map 2015, S6 inset shows the current Development Boundary.

140. Para. 5.95 of the Regulation 19: Pre-Submission Draft of the Shropshire Local Plan states that “Should the Neighbourhood Plan propose site allocations and alterations to the development boundary the Policies map will be amended to reflect these changes.” **Figure 15** illustrates how these changes should be made.

CM4: Cleobury Mortimer development boundary
 The development boundary is amended to include the three site allocations in Figures 13 and 14 and is shown in Figure 15

Figure 15: Cleobury Mortimer Development Boundary as amended to include CMNP site allocations



Housing Mix

141. The BCS provided strong evidence of local housing need which included demand for the provision of bungalows to support an ageing population, particularly for 2 bedroom market price bungalows.

142. The total amount of intermediate affordable or rented social housing is around 23% which is in keeping with wider Shropshire trends. Evidence showed that people left the area due to lack of affordable housing and the need to commute to work.

143. Since the BCS, a number of permissions have been granted for converting existing buildings in the high street and the old doctors surgery into 1 and 2 bedroom flats for rent and purchase. This will address part of the chronic need for low cost rented properties.

144. A housing need BCS of Cleobury Mortimer was undertaken by Homepoint on behalf of Shropshire Council in May 2018. (https://www.righthomerightplace.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/CleoburyMortimer_June2019.pdf)

This showed that the number and type of housing required was:

- 20 units of 1-bedroom properties (predominantly over the age of 50)
- 12 units of 2-bedroom properties (ages 21-59)
- 7 units of 3-bedroom properties (ages 29-54).

145. The majority of the housing need derived from residents currently living in Cleobury Mortimer (39 out of 54 respondents, or 72%).

146. There was some demand for self-build housing (55 respondents). The emerging Local Plan contains a policy on self-build housing so this will not be reproduced here.

147. The Cleobury Mortimer vision calls for integration and involvement of all types of socio-economic groups and it is therefore desirable that any new developments are of mixed housing type and tenure to support integration.

148. Core Strategy Policy CS11 seeks to achieve an overall target of 33% local needs affordable housing. This figure has been reduced to 20% in the emerging Local Plan.

CM5: Housing mix

New residential development proposals should demonstrate how the proposed housing mix will assist in meeting identified local needs.

Design of housing

149. There have been many houses built in Cleobury Mortimer under the adopted Development Plan policies which are attractive and well designed. Therefore, the CMNDP will not contain specific policies on design. However, the BCS showed a community preference for on-plot parking so that estate roads would flow freely, and the accommodation of electric power points to anticipate a change-over to electric vehicles in future. The town is not connected to the main gas network. Heating in new homes, or as modification to existing homes, should incorporate green energy solutions such as high performance thermal insulation, on-site energy generation and ground or air source heating. The emerging Local Plan will contain robust policies on energy savings,

generation and carbon neutrality which will augment the policies in this NDP.

150. Cleobury Mortimer lies nestled in undulating hills with scattered woodland and individual mature trees. Tree cover therefore provides an essential element of the local character. The BCS indicated strong support for “green” housing developments. The Steering Group discussed the matter with the Shropshire Council tree officer and concluded that it would be suitable to require that future housing development have 20% of the development site under tree canopy after 15 years of the original development being completed.

151. The community strongly supports development that will address the challenges of climate change. To this end, the Steering Group has identified design principles that would be considered favourably:

Cleobury Mortimer Good Residential Design Principles

Good residential design will:

- a. Provide the most energy efficient homes possible that use materials, design, orientation and technology to seek to have a “zero carbon” impact upon the environment.
- b. Provide sufficient open space and recreational needs to meet identified requirements.
- c. Promote wastewater management both in respect of sustainable drainage and water capture (for use in activities such as gardening, car washing).
- d. Maximise the use of renewable energy opportunities offered by a particular site.
- e. Anticipate that residents will wish to work from home and design homes to enable a work/life balance to be enjoyed by providing flexible work-space.
- f. Aim to prevent light pollution and maintain the rural nature of the town.
- g. Adopt the guidance produced by the Building for Life Partnership.
- h. Maintain existing hedges where possible, and avoid use of hedge-netting.
- i. Take account of all wildlife including nocturnal species and, if between November and April, hibernating species in environmental surveys
- j. Make provision for small animals to move freely through boundaries and hedges.
- k. Integrate the new homes into the existing neighbourhood and support pedestrian and cycle friendly neighbourhoods.
- l. Provide access to local facilities and public transport links via convenient, direct paths suitable for those pushing a pushchair, in a wheelchair, walking with a stick or walking frame or using a mobility scooter.
- m. Have designed streets in a way that encourages low vehicle speeds and allows them to function as social spaces.
- n. Discourage anti-social parking where on-street parking is provided.
- o. Allow for plenty of trees and planting to balance the visual impact of parked cars.
- p. Have not met the parking need only with large rear parking courts.
- q. Have provided adequate storage space for bins and recycling, as well as vehicles and cycles.
- r. Ensure that, proposals avoid harm or loss of significance to designated or non-designated heritage assets, including their settings.
- s. Provide electric vehicle charging points.

CM6: Housing design

All new housing proposals should demonstrate they have had regard to the Cleobury Mortimer Good Residential Design Principles

Environment

152. The BCS and the Vision both indicated that the community places a very high value on the countryside surrounding the settlement and that they wish to maintain access to it. Cleobury's rural background is one of the key features making it a place worth living in.
153. The Environment Bill Act 2021 requires development to provide an improvement to biodiversity.
154. In Cleobury Mortimer, the requirements for biodiversity net gain are set out in individual policies CM1, CM2, CM3, CM6 and CM7 in the form of new hedges, footpaths, wildlife corridors, river improvements, and tree planting.
155. For all other development, a net gain will be sought for individual proposals. Whereas the scope for biodiversity improvement will vary from site to site, the Steering Group has identified ecological principles that would be considered favourably in planning proposals.
156. For the avoidance of doubt the definition of 'major development' is as provided in Annex 2 of the National Planning Policy Framework.
(<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework/annex-2-glossary#:~:text=Major%20development,-75&text=For%20housing%2C%20development%20where%2010,of%200.5%20hectares%20or%20more.>)

Cleobury Mortimer Environmental Principles

Protection of the environment and biodiversity net gain will include:

- a. A minimum 10% net gain in biodiversity for new development.
- b. Protection of existing trees and planting new trees. Oaks, native species and trees that provide food for foraging fauna and people will be favoured over purely ornamental species.
- c. Protecting new hedgerows and planting new hedgerows, preferably planted with native species that provide food for foraging fauna all year round.
- d. Provision of linking green corridors that allow fauna to travel freely between habitats and micro habitats.
- e. Creating better access for people to the countryside and to observe (but not disturb) natural habitats.
- f. The creation of new water features or the improvement of banks of existing water features that rely upon natural process of water management not on chemical treatment.
- g. Landscape buffers in the form of mature trees wherever possible, that will provide screening at all times of year (including deciduous species).
- h. New recreational spaces that make provision for native flora and fauna and are not overly manicured or managed in a way that discourages increased biodiversity.
- i. Natural management and planting of public areas and verges, for instance by replacing lawns with wildflower and varied grass species.
- j. Assistance for nesting birds and small mammals such as hedgehog routes, nesting boxes, bug hotels, bat roosting boxes.
- k. A management plan for new environmental and biodiversity provision that demonstrates how biodiversity will increase over the life of the proposed development.
- l. That major development results in 20% tree canopy coverage of the development site within 15 years of completion.

CM7: Environment and Biodiversity

All new development proposals should demonstrate they have had regard to the Cleobury Mortimer Environmental Principles as appropriate.

Water infrastructure

157. Water infrastructure across Shropshire has been deemed to be inadequate in many cases leading to constraints to development. In Cleobury Mortimer, the Place Plan¹⁷ indicates that “Hydraulic modelling of the wastewater network is required in the south west of the town to assess whether there is capacity within the network to meet development needs. Developers will also

need to provide sewers for sites in the north.” This is identified as critically required infrastructure.

158. The Habitats Regulation Assessment (including stage 2 Appropriate Assessment) carried out for the Emerging Shropshire Local Plan identifies a need for mitigation against unacceptable impacts as a result of wastewater capacity on the Severn Estuary European Marine Site

CM8: Water infrastructure

Development proposals are required to demonstrate that they will be served by adequate water supply, foul drainage, wastewater and sewage treatment infrastructure. In particular, proposals should show how development will be phased to allow the relevant water company sufficient time to undertake any necessary capacity improvement works to the existing water supply, wastewater and foul drainage networks and waste-water treatment works prior to construction and occupation of the development. Where development is bought forward in advance of planned capacity improvements by the relevant water company through their Asset Management Process, any required capacity improvements should be delivered via agreement between the developer and the water company.

¹⁷ [cleobury-mortimer-2019-20.pdf](#)
([shropshire.gov.uk](#))



Committee and Date
Cabinet meeting
18th October 2023

Item

Public



Management Options for SpArC Leisure Centre at Bishop's Castle

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

1. Synopsis

This report recommends transferring the management of SpArC Leisure Centre in Bishop's Castle to the Shropshire Community Leisure Trust, under their existing contract.

2. Executive Summary

2.1. Leisure provision is important to deliver the aspirations of the Shropshire Plan:

2.2. **Healthy People**

Provision of good quality indoor and outdoor leisure facilities enable people across Shropshire to take part in physical activity and to socialise more widely with other customers. This is particularly important in remote rural areas and helps underpin physical and mental health and wellbeing.

2.3. **Healthy Economy**

The SpArC centre provides employment for local people and helps draw people into the town of Bishop's Castle, bringing wider economic benefits.

2.4. Healthy Environment – the provision of the facility in this relatively isolated part of the county helps strengthen the local community and reduces the travel distances required by residents wishing to utilise leisure services.

2.5. This report sets out a proposed new approach to the management of SpArC Leisure Centre in Bishop's Castle. The centre is one of three currently managed directly by Shropshire Council staff.

2.6. As part of a wider review of the management options for Shropshire Council owned Leisure Centres, the proposal is that SpArC Leisure Centre should be included in the existing contract with Shropshire Community Leisure Trust ("SCLT"), with Serco as the managing agent. This contract currently includes the Leisure Centres at The Quarry, Shrewsbury Sports Village, Oswestry and Market Drayton, and will include the new centre at Whitchurch, once completed.

2.7. The benefits of this approach include:

- Improved marketing and development of the leisure offer at SpArC
- A more consistent approach across Shropshire, with the opportunity for a joint membership with other SCLT centres
- Increased training and development opportunities for staff
- Improved cover for staff, with a Shropshire-wide team
- Financial saving of around £23k/per annum, based on current projections, until the end of the current contract (31 July 2027)
- SpArC Leisure Centre would then be an integral part of the main leisure contract when it is tendered for August 2027

2.8. The opening hours, facilities, staff and activities would remain the same, and the building would remain in Council ownership.

2.9. Engagement with local Members, staff and the SpArC Trustees has proved positive, with enthusiasm for the Centre to be included in the main contract. Users of the centre have been informed of the potential for management of the centre to be changed and have not raised any objections.

2.10. If Cabinet is in agreement with the recommendation below, then transfer of management responsibilities is possible by February 2024.

3. Recommendations

3.1. Approve the transfer of the operation of SpArC Leisure Centre in Bishop's Castle to the Shropshire Community Leisure Trust, as part of the existing leisure contract, until 31 July 2027.

3.2. Delegate responsibility to the Executive Director of Place, in consultation with the Leader and the Portfolio Holder for Digital and Culture, for undertaking necessary due diligence and thereafter finalising negotiations and completing the transfer to

the current leisure management contract with Shropshire Community Leisure Trust.

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

4.1. The table below sets out the key risks and mitigations:

Risk	Mitigation
1. Lack of support for including SpArC Leisure Centre in the existing leisure management contract means the financial savings are not realised.	An engagement exercise has taken place with staff, Trustees, local ward councillors and members of the public. There has been considerable support for the proposed change in management arrangements.
2. Not including the facility means that the opportunity to provide a high quality, consistent Shropshire leisure offer to the local community is missed.	The engagement exercise has involved opportunities for trustees to meet with SCLT and Serco to provide examples of how they operate in other Shropshire facilities and how the local offer can be enhanced.
3. Continued management of the facility by Shropshire Council means that there is financial uncertainty, which is picked up through Council budgets.	Transferring management on a fixed management fee reduces the risk to the council of market volatilities, and any potential staffing issues, saving time with back-office support teams. However, the Council will still be liable for RPI/CPI increases to the contract price and any increases to energy unit inflation.
4. If the decision to include SpArC in the contract is agreed the deed of variation is not completed in a timely manner meaning that mobilization is delayed, and the financial and community leisure opportunities are negatively impacted.	Legal support has been commissioned to ensure the speedy preparation of the deed of variation and timely consultation with SCLT and Serco's legal representatives to finalise and sign the deed.
5. Not having sufficient resources to complete TUPE transfer and other contractual arrangements in a timely manner	CLT team supported by HR colleagues, SCLT and Serco in place to quickly commence the consultation with staff, subject to Cabinet agreement, and manage the transfer process.
6. Procurement challenge from not offering the management to another organisation	Specialist legal advice has been obtained to ensure that the inclusion of SpArC Leisure Centre in the existing contract can be modified without the need for a new procurement by reason of Regulation

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. The contract offer is above what we have in the budget so will result in an ongoing pressure of £20,439. However, this is less than the current projected controllable pressure and will therefore result in a saving against current projections of circa £23k.
- 5.2. Subject to Cabinet agreeing that SpArC Leisure Centre is to be included in the leisure management contract, this will also provide a small additional one-off saving through a reduction in overheads across the wider contract from 1 February 2024 to 31 July 2025.
- 5.3. The cost of managing this contract should be seen in the context of the wider SCLT Leisure contract, which has been renegotiated to make a considerable saving from 1 August 2024.
- 5.4. The entire contract will be re-procured through a competitive tender process for 1 August 2027.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.1. Energy and fuel consumption – No effect, although potential to improve this is being considered separately through proposals to update the swimming pool and plant room.
- 6.2. Renewable energy generation - No effect, although potential to improve this is being considered separately through proposals to update the swimming pool and plant room.
- 6.3. Carbon offsetting or mitigation - There is no direct effect as a result of this proposal.
- 6.4. Climate change adaptation - There is no direct effect as a result of this proposal.

7. Background

- 7.1. Across Shropshire there are many different arrangements and delivery models for leisure facilities. Where agreements exist, they vary significantly to each other. It is resource intensive for the Council to manage these contracts. As a consequence of the number and nature of existing arrangements there is a lack of consistency in service delivery, and quality of experience varies for the customer across the County.
- 7.2. The management of Bishops Castle Leisure Centre (SpArc) and Church Stretton Sports Centre transferred to the Council in April 2020 following termination of the Teme Leisure agreements.

7.3. Consideration of the long-term management of other Leisure Centres not in the main leisure contract at Ludlow, Church Stretton, Cleobury Mortimer and Much Wenlock has yet to be undertaken.

7.4. The facilities provided and current management arrangements are as follows:

Facilities	Facilities Provided	Facility Description/comments
Bishops Castle Leisure Centre (SpArC), Brampton Road, Bishops Castle,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3G Floodlit pitch • 21 station gym • 3 court sports hall • 2 glass backed squash courts • 20m x 4 lane swimming pool • Theatre studio • Sauna 	<p>Management of facility was taken back in-house in April 2020. Previously operated by Teme Leisure.</p> <p>Local agreement for Community College to access facilities for educational use</p> <p>Outdoor pitches are on adjacent site across the road.</p> <p>Pool, squash courts and fitness suite available to the community during the school day but total availability limited.</p>

7.5. Recommendations from consultants, Strategic Leisure, on the management options for Shropshire Council Leisure Centres, clearly show that outsourcing the centres is the most cost-effective way of managing them going forward.

7.6. The following four facilities are currently managed under contract by Shropshire Community Leisure Trust, with Serco Leisure as their managing agent: The Quarry, Shrewsbury Sports Village, Oswestry Leisure Centre and Market Drayton Swimming Centre. There is a clause to include the new facilities at Whitchurch, once completed.

7.7. The contract, which was extended in August 2022 for 5 years, with a break clause after 2 years, commenced on 1 August 2012 and is for a period of 10 years. The contract is let to the Shropshire Community Leisure Trust which has appointed Serco to deliver operational management services.

7.8. Inclusion of SpArC Leisure Centre at Bishop's Castle can be legally included within the terms of the existing contract. The legal basis for modification of concession contracts during their term without the need for a new procurement is contained in Regulation 43 of the Concession Contracts Regulations 2016.

7.9. The opening hours, facilities, staff and activities would remain the same, and the building would remain in Council ownership.

7.10. The benefits of transferring the management of the centre include:

- Improved marketing and development of the leisure offer at SpArC
- A more consistent approach across Shropshire
- Increased training and development opportunities for staff
- Improved cover for staff, with a Shropshire-wide team
- Projected financial saving of £23k per annum, based on current projections, until the end of the current contract (31 July 2027)
- SpArC Leisure Centre would then be an integral part of the main leisure contract when it is tendered for August 2027

8. Additional Information

- 8.1. As there are no plans to change the facility offer, opening hours or staffing, it is not envisaged there will be any impacts on equalities, social inclusion or health. The principles of this would have been considered when the existing contract was let. A full Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment will be completed before the main contract is tendered in 2027.
- 8.2. The [Bishop's Castle Place Plan](#) area is the most sparsely populated area in Shropshire, with a population of around 11,000 residents and a population density of 0.2 persons per hectare. The population grew from 6,903 to 10,856 (2002 - 2020) a rise of 57.3%.
- 8.3. There are more people aged 65+ compared to Shropshire overall (2020):
- 13.8% aged 0-15, lower than 16.3% in Shropshire.
 - 55.5% of working age (16-64), lower than 58.7% in Shropshire
 - 30.7% aged 65+, higher than 25.0% in Shropshire
 - Average age of residents is 49 years old, higher than Shropshire (45 years old)
 - Has the 2nd highest overall deprivation score out of all 18 place plan areas, behind Craven Arms.
- 8.4. Bishop's Castle is rurally isolated with no other facilities within a 20-minute drive of the town. There is also no public transport provision in the evenings or on Sundays, so access to leisure facilities in the area is critical for the health and wellbeing of local people.

9. Conclusions

- 9.1. Transferring the management of SpArC Leisure Centre to Shropshire Community Leisure Trust is an important step in delivering a more cost-effective and consistent approach to leisure delivery across Shropshire. This will enable the centre to be considered in a cross-county approach to the delivery of our main leisure centres when the contract is retendered in 2027.
- 9.2. The benefits of doing this in the short-term include improved marketing and development of the centre for the local community, increased training and development opportunities for staff, a more consistent leisure offer across Shropshire, with the opportunity for joint memberships, reduced risk for Shropshire Council and overall financial savings.

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

Local Member: Engagement with local councillors has been completed:
Cllr Ruth Houghton
Cllr Heather Kidd
Cllr Nigel Hartin

Appendices

N/A

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Cabinet
18 October 2023

Item

Public



Shrewsbury Town Centre Regeneration: Smithfield Riverside Phase One

Responsible Officer:	Mark Barrow		
email:	mark.barrow@shropshire.gov.uk	Tel:	01743 258919
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	Cllr Ian Nellins	Climate Change, Environment and Transport	
	Cllr Mark Jones	Economic Growth and Regeneration	
	Cllr Dean Carroll	Housing and Assets	

1. Synopsis

The Smithfield Riverside project seeks approval to consult on the emerging masterplan and submit an initial planning application to demolish the former Riverside shopping centre and construct parkland and meanwhile greenspace, amended to align to the LUF2 Grant award.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The Shrewsbury Town Centre Redevelopment (STCR) Programme is an ambitious regeneration initiative, supporting many of the strategic objectives of the Shropshire Plan. Notably, it supports a Healthy Economy, promoting the County town 'as a safe, strong and vibrant destination to visit and invest'; Healthy Environment and Organisation through the potential for low carbon development, mitigating climate change, increasing flood resilience, whilst reducing the Council's operational carbon footprint and providing greenspace in our public realm. These objectives are reinforced by the Economic Growth Strategy, Shrewsbury Place Plan and Big Town Plan Vision and informed by the emerging Movement and Public Realm Strategy.
- 2.2. The Council report titled 'Levelling Up Fund Award for Shrewsbury' (6 July 2023) approved the inclusion of enabling and infrastructure works associated to the 'Levelling Up Round 2 Fund Award', within the planning application(s) for the demolition of the Riverside Shopping Centre and the former Riverside medical practice, as also recommendation 3.2 approved in the Council report titled 'Shrewsbury Town Centre Redevelopment Phase One' (16 February 2022).

- 2.3. Further to the above approvals, a specialist consultancy team has been appointed to support the delivery of the wider Phase One redevelopment of Smithfield Riverside. Led by experienced development managers Rivington Hark, the team has initially undertaken a review of the project's outline business case (OBC), as set out in the Council report February 2022.
- 2.4. Referred to as Key Stage 1 and adopting the RIBA workstages 0/1¹ (Strategic Definition/Preparation and Briefing respectively), this review also includes an appraisal of the masterplan for the immediate locality, again to ensure that initial developments proposed by the Council report (February 2022) are complementary to, and act as a catalyst for future phases of the Smithfield Riverside. In summary, this review concludes that the overall approach, development assumptions and mix and quantum of proposed development remains relevant and appropriate to the development site, as well as the wider Shrewsbury context.
- 2.5. Following this review, and to meet LUF 2 grant funding spend deadlines (March 2025), the next stage of design has commenced (RIBA 2 Concept Design) for the Phase One developments, for the scope approved by Council in February 2022. To meet this requirement, it is proposed to submit an initial planning application by December 2023, for the demolition of the former Riverside shopping centre and medical practice, subsequent ground preparation, remediation and enabling works, and for the construction of a linear park and public realm (streets, squares and other open spaces), including associated meanwhile-use greenspace, pending future development.
- 2.6. This initial planning application is an integral component of the draft planning strategy for the wider Phase One development area (as section 8.12 below), comprising four applications between December 2023 to August 2024.
- 2.7. It is proposed to commence stakeholder engagement and public consultation on the emerging masterplan, including the quantum, mix, and location of future development sites. It will also consider the sequence and phasing of activities, and implications for the planning strategy, with reference to the scope of works to be delivered by the LUF2 grant award and the associated, initial planning application referred to above. The engagement and consultation process will be delivered over a 4-week period, concluding late November 2023, from which the outcomes will inform the final masterplan, for consideration at future Cabinet and Council meetings. The stakeholder engagement and public consultation strategy is summarised in section 8.12 below.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. That Cabinet:
 - 3.1.1. Approve the submission of a planning application for the demolition of the Riverside shopping centre and the former Riverside medical practice, and enabling work, construction of the proposed park and temporary greenspace (as set out in the Council report 6 July 2023), all aligned to the Levelling Up Fund bid award for the *Smithfield Riverside Redevelopment Programme (Project 1)* of £14.85m.
 - 3.1.2. agree to commencement of the stakeholder engagement and public consultation programme on the emerging masterplan for Smithfield Riverside.
- 3.2. Delegates responsibility to the Executive Director of Place, in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and the Portfolio Holders for Climate Change, Environment and

¹ Royal Institute of British Architects Plan of Work

Transport, Economic Growth and Regeneration and Housing and Assets, to progress the capital project (item 3.2.1 above), to include, but not limited to, the following:

- 3.2.1. finalise the masterplan for the wider Smithfield Riverside redevelopment area following the outcomes of the stakeholder engagement and public consultation programme, as provided for in Recommendation 3.1.2 above, and for inclusion in a further report for final approval by Council.
 - 3.2.2. finalise planning strategy for future phases of development for the Shrewsbury Town Centre Redevelopment Programme: Smithfield Riverside Phase One, following the outcomes of the stakeholder engagement and public consultation programme, as provided for in Recommendation 3.1.2 above, and for inclusion in a further report for final approval by Council
 - 3.2.3. undertake an options and feasibility study for the retention, reconstruction and/or replacement of Ravens Meadow multi-storey car park, necessary to inform future phases of the Smithfield Riverside masterplan, and for inclusion in a further report for final approval by Cabinet and Council.
- 3.3. That Cabinet agree to recommend to Council to:
- 3.3.1. progress the above works as a capital project to completion of contract documentation and receipt of tenders, for demolition, enabling works and construction of the park and associated temporary greenspace within the Levelling Up Fund bid award for the *Smithfield Riverside Redevelopment Programme (Project 1)* of £14.85m.

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1. The Opportunity Risk Management Strategy sets out the methodology for identifying opportunities/benefits and assessing these against the associated risks. As part of the risk assessment and opportunities appraisal, a further detailed review has been undertaken with key officers to identify the key opportunities/benefits, the associated risks and possible mitigation, each appraised against all potential options.
- 4.2. Strategic opportunities and benefits have been identified for the initial Phase 1 of the Redevelopment Programme. A key opportunity is to produce an exemplar regeneration scheme, which is both sympathetic, and of appropriate mix and density of uses to drive transformation in the town centre. As part of the opportunity/risk analysis key Council/stakeholder representatives have been identified to enable the opportunities to be realised, together with the management of associated risks.
- 4.3. A detailed risk register is in place (aligned to RIBA workstages) which has identified key risks to delivering the associated strategic benefits/opportunities. The risks recognise the impacts, and each risk has identified ownership and has appropriate mitigation identified. The key risks with mitigations associated with activities relating to this report are as follows:

<i>Risk</i>	<i>Mitigation</i>
Fluctuations in demolition/ construction costs	Cost and programme management consultancy appointed to monitor delivery of proposed developments against industry benchmarking and to procurement

Construction tender and programme delays	options appraisal, including consideration of framework contractors. Detailed value engineering will be undertaken to ensure of works remain w
Flood adaptation and resilience	Appointed delivery team have demonstrable experience of delivering comparable developments to Smithfield Riverside.
Statutory consultee objections	Dedicated planning and legal advice commissioned (client-side and consultancy) to liaise with statutory consultees including Environment Agency (under a paid service agreement) and Historic England (relating to demolition within a conservation area). Planning Performance Agreement in place with the Local Planning Authority. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been commissioned to support planning applications.
Failure to secure planning consent(s)	
Public opposition to the scheme	Dedicated communications and engagement agency appointed to ensure the proposed development programme is clearly presented to all stakeholders and the public, and available via media channels, as well as in person displays/meetings. The associated activities will take place prior to planning applications being determined.

- 4.4. The risk register will remain under constant review with risks being closed when mitigated and emerging risks added and managed throughout the programme cycle.
- 4.5. The development process is defined by risk. The earlier in the development process the higher the risk that expenditure could prove abortive. Currently all development expenditure is being funded by secured grant monies and allocated match funding. The project is working within existing financial approvals and will be able to until after the December full Council meeting.

5. Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA)

- 5.1. An initial screening Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA) was undertaken to inform the respective business cases referenced in the Council report titled 'Shrewsbury Town Centre Redevelopment Programme Phase One' (24 February 2022). The impact of the proposals regarding equality, diversity, social inclusion, and health considerations is principally in economic terms, and remain likely to be positive across groupings in the community regarding economic growth opportunities, particularly the intersecting Protected Characteristic groupings of Age, Disability and Sex. Positive impacts are anticipated regarding Social Inclusion for low-income households and people living in this part of what is a very large and sparsely populated rural county, with explicit recognition of the social mobility opportunities likely to arise.
- 5.2. There remains potential for further positive impacts through the stimulation of economic development and investment, which will provide jobs and improved workspace. In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty on the Council, as set out in the Equality Act 2010, the Council will need to ensure that contractors engaged in commercial development are likewise able to demonstrate compliance with PSED duties. In so doing, they will

also be expected to adhere to guidance regarding equity of access to economic opportunities.

- 5.3. The intention is to also reference other policy strands within the Council and for partners, regarding pedestrianisation, transport, healthy lifestyles, use of green space, air quality issues, public protection measures such as the Public Space Protection Order in place in Shrewsbury and other safeguarding policies. Collectively, these wider societal and environmental considerations will contribute towards helping to create a welcoming environment across all groupings within the community, thereby aiding the intended positive impacts. There will also be efforts made to engage with groupings and their advocates where links may usefully be made with specific target groups such as people with health problems and people with disabilities, people with caring responsibilities, and older people. These may range from blue badge holders to those who need access to toilets and changing facilities, such as people with Crohn's disease, families and carers of babies and children. Actions may be readily identified from evidence gathered to enhance the positive impact of the development programme for these groupings, leading to better outcomes overall for communities in Shropshire as well as in Shrewsbury.
- 5.4. The development of the engagement and consultation strategy addresses in part the need to develop a clear communications and relationship plan that underpins the priorities and objectives of the development programme, articulated through the emerging masterplan. This will involve communications with residents and businesses and engage key stakeholder groups and networks. The approach is consistent with the Council's strategic vision and objectives and creates a framework for future investment.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. The budget for the consultancy and associated fees, and the subsequent demolition, enabling and construction works within the scope of this report, are within the funding approved in the Council report of 21 September 2023, titled *Capital Investment Programme and Mid-Year Review of the Capital Strategy (2022/23 - 2027/28)*.

7. Climate Change Appraisal

- 7.1. The outline business case (Council report February 2022) has previously stated the aspiration to demonstrate leadership in the delivery of low carbon, sustainable development in Shrewsbury. Consequently, the proposed brownfield development of the wider Smithfield Riverside will provide significant opportunity to create new developments that will be energy/fuel efficient, both by supply of renewable sources and in operation, minimising the need for carbon offsetting and mitigation.
- 7.2. Carbon performance and climate mitigation measures have been included as an integral part of the project from the early stages of the design process. Carbon performance will be quantified, monitored and reported as the project proceeds.
- 7.3. The proposed demolition and enabling works which fall within the scope of this report will aim to retain and reuse of materials arising from the site's clearance. The construction of the proposed park will directly contribute to climate change adaptation through both surface management and flood water attenuation, including Sustainable Urban Drainage solutions.

8. Background

- 8.1. The proposed stakeholder engagement and public consultation process aims to explain the emerging masterplan proposals for Smithfield Riverside, including indicative sequence, phasing and timescales for delivery. The outcomes of the masterplan review will form the basis of the consultation process and responses will be collated from

various media channels, as well from in person events hosted locally to the town centre. The outcomes of the process will assist in testing and informing the final masterplan as well, as provide context and support to the initial planning application to demolish the former Riverside shopping centre, undertake the enabling works and build the park with temporary greenspace.

8.2. Masterplan Review

8.3. The first period of design development represents a holistic review of the outline business case masterplan, using key observations to inform and propose a revised masterplan structure. The revisions respond to:

- Maintaining the regeneration objectives.
- Urban Design observations in response to the project's outline business case masterplan.
- A constraints and opportunities analysis of the site and wider town context.
- Tracking the town's emerging Movement and Public Realm Strategy, and Design Code.

8.4. Emerging Revisions to the Masterplan

8.5. Key revisions as outcomes of this stage of design development are (appendix 2):

- A linear public park replaces the hotel proposed on Plot 4. This is a key placemaking move enhancing connectivity between the Riverside and Pride Hill in the form of a new green public space. The park captures opportunity for solar performance, provides a pillar of the flood strategy and addresses phasing constraints and opportunities, whilst mitigating the change of level and lack of grade level active frontage born of the flooding constraints.
- The active levels of Riverside are raised to address flood risk. This resultant space at current road level is exploited to create parking and flood compatible support spaces.
- A second level of podium is proposed to embrace an opportunity to link pedestrians at the current level of the connections to The Pride Hill Centre, the Darwin Centre and pedestrian river crossing to Frankwell. Opening the route through Pride Hill provides opportunity for pedestrian flow and cascade from the town centre onto the Riverside podium, creating an animated customer journey and outward facing buildings.
- The optimal position for the public parking and travel hub are identified in the existing location of the Ravens Meadows MSCP. This position supports the future performance of the Darwin Centre and any emerging strategy for a revised bus interchange. It also enables the retention of the Pride Hill service yard and delivers a more efficient parking solution than would be possible on the Gap Site. The masterplan identifies opportunity for alternate uses on the Gap site that could bring further benefit to the existing historic and listed fabric.

8.6. Masterplan Placemaking Vision and Phasing

8.7. The revised masterplan structure places at its heart a vision to repair urban connections with high quality and differentiated places – delivering the OBC vision of a connection to the River Severn, reinforcing the links to the town centre (Pride Hill and beyond) and delivering a new landscaped gateway.

8.8. The masterplan structure contains four “missions”, distinct elements of a placemaking vision that can be independently delivered to support a phasing strategy and staged strategy of planning applications:

- Connection of the town centre to the Riverside- the redevelopment of Pride Hill and the Riverside Shopping complex with a new linear park at its heart- deliverable within existing movement patterns and ownerships.
- Connection to the River Severn and re- considering Smithfield Road – which can be staged and phased to dovetail with the emerging movement strategy and its implementation over time.
- Delivering urban repair to the east of the masterplan to stitch together the intimate grain of historic properties and topography with new residential development. This element of the masterplan could be enabled by the implementation of a new kerbside bus interchange along Raven Meadows and new central link to the Smithfield Road.
- A central infrastructure phase that maintains all functional and footfall support to the Darwin and Premier Inn.

8.9. The masterplan review has been informed by the following:

8.10. **Sequence and Phasing Strategy:** Due to the scale, massing, mix and sequencing of development, the wider masterplan for the Smithfield Riverside will be delivered in phases. The recent OBC and masterplan review has confirmed that the Phase One developments continue to commence with the delivery of the Multi-agency Hub on the former Riverside shopping centre site, and the redevelopment of the former Pride Hill shopping centre, all as approved in the Council report February 2022. This sequencing is informed, in part, by the need to meet grant funding obligations and timescales, namely the Getting Building Fund (GBF) for Pride Hill and more recently the Levelling Up Fund Round 2 for Riverside.

8.11. The emerging masterplan envisages the following sequence and phasing for the approved Phase One developments (appendix 1) and as aligned to the proposed planning strategy:

- Phase 1a - Demolition of the former Riverside shopping centre and creation of public realm/park on Roushill, with meanwhile greenspace to remainder of site (aligned to LUF2 grant award as Council report titled ‘Levelling Up Fund Award for Shrewsbury’ – 6 July 2023), pending future development, as phase 1c below.
- Phase 1b – Partial demolition of the former Pride Hill shopping centre and leisure-led mixed-use redevelopment, currently proposed to include a cinema, food and beverage, and retail with bridge/footpath links to the former Riverside shopping centre site.
- Phase 1c – Construction of commercial office building, incorporating the Multi-agency Hub with associated pedestrian links, from landing of existing Frankwell footbridge to Pride Hill.
- Phase 1d – Refurbishment/reconstruction of the existing Ravens Meadow multistorey car park to include a travel hub and associated facilities; aligned to the parking strategy under development for the town centre and as the draft Movement and Public Realm Strategy.

8.12. **Planning Strategy, Engagement and Consultation:** The planning strategy has been developed cognisant of the above sequence and phasing requirements, and the need to meeting grant programme funding and delivery timescale obligations. Consequently, the

strategy for the initial phase of development is proposing 4 planning applications as follows:

	<i>Planning Permission (locations as appendix 1)</i>	<i>Submission/ determination (excl. 6 week judicial review period)</i>	<i>Consultation Strategy</i>
1	<p>Full application for the former Riverside shopping centre and environs relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demolition of former Riverside shopping centre. • construction of public realm/park on Roushill. • meanwhile use to the remainder of site (meeting obligations of the LUF 2 grant award). • application to be supported by the illustrative wider masterplan. 	November 2023 – April 2024	<p>Stage 1: public consultation preceding planning application (October – November 2023).</p> <p>Commencing with workshop with Council members to finalise scope and content ahead of public events.</p>
2	<p>Outline application with parameters (hybrid) for the former Riverside shopping centre site relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • multi-agency hub buildings on plot 3. • future development plots 5 and 6 to the meanwhile use sites created by the application 1 above. • Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) relating to the indicative mix of commercial office (including the multi-agency hub), hotel/hospitality, residential and undercroft parking. 	January 2024 – May 2024	Stage 2: public consultation preceding planning application (December 2023 – January 2024)
3	<p>Full application for the partial demolition and redevelopment of the former Pride Hill shopping centre to include cinema, food and beverage, retail and public realm.</p>	March 2024 – July 2024	Stage 3: public consultation preceding application 3 (March 2024)
4	<p>Reserved matters application for plot 3 multi-agency hub plus adjacent surface car park (the 'gap' site) and plots 5/6 subject to full business case/market demand</p>	August 2024 – September 2024	Stage 4: public consultation preceding any reserved matters application(s) (May/June 2024)

8.13. The consultation and engagement strategy builds on previous consultations, including those for the Shrewsbury Masterplan Vision and the Smithfield Riverside Strategic

Development Framework. It ensures the wide range of stakeholder organisations, residents and businesses, both locally and regionally, can engage with the development of proposals, provide feedback and contribute to the development and delivery strategy of the masterplan for the Smithfield Riverside.

- 8.14. The consultation and engagement strategy prioritises a participant-driven approach which is inclusive, accessible and creative, and has been designed to be flexible and adaptable to the needs of the Planning Strategy. Emphasis will be placed on providing opportunities to engage both in-person and online, with a range of awareness-raising activities to encourage broad participation.
- 8.15. The first stage of consultation and engagement aims to inform the initial planning application relating to the demolition of the former Riverside shopping centre and associated works, as summarised above. Consequently, the first stage of consultation and engagement is proposed to run from 19 October until 15 November 2023, with a dedicated consultation website and an in-person consultation hub in the Darwin Shopping Centre open from 25 October. The consultation and engagement strategy will commence with a workshop with Council members to finalise its scope ahead of public events.

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

Council report	Levelling Up Fund Award for Shrewsbury – 6 July 2023
Council report	Shrewsbury Town Centre Redevelopment Programme Phase One – 24 February 2022

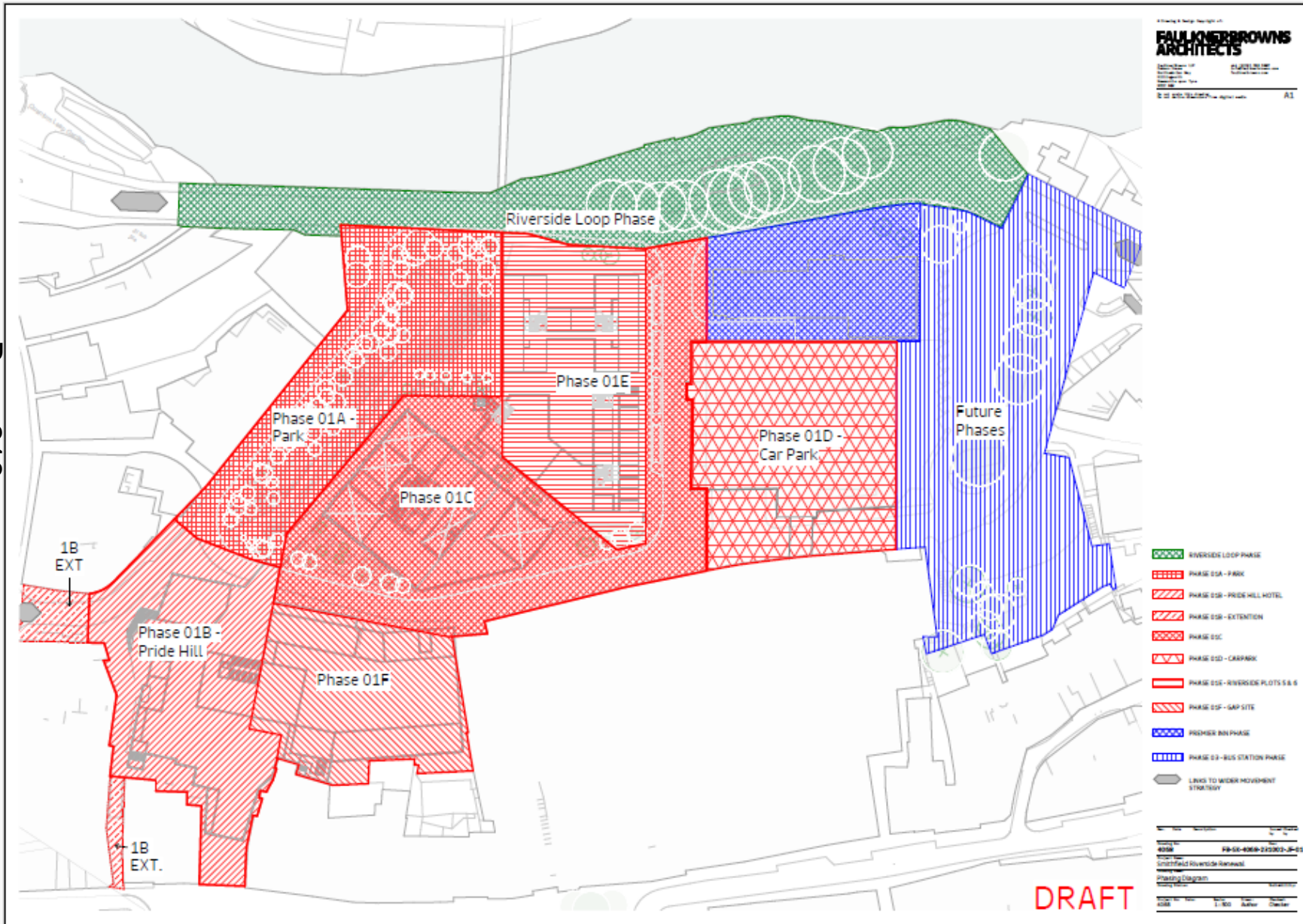
Local Member: Cllr Nat Green

Appendices [Please list the titles of Appendices]

1. Indicative Sequence and Masterplanning
2. Emerging Masterplan

Appendix 1: Indicative Sequence and Phasing

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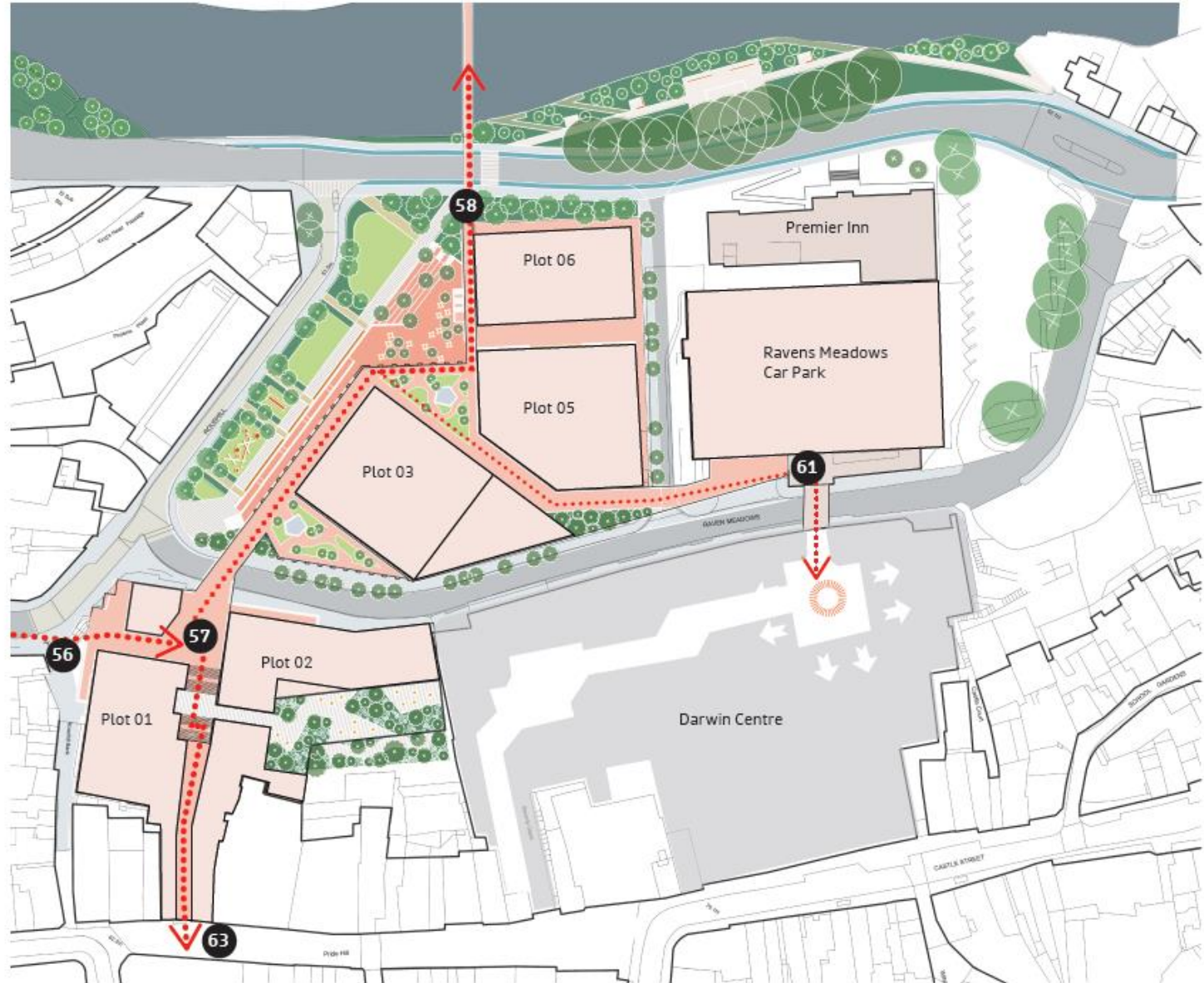


Appendix 2: Emerging Masterplan

RIVERSIDE MASTERPLAN
Plot Location

Key

58 Key Levels (AOD)



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**Cabinet – 18th October
2023**

Item

Public



Public Space Protection Order – Dog Fouling and Constraints

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

1. Synopsis

The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet Approval to consult on a Public Space Protection Order for Shropshire to control dog fouling and to help control the risk of harm from stray dogs.

2. Executive Summary

Following a series of routine audits into the Dog Warden service, a public complaint and an increasing nuisance from dog fouling, a management review concluded that the service can be improved with the introduction of a county wide Public Space Protection Order (PSPO).

The review also considered that enforcement on its own would be insufficient to secure a change in attitudes and the behavioural change needed to address the volume of complaints about dog fouling in public areas. To meet this challenge, it was considered that a proactive public information campaign advising of health considerations, the impact of dog nuisance and the reasons for subsequent enforcement action would be needed.

It is therefore proposed initially to consult on the introduction of a Public Space Protection Order for the council's administrative area to strengthen the Council's enforcement powers.

This will allow the service to address public perception and complaints and provide the legal framework for the council to take enforcement action against pet owners who allow their animals to foul pavements and in public amenity spaces. The report therefore seeks Cabinet approvals to consult on proposals to introduce a PSPO which will allow the issue of fixed penalty notices for dog fouling. Details and purpose of the PSPO are contained in Appendix A.

2.1. **The Shropshire Plan - Implications**

- 2.2. Healthy Living – supporting residents to take responsibility for their dogs and the health of others, and preventing ill health
- 2.3. Healthy Economy – ensuring that Shropshire is a healthy destination for tourists
- 2.4. Healthy Environment – enabling safer communities by reducing anti-social behaviours and risk of harm from stray dogs
- 2.5. Healthy Organisation – ensuring Shropshire’s internal capacity and capability is complemented effectively and that internal resources are organised efficiently and effectively to take the necessary enforcement to encourage responsible behaviour.

3. **Recommendations**

- 3.1. That Cabinet approves an eight-week consultation exercise to introduce a Public Space Protection Order for the administrative area of Shropshire Council. Details and purpose of the PSPO are contained in Appendix A and consultation materials in Appendix B.
- 3.2. Following the conclusion of the consultation a further report will be presented to Cabinet for final approval of the PSPO and relevant publicity materials.

Report

4. **Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal**

- 4.1. The service is minded to implement legal powers to take enforcement action when required to encourage responsible pet ownership. Currently the council is vulnerable to challenge about the lack of enforcement as it has no legal power to do so and indeed has been criticised by the public that enforcement action hasn’t been taken. There is therefore considerable reputational risk for the council if it does not respond to this criticism and fails to consult on the necessary powers to take enforcement action.
- 4.2. An initial screening Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA) has also been undertaken ahead of the proposed consultation period: this is attached as Appendix D. The overall equality impact is anticipated to be positive across the nine Protected Characteristic groupings set out in the Equality Act 2010

and across the whole county, due to health and well-being benefits for everyone in the community, if there is less dog fouling as a result of this policy being implemented.

- 4.3. There is potential for positive equality impact for the groupings of Age, Disability, Pregnancy and Maternity, and Sex, in particular. As with other policies in relation to the public realm, this is in terms of mental well-being opportunities arising for people in these groupings to feel safer when outdoors for health benefits, education, work or leisure, or simply walking to their local shops and amenities. This is particularly so for families with young children, wheelchair users, and older people who may consider themselves to be vulnerable and less likely to venture out without pavements that can be navigated safely by them and their carers, and that are clear of detritus and dog faeces.
- 4.4. The grouping for whom there are positive health and well-being impacts is Age, specifically children under 5 but also children who are being encouraged to walk to school or to leisure activities and are put off from doing so due to dog fouling. For the grouping of Disability, there may also be particular distress for those with neurodiverse conditions or attachment disorder, for whom the presence of dog fouling can cause visible and physical distress. Children (Under 5) will have less potential to be harmed by un-cleared faeces or distressed by coming into contact with it. Young children are most likely to be exposed to dog fouling through their outside play activities and potential health impacts, if personal hygiene has not fully developed.
- 4.5. Mitigation of negative impacts is also anticipated to be necessary, as for some groupings, removing dog fouling presents as a challenge. These are the groupings of Age, Disability, Pregnancy and Maternity, and people in these and other groupings who have caring responsibilities. For example, wheelchair users and mobility scooter users could be particularly affected by dog fouling on streets and pathways, due either to difficulty picking up dog faeces if it has been caused by their own dog, or to difficulty dealing with dog fouling that they encounter which may go onto the wheels of their wheelchair or mobility scooter.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. There are no revenue implications expected as extra signage and staff time associated with the initiative will be contained in existing budgets and is anticipated to be offset by the positive results of behavioural change and less demand for service.
- 5.2. Where enforcement is required there may be costs associated with legal action, but it is hoped with targeted action and preceding publicity that these costs will be kept to a minimum and within service budgets.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.1. The introduction of a county wide Public Space Protection Order to encourage responsible dog ownership is not expected to generate any direct impacts for the generation or capture of carbon emissions, the generation of renewable energy, or for adaptation to the impacts of climate change. There may be some indirect

positive effects for carbon reduction if the mitigation of the existing negative impact of dog fouling leads to more extensive use of local open space.

7. Background

- 7.1. A full management review of the dog warden service was prompted during the winter 2022/23, partly in response to several audits recommending improvement but also a body of persistent complaint from the public. The review acknowledged that many of the audit recommendations had been implemented but there was opportunity to improve the service and in response to increasing numbers of complaints regarding specifically dog fouling and the Council's apparent inability to address the issue. The body of evidence which supports the introduction of a PSPO is contained in Appendix C.
- 7.2. In response to the management review, customer enquiries and accusations that the Council was not taking sufficient enforcement against dog fouling a review of legislative powers was also completed. The conclusions of review are also contained below in the body of the report, but importantly that both public education and enforcement are required to encourage responsible dog ownership to ensure residents who use public open space are kept safe.

8. Additional Information

- 8.1. To address the audit findings a full management review was undertaken and amongst other things reached the following conclusions
- 8.2. That the council's legislative powers be reviewed, and measures implemented to enable enforcement for the control of dogs and addressing dog fouling
- ~~8.3.~~ The review also considered that enforcement on its own wouldn't be sufficient to secure a change in attitudes and the behavioural change needed to address the volume of complaints about dog fouling in public areas. To meet this challenge, it was considered that a proactive public information campaign advising of health considerations, the impact of dog nuisance and the reasons for subsequent enforcement action would be more effective. Subject to Cabinet's approval to consult and the consultation results further details will be presented for consideration at a subsequent meeting. .
- 8.4. An Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA) has also been undertaken the results of which are shown in Appendix D

9. Conclusions

- 9.1. It has been concluded that both a public information campaign together with enforcement is likely to achieve the best results in terms of encouraging pet owners to act responsibly. This will help to protect those members of the public

who use the Council's open recreation areas and their health from the adverse effects of dog nuisance.

- 9.2. The service development will enhance the Dog Warden service and provide strategic direction for the control of dogs and enforcement of nuisance behaviours
- 9.3. The conclusions reached are also considered to be ones that will best meet the themed aspirations of the Strategic Plan and align the service with the Plan.

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

Local Member: N/A

Appendices

Appendix A – Details and Purpose of the PSPO

Appendix B – Consultation Details

Appendix C – Body of Evidence to Support PSPO

Appendix D – Equality, Social Inclusion, Health Impact Assessment

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Dog Warden Service – Cabinet Report Appendix A, Detail and Purpose of the PSPO

The proposed introduction of the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) is a measure aimed at improving the environment of public open spaces for residents and visitors alike and that these spaces are not spoiled by the actions of pet owners who do not act responsibly either by allowing their pets to be a nuisance or when fouling and not clearing up after them.

There is a legal duty on the Council to consult on any proposed PSPO with the Chief Inspector of Police, the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and any other relevant bodies in particular any community representatives within the local authority and the owner or occupier of land.

The consultation will be published on the Council's web site with notice provided to relevant bodies believed to have an interest.

An Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA) has commenced with the current draft set out at Appendix D to this report. This will benefit from the comments and views of the community and other interested parties received as part of the consultation process and an updated ESHIA will be presented back to Cabinet for approval after the consultation exercise.

To encourage a focused response to the consultation and to further inform the ESHIA a number of documents will be published in addition to the draft PSPO. This includes publicity material included in Appendix B and a FAQ document providing basic information on the PSPO and the implementation process. The proposed consultation documents are set out at Appendix B.

A challenge over the validity of a PSPO can be made up to 6 weeks after an order or any variation to an order is made. The basis upon which the draft PSPO has been derived follows an assessment of the data retained by various agencies and businesses together with on-going consultation with key stakeholders. The totality of information received to date supports the arguments for a PSPO. The method by which we are proposing to undertake the consultation will allow the concerns and views of the community, land owners and any interested parties to be considered, thereby reducing the risk of a challenge.

When making a PSPO a local authority must have particular regard to the rights of freedom of expression and freedom of assembly set out in the European Convention on Human Rights and the Human Rights Act. Whilst the PSPO itself has the potential to impact human rights, the specific recommendation in this report is not at variance with the Human Rights Act 1998 and is unlikely to result in any adverse Human Rights Act implications.

The PSPO has five components and prohibitions covering the prevention of dog fouling, the collection and disposal of dog waste by dog owners, exclusion of dogs from equipped play areas and fencing sports areas, dogs to be on leads on the highway and the authority for officers to direct owner to put their dogs on leads in public areas where the animals are creating a nuisance or safety concern.

The wording of the PSPO will be specifically drafted in a way to avoid any allegation that the Council is targeting any specific group or type of individuals.

The PSPO is fundamentally aimed at providing an additional tool for the Council to address nuisance being caused by issuing fixed penalty notices without resorting to criminal action through the courts unless absolutely necessary.

Financial Implications

There are a number of financial implications that members need to be aware of in the event that a proposed PSPO is implemented.

Regulations made under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (the Act) require that where a PSPO is made, extended or varied, the PSPO is published on the Councils website and also that sufficient signage is erected on or adjacent to the public area to which the order relates. Given the size of the area in question there will be a financial implication for the Council in respect of erecting adequate signs on the highway and open spaces. This is currently estimated to be in the region of £4000 to £5000, however the final cost is dependent on the prohibitions agreed as these will need to be included in the signs. It is anticipated these costs will be kept within current budget allocations.

Enforcement can be undertaken by both the Police and authorised Local Authority officers. In the event that the PSPO is approved the main responsibility for enforcement will rest with the Council.

An identified breach of a PSPO is a criminal offence and a person guilty of an offence is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 (maximum £1000). However, the legislation enables such offences to be dealt with, where appropriate, by way of a fixed penalty notice (FPN) which if paid would discharge an individual's liability to conviction for the offence. The amount of any FPN can be set by the Council to a maximum of £100 with the option of a reduction in the event of early payment.

Where a FPN is not considered appropriate or where a FPN is not paid then consideration will need to be given to the commencement of legal proceedings. Only the Council may bring proceedings for a breach of the PSPO; the Police (CPS) will not be able to commence legal proceedings for a breach of a PSPO even where enforcement was undertaken by police officers. Ultimately, the Council will need to consider any such breaches and where appropriate having taken into account the Councils Better Regulation and Enforcement Policy (adopted by the Council on 27 February 2014) pursue matters through the courts. Any costs associated with legal proceedings, which are not recovered, will be borne by the Council.

Background

The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) which are intended to provide the means of preventing individuals or groups committing anti-social behaviour in a public space. Section 59 of the Act sets out the test which must be satisfied before a local authority make a PSPO and where the behaviour is having, or likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality; be persistent or continuing in nature; and be unreasonable.

PSPOs create a framework that either replaces or updates existing public space restrictions such as alcohol Designated Public Place Orders and Dog Control Orders and permits local authorities to introduce new regulations.

The power to make an Order rests with local authorities, in consultation with the police and other relevant bodies who may be affected. A local authority can make a PSPO in respect of any public space within its administrative boundary. The definition of public space is wide and includes any place to which the public or any section of the public has access, on payment or otherwise, as of right or by virtue of express or implied permission.

A PSPO can be in force for any period up to a maximum of three years after which time the Local Authority must consider whether or not to put in place another PSPO.

Appeals against a draft PSPO can be lodged by anyone who lives in, or regularly works in or visits the area in the High Court within six weeks of issue. Further appeal can be made when a PSPO is varied by the local authority.

A PSPO may be applied wherever there is material evidence of anti-social behaviour, for example, in reports to the police, local authorities or partner agencies. A summary of reported dog fouling and nuisance reports is contained in Appendix C

The restrictions and requirements included in a PSPO may be comprehensive or targeted on specific behaviours by particular groups and/or at specified times.

Orders can be enforced by a police officer, a police community support officer, authorised council officers and employees of other delegated organisations.

A breach of the PSPO can be dealt with through the issuing of a Fixed Penalty Notice of up to £100, or a level 3 fine (max £1000) on prosecution.

In establishing a PSPO, appropriate signage must be displayed in accordance with the requirements of the Act on entry points to the public area and within the said area.

PSPO - Proposed

The first prohibition relates to allowing dog fouling in public spaces. When the council is dealing with this behaviour it must rely on gathering evidence to consider an indirect offence, e.g. 'exposure', which will often prove difficult to pursue. Inclusion within the PSPO will make this behaviour a criminal act and enable more effective enforcement against this behaviour. In addition to any data evidence provided, statements will be required from witnesses, employees, or the Police.

The second prohibition relates to removing and disposing of dog waste if a dog has been allowed to foul. If when challenged, there is reasonable intention of breach if a dog owner or the person in control of the dog at the time fails to provide a dog waste carrier or receptacle for collecting and disposing of dog waste.

The third prohibition relates to equipped play areas and fenced sports areas and a breach will occur if a dog owner or person in control of the animal allows the dog to enter these areas.

The fourth prohibition concerns a direction from an authorised officer for an owner or person in control of a dog to put it on a lead in a public area for reasons of safety or nuisance. A breach will occur if the person fails to respond to the request.

The final, fifth, prohibition is failure to comply with the order to have dogs on leads either on the highway, adjacent to the highway, footways and cycle ways and is required to protect not only the animal but those members of the public using the highway and rights of way.

The Act provides that Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) can be used to address a breach of the PSPO. In the event that the consultation process supports the need for a PSPO there will be a need for Cabinet to consider and decide on where the Authority wishes to utilise the FPN regime and to determine the applicable penalty up to a maximum of £100. In addition the Council may choose to reduce the penalty providing it is paid within a given period.

Utilising the FPN regime will require a system to be set up. Currently the Public Protection Service administers and manages the system of FPNs issued for a variety of environmental crimes such as littering and dog fouling in conjunction with Shropshire Council's Environmental Maintenance Service. It is anticipated that this system would be further developed to include FPNs for breaches of a PSPO.

For any breach of the PSPO, Shropshire Council will, where appropriate, issue any FPN having reviewed the necessary evidence. To do this, a reporting mechanism will be developed to provide the Authority with the necessary information/evidence in a timely fashion. Further,

In the event that a breach of the PSPO leads to the need for legal proceedings, the Public Protection Service has the relevant expertise to undertake this action and is in a position to work with the police on such cases. Cabinet will be asked to agree that the Public Protection Service takes on this responsibility in the event that the PSPO is implemented.

Any enforcement action including consideration of legal proceedings by officers of the Council will be undertaken in line with the Council's Better Regulation and Enforcement Policy. The police will be required to have due regard to this policy if required to take any enforcement activity under the PSPO.

Dog Fouling and Stray Dogs: Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)

Consultation September/October 2023

Introduction

Shropshire Council's Dog Warden Service has seen increased reports of dog fouling and there have been growing calls from communities across Shropshire to take enforcement action against pet owners who allow their animals to foul pavements and public amenity spaces.

An in-depth review of the Dog Warden Service was undertaken by Shropshire Council during the winter of 2022/23. The review highlighted the growing number of reports received by the service and concluded that action was required to address the issue.

The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) which are intended to provide the means of preventing individuals or groups committing anti-social behaviour in a public space. Section 59 of the Act sets out the test which must be satisfied before a local authority make a PSPO...where the behaviour is having, or likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality; be persistent or continuing in nature; and be unreasonable.

PSPOs create a framework that either replaces or updates existing public space restrictions such as alcohol Designated Public Place Orders and Dog Control Orders and permits local authorities to introduce new regulations.

The power to make an Order rests with local authorities, in consultation with the police and other relevant bodies who may be affected. A local authority can make a PSPO in respect of any public space within its administrative boundary. The definition of public space is wide and includes any place to which the public or any section of the public has access, on payment or otherwise, as of right or by virtue of express or implied permission.

A PSPO can be in force for any period up to a maximum of three years after which time the Local Authority must consider whether to put in place another PSPO.

Appeals against a draft PSPO can be lodged by anyone who lives in, or regularly works in or visits the area in the High Court within six weeks of issue. Further appeal can be made when a PSPO is varied by the local authority.

To ensure any concerns are understood in advance, and therefore minimise the risk of appeal, Shropshire Council is undertaking a public consultation and seeking the views of a range of stakeholders and key partners.

The proposal

To implement a Public Spaces Protection Order for the prevention of dog fouling and the collection and disposal of dog waste by dog owners. This includes the following:

- The prohibition relates to:
 - **Allowing dog fouling in the public area.**
 - **Failure to appropriately remove and dispose of dog waste if a dog has been allowed to foul.**
 - **Dog exclusion from play areas, equipped and fenced sports areas:** Dogs are excluded from children's play areas, Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs) and tennis courts. For example, a children's play area that contains children's play equipment such as slides, swings, climbing frames and similar apparatus and that is enclosed on all sides by fences, gates, walls or other structures that mark the boundary of the play area. The clear boundaries of these areas make it easy for people to identify the extent of the area where dogs are not allowed.

- **Dogs on leads by direction:** This order gives authorised officers the power to ask for a dog to be put on a lead in situations where they are not under the appropriate control of their owner or where they are causing damage or acting aggressively towards other dogs or park users.
- **Dogs on leads on the highway:** Dogs must be kept on a fixed lead (which includes a fixed extendable lead), of no more than 1 metre in length, when on or adjacent to the public highway, a footway, footpath or cycle track.
- There is an exemption to any exclusion requirement for registered assistance dogs.
- Orders can be enforced by a police officer, a police community support officer, authorised council officers and employees of other delegated organisations.
- A breach of the PSPO can be dealt with through the issuing of a Fixed Penalty Notice of up to £100, or a level 3 fine (max £1000) on prosecution.
- In establishing a PSPO, appropriate signage must be displayed in accordance with the requirements of the Act on entry points to the public area and within the said area.

To support the enforcement action a proactive public information campaign will be launched, advising of health considerations, the impact of dog nuisance and the reasons for enforcement action. The campaign will aim to educate and encourage pet owners to act responsibly.

Why are we consulting?

We want to ensure that the proposal to implement the Public Space Protection Order is supported by those who will be affected and those with an interest in the issue. It is important that views are collected from those who have raised concerns and that the proposed solution has support from the wider community. We are also conscious of the impact on our partners including West Mercia Police and we have been working closely with a number of Police Officers in the design of this consultation and the proposed PSPO.

Who are we consulting?

We are seeing the views of a range of people including:

- Members of the public (including dog owners)
- Town and Parish Councils
- Elected Councillors
- Landowners
- Those occupying land or managing areas of land within Shropshire
- West Mercia Police
- The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)
- Officers of Shropshire Council working in other departments
- Local businesses e.g. dog walking services
- Voluntary and community groups
- Other public sector organisations
- ...and anyone else with an interest in this issue.

Has an Equalities Impact Assessment been completed?

An Equalities and Social Inclusion Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA) has been completed and a copy is attached under documents below.

The Equalities and Social Inclusion Health Impact Assessment anticipates a positive impact across the Protected Characteristic groupings and across the county, due to health and well-being benefits for everyone in the community, if there is less dog fouling as a result of this policy being implemented. There are specific positive impacts anticipated for children under five, and therefore, for all those associated with caring for this grouping, bringing in Pregnancy and Maternity and Sex. Young children are most likely to be exposed to dog fouling through their outside play activities and potential health impacts, if personal hygiene has not fully developed.

How are we consulting?

The consultation will be published on the Councils web site with notice provided to relevant bodies believed to have an interest.

We are asking a number of questions in a survey about our proposals and for any other ideas, feedback and suggestions. The survey will be available online, via the Council's website (see our Get Involved page).

We will provide other versions of questions on request such as large print and easy read versions. If you would like the survey in an alternative format, please use the email below to request a copy or telephone Shropshire Council's Customer Services on 0345 678 9000 and explain any support you need to allow you to respond.

You may also provide feedback via our email and postal options:

Email: TellUs@shropshire.gov.uk

Post: Tell Us, Feedback and Insight Team, Shropshire Council, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY2 6ND.

What is the timescale?

We are consulting for 8 weeks starting on the 23rd October and closing on the 10th December 2023.

What happens at the end of the consultation?

Following the consultation, the feedback received will be analysed and used to inform a report. The feedback will inform the policy recommendations to be presented to Cabinet for final approval of the PSPO in early 2024.

Survey

Have you read the introduction and explanation of the proposal to implement a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)?

Yes, in full

Yes, in part

No

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

		Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know or no opinion
a	The purpose of the consultation and proposal to implement the PSPO is clear.						
b	The Council's rationale for introducing the PSPO is explained.						
c	The way the PSPO will work is clearly explained.						

		Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know or no opinion
a	The purpose of the consultation and proposal to implement the PSPO is clear.						
d	The process and next steps are clear.						

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

		Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know or no opinion
a	The prohibited actions the PSPO will relate to are clear.						
b	The proposed issuing of a Fixed Penalty Notice of up to £100 is fair.						
c	The proposal to launch a public information campaign to encourage more responsible pet ownership and communicate the impact of dog fouling on public health is appropriate.						

Please add any comments to explain your responses above, particularly if you disagree or strongly disagree with any of the proposals.

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The Public Spaces Protection Order covers the issues/activities listed below. Please indicate your view on each type to be covered by the Order.

		Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know or no opinion
a	Dog fouling in a public space						
b	Failure to appropriately remove and dispose of dog waste						
c	Dogs excluded from play areas and equipped and fenced off sports areas.						

d	Dogs on lead by direction (e.g. when not under control in a public area).						
e	Dogs on leads on the highway.						

Have you been negatively impacted by any of the activities/issues listed above, in Shropshire?

Yes

No (skip next question)

If yes, have you previously reported concerns?

Yes

No

Please include any comments below to describe any issues you may have raised.

Overall, what is your opinion of the proposals set out within the consultation?

Strongly support

Support

Neither support or oppose

Oppose

Strongly oppose

Don't know/Not applicable

Please describe how the proposals are likely to impact on you as an individual or /your community/business if you will be impacted by the proposals in any other way.

Do you have any suggestions or alternative proposals to the ones set out within the consultation?

Shropshire Council has undertaken an Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA) and will be updating this after the consultation. **If you have any comments on diversity, equality or social impact that you would like use to consider please describe them below.**

If there is anything else you think we need to take into consideration before making a decision, please let us know:

About you

We will use the information you provide here only for the purpose of this activity. We will store the information securely in line with data protection laws and will not share or publish any personal details.

Which of the following describe you? Please tick (✓) all that apply

- I am a member of the public living in Shropshire
- I represent or own a business
- I am a landowner or land occupier
- I represent a community or voluntary group
- I represent a town or parish council
- I am an elected representative of Shropshire Council
- I work for Shropshire Council
- I work for the Police or Police and Crime Commissioner’s Office
- Other (please give details below.....)

If you are responding on behalf of an organisation and would like your response to be attributed to the organisation, please complete the box below:

Name of organisation:

How did you find out about this consultation? Please tick (✓) all that apply

Shropshire Council newsroom or website	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shropshire Council email or direct message contact	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local media e.g. local newspaper or radio	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local newsletter or via group membership	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social media – Shropshire Council (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn or Twitter)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social media - Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
From my local councillor	<input type="checkbox"/>
Word of mouth	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other.....

What is your gender?

- Male
- Female
- Non-binary
- Prefer to self-describe
- Prefer not to say

What age group are you?

- 15 and under
- 16-19
- 20-29
- 30-44
- 45-59
- 60-84
- 85+
- Prefer not to say

What is your ethnic origin?

<input type="checkbox"/>	White (British; Irish; Welsh)
<input type="checkbox"/>	White (Gypsy, Roma or Irish traveller)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other white background e.g. Bulgarian, French, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, White South African, etc.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Asian (Asian British; Bangladeshi Chinese; Indian; Japanese; Pakistani; any other Asian background).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Black (Black African; Black British; Black Caribbean; any other Black background).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed (White and Asian; White and Black African; White and Black Caribbean; any other mixed background)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Arab
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Ethnic Group
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to say or don't know

Are you an informal or unpaid carer to a friend or family member who needs regular care and support?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

Do you have any long-standing illness or disability that limits your daily activity?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

Are you mainly..?

- At college/university/in further education
- Working (employed or self-employed)
- Unemployed
- Full time carer or looking after the home
- Retired
- Other
- Prefer not to say

What is your postcode? (This is not used to try and identify individuals, we ask this is so we can check people living across Shropshire have responded to the survey and see if answers vary in different parts of the county and to assess where services may need to be provided).

How we will use your information

This survey is anonymous and we should not be able to identify you from your responses. The information you have provided will be used for statistical purposes and to inform decision making. We will only publish anonymised responses, parts of responses, or a summarized version of responses and will ensure individual survey respondents cannot be identified. Your response will be stored and kept in line with Shropshire Council's Retention Schedule.

Your information will be used by Shropshire Council to inform the work of the Dog Warden Service and implementation of the Public Spaces Protection Order. We will not share your information with any other external third parties. Your information will be held securely, and if shared it will be shared securely. We comply with data protection laws concerning the protection of personal information, including the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). For more information on how information is held by Shropshire Council and your rights to gain access to the information we hold on you please see our corporate privacy policy at www.shropshire.gov.uk/privacy

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

If you have any additional comments to make in addition to your survey response, or any questions relating to the survey, please email TellUs@shropshire.gov.uk and quote the name of the survey within your email.

enquiry_no	logged_date	enquiry_re_site_code	site_name	location	description	service_co	service_nai	subject_co	subject_name	officer_code	status_cod	status_name	outstandin	follow_up	enquiry_ea	enquiry_northing
14086759	01/04/2022 15:40	3431667	34700884	RACECOUR	Dog fouling	Dog fouling	STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	346071	312627
14086796	02/04/2022 19:54	3433596	4300315	HIGH STRE	Dog fouling	Excessive Dog Fouling all along the High St . Both sides .	D STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	RET	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	371621	293187
14086828	03/04/2022 18:40	3434800	34700884	RACECOUR	Dog fouling	Dog fouling	STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	IAR	E509	Resolved - No Action Required	N	346024	312737
14087156	06/04/2022 08:43	SR-194316	4301005	FP CON QUEENS RD BI	What does the enquiry relate to? Dog		STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	IAR	ES12	Works Completed	N	372652.5	292647.9
14087174	06/04/2022 11:34	SR-194362	34701835	A5124 ENT Enquiry Lo	What does the enquiry relate to? Dog		STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	RET	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	350731.3	316804.1
14087050	07/04/2022 08:22	3442946	28200095	BUNTINGS	Dog Foulin I am writing on behalf of the church council of Christ Chur		STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	NDW	TE50	Responded-Work in Programme	N	366295	333600
14087204	07/04/2022 09:43	SR-194466	99999995	Provisional Enquiry Lo	What does the enquiry relate to? Dog		STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	RET	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	350845.8	313672.6
14087208	08/04/2022 09:23	SR-194616	28200135	CHESTER R Enquiry Lo	What does the enquiry relate to? Dog		STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	NDW	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	353520.5	341973.3
14087243	08/04/2022 19:01	SR-194731	29600386	VYRNWY R Enquiry Lo	What does the enquiry relate to? Dog		STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	NDW	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	329020.5	330268.8
14087407	12/04/2022 10:44	SR-195018	4301005	FP CON QUEENS RD BI	What does the enquiry relate to? Dog		STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	RET	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	372645.7	292661.8
14087521	13/04/2022 19:45	SR-195241	28200728	WREXHAM Enquiry Lo	What does the enquiry relate to? Dog		STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	RET	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	352992.5	341390.5
14087730	19/04/2022 11:10	3467395	34701839	LYTHWOOL	Dangerous Dangerous dogI was out running Monday 18th April at arc		STSC	Street Scer	EA05	Dangerous Dog	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	347224	308271
14087774	19/04/2022 16:53	3468722	29600111	ELLESMERI	Dog issues I am a mother of 3 children. We live in st martins,		STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	NDW	TE50	Responded-Work in Programme	N	332514	336836
14087817	20/04/2022 11:29	SR-195712	4300129	CARTWAY Enquiry Lo	What does the enquiry relate to? Dog		STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	371714.4	293097.1
14087847	20/04/2022 15:47	3471123	28200250	GLEBELANI	Dog Foulin We are having an increasing problem of dog owners failin		STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	IAR	E509	Resolved - No Action Required	N	355946	320942
14088109	25/04/2022 22:54	3482471	34700313	CROWMEC	Dog fouling	Dog fouling	STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	RET	E511	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	347073	312067
14088114	26/04/2022 08:57	3483053	4300695	VIRGINIA R	Dog poo bi I would like to report that the dog poo bins in this area a		STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES10	Resolved - Routine Maintenance	N	380295	305323
14088120	26/04/2022 09:55	3483428	28200487	PLEX LANE	Dog poo bi: Good afternoon. I hope you don't mind me messaging you		STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	350787	319285
14088148	26/04/2022 15:21	3484298	34700884	RACECOUR	Dog fouling	Dog fouling	STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	RET	E511	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	346047	312683
14088228	27/04/2022 15:50	3486987	4300315	HIGH STRE	Dog fouling	Dog fouling at the gate to the Shambles, needs to be clear	STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	DBB	ES12	Works Completed	N	371634	293169
14088229	27/04/2022 15:53	3486994	34701434	SCHOOL LA	Dog fouling	Needs clearing asap	STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	DBB	ES12	Works Completed	N	349654	311924
14088433	03/05/2022 07:21	3497122	34700634	LONGDEN	Dog mess Having purchased a property in Shrewsbury recently, my c		STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	RET	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	349575	312096
14088448	03/05/2022 09:29	3497426	36500623	A4113 H&I	Dog attack Hello		STSC	Street Scer	EA05	Dangerous Dog	DBB	E509	Resolved - No Action Required	N	346000	276546
14088460	03/05/2022 11:05	3497803	34700480	HARLESCO	Dog foulin A man walking his three small dogs and he let one of		STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	350770.8	315922.6
14088540	04/05/2022 10:53	3500599	34700243	CLAREMOP	Please can I retired late last year from working at Shrewsbury Acader		STSC	Street Scer	EA05	Dangerous Dog	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	348803	312510
14088552	04/05/2022 12:33	3500997	34700977	SHORNCLIF	Dog poo Bi Please can a dog poo bin be put on the end of cul de		STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	E509	Resolved - No Action Required	N	347016	312771
14088612	05/05/2022 12:30	3503625	36500620	A456 H&W	Dog foulin I wonder if you are able to assist in anything, we have		STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	359040	268706
14088681	06/05/2022 10:59	3505854	28200304	HIGHGATE	Large amoi People walking their dogs in the Highgate area do not clea		STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	IAR	ES12	Works Completed	N	354041.6	341234.5
14088758	07/05/2022 20:33	3508916	34700565	KENWOOD	Dog foulin What must be a large dog has fouled the entrance to my c		STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	E509	Resolved - No Action Required	N	347489	312374
14088785	09/05/2022 09:31	3511123	34700422	FRINTON C	Large dog I There is a very large pile of dog mess on the grass next to		STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	345782	312834
14088811	09/05/2022 14:06	3512126	34701070	TANKERVIL	Dog Foulin Someone has let their dog poo on the pavement directly c		STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	E509	Resolved - No Action Required	N	350217	312768
14088839	09/05/2022 16:29	3512448	34701808	CYCLEWAY	Dog fouling	Dog fouling	STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	345782	312749
14088914	10/05/2022 18:39	3516490	34700256	CLIVE WAY	Dog foulin Dog owners are required by law to clean up after their do		STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	RET	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	351014	313287
14089152	15/05/2022 21:43	3527404	4300097	BRIDGNOR	Dog foulin Several dogs live at 13 Staley Grove & constantly fouling t		STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	373520.3	284102.3
14089188	16/05/2022 11:06	3528419	28201326	CHANCEL C	Doug Fouli I would respectfully ask that something be done about		STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	366238	334184
14089264	17/05/2022 10:40	3531194	34701091	THE KNOLL	Dog foulin The people who live in number 47 The Knolls have a very l		STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	E509	Resolved - No Action Required	N	345326	313065
14089292	17/05/2022 15:19	3532141	4310421	NEW ENGL	Open gate Reporting that the gate keeps being left open at Whisperi		STSC	Street Scer	EA05	Dangerous Dog	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	373324	283951
14089368	18/05/2022 14:37	3534640	4300129	CARTWAY	Dog foulin Excessive dog fouling down first alley on the left down the		STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	DBB	E509	Resolved - No Action Required	N	371670	293087
14089382	18/05/2022 16:38	3535000	34700822	PELHAM R	Dog attack Customer needs to speak to a dog warden because her dc		STSC	Street Scer	EA05	Dangerous Dog	DBB	E509	Resolved - No Action Required	N	355595	312405
14089389	18/05/2022 18:00	3535221	34701238	YORK ROAI	Dangerous Customer reporting 2 Rottweilers which are not on lea		STSC	Street Scer	EA05	Dangerous Dog	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	350113	316111
14089449	19/05/2022 15:04	3537237	34700510	HIGH CRO	Dog and th Relaxed attitude about her dog and threatening behaviou		STSC	Street Scer	EA05	Dangerous Dog	DBB	E509	Resolved - No Action Required	N	353847	307395
14089457	19/05/2022 16:31	633	4300008	ALBRIGHT C	A Dangerous A Dangerous Dog problem has been found by Shropshire c		STSC	Street Scer	EA05	Dangerous Dog	JSS	E509	Resolved - No Action Required	N	381011	305115
14089500	20/05/2022 13:22	3539385	34700659	LYTHWOOL	Dog foulin Young woman and her kid stood and waited while black c		STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	348111	308810
14089518	20/05/2022 15:33	3539761	29600390	WATS DRIV	Very bad d Multiple deposits of dog mess along main route to Wood		STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	329532	330339
14089675	24/05/2022 11:35	3547263	28200745	FROM A49	Dog poo th They throw dog poo on to road to discourage walkers n c		STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	E509	Resolved - No Action Required	N	353732	327872
14089678	24/05/2022 11:44	3547309	28200745	FROM A49	Too much Theyre storing too much cow manure for size of property		STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES16	Other SC Section Informed	N	353732	327872
14089771	25/05/2022 11:45	3550108	34700806	OTELEY RO	Dog poo bi Oteley Road does not have any dog poo bins, certainly th		STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	DBB	E509	Resolved - No Action Required	N	350335	310349
14089978	29/05/2022 16:10	3559425	34800152	GATACRE C	Dog Foulin Dog mess located in the grass on Gatacre Playing Field, be		STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	RET	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	329139	305059
14090023	30/05/2022 12:48	3561366	34700126	BOGEY LA	Poo ??		STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	340228	305841
14090029	30/05/2022 14:00	3561619	34701238	YORK ROAI	York Road Basically York Road in Shrewsbury is an absolute joke ther		STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	DJF	ES12	Works Completed	N	350384.5	315674.6
14090057	30/05/2022 21:52	3562719	28201089	HASTON R	Excessive f Excessive dog fouling		STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	352092	320058
14090059	31/05/2022 00:11	3562525	34702008	UPTON LAI	Dog foulin There is constantly dog poo outside my dads back gate an		STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	351180	313271
14090069	31/05/2022 09:33	3563271	34700668	MANOR G	Dog poo Couple of months, since new residents of manor cottages		STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	340087	306135
14090111	31/05/2022 14:16	3564217	36500623	A4113 H&I	Dangerous I would say that if you have a dog it is not safe to walk the		STSC	Street Scer	EA05	Dangerous Dog	DBB	E509	Resolved - No Action Required	N	345803	276375
14090114	31/05/2022 14:56	3564320	29600338	ST MARTIN	Dog poo al Someone has let their dog poo all on the pavement outsi		STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	E509	Resolved - No Action Required	N	330384	333842
14090138	01/06/2022 05:16	3565337	29600355	THE AVENL	Dog foulin The Avenue is continually covered with dog excrement		STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	NDW	ES12	Works Completed	N	334406	325496
14090162	01/06/2022 11:33	3566182	36500816	VAUGHAN	Dog foulin This is a huge issue in Cleobury already but this last week		STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	366973.8	275688.8
14090163	01/06/2022 11:38	3566197	36500257	LIVESEY AV	Dog foulin Daily recurrence of dog fouling. Signs ignored. Same pers		STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	E507	Resolved - Work Issued	N	352012	275109
14090182	01/06/2022 16:34	3567043	4300165	CHURCH S	Dog foulin There is always dog fouling along this section of church s		STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	IAR	ES12	Works Completed	N	367805	301472
14090293	06/06/2022 08:45	3573522	29600393	WEST PLAC	Dog foulin Dog fouling on pavement		STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	330561	333765
14090304	06/06/2022 10:02	3573785	36500177	GRAVEL HI	Excessive a 6-8 large smelly areas of dog waste, unpleasant walk to		STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	351525	275293
14090375	06/06/2022 18:38	3575908	34700748	MYTTON C	Dog faeces There are many pieces of faeces in the same area of varyi		STSC	Street Scer	EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	346497</	

14090649	10/06/2022 11:30	3585792	36500315	NEWINGT	Vicious dog My nex door neighbour has a small cross breed dog that e	STSC	Street Scer EA05	Dangerous Dog	DBB	ES09	Resolved - No Action Required	N	343340	283315
14090689	10/06/2022 19:36	3586978	34700317	CROWMEC	Dog fouling Dog fouling	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	347045	312070
14090690	10/06/2022 19:36	3586983	34700317	CROWMEC	Dog fouling Dog fouling	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	347045	312070
14090691	10/06/2022 19:37	3586986	34700887	RAD VALLE	Dog fouling Dog fouling	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	DBB	ES09	Resolved - No Action Required	N	347112	312100
14090791	13/06/2022 15:00	3592904	4300312	HIGH STRE	Dog Foulin The village green at the front of wolverley court is a Mecc	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	381318	304113
14090822	14/06/2022 08:52	3594704	34700063	BAGE WAY	Dog poo sr Dog poo has been smeared into pavement in 2 places	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	350722.8	312775.7
14090849	14/06/2022 11:54	3595452	36500207	HIGH STRE	Dog mess r At 44 high street an older man allowed his dog to foul out	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	367197	275729
14090861	14/06/2022 12:36	3595620	34700256	CLIVE WAY	Dog fouling Its sad to see some have total disrespect to social and mo	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	DBB	ES10	Resolved - Routine Maintenance	N	351027	313271
14090871	14/06/2022 13:59	3595911	36501243	THE SERPE	Dangerous Customer reporting dangerous dog which has twice attack	STSC	Street Scer EA05	Dangerous Dog	DBB	ES09	Resolved - No Action Required	N	353486	272291
14090986	16/06/2022 11:52	3601084	28200472	PEAR TREE	Dog attack At 16th June 2022 at 9:35am, callers wife went through ki	STSC	Street Scer EA05	Dangerous Dog	JSS	ES09	Resolved - No Action Required	N	352828	342018
14091143	20/06/2022 10:47	3609194	34701908	FP CON RIV	Dog Foulin There is an ongoing problem with dog fouling on the footp	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	351198	313765
14091393	23/06/2022 11:03	3617127	34701810	FP CON TH	Dog fouling Dog fouling	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	345771	312815
14091430	23/06/2022 16:10	3618626	34700326	DAUK LANF	Dog fouling There are large amounts of dog excrement in the grass	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	IAR	ES12	Works Completed	N	350585	312399
14091453	24/06/2022 06:43	3619487	36500816	VAUGHAN	Constant d Constant dog-fouling every single day. This has been repo	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	366960.2	275620.3
14091461	24/06/2022 09:16	3619695	34700422	FRINTON C	Dog fouling Dog fouling	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	345771	312839
14091776	28/06/2022 13:14	3630481	28200877	PINFOLD C	Dog harras I walk past this property twice each day and most of the t	STSC	Street Scer EA05	Dangerous Dog	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	362965	334894
14091935	30/06/2022 10:24	3635985	4300314	HIGH STRE	Dog mess Dog mess. Repetitive problem. Several loads accumulated	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	RET	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	374021	283707
14092338	05/07/2022 22:32	3652724	34700389	FALSTAFF	Dogs foulir Owners need to please clear up after the dogs. It is not ac	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	RET	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	349519	313788
14092449	07/07/2022 13:03	3658170	29600383	VICTORIA F	Dog fouling This area is a common area for dog fouling so would like s	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	RET	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	329043	329203
14092519	09/07/2022 09:36	3662103	29600026	BEATRICE	Dog mess by BT box alongside pavement of Beatrice Stree	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	329457	330041
14092543	10/07/2022 00:40	3652755	34700725	MONKMO	Dog poo or Parents taking their children to a Nursery further up Monl	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	IAR	ES12	Works Completed	N	351009	313461
14092689	12/07/2022 13:47	3670658	4300477	OLDBURY	Oldbury w Can you tell me what can be done to inhibit the use of Olk	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES09	Resolved - No Action Required	N	371111	292648
14092766	13/07/2022 15:15	3671962	34701382	CASTLE W	Dog fouling I've received a report of a couple of dog owners persisten	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	IAR	ES12	Works Completed	N	349974	312894
14092898	15/07/2022 14:53	3679247	28200370	MAIN ROA	Persistent I There is a persistent dog fouling problem in Norton in Hal	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	IAR	ES12	Works Completed	N	370304	338585
14092907	15/07/2022 15:45	3679429	34700180	BUTTINGT	Dog fouling There is dog fouling at the pin repeatedly. There are curre	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	351204.1	313675.5
14092931	16/07/2022 08:31	3680218	36500256	LION LANE	Dog fouling Persistent problem on Lion Lane in Cleobury Mortimer.	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	RET	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	367529	275726
14093084	19/07/2022 16:03	3688257	34800311	B4386YOC	Dog fouling Customer cleans this on a regular basis, but cannot keep c	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	339872	310106
14093212	21/07/2022 11:06	3694038	36500816	VAUGHAN	Dog fouling Hi. The top of vaughan Road, cleobury mortimer there are	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	367058	275637
14093214	21/07/2022 11:12	3694059	34701028	STAPLETO	Dog poo Dog poo in play area on Stapleton Road Shrewsbury.	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	348858	310262
14093331	22/07/2022 16:38	3699129	29600137	GLENTWOI	Dog bin ne Inside walled garden near Brookside MILL	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES07	Resolved - Work Issued	N	328908	328125
14093360	23/07/2022 17:35	3700981	28200065	BIRCH ROA	3 piles of d Birch Road recreation field - despite signage advising dogs	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	RET	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	340191	334519
14093489	25/07/2022 15:43	3705516	29600386	VYRNWY R	Regular Do There is an ongoing problem with dog fouling on Vyrnwy	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	328989	330297
14093525	26/07/2022 09:44	3707236	4300312	HIGH STRE	Dog fouling A local resident has reported to Albrighton Parish Council	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Works Completed	N	381319	304109
14093538	26/07/2022 11:11	3707583	29600260	OFFA DRIV	Dog fouling Dog fouling outside #11 needs clearing as soon as possible	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	329622	330291
14093553	26/07/2022 12:36	3707893	4300523	QUEENSW	Dog fouling Reporting 25/7/22 We are businesses that run from Quee	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	370963	293780
14093596	26/07/2022 18:34	3709041	34701480	BROOKSID	Regular dog fouling by post box at the front of Compton A	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	341358	313683
6702766	28/07/2022 11:13		76320	Shirehall	Shirehall R Drop off dog fouling signs	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		
14093711	28/07/2022 12:53	3713450	36500381	SANDFORE	Didnt pick Those 2 ladies dragged their dog behind them while pooir	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	345700.3	293627.9
6702769	28/07/2022 17:30		36500257	LIVESEY AV	at the bott excessive amount of dog fouling	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		
14094340	08/08/2022 13:32	3738690	34701443	THE CRESC	Dog fouling Customer report dog fouling in the carpark area for tenant	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	343357	315162
14094361	08/08/2022 20:56	3739864	4300234	ELM ROAD	Dog fouling Dog fouling	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES09	Resolved - No Action Required	N	380685	303873
14094363	08/08/2022 20:57	3739870	4300085	BOWLING	Dog fouling Dog fouling	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	380401	304303
14094462	10/08/2022 10:17	3743665	29600347	STEWART F	Lots of dog There is a lot of dog mess all around Oswestry and custon	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	329247	329307
14094519	10/08/2022 22:02	3745687	29610680	LAWFORD	Customer I Owners of Husky allowing their dog to foul private proper	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	330100	333454
6702780	12/08/2022 14:31		34701884	FP CON OA	test	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		
14094883	17/08/2022 15:37	3761675	4300484	ORCHARD	Bag of dog Environmental health issue, children play in that area	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	374158.7	283542
14094975	19/08/2022 10:30	3766174	36500330	OLD STREE	Lots of dog We have received an email for a visitor to Ludlow who wic	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	351022	274523
14094976	19/08/2022 10:37	3766211	34701113	TILSTOCK C	Dog mess Opposite Whitton Close	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	350698	310679
14094984	19/08/2022 11:33	3766406	4310053	SCHOOL L	Dog mess i We are getting numerous complaints again regarding dog	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	372214.9	287500.8
14094986	19/08/2022 11:53	3766466	34701975	FP CON CLI	Dog poo en The walkway is full of bags of dog poo, litter and even poc	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	351001	313259
14095103	22/08/2022 10:21	3771651	36500816	VAUGHAN	Dog mess ; Every morning and evening there is dog mess along the m	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	366965	275627
14095179	23/08/2022 10:18	3774400	34700806	OTELEY RO	Walker bit Customers wife was walking in the footpath that crosses f	STSC	Street Scer EA05	Dangerous Dog	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	350508	310368
14095214	23/08/2022 15:07	3775457	28200030	ASTON STF	Dog poo is Dog poo is being left on the Wem Recreation Grounds SY	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	351724	329047
14095404	26/08/2022 13:54	3782912	36500102	CLEE VIEW	Dog fouling Grass verge in front of 17 Clee View is being used repeate	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	352179	275242
14095444	28/08/2022 22:04	3786869	28210140	SMITHFIEL	Dog poo n Number 40 Smithfield way don't clean up their dog poo ir	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	DBB	ES09	Resolved - No Action Required	N	339701	335055
14095649	01/09/2022 12:36	3795099	34700242	CHURCHILL	Dog fouling Dog fouling	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	346930	312100
14095717	02/09/2022 11:12	3797481	29600062	CABIN LAN	Kerb has cr Noticed this had happened in last two weeks.	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES09	Resolved - No Action Required	N	330395	329751
14095858	05/09/2022 15:47	3804385	34701387	COMPASSE	Dog Foulin Customer reporting Dog Fouling or Human Excrement on	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	349348	312320
14096008	07/09/2022 19:29	3810439	34700887	RAD VALLE	Dog fouling Dog fouling	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES13	3rd Party Informed - Resolved	N	347079	312118
14096141	09/09/2022 14:49	3814403	4300861	CASTLE HIL	Dog fouling See photo	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	371729	292804
14096169	10/09/2022 15:32	3816104	4300599	ST MARYS	Dog fouling See photo	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	371525	293119
14096174	10/09/2022 21:20	3815786	34700888	RADBROO	Dog fouling Dog fouling	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	347283	311829
14096186	11/09/2022 14:01	3817180	28201381	AUMBRY C	Dog fouling Someone has let their dog foul my front garden it is not u	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	366271	334213
14096270	12/09/2022 15:02	3819869	29600573	HAMMONI	Dog poo Dog poo outside alley all the time. Resident from down th	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	330624	333690
14096307	13/09/2022 09:50	3821477	36500084	CHILDE RO	Dog fouling There is a lot of dog fouling all up Childe Road, it happens	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	367288	275862

14096368	13/09/2022 22:52	3823441	34700072	BANK FART Dog fouling Dog fouling	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	347456	311451
14096410	14/09/2022 12:42	3824951	34701028	STAPLETOF Dog fowlin Every day 4 -5 dog owners walk along to the grassed area	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES09	Resolved - No Action Required	N	348934	310490
14096553	17/09/2022 08:20	3831049	4300861	CASTLE HIL Dog fouling See photo	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	371747	292979
14096554	17/09/2022 08:25	3831051	4300861	CASTLE HIL Dog fouling See photo	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	371716	292741
14096573	18/09/2022 13:44	3832681	4300346	INNAGE LA Dog fouling See photo	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	371100	293680
14096576	18/09/2022 14:44	3832765	4300534	RICHMOND Dog fouling This is a Children's play park and this is a health hazard.	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	DBB	ES09	Resolved - No Action Required	N	371175	293511
14096592	19/09/2022 11:21	3833750	34700151	BROOK STF Dog fouling Owner did not pick up after his dog fouled on public grass	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	349529	311263
14096603	19/09/2022 17:39	3834266	4300542	ROSEHILL L Dog fouling Mess in centre of pavement	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	370965	292944
14096604	19/09/2022 17:57	3834286	4300999	FP RICHMC Dog fouling See photo. This is a public footpath used by people with b	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	371216	293489
14096605	19/09/2022 18:09	3834299	4300346	INNAGE LA Dog fouling On footpath. Used by children and buggies	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES07	Resolved - Work Issued	N	371500	293473
14096620	20/09/2022 09:50	3835144	34701387	COMPASSE Dog mess l Dog mess or potential human mess left in alley by propert	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	349341	312313
14096731	21/09/2022 14:09	3839011	4300884	ROSE LANE Dog fouling See photo. Fouling on lane used by pedestrians including	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	371134.3	293008.2
14096854	23/09/2022 13:59	3843968	4300317	HIGH STRE Dog mess l Dog mess has been left outside the back of number 24	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES09	Resolved - No Action Required	N	362186	299809
14096855	23/09/2022 14:28	3843031	36500072	CATHERTO Dog mess ε Children are turning up to school covered in dog mess dur	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	366806	275739
14096900	25/09/2022 10:09	3846988	4300861	CASTLE HIL Castle Wall See photo	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	371744.1	292963.5
14096929	26/09/2022 08:12	3848461	36500373	ROCKS GRF Constant d This has been going on for a year now This is a new housi	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES07	Resolved - Work Issued	N	352602	275794
14096938	26/09/2022 09:08	3848624	34700092	BEECHES R Lots of dog There's lots of dog poo on the corner that many families v	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES07	Resolved - Work Issued	N	347864	308724
14096971	26/09/2022 13:15	3849536	4300346	INNAGE LA Innage Lan See photo route used by numerous schoolchildren	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	371372	293583
14097019	27/09/2022 09:44	3851298	34700230	CHRISTCHL More dog f The dog fouling on the corner of Christchurch and Beeche	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	347918	308687
14097199	29/09/2022 15:16		36500373	ROCKS GRF Metal kissi Please remove dog fouling inside kissing gate on public fo	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	IAR	ES12	Works Completed	N	352597.2	275797.7
14097259	30/09/2022 14:14	3859141	4300495	PARK VIEW Dog mess People walking dogs to the fields or around park view are	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	367347	301561
14097332	03/10/2022 08:36	3863417	34800718	THROWER Dog fouling A woman walks her black and white collie in the public fie	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	349875	310204
14097452	04/10/2022 13:21	3867401	34701427	PORTHILL f Issue with The footpath area between the Boathouse and Burrs Field	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	348464	312607
14097470	04/10/2022 14:23	3867574	34700736	MOSTON F Neighbour Neighbour is having their dog mess in front of bedroom w	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	DBB	ES09	Resolved - No Action Required	N	351409	315139
14097475	04/10/2022 14:45	3867627	4300861	CASTLE HIL Fouling on See photo. Used by pedestrians, buggies etc. not acceptat	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	371748	292951
14097477	04/10/2022 14:52	3867644	4300861	CASTLE HIL Fouling Ca: See previous report	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES07	Resolved - Work Issued	N	371646	292723
14097478	04/10/2022 14:57	3867665	4300861	CASTLE HIL Repeated f Called to report someone whose dog has fouled at least t	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	371743	292986
14097482	04/10/2022 15:17	3867721	4300315	HIGH STRE Fouling Hig See photo.	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	371623	293202
14097749	09/10/2022 09:39	3877359	34700913	ROSEDALE Constant d There seems to be a dog constantly fouling down the roac	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	350967	315044
14097753	09/10/2022 12:21	3877602	4300861	CASTLE HIL Castle Wall It seems to be a permanent problem.	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	371737	293001
14097754	09/10/2022 12:23	3877607	4300861	CASTLE HIL Castle Wall And another	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	371728	292883
14097928	12/10/2022 12:04	3884838	34700293	COSELEY A Dogs off le Over the past few weeks at approximately 9.15 to 9.30 m	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	351868.3	313249
14097936	12/10/2022 12:35	3884936	29600573	HAMMONI Neighbour: I contacted another department a while ago in regards	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	330618	333712
14097959	12/10/2022 17:03	3885799	28200356	LONGLANE Dog fouling Loads of leaves and dog fouling on this path, there is a do	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES10	Resolved - Routine Maintenance	N	367851	334505
14097960	12/10/2022 17:11	3885806	28200591	STAFFORD Dog fouling Leaves everywhere covering the ground and dog fouling l	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	368035	334436
14097983	13/10/2022 10:09	3886951	34700795	OLD COLEF Dog fouling On pavement corner so people likely to tread in it	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	349758	312201
14097988	13/10/2022 11:40	3887281	34701070	TANKERVIL 2 piles of d There are 2 piles of dog poo on the pavement outside 13	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES07	Resolved - Work Issued	N	350227.8	312767.5
14098019	13/10/2022 19:10	3888548	34700133	BRAMLEY (Dog poop Lots of dog mess	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	350307	313590
6702843	14/10/2022 10:11		36500373	ROCKS GRF At the entr please remove all of the dog fouling along this location	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N		
14098101	15/10/2022 15:27	3891959	34700205	CASTLE FO Large dog f On the corner near the junction people have already stepj	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	349434	313039
14098223	18/10/2022 08:19	3896796	34701070	TANKERVIL Dog poo a Please can some dog poo be cleaned up from outside	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	350222	312771
6702844	18/10/2022 10:30		4300226	EAST CAST Castle hill dog fouling on footpath outside Number 17. photo attach	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	371695.4	292888.7
14098253	18/10/2022 14:04	3897807	4300798	AA169 J B4 Dog off lea The incident occurred on the public footpath that goes	STSC	Street Scer EA05	Dangerous Dog	DBB	ES09	Resolved - No Action Required	N	374238	307270
14098254	18/10/2022 14:22	3897847	36500218	HOPTON C Repeated ε Between the two sets of yellow railings at the entrance of	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	351791	275765
14098345	19/10/2022 13:53	3900213	4300884	ROSE LANE Rose Lane See photo	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	371181	293034
14098397	20/10/2022 11:15	3902075	36500964	FOOTPATH Dog mess ε Person didn't attempt too clean up came past again today	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	343107	282805
14098525	22/10/2022 16:38	3906866	4310207	GRIFFITHS Dog poo Dog poo griffiths green	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES07	Resolved - Work Issued	N	379749	293345
14098530	22/10/2022 18:22	3907027	4310206	ASTON LAN Dog poo ε The entire village of claverley from danford heath all dow	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	379470	293306.1
14098635	24/10/2022 14:58	3911171	34700970	SHELTON F Dog fowlin I saw a small black spaniel type dog going to the toilet. Th	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	347165	312901
14099020	31/10/2022 09:03	3925866	34701070	TANKERVIL Persistent f Dog Fouling outside 21 Tankerville Street. And Has been	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES09	Resolved - No Action Required	N	350259	312762
14099063	31/10/2022 16:48	3927569	29600062	CABIN LAN Large depc Possible health hazard. Dog mess is becoming a regular pr	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	330373	329719
14099334	04/11/2022 08:59	3938017	34700358	EARLSWOC Dog fouling Dog fouling	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	346016	312603
14099335	04/11/2022 08:59	3938021	34700358	EARLSWOC Dog fouling Dog fouling	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	346016	312603
14099375	04/11/2022 12:58	3938883	34701035	STEEPSIDE Nuisance C Could someone please tell me who to direct my enquiry tr	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	347401	311285
14099408	04/11/2022 19:31	3939984	29600062	CABIN LAN Similar me The original mess remains on the footpath, and another s	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	330365	329716
14099447	06/11/2022 14:52	3942604	4300861	CASTLE HIL Castle Wall See photo	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	371728.7	292869.5
14099871	12/11/2022 11:04	3958591	36500330	OLD STREE Large area There is a large area of dog faeces on the path which has	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	351448	274345
14099890	12/11/2022 14:27	3959010	4300861	CASTLE HIL Castle Wall See photo	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES07	Resolved - Work Issued	N	371682	292676
14099891	12/11/2022 14:28	3959015	4300861	CASTLE HIL Castle Wall See photo	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	371681	292677
14099894	12/11/2022 15:01	3959077	36501427	NEWTON Dog fouling Dog fouling on only pavement in area so walkers have to	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	343575	282543
14100004	14/11/2022 13:24	3962821	36500315	NEWINGTC Dog fouling Customer reporting persistant dog fouling by the commur	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES09	Resolved - No Action Required	N	343303	283147
14100199	16/11/2022 13:41	3968975	34701016	ST JOHNS f Dog Foulin Customer has just seen a person's dog foul the pavement	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	348972	312442
6702863	17/11/2022 10:07		34701427	PORTHILL f Burrs field signs on bins	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	348398.6	312596.4
14100366	18/11/2022 13:57	3974964	29600582	BELLE VUE Dog fouling Is there any way some dog fouling warning signs could be	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	328915	327599
14100497	21/11/2022 12:20	3980484	29600309	ROFT STRE Dog owner I witnessed the owner fail to clear up the dog mess, despi	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	DBB	ES09	Resolved - No Action Required	N	329043	329332

14100563	21/11/2022 17:43	3981636	29600087	COLLEGE R Dog mess : The whole path all the way down to college is always full of	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	330027	329376
14100765	23/11/2022 14:36	3987359	4300173	CLOVER HE Dog Foulin Customer asking if a sign can be put by the bench and old	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	379867.8	293433.8
14101101	28/11/2022 09:17	3998600	34701385	COFFEE HC Dog or Hur	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	349101	312393
14101223	29/11/2022 12:24	4002520	36500257	LIVESEY Av Recurrence Recurrence of dog fouling Livesey Avenue Ludlow outside	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	351979	275065
14101224	29/11/2022 12:29	4002555	4310266	STOTTESD Dog Foulin We have a continual problem of dog mess in Chorley, part	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	DBB	ES09	Resolved - No Action Required	N	369377	283652
14101251	29/11/2022 15:14	4003210	34700884	RACECOUR Dog fouling Dog fouling	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	346129	312585
14101364	30/11/2022 15:23	4006003	34700759	NEW PARK Dog mess Persistent dog mess	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	349858.8	313349.6
14101445	01/12/2022 14:20	4008388	4300355	KENNEL LA Dog foulin Heavy dog fouling from the hounds (from the Albrighton i	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES09	Resolved - No Action Required	N	379625	303864
14101460	01/12/2022 16:08	4008731	34700759	NEW PARK Dog mess Dog mess	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	349859	313353
14101633	05/12/2022 10:12	4015334	36500268	LOVE LANE Dog mess : Hello Shropshire Council. What can be done about dog mi	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	367170	275900
14101704	06/12/2022 09:39	4017744	34700759	NEW PARK Dog Foulin There is often dog fouling at different places on New Park	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	349902	313418
14101710	06/12/2022 10:36	4017951	34700927	RUSHTON I Dog mess Dog mess outside 8 Rushton Road can a no fouling sign be	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	350997	313606
14101765	06/12/2022 20:00	4019407	34700319	CROWMER Dog fowlin Repeat dog fouling on path outside house Sy25ld	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	351437	312955
14101795	07/12/2022 08:56	4019936	34701070	TANKERVIL Dog Foulin Dog Fouling on pavement all over outside 15 Tankerville	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	350230.2	312768.3
14101902	08/12/2022 16:04	4023550	36500109	COLLEGE C Dog foulin Could you do something about number 14 college close p	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	367249	275981
14101968	09/12/2022 14:22	4025503	36500046	BROOKSBL Persistent i Peristent Dog Fouling in Brooksbury Recreation Ground H	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	DBB	ES10	Resolved - Routine Maintenance	N	345405	293922
14102017	10/12/2022 17:27	4027394	34700075	BARKSTON Dog mess As listed above	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	349487	314746
14102093	12/12/2022 12:29	4030039	28200008	ALEXANDR Alexandra Alexandra Road/Prospect Road TF9 3HP in Market Drayto	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	DBB	ES09	Resolved - No Action Required	N	366627	333968
14102174	13/12/2022 10:54	4031852	34800305	JUBILEE W. Dog foulin A dog keeps fouling on my drive.	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	367708	334660
14102299	14/12/2022 17:12	4035317	29600062	CABIN LAN Dog Foulin This is a recurring issue. Lots of dog fouling on the school	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	330377	320206
14102332	15/12/2022 10:17	4016508	34701227	WORCESTE Dog foulin Dog fouling on the patch of grass towards the corner whe	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	350154.7	315627.7
14102547	19/12/2022 21:09	4045285	34700133	BRAMLEY (Dog mess r Dog mess next to curb	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	RET	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	350263	313596
14102588	20/12/2022 13:01	4046875	36500109	COLLEGE C Dog foulin She lives at number 13 and has had a letter from SC advisi	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	367250	275977
14102640	21/12/2022 10:55	4049502	34700845	PORRHILL I Dog mess : As above	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	347893	312735
14102806	26/12/2022 20:49	4059241	28210130	GALLOWSF Constant C For months inconsiderate dog owners have been allowing	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	366206	334193
14103166	01/01/2023 20:31	4075154	36500384	SANDPITS i Dog mess 5 or 6 piles of dog mess	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	352102	275043
14103190	02/01/2023 11:00	4076046	4300226	EAST CAST Dog foulin Dog fouling	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	371687	292965
14103356	03/01/2023 16:25	4081906	4300099	BRIDGNOR Dog Foulin There is a major problem with regular dog fouling on	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	362222	299663
14103427	04/01/2023 10:47	4084269	34801176	FP NORTH Dog foil There is so much dog foil in multiple places in Ali way . Kir	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES07	Resolved - Work Issued	N	349827	313202
14103428	04/01/2023 10:47	4084268	34801176	FP NORTH Dog foil There is so much dog foil in multiple places in Ali way . Kir	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	349827	313202
14103429	04/01/2023 10:48	4084267	34801176	FP NORTH Dog foil There is so much dog foil in multiple places in Ali way . Kir	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	349827	313202
14103430	04/01/2023 10:48	4084666	34801176	FP NORTH Dog foil There is dog goil in aly way in 21 north street	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	349830	313225
14103492	04/01/2023 15:45	4086571	28200654	THOMPSOI Dog foulin I live at 100 smallbrook Road sy13 1by and over a 8 montl	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	353327.2	341498.5
14103506	04/01/2023 17:25	4087172	29600008	APPLEWOC Dog foulin There is alot of dog poop in the public alley next to numbri	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	DBB	ES09	Resolved - No Action Required	N	334747	325097
14103614	05/01/2023 16:51	4091884	34700180	BUTTINGT Dog foulin This is a constant issue on Buttington Road and the	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	351109	313626
14103646	06/01/2023 09:27	4093699	36500084	CHILDE RO Dog foulin On childe rd outside house number 7 there is dog mess be	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	367293	275868
14103655	06/01/2023 10:27	4094002	34700759	NEW PARK Dog foulin Dog fouling has been here for a few days on the foot path	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	349670	313211
14103656	06/01/2023 10:31	4094033	34700084	BEACALLS I Dog foulin Customer states there a few dog fouling's left along this la	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES10	Resolved - Routine Maintenance	N	349609	313099
14103666	06/01/2023 11:03	4094113	34701070	TANKERVIL Dog Foulin Dog Fouling on pavement, directly outside the entrance t	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	350205	312777
14103687	06/01/2023 12:38	4094710	4310352	WOLVERH Dog Foulin DOG WALKERS!!!! Please could dog walkers using the trac	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	IAR	ES12	Works Completed	N	376645	306041
14103894	09/01/2023 10:23	4103777	34701921	FP CON BA Dog foulin This has been happening for months	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	350011	316217
14104165	11/01/2023 14:10	4114538	34700774	NORTH STf There is cu There is currently dog fouling along the wall at the junctio	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	349825	313182
14104227	11/01/2023 18:32	4115049	34700884	RACECOUR Dog foulin Dog fouling	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	346136	312588
6702907	12/01/2023 16:59		34701227	WORCESTE	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		
14104475	13/01/2023 15:02	4124771	4300888	STONEWA\ On Stonew Dog mess right in the middle of well-used steps. Difficult t	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	371771	293015
14104825	17/01/2023 09:14	4139109	34701070	TANKERVIL Dog Foulin There is dog Fouling directly in the entranceway of 15 Tan	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	350229.9	312768.3
14104928	17/01/2023 15:11	4141242	34701445	THE DANA Dog Foulin We are regularly having issues with dog fouling at the	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	349403	312813
14105090	18/01/2023 16:53	4146018	34700725	MONKMOI Dog Foulin Residents have reported a serious problem in this area for	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	351294	313592.1
14105215	19/01/2023 15:58	4149967	36501241	OLD WHITf Request fo ls it possible to send me some more Dog Fouling signs for	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	DBB	ES09	Resolved - No Action Required	N	332722	304788
14105261	20/01/2023 08:46	4151763	29600459	B5069 GOE Dog foulin DOG FOULING: I feel I need to bring to your attention the	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	331846	336301
14105281	20/01/2023 10:00	4152174	4300067	BIRCHLANI Issues with I would like to report a Dog that is free to roam between	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	372662	292701
14105318	20/01/2023 11:38	4152729	34700901	RIEHLMONI Dog foulin Seen lots of men over 60s not picking up after their dogs f	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	347624	312792
14105343	20/01/2023 13:28	4153264	28200239	FOXLEIGH I Dog foulin Unfortunately, we are suffering from instances of dog	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	DBB	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	351577	329617
14105365	20/01/2023 16:37	4154145	4300581	SNOWDON I was prom The playing field and new playground is directly behind th	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	DBB	ES09	Resolved - No Action Required	N	376692	301379
14105499	23/01/2023 10:49	4161067	29600489	G L JCT PEf Multiple in Over the past few weeks there have been multiple incide	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	333838	320705
14105512	23/01/2023 11:55	4161450	34700559	KEMPS EY6 lots of dc Customer is reporting 6 lots of dog fouling all in the same	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	349407	311249
14105611	23/01/2023 20:09	4163627	34701921	FP CON BA Dog foulin Someone is walking away from there dog fouling a well u	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	350014.3	316226.6
14105725	24/01/2023 17:21	4167008	29600426	YORK STRE Dog foulin Extremely disgusting pile of dog diarrhoea	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	328832	329960
14105794	25/01/2023 12:45	4169293	4300305	HAZELWEL Lots of dog For several months there has been lots of dog fouling on i	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	373765.7	284176.8
14105805	25/01/2023 13:40	4169530	4300532	REDSTONE Dog foulin Everywhere in the village. Dangerous to children walking t	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	373585	283926
14105809	25/01/2023 14:03	4169398	4300040	BARKE STR Dog poo e There's a lane with red gates between the back of coronal	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	374168	283534
14105830	25/01/2023 16:17	4170271	4300796	B4555INGf Dog Foulin We have had brought to our attention once again the am	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	371968	288062
14105852	25/01/2023 18:38	4170725	4300305	HAZELWEL More and i Dog poo everywhere, problem getting worse all around th	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	373585	284525
14105853	25/01/2023 18:44	4170732	34801246	FP BETWEE Dog bin no Dog bins are full	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES10	Resolved - Routine Maintenance	N	366976	334849
14105882	26/01/2023 09:31	4171978	34701812	FP CON BA New probl Since early January mutiple incidences of dog fouling from	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	347151.9	311473.9

14105962	26/01/2023 19:03	4174285	4300097	BRIDGNOR Extensive c	Constant dog fouling in the same spot every few days.	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	373841	284037		
14106001	27/01/2023 08:51	4175420	34700460	GREYFRIAF	Dog poo al	Poo all down pavement on the way to school	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	349573	311926	
14106026	27/01/2023 11:02	4176027	34700634	LONGDEN	Dog poo or	There is always dog poo in this area and it's always alot in STSC	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	349575	312089	
6702930	27/01/2023 11:05	34700622	LITTLE HAF	Footpath o	dog fouling has been cycled through so needs jet washing	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	349919.2	316036.2		
14106242	30/01/2023 12:34	4185092	4300255	FOUNDRY	Dog foulin	A resident of Foundry Lane is allowing his dog to foul all	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	DBB	ES09	Resolved - No Action Required	N	367592	301561	
14106289	30/01/2023 16:43	4186375	34700639	LONGDEN	Dog foulin	Meole Brace School wants to have the dog warden go out	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES08	Additional Information	Y	#####	348132	310983
14106514	01/02/2023 22:05	4192773	34700327	DARVILLE	Dog foulin	On ,my front lawn, on a daily basis a dog fouls	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	350429	314077	
14106518	02/02/2023 06:29	4194923	34700659	LYTHWOOL	Dog mess	There is continuously a large amount of dog mess on the	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	347806.6	308770.2	
14106524	02/02/2023 07:30	4194987	34700659	LYTHWOOL	Dog poo	Numerous dog poo depots all along lythwood road long n	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	347784.2	308758.2	
14106529	02/02/2023 07:40	4194953	28200205	DRAWWEL	Dog mess	This is ongoing for weeks.	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	351252	328634	
14106539	02/02/2023 08:12	4195090	4300206	DARK LAN	Dogg mess	Dog mess	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	367720	301991	
14106543	02/02/2023 09:01	4195261	4300441	MORFE RO	Dog mess	There are several piles of dog poo on the path where the	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES10	Resolved - Routine Maintenance	N	372493	293013	
14106544	02/02/2023 09:08	4195285	29600239	MORDA RC	Lots of dog	Lots of dog poo footpath around the cemetery Accessed v	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	RET	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	328801	329066	
14106546	02/02/2023 09:16	4195338	4300754	YEW TREE	Dog foulin	The alley way is always covered in dog mess! It makes it ir	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	373777	284165	
14106557	02/02/2023 09:39	4195470	36500980	FP MARY L	Dogs frequ	Dogs frequently poeing in alleyway	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	352200.4	274212.6	
14106563	02/02/2023 10:09	4195622	34701899	PEMBROK	Dog faeces	Regularly on /near Path Pembroke Way by children's play	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	347922	311611	
14106567	02/02/2023 10:19	4195627	34701879	FP CON DC	Along donl	Constant dog mess down this cut thru and along all street	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	349853.7	313118.3	
14106578	02/02/2023 10:46	4195801	36500460	TENBURY F	Dog mess	Dog mess	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	367151	275526	
14106579	02/02/2023 10:47	4195804	34701898	MOOR WA	Dog mess	A large amount down this path and around the duck ponc	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES10	Resolved - Routine Maintenance	N	347730.6	311291.4	
14106580	02/02/2023 10:54	4195835	34700788	OAKFIELD I	Dog mess	Dog mess all along this footpath hidden by fallen leaves	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	347095	312273	
14106586	02/02/2023 11:09	4195911	28200215	EGERTON F	Dog mess	Several pipes of dog mess on the paths.	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	RET	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	354775	341705	
14106587	02/02/2023 11:13	4195942	28200665	TRENTHAM	Dog mess	Whole estate around Pyms Road area has dog mess on the	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	351368.5	329392.9	
14106606	02/02/2023 12:34	4196350	4300097	BRIDGNOR	Dog poo	Dog poo	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES10	Resolved - Routine Maintenance	N	373522	284073	
14106624	02/02/2023 13:52	4196680	34700423	FRITH CLO	Dog foulin	Lots of dog poo on grass verges, could more bins be place	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	DBB	ES09	Resolved - No Action Required	N	351529.4	313240.4	
14106627	02/02/2023 14:18	4196794	36500152	ELM WALK	Dog pooh	Dog pooh on drive daily occurrence	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES09	Resolved - No Action Required	N	351515	275700	
14106669	02/02/2023 18:31	4197938	4301305	CORONATI	All up the s	There is dog poo all up the street both sides resident have	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	374144	283623	
14106671	02/02/2023 18:53	4197977	4310243	BORLE BRC	Dog poo	Dog poo everywhere, it's dangerous as many children wal	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	374017	283545	
14106677	02/02/2023 19:42	4198075	34701043	SULTAN RC	Dog foulin	Dog poo is regularly found here and is often across the pa	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	349992	313850	
14106682	02/02/2023 21:42	4198349	4300302	HAWTHOR	Large dog f	The alleyway between telephone exchange/main road/ye	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	373578	284124	
14106689	02/02/2023 22:52	4198472	34700313	CROSS RO	Dog foulin	Responding to your recent advert to report dog fouling or	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	348591	308729	
14106691	03/02/2023 06:40	4198594	28200194	DALELAND	Dog poo	Dog poo	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	RET	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	366877	333512	
14106735	03/02/2023 10:54	4199475	34701173	WESTBURY	Used Dog I	Approx two used dog mess bags have been placed	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	349819	315451	
14106739	03/02/2023 12:01	4199778	4300328	HOLLYWO	Three piles	Dog poo	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	373457	284293	
14106750	03/02/2023 12:57	4199977	34700341	DOGPOLE	Dog foulin	Lots of people already trodden into it unfortunately. Not r	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	349335	312384	
14106754	03/02/2023 13:11	4200077	28200227	FARCROFT	Dog poo al	Dog poo at various points along Farcroft Drive pavements	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	RET	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	366022	333894	
14106765	03/02/2023 14:31	4200471	34700256	CLIVE WAY	Dog poo	People letting there dogs foul on grass and footpaths outs	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES10	Resolved - Routine Maintenance	N	351056	313224	
14106783	03/02/2023 15:47	4200874	28200015	ANNEFIEL	As above	No words needed	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	367883	334537	
14106815	03/02/2023 22:46	4201811	34702008	UPTON LAI	Littered wi	Numerous bags of dog poo in alley	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	351226	313146	
14106817	04/02/2023 01:47	4201925	36500136	DARK LAN	Dark Lane	Cameras are needed down this popular dog walk	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	352472.8	274568.4	
14106862	04/02/2023 22:07	4204022	29600413	WILLOW S	Dog foul o	Outside 26 willow street, the black gate next to wots cook	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	RET	ES10	Resolved - Routine Maintenance	N	328965	329677	
14106869	05/02/2023 08:07	4204216	29600398	WESTON L	Poo	Many dog poos	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	RET	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	328937	328814	
14106870	05/02/2023 08:33	4204248	34700107	BENYON SI	Dog foulin	There is dog poo every day down Benyon street, especiall	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	349827	313156	
14106882	05/02/2023 12:28	4202246	4300056	BEECH STR	Dog poo	Lots of dog poo here	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	373497.5	284488.2	
14106898	05/02/2023 14:36	4200412	34700419	FRANKWEL	Dog poo	I hope it is anyways!	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	348902	312736	
14106914	05/02/2023 16:50	4205716	29600355	THE AVENL	Dog foulin	Dog fouling throughout the village pavements and in field	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	RET	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	334380	325468	
14106918	05/02/2023 17:03	4205751	4300754	YEW TREE	Dog foulin	Extensive dog fouling the length of the alley between yew	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	373778	284166	
14107049	07/02/2023 07:58	4210084	29600521	W FELTON	Dog foulin	Dog fouling	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	RET	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	334688	325600	
14107056	07/02/2023 08:57	4210273	34701016	ST JOHNS	Dogs not o	I am a dog walker who uses the Quarry in Shrewsbury dai	STSC	Street Scer EA05	Dangerous Dog	DBB	ES09	Resolved - No Action Required	N	348866	312350	
14107152	08/02/2023 09:35	4213696	34800336	FP BETWEE	Dog Mess	Dog fouling along the alley between Sycamore way and H	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES07	Resolved - Work Issued	N	373647	284324	
14107170	08/02/2023 12:23	4214397	4300861	CASTLE HIL	Castle Wal	See photo	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	371719	292764	
14107171	08/02/2023 12:31	4214426	28200715	WILLOW C	Vicious do	There is a vicious dog that is roaming around, it has killed	STSC	Street Scer EA05	Dangerous Dog	DBB	ES09	Resolved - No Action Required	N	339836	334918	
14107196	08/02/2023 16:09	4215304	28201126	PIKESEND I	Aggressive	Customer was passing Lyneal Hall farm on her bike, a rott	STSC	Street Scer EA05	Dangerous Dog	DBB	ES09	Resolved - No Action Required	N	344614	332705	
14107234	09/02/2023 09:00	4216663	34700634	LONGDEN	Dog poo	Dog poo opposite hazledine care home On path. Looks	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	349606	312097	
14107263	09/02/2023 12:24	4217563	34801176	FP NORTH	Dog Foulin	Reporting constant Dog Fouling in multiple places in Alley	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	349826	313196	
14107278	09/02/2023 14:29	4218040	34800027	OAKLANDS	Dog Faeces	Large amounts of dog faeces being left on footpath leadin	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES05	Under Investigation	Y	#####	344831	310378
14107293	09/02/2023 17:14	4218696	34700658	LYTH HILL I	Dog Poo	Pedestrians stepping in dog poo.	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES10	Resolved - Routine Maintenance	N	348589	308809	
14107360	10/02/2023 14:56	4221171	29600569	GREENFIEL	Dog bin	The dog bin is overflowing has not been emptied in over t	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	328843	327807	
14107387	11/02/2023 09:01	4222563	28200574	SMITHFIEL	Fouling	Fouling close to zebra crossing on footpath	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	RET	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	367674	334408	
14107408	11/02/2023 13:38	4223359	4300861	CASTLE HIL	Trail of do	See photo	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	371723	292809	
14107452	12/02/2023 12:10	4225219	34701427	PORTHILL F	Multiple dr	Walked from Porthill Footbridge yesterday to The English	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	DBB	ES09	Resolved - No Action Required	N	348521	312563	
14107466	13/02/2023 06:26	4226811	29600355	THE AVENL	Dog foulin	Increase in dog fouling throughout village	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N	334486	325555	
14107476	13/02/2023 08:15	4226965	34700098	BELLE VUE	Vomit and	Between twyfrod tots and down to Masonic arms (all sam	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	349476	311538	
14107477	13/02/2023 08:44	4227038	4300206	DARK LAN	Dog mess	Dog mess up the alley between dark lane and mollies cafe	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	367607.1	301776.3	
14107479	13/02/2023 09:01	4227091	4300314	HIGH STRE	Large pile	This is one of the main pedestrian pavements for parents	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	373962	283805	
14107501	13/02/2023 11:35	4227863	34701070	TANKERVIL	Dog Foulin	Dog Fouling on pavement	STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N	350167	312796	

14107503	13/02/2023 11:46	4227917	34700806	OTELEY RO Dog fouling I counted 14 lots of dog poo which looks like it's from the STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		350234	310354
14107574	14/02/2023 10:00	4230905	34700837	PLOX GREE Dog fouling Dog fouling	STSC	Dog fouling	DBB	ES09	Resolved - No Action Required	N		337501	304847
14107575	14/02/2023 10:15	4230962	4300305	HAZELWEL Dog Foulin Reporting piles of Doug Mess along Hazelwells Road said i	STSC	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		373520.1	284608.9
14107583	14/02/2023 10:56	4231150	4300612	STATION R Dog fouling Station report from the dentist up to the station in the right STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		381360	304256
14107591	14/02/2023 12:00	4231415	34701191	WHITEMEF Dog fouling There is dog mess all down this road, this is not the first ti	STSC	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		349928.9	314821.8
14107625	14/02/2023 16:01	4232415	34701028	STAPLETO Dog fouling Someone letting there dog poo here regularly and not cle:	STSC	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		348896.1	310380.4
14107628	14/02/2023 16:35	4232564	34700806	OTELEY RO Dog fouling Dog fouling along the footpath which passes from Oteley STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		350124.9	310481.1
14107644	15/02/2023 07:52	4233553	34800218	GREENFIEL Lots of dog For a long time witness dog owners not clearing their dog	STSC	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		349562	313894
14107656	15/02/2023 09:58	4234023	29600080	CHIRK ROA Dog walkei I'm just after some help in pointed in the right direction!	STSC	Dog fouling	DBB	ES09	Resolved - No Action Required	N		330280	333544
14107721	16/02/2023 07:31	4236631	34700140	BRIERY LAI Dog fouling Just on a dog walk myself and this is outside someones hc	STSC	Dog fouling	IAR	ES12	Works Completed	N		345378	313115
14107794	16/02/2023 21:06	4239554	34800204	EATON COI Please clea Message for Jane Salisbury after v useful meeting with De	STSC	Dog fouling	JSS	ES08	Additional Information	Y	#####	360108	306478
14107806	17/02/2023 09:08	4240168	34701216	WOODFIEL Dog fouling This has already been trodden in in the few minutes since	STSC	Dog fouling	IAR	ES12	Works Completed	N		348198	312667
14107902	19/02/2023 12:14	4245326	34700163	BRUNEL W Repeated Owner doesn't even stay with dog just opens front door. (STSC	Dog fouling	JSS	ES08	Additional Information	Y	#####	350057	311658
14107941	20/02/2023 10:17	4247635	34701182	WHITCHUF Signs requi Would it be possible to have some signs about dog mess t	STSC	Dog fouling	RET	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N		351064	315518
14107954	20/02/2023 13:54	4248684	36500142	DODMORE Dog Foulin There is dog fouling outside 15 Dodmore Lane, Ludlow, SV	STSC	Dog fouling	IAR	ES12	Works Completed	N		351520	275476
14108051	21/02/2023 14:16	4252017	34701057	SUTTON R Dog foul On pavement outside 91 Sutton Road, Shrewsbury SY2 6E	STSC	Dog fouling	IAR	ES12	Works Completed	N		350599	311006
14108110	22/02/2023 12:08	4254565	34700634	LONGDEN Dog poo One opposite barnibus church on opposite side of road	STSC	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		349695	312148
14108122	22/02/2023 14:18	4254653	34700634	LONGDEN Dog poo One opposite barnibus church on opposite side of road	STSC	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		349695	312148
14108141	22/02/2023 22:18	4256374	34700273	CONNNGI Dog fouling Someone keeps letting there dog foul on the road 4 times	STSC	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		351049	312929
14108142	23/02/2023 06:33	4256534	36500985	FP CON TO Dog poo Several places where there is dog poo along path to Tollig	STSC	Dog fouling	IAR	ES12	Works Completed	N		352499	274379
14108145	23/02/2023 08:41	4256789	36500331	ONNYBROI Dog Faeces: Large amount of dog faeces on path directly behind Docto	STSC	Dog fouling	IAR	ES12	Works Completed	N		343341	282960
14108205	23/02/2023 22:01	4259284	34700389	FALSTAFF Dog Foulin Owners of dogs continue to get away with letting their do	STSC	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		349519	313790
14108253	24/02/2023 13:43	4256535	36500985	FP CON TO Dog poo Several places where there is dog poo along path to Tollig	STSC	Dog fouling	JSS	ES05	Under Investigation	Y	#####	352499	274379
14108283	25/02/2023 11:08	4262507	34700230	CHRISTCHL Dog foul The mess has happened in last 24hrs wasnt there yesterd:	STSC	Dog fouling	IAR	ES12	Works Completed	N		348072	308639
14108316	26/02/2023 10:29	4264200	4300861	CASTLE HIL Castle Wal Fresh dog mess this morning. On Castle Walk where so m:	STSC	Dog fouling	DBB	ES13	3rd Party Informd - Resolved	N		371667	292683
14108378	27/02/2023 11:57	4266960	36501087	LOWER BO Dog fouling Customer wants to report dog fouling by his neighbour at	STSC	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		347597	296136
14108385	27/02/2023 12:52	4276220	29600119	FERRERS R Dog Foulin Customer is reporting that dog fouling in the area is in	STSC	Dog fouling	RET	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N		329275	329209
14108445	28/02/2023 09:18	4269504	4300532	REDSTONE Dog fouling Dog fouling down Redstone Drive all along the pavement	STSC	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		373638	283976
14108474	28/02/2023 12:48	4270561	34701015	ST JAMES F Dog Foulin Request for signage to deter dog owners from fouling the	STSC	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N		351646	312800
14108482	28/02/2023 13:20	4270703	4310436	HAZLEDINE Dog fouling The entire estate has become one big dog toilet. Most mo	STSC	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		370249	293169
14108501	28/02/2023 16:43	4271447	34700684	MASSEY CF Dog mess. Constant in the area highlighted. New mess regularly ste	STSC	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		350083	316134.1
14108507	28/02/2023 17:08	4271533	34700622	LITTLE HAR Dog mess c Constantly dodging dog mess all around this area. Absolut	STSC	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N		349936	316230
14108541	01/03/2023 09:55	4272990	34700806	OTELEY RO Dog bins n Spinnay area by Oteley Road are still desperate for dog bin:	STSC	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		350432	310365
14108552	01/03/2023 11:05	4273268	34700634	LONGDEN Dog poo Already reported but it's still there and now been	STSC	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		349709	312161
14108566	01/03/2023 12:58	4273702	4301157	THE ROCK Dog Foulin Dog Fouling happening every day on the verge	STSC	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		375661	312019
14108586	01/03/2023 15:30	4274242	29600193	LIVERPOOL Dog Foulin Dog Fouling all along grass verge between Allotments and	STSC	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		329167	330202
14108602	01/03/2023 18:05	4274779	4300796	B455SINGF Dog fouling This footpath is continually being reported as people are	STSC	Dog fouling	JSS	ES05	Under Investigation	Y	#####	372269	287425
14108620	02/03/2023 07:19	4275493	36500816	VAUGHAN Dog fouling So today again, we have found around our area to be	STSC	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		367047	275631
14108638	02/03/2023 10:40	4276104	4300314	HIGH STRE Dog poo aq E-mailing in today's photos as the culprit has struck	STSC	Dog fouling	JSS	ES07	Resolved - Work Issued	N		374037	283702
14108766	03/03/2023 22:17	4280832	29610619	ST MARTIN Dog fouling Somebody is letting their dog foul here daily, now have b:	STSC	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N		330650	334337
14108795	05/03/2023 07:56	4282927	29600903	FP CON HC Extreme le The grass area around Holly Green play area has become	STSC	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N		329880	329154
14108837	06/03/2023 08:46	4285248	34701238	YORK ROAI Dog mess This mornings adventure out and this greeted me just rou	STSC	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		350076	316128
14108949	07/03/2023 11:57	4289241	34700961	SEVERN W. Dog poo @ShrewsburyTC @ShropCouncil Hi, not sure which of you	STSC	Dog fouling	JSS	ES09	Resolved - No Action Required	N		359610	303968
14108990	07/03/2023 23:08	4291137	4300346	INNAGE LA Repeated r Can the area be cleaned again please? And could we have	STSC	Dog fouling	DBB	ES10	Resolved - Routine Maintenance	N		371494	293494
14109047	08/03/2023 14:44	4292589	36501466	FOOTPATH Vicious dog Large house has been build at the back of White Friars an	STSC	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		351804	275396
14109305	11/03/2023 11:29	4300913	29600094	COTTAGE I Owners no Narrow lane have to go on bank to avoid farm vehicles an	STSC	Dog fouling	JSS	ES05	Under Investigation	Y	#####	332872	336693
14109324	11/03/2023 14:40	4301546	29600355	THE AVENL Dog fouling Dog fouling	STSC	Dog fouling	JSS	ES11	Resolved - Work in Programme	N		334431	325512
14109325	11/03/2023 14:41	4301551	29600355	THE AVENL Dog fouling Dog fouling	STSC	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		334392	325477
14109351	12/03/2023 12:24	4303582	34700086	BEAUFORT Continou: Dog fouling at the front of flats on Beaufort green 1 to 11.	STSC	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		350507	315853
14109365	12/03/2023 16:06	4304350	34701238	YORK ROAI Dog Mess : Continuous dog fouling. Last reported dog fouling picked	STSC	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		350079	316128
14109449	13/03/2023 12:54	4307445	28200187	CROSS STR Lots of dog There is a lot of dog poo that has been left at the end of	STSC	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		367579	334192
14109488	13/03/2023 16:40	4308756	29600931	PARKER LE Dog fouling Disgusting mess children walking in it unable to walk on	STSC	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		329028	327696
14109509	14/03/2023 07:00	4310324	4300314	HIGH STRE Dog mess r There is dog mess between the waste bin and the bus sto	STSC	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		373951	283871
14109529	14/03/2023 09:56	4310928	29600562	ERW WEN Dog fouling Dog muck all around Morda. It's a real problem.	STSC	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		328901	327586
14109549	14/03/2023 10:58	4311321	34701382	CASTLE W/ Dog mess There is so much dog mess along the river path between	STSC	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		349852	313006
14109592	14/03/2023 16:24	4313060	36500419	ST JOHNS F Dog fouling Customer concerned about the dog fouling near the publi	STSC	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		351347	274466
14109594	14/03/2023 16:27	4313076	36500067	CASTLE SQ Dog fouling Customer is concerned about the amount of dog fouling a	STSC	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		350964	274598
14109729	16/03/2023 06:45	4318838	4300314	HIGH STRE Still here Dog fouling still here reported last week	STSC	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		373950.6	283875.9
14109742	16/03/2023 09:50	4319506	28201500	SCHOOL B/ Dog attack I have a eight month old Jack Russell bitch, and on the 4th	STSC	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		369292	326745
14109793	16/03/2023 15:49	4321585	36500385	SANDPITS I Dog muck Large dog muck in several lumps spread across the path	STSC	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		352071	275084
14109801	16/03/2023 18:42	4322490	4300362	KINGS LOA Persistent t Between quayside and kings Loade the riverside path is	STSC	Dog fouling	JSS	ES05	Under Investigation	Y	#####	371799	292662
14109802	16/03/2023 18:43	4322496	34700965	SHEINTON Dog fouling Despite there being numerous bins along this stretch, the	STSC	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		359497	304171
14109847	17/03/2023 11:44	4324609	34701033	STATION R Dog poo o The slide and I believe other areas of Pontesbury Play par	STSC	Dog fouling	CID	ES09	Resolved - No Action Required	N		339735	306317
14109852	17/03/2023 12:11	4324721	29600200	LLWYN RO. Dog fouling For a number of months, despite warnings, dog fouling	STSC	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		329488	330066
6702955	17/03/2023 14:46	4300346	INNAGE LANE	dog waste by green boxes BT	STSC	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		371007.7	293728

14109947	19/03/2023 11:45	4330625	36500460	TENBURY F Dog poo	There is a trail of 22 blobs of dog poo on the pavement or STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		367150	275675
14110044	20/03/2023 12:02	4334790	34700806	OTELEY RO Dog fouling	Footpath between Murrel way and old Rose Drive, in the : STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		350211.4	310374.3
14110071	20/03/2023 13:46	4335495	34700122	BISHOP STI Dog mess c	Dog mess on bishop street, near bell lane, outside numbe STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES07	Resolved - Work Issued	N		350536	312528
14110097	20/03/2023 16:30	4336616	34701910	FP CON BE	So much di There is so much dog pooh down this path and not just or STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES07	Resolved - Work Issued	N		351152.1	312599.7
14110162	21/03/2023 09:12	4338779	4300099	BRIDGNOR Dog fouling	My wife and I recently revisited the unique experience th: STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		362154	299743
14110164	21/03/2023 09:16	4338805	4300709	WEST CASI Dog fouling	Another complaint about Dog Fouling – this one is West C STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		371625	292930
6702957	21/03/2023 10:12		34700122	BISHOP STI Dog mess c	Dog mess on bishop street, near bell lane, outside numbe STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		350537.4	312528.8
14110182	21/03/2023 11:04	4339618	29600618	WESTON C Dog fouling	Like to make a complaint regarding lady with the brown c STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES09	Resolved - No Action Required	N		328928	327802
14110195	21/03/2023 12:58	4340351	4310350	ASTBURY F Dog fouling	Dog fouling along the verges in the lane STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES05	Under Investigation	Y	#####	372346	289384
14110212	21/03/2023 14:27	4340906	4310350	ASTBURY F Dog mess f	I've had these council signs off you before, could I have ar STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		372341	289377
14110220	21/03/2023 15:15	4341181	4300882	PEACOCK F Dog poo	Dog poo on pavement which is used by families and youn; STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		376368	284766
14110464	24/03/2023 10:00	4353153	36500204	HENLEY RC Dog fouling	Dogs are let out daily to roam freely, owner doesn't clean STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES05	Under Investigation	Y	#####	351757	275461
14110598	26/03/2023 17:52	4361015	4300174	COALPORT Lots of poc	It seems someone is dumping their dog poo bags in the sa STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		368535	301450
14110628	27/03/2023 10:46	4362882	4300206	DARK LANI Dog fouling	Dog fouling on Dark Lane just by the turn to haycop Rise t STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		367648	301827
14110855	29/03/2023 19:06	4373954	34700870	PULLEY LAI Dog mess c	Outside the garage as picture either actual dog mess or di STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES05	Under Investigation	Y	#####	348660	309871
14110884	30/03/2023 09:33	4375576	34700884	RACECOUR Dog fouling	Dog fouling STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES12	Works Completed	N		345975	312784
14110979	31/03/2023 07:37	4379887	4300097	BRIDGNOR S lots of pc	Dog poo STSC	Street Scer EC03	Dog fouling	JSS	ES05	Under Investigation	Y	#####	373845	284052

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Shropshire Council
Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA)
Stage One Screening Record 2023

A. Summary Sheet on Accountability and Actions

Name of proposed service change
Public Space Protection Order, Dog constraints

Name of the officer carrying out the screening
Steve Holdaway

Decision, review, and monitoring

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

If completion of a Stage One screening assessment is an appropriate and proportionate action at this stage, please use the boxes above, and complete both part A and part B of of this template. If a Full or Stage 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.

Actions to mitigate negative impact or enhance positive impact of the service change in terms of equality and social inclusion considerations
<p>Following a series of audits into the Dog Warden service and an increasing nuisance from dog fouling it has been concluded that the service can be improved with the introduction of a county wide Public Space Protection Order (PSPO). This will allow the service to take enforcement action against pet owners who allow their animals to foul pavements and public amenity spaces.</p> <p>The overall equality impact will be anticipated to be positive across the nine Protected Characteristic groupings set out in the Equality Act 2010 and across the whole county, due to health and well-being benefits for everyone in the community, if there is less dog fouling as a result of this policy being implemented.</p> <p>There is potential for positive equality impact for the groupings of Age, Disability, Pregnancy and Maternity, and Sex, in particular. As with other policies in relation to the public realm, this is in terms of mental well-being opportunities arising for people in these groupings to feel safer when outdoors for health benefits, education, work or leisure, or simply walking to their local shops and amenities. This is particularly so for families with young children, wheelchair users, and older</p>

people who may consider themselves to be vulnerable and less likely to venture out without pavements that can be navigated safely by them and their carers, and that are clear of detritus and dog faeces.

An additional grouping for whom there may be positive impacts are people with less visible disabilities or conditions, including people with neurodiverse conditions, and for people with visual impairments. The presence of dog fouling, which may be allied to fear around dogs, can cause distress for some children and young people with attachment disorders, and overstimulation for some people with autism.

There are specific positive impacts anticipated for children under five, and therefore, for all those associated with caring for this grouping, bringing in the groupings of Pregnancy and Maternity and Sex.

The overall impact on carers is likely to be positive.

With the control in place in some public open spaces, the caring of an individual may be made easier, especially children, adults with learning disabilities, and people with visual and/or physical disabilities.

Mitigation of negative impacts is also anticipated to be necessary, as for some groupings, removing dog fouling presents as a challenge. These are the groupings of Age, Disability, Pregnancy and Maternity, and people in these and other groupings who have caring responsibilities, for the following reasons.

Age:

Older people (over 65 years) may have physical limitations and impairment of reduced mobility and dexterity, causing an inability to remove dog fouling.

Disability:

People within this grouping who have a physical disability may find it difficult to remove dog fouling, due to physical impairment. Wheelchair users and mobility scooter users could be particularly affected by dog fouling on streets and pathways, due either to difficulty picking up dog faeces if it has been caused by their own dog, or to difficulty dealing with dog fouling that they encounter which may go onto the wheels of their wheelchair or mobility scooter.

People within this grouping who have a cognitive disability either may not understand the concepts around the restrictions that are proposed, or may not be able to carry out the task of picking up dog faeces caused by their dog and disposing of it appropriately.

Pregnancy and maternity:

Individuals within this grouping could find themselves less physically able to remove dog fouling.

Additionally, the initial introduction of the PSPO, if this proceeds, could without mitigation have a negative impact for those in the grouping of Race, where there may be dog owners with limited understanding of English.

Actions to mitigate negative impact or enhance positive impact of the service change in terms of health and wellbeing considerations

The grouping for whom there are positive health and well-being impacts is Age, specifically children under 5 but also children who are being encouraged to walk to school or to leisure activities and are put off from doing so due to dog fouling. For the grouping of Disability, there may also be particular distress for those with neurodiverse conditions or attachment disorder, for whom the presence of dog fouling can cause visible and physical distress.

Children (Under 5) will have less potential to be harmed by un-cleared faeces or distressed by coming into contact with it. Young children are most likely to be exposed to dog fouling through their outside play activities and potential health impacts, if personal hygiene has not fully developed.

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

The PSPO Exempts assistance dogs in certain circumstances.

The order will exempt people with certain characteristics from complying with relevant restrictions. The PSPO should not apply to a registered blind person or someone who has a dog trained by a charity to support a person suffering from mobility, manual dexterity disability or deafness.

Where there may not be adequate understanding of written English used on signage, the Council could use internationally recognised symbols with simple, clear font of a suitable and appropriate size, to mitigate against this communication challenge.

Where a penalty notice is served, there may also be insufficient or inadequate understanding of the content of the penalty.

In order to mitigate negative impact or enhance positive impact, the Council will ensure that all officers involved in enforcement activities are familiar with requirements of the PSPO. Officers will be trained in Conflict resolution. They will be suitably trained in dealing with vulnerable people and/or disabilities and understand when discretion should be applied to achieve fair and consistent outcomes.

Associated ESHIAs

ESHIA in relation to PSPOs have been carried out for Shrewsbury Town Centre, whilst ESHIA in relation to the public realm have been carried out for a number of Shrewsbury regeneration initiatives, and for the Ironbridge Gorge WHS SPD.

Actions to mitigate negative impact, enhance positive impact, and review and monitor overall impacts in terms of climate change considerations and any other impacts with regard to economic and societal implications

Climate change

The introduction of a county wide Public Space Protection Order to encourage responsible dog ownership is not expected to generate any direct impacts for the generation or capture of carbon emissions, the generation of renewable energy, or for adaptation to the impacts of climate change. There may be some indirect positive effects for carbon reduction if the mitigation of the existing negative impact of dog fouling leads to more extensive use of local open space.

If additional signage is needed, there will be carbon associated with the construction of the sign.

Actions to mitigate negative impact: Recommend carbon neutral signage.

Economic and societal/wider community

The implementation of this order would mean grass from council managed sites, could be composted after it has been cut. As it will be clear from dog faeces. This will present an environmental benefit.

Strategic Plan - Implications

Healthy Living – supporting residents to take responsibility for their dogs and the health of others, and preventing ill health

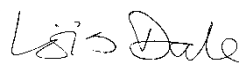
Healthy Economy – ensuring that Shropshire is a healthy destination for tourists

Healthy Environment – enabling safer communities by reducing anti-social behaviours and risk of harm from stray dogs

Healthy Organisation – ensuring Shropshire’s internal capacity and capability is complemented effectively and that internal resources are organised efficiently and effectively to take the necessary enforcement to encourage responsible behaviour.

Scrutiny at Stage One screening stage

People involved	Signatures	Date
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Lead officer for the proposed service change		
Officer carrying out the screening		
Any other internal service area support*		
Any external support** Mrs Lois Dale P&R Specialist for Rurality and Equalities		22 nd September 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 Performance and Research Specialist for Rurality and Equalities, Public Health colleagues, the Feedback and Insight Team, performance data specialists, Climate Change specialists, etc.

S

Sign off at Stage One screening stage

Name	Signatures	Date
Lead officer's name		
Service manager's name		

*This may either be the Head of Service or the lead officer

B. Detailed Screening Assessment

Aims of the service change and description
<p>The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet Approval to consult on a Public Space Protection Order for Shropshire to control dog fouling and to help control the risk of harm from stray dogs.</p> <p>Following a series of audits into the Dog Warden service and an increasing nuisance from dog fouling it has been concluded that the service can be improved with the introduction of a county wide Public Space Protection Order (PSPO). This will allow the service to take enforcement action against pet owners who allow</p>

their animals to foul pavements and public amenity spaces. The report therefore seeks Cabinet approvals to consult on proposals to introduce a PSPO which will allow the issue of fixed penalty notices for dog fouling.

The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) which are intended to provide the means of preventing individuals or groups committing anti-social behaviour in a public space. Section 59 of the Act sets out the test which must be satisfied before a local authority make a PSPO...where the behaviour is having, or likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality; be persistent or continuing in nature; and be unreasonable.

It has been concluded that both a public information campaign together with enforcement is likely to achieve the best results in terms of encouraging pet owners to act responsibly. This will help to protect those members of the public who use the Council's open recreation areas and their health from the adverse effects of dog nuisance.

The service development will enhance the Dog Warden service and provide strategic direction for the control of dogs and enforcement of nuisance behaviours

The conclusions reached are also considered to be ones that will best meet the themed aspirations of the Strategic Plan and align the service with the Plan.

Intended audiences and target groups for the service change

The intended audiences and target groups are:

- All those who live in, work in or visit the county, so that they are aware of the proposals and have opportunity to respond to consultation
- Dog owners, to act more responsibly and to make sure the public space they use remains safe.
- Town Councils and Parish Councils as they have interest and concerns on dog fouling.

We will also be consulting with other statutory bodies, eg Police, to seek any concerns or experience they will have had with these types of orders in other authorities.

Evidence used for screening of the service change

Dog fouling enquiries from April 2021 to March 2023:

Month	Number of enquiries
April 2021	28
May 2021	16

June 2021	17
July 2021	12
August 2021	10
September 2021	10
October 2021	15
November 2021	30
December 2021	16
January 2022	45
February 2022	22
March 2022	20
April 2022	21
May 2022	34
June 2022	26
July 2022	22
August 2022	16
September 2022	31
October 2022	30
November 2022	21
December 2022	18
January 2023	46
February 2023	91
March 2023	50
Total	647

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

It is proposed that the Dog Warden service be authorised to undertake the consultation and that the results of an eight-week consultation be brought back to Cabinet for further consideration and if required amendment.

That publicity materials be produced to raise awareness with the public about the reasons for the initiative and introduction of PSPO to encourage responsible dog ownership.

And that these materials be presented to Cabinet when the consultation results are considered and to be introduced in advance of making the PSPO

Details of specific consultation materials are contained in Appendix B of the Cabinet Report 18th October 2023 – Public Space Protection Order, Dog Constraints 06092023 - 1407

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

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>Stage Two ESHIA required</i>	High positive impact <i>Stage One ESHIA required</i>	Medium positive or negative impact <i>Stage One ESHIA required</i>	Low positive, negative, or neutral impact (please specify) <i>Stage One ESHIA 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 a disability)			Medium positive	
<u>Disability</u> (please include cancer; HIV/AIDS; learning disabilities; mental health conditions and syndromes; multiple sclerosis; neurodiverse conditions such as autism; hidden disabilities such as Crohn's disease; physical and/or sensory disabilities or impairments)			Medium positive	
<u>Gender re-assignment</u> (please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				Low positive
<u>Marriage and Civil Partnership</u> (please include associated aspects: caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				Low positive
<u>Pregnancy and Maternity</u> (please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)			Medium positive	
<u>Race</u> (please include ethnicity, nationality, culture, language, Gypsy, Roma, Traveller)				Low positive

Religion or belief (please include Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism, Nonconformists; Rastafarianism; Shinto, Sikhism, Taoism, Veganism, Zoroastrianism, and any others)				Low positive
Sex (this can also be viewed as relating to gender. Please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)			Medium positive	
Sexual Orientation (please include associated aspects: safety; caring responsibility; potential for bullying and harassment)				Low positive
Other: Social Inclusion (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; and veterans and serving members of the armed forces and their families)				Low positive

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 direct impact on an individual's health, mental health and wellbeing? For example, would it cause ill health, affecting social inclusion, independence and participation?		X		

<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>		X		
<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>			X 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, Community Services, Mental Health, Local Authority services including Social Services?</p>			X Positive	

Guidance Notes

1. Legal Context

It is a legal requirement for local authorities to assess the equality and human rights impact of changes proposed or made to services. It is up to us as an authority to decide what form our equality impact assessment may take. By way of illustration,

some local authorities focus more overtly upon human rights; some include safeguarding. It is about what is considered to be needed in a local authority's area, in line with local factors such as demography and strategic objectives as well as with the national legislative imperatives.

Carrying out these impact assessments helps us as a public authority to ensure that, as far as possible, we are taking actions to meet the general equality duty placed on us by the Equality Act 2010, and to thus demonstrate that the three equality aims are integral to our decision making processes.

These are: eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advancing equality of opportunity; and fostering good relations.

These screening assessments for any proposed service change go to Cabinet as part of the committee report, or occasionally direct to Full Council, unless they are ones to do with Licensing, in which case they go to Strategic Licensing Committee.

Service areas would ordinarily carry out a screening assessment, or Stage One equality impact assessment. This enables energies to be focussed on review and monitoring and ongoing evidence collection about the positive or negative impacts of a service change upon groupings in the community, and for any adjustments to be considered and made accordingly.

These screening assessments are recommended to be undertaken at timely points in the development and implementation of the proposed service change.

For example, a Stage One ESHIA would be a recommended course of action before a consultation. This would draw upon the evidence available at that time, and identify the target audiences, and assess at that initial stage what the likely impact of the service change could be across the Protected Characteristic groupings and our tenth category of Social Inclusion. This ESHIA would set out intended actions to engage with the groupings, particularly those who are historically less likely to engage in public consultation eg young people, as otherwise we would not know their specific needs.

A second Stage One ESHIA would then be carried out after the consultation, to say what the feedback was, to set out changes proposed as a result of the feedback, and to say where responses were low and what the plans are to engage with groupings who did not really respond. This ESHIA would also draw more upon actions to review impacts in order to mitigate the negative and accentuate the positive. Examples of this approach include the Great Outdoors Strategy, and the Economic Growth Strategy 2017-2021

Meeting our Public Sector Equality Duty through carrying out these ESHIAs is very much about using them as an opportunity to demonstrate ongoing engagement across groupings and to thus visibly show we are taking what is called due regard of the needs of people in protected characteristic groupings

If the screening indicates that there are likely to be significant negative impacts for groupings within the community, the service area would need to carry out a full

report, or Stage Two assessment. This will enable more evidence to be collected that will help the service area to reach an informed opinion.

In practice, Stage Two or Full Screening Assessments have only been recommended twice since 2014, as the ongoing mitigation of negative equality impacts should serve to keep them below the threshold for triggering a Full Screening Assessment. The expectation is that Full Screening Assessments in regard to Health Impacts may occasionally need to be undertaken, but this would be very much the exception rather than the rule.

2. Council Wide and Service Area Policy and Practice on Equality, Social Inclusion and Health

This involves taking an equality and social inclusion approach in planning changes to services, policies, or procedures, including those that may be required by Government. The decisions that you make when you are planning a service change need to be recorded, to demonstrate that you have thought about the possible equality impacts on communities and to show openness and transparency in your decision-making processes.

This is where Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessments (ESHIA) come in. Where you carry out an ESHIA in your service area, this provides an opportunity to show:

- What evidence you have drawn upon to help you to recommend a strategy or policy or a course of action to Cabinet.
- What target groups and audiences you have worked with to date.
- What actions you will take in order to mitigate any likely negative impact upon a group or groupings, and enhance any positive effects for a group or groupings; and
- What actions you are planning to monitor and review the impact of your planned service change.

The formal template is there not only to help the service area but also to act as a stand-alone for a member of the public to read. The approach helps to identify whether or not any new or significant changes to services, including policies, procedures, functions, or projects, may have an adverse impact on a particular group of people, and whether the human rights of individuals may be affected.

There are nine Protected Characteristic groupings defined in the Equality Act 2010. The full list of groupings is: Age; Disability; Gender Reassignment; Marriage and Civil Partnership; Pregnancy and Maternity; Race; Religion or Belief; Sex; and Sexual Orientation.

There is also intersectionality between these. Eg a young person with a disability would be in the groupings of Age and Disability, and if they described themselves as having a faith they would then also be in the grouping of Religion or Belief.

We demonstrate equal treatment to people who are in these groups and to people who are not, through having what is termed 'due regard' to their needs and views when developing and implementing policy and strategy and when commissioning, procuring, arranging, or delivering services.

For the individuals and groupings who may be affected, ask yourself what impact do you think is likely and what actions will you currently anticipate taking, to mitigate or enhance likely impact of the service change? If you are reducing a service, for example, there may be further use you could make of awareness raising through social media and other channels to reach more people who may be affected.

Social inclusion is then the wider additional category we use in Shropshire, in order to help us to go beyond the equality legislation in also considering impacts for individuals and households with regard to the circumstances in which they may find themselves across their life stages. This could be households on low incomes, or households facing challenges in accessing services, such as households in rural areas, and veterans and serving members of the armed forces and their families, or people that we might consider to be vulnerable, such as young people leaving care or refugee families.

Please note that the armed forces are now a grouping to whom we are required to give due regard under new Armed Forces legislation, although in practice we have been doing so for a number of years now.

When you are not carrying out an ESHIA, you still need to demonstrate and record that you have considered equality in your decision-making processes. It is up to you what format you choose.-You could use a checklist, an explanatory note, or a document setting out our expectations of standards of behaviour, for contractors to read and sign. It may well not be something that is in the public domain like an ESHIA, but you should still be ready for it to be made available.

Both the approaches sit with a manager, and the manager has to make the call, and record the decision made on behalf of the Council.

Carry out an ESHIA:

- If you are building or reconfiguring a building.
- If you are planning to reduce or remove a service.
- If you are consulting on a policy or a strategy.
- If you are bringing in a change to a process or procedure that involves other stakeholders and the wider community as well as particular groupings

Carry out an equality and social inclusion approach:

- If you are setting out how you expect a contractor to behave with regard to equality, where you are commissioning a service or product from them.
- If you are setting out the standards of behaviour that we expect from people who work with vulnerable groupings, such as taxi drivers that we license.

- If you are planning consultation and engagement activity, where we need to collect equality data in ways that will be proportionate and non-intrusive as well as meaningful for the purposes of the consultation itself.
- If you are looking at services provided by others that help the community, where we need to demonstrate a community leadership approach

3. Council wide and service area policy and practice on health and wellbeing

This is a relatively new area to record within our overall assessments of impacts, for which we are asking service area leads to consider health and wellbeing impacts, much as they have been doing during 2020-2021 and 2021-2022, and to look at these in the context of direct and indirect impacts for individuals and for communities.

A better understanding across the Council of these impacts will also better enable the Public Health colleagues to prioritise activities to reduce health inequalities in ways that are evidence based and that link effectively with equality impact considerations and climate change mitigation.

Health in All Policies – Health Impact Assessment

Health in All Policies is an upstream approach for health and wellbeing promotion and prevention, and to reduce health inequalities. The Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is the supporting mechanism

- Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is the technical name for a process that considers the wider effects of local policies, strategies and initiatives and how they, in turn, may affect people's health and wellbeing.
- Health Impact Assessment is a means of assessing both the positive and negative health impacts of a policy. It is also a means of developing good evidence-based policy and strategy using a structured process to review the impact.
- A Health Impact Assessment seeks to determine how to maximise health benefits and reduce health inequalities. It identifies any unintended health consequences. These consequences may support policy and strategy or may lead to suggestions for improvements.
- An agreed framework will set out a clear pathway through which a policy or strategy can be assessed and impacts with outcomes identified. It also sets out the support mechanisms for maximising health benefits.

The embedding of a Health in All Policies approach will support Shropshire Council through evidence-based practice and a whole systems approach, in achieving our corporate and partnership strategic priorities. This will assist the Council and partners in promoting, enabling and sustaining the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities whilst reducing health inequalities.

Individuals

Will the proposal have a *direct impact* on health, mental health and wellbeing?

For example, would it cause ill health, affecting social inclusion, independence and participation?

Will the proposal directly affect an individual's ability to improve their own health and wellbeing?

This could include the following: their ability to be physically active e.g., being able to use a cycle route; to access food more easily; to change lifestyle in ways that are of positive impact for their health.

An example of this could be that you may be involved in proposals for the establishment of safer walking and cycling routes (e.g., green highways), and changes to public transport that could encourage people away from car usage. and increase the number of journeys that they make on public transport, by foot or on bicycle or scooter. This could improve lives.

Will the proposal *indirectly impact* an individual's ability to improve their own health and wellbeing?

This could include the following: their ability to access local facilities e.g., to access food more easily, or to access a means of mobility to local services and amenities? (e.g. change to bus route)

Similarly to the above, an example of this could be that you may be involved in proposals for the establishment of safer walking and cycling routes (e.g. pedestrianisation of town centres), and changes to public transport that could encourage people away from car usage, and increase the number of journeys that they make on public transport, by foot or on bicycle or scooter. This could improve their health and well being.

Communities

Will the proposal directly or indirectly affect the physical health, mental health, and wellbeing of the wider community?

A *direct impact* could include either the causing of ill health, affecting social inclusion, independence and participation, or the promotion of better health.

An example of this could be that safer walking and cycling routes could help the wider community, as more people across groupings may be encouraged to walk more, and as there will be reductions in emission leading to better air quality.

An *indirect impact* could mean that a service change could indirectly affect living and working conditions and therefore the health and well being of the wider community.

An example of this could be: an increase in the availability of warm homes would improve the quality of the housing offer in Shropshire and reduce the costs for households of having a warm home in Shropshire. Often a health promoting

approach also supports our agenda to reduce the level of Carbon Dioxide emissions and to reduce the impact of climate change.

Please record whether at this stage you consider the proposed service change to have a direct or an indirect impact upon communities.

Demand

Will there be a change in demand for or access to health, local authority and social care services?

For example: Primary Care, Hospital Care, Community Services, Mental Health and Social Services?

An example of this could be: a new housing development in an area would affect demand for primary care and local authority facilities and services in that location and surrounding areas. If the housing development does not factor in consideration of availability of green space and safety within the public realm, further down the line there could be an increased demand upon health and social care services as a result of the lack of opportunities for physical recreation, and reluctance of some groupings to venture outside if they do not perceive it to be safe.

***For further advice: please contact
Lois Dale via email lois.dale@shropshire.gov.uk, or
Sue Lloyd via email susan.lloyd@shropshire.gov.uk***



Committee and Date

Item

Public



Joint Committee - Marches Enterprise Partnership

Responsible Officer:	Mark Barrow, Executive Director of Place		
email:	mark.barrow@shropshire.gov.uk	Tel:	01743 258919
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	Lezley Picton		

1. Synopsis

A new Joint Committee between Herefordshire, Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Councils will oversee the transfer of assets, resources and responsibilities of the Marches LEP (in accordance with recent Government decisions) and exercise executive functions.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Shropshire Plan's healthy economy priority recognises the importance of ensuring that the economy of the county is set for success and that the constituents for growth exist. This includes maximising external funding opportunities and collaborating with neighbouring authorities to share best practice and support financial resilience of services through joint working initiatives.
- 2.2 Since its inception in 2012, Shropshire Council, together with Telford & Wrekin Council and Herefordshire Council, have been the local authority partners within the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). The LEP consists of seven private sector board members and three local authority members and has been operating

- as a private company limited by guarantee since 31 March 2019. Prior to this it was an executive joint committee, known as the Marches Enterprise Joint Committee.
- 2.3 On 19th August 2023 Government announced the results of a widespread public consultation exercise on the future of LEPs following previous policy statements made within the Levelling up White Paper which was published in February 2022.
- 2.4 Shropshire Council has acted as ‘Accountable Body’ for the Marches LEP since its inception and as such handles all financial, legal and resources support matters on behalf of the LEP and public sector partners. In that sense the Council has a direct interest in how assets, liabilities and resources are managed long term and that fit for purpose systems of governance are in place moving forward.
- 2.5 The local authority partners have confirmed to the LEP, via formal letter (Appendix A), of their wish to follow government guidance and to transfer resources, assets and responsibilities to the local authority partners before the 31st March 2024.
- 2.6 It is proposed that the Joint Committee will become the shared local authority governance framework for handling those matters, both through the transition phase and beyond March 2024 until such time that a requirement to maintain a Joint Committee is superseded or all residual matters have been resolved or discharged.
- 2.7 An equivalent version of this paper is to be considered by the Executives/Councils at both Herefordshire Council and Telford and Wrekin Council.
- 2.8 The local authorities are committed to continue working together by common purpose and the desire to see economic growth and prosperity across the area. This approach is aimed at ensuring effective local joint working and provides a basis, using the power of the collective area, to continue developing and delivering investment propositions for Government and partners.
- 2.9 The Joint Committee will focus its collaboration where it adds the greatest value. All participating councils will be responsible for local delivery within their respective local authority area unless jointly agreed otherwise. Establishing this Joint Committee will not introduce any constraint or barrier to any of the councils being involved in other beneficial partnership arrangements, either with each other or third parties.

3. Recommendations

Cabinet agrees to:

- 3.1. establish a Joint Committee with Herefordshire Council and Telford & Wrekin Council to (a) oversee, manage and distribute the assets, functions and responsibilities of the Marches Enterprise Partnership and (b) exercise executive functions as listed in paragraph 7.9 below.
- 3.2. delegate to the Executive Director Place in consultation with the Executive Director Resources, authority to make necessary arrangements, as the accountable body,

for the management of resources, staff and responsibilities of the LEP in accordance with Government guidelines.

- 3.3. delegate authority to the Executive Director Resources and Executive Director Place , in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to establish appropriate management arrangements, including funding and staffing for the Council to discharge its responsibility as the 'Accountable Body'.
- 3.4. Delegate to the Executive Director Place, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Executive Director of Resources (Section 151 Officer), authority to agree the final Terms of Reference with partner councils.

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1. Given the Government's decision to devolve LEP responsibilities to local authorities before the end of March 2024 it is important that the three councils within the Marches LEP now establish appropriate an appropriate governance framework to oversee and manage the ongoing contracts, grant funding and contingent assets and liabilities of the LEP. Establishing a Joint Committee between the three Councils is the appropriate structure to discharge these obligations and ensure shared democratic accountability and collective decision making. This will give confidence to existing LEP Board members and wider stakeholders that appropriate future governance is in place.
- 4.2. The Joint Committee will work with the LEP Board to establish a work programme and ensure appropriate capacities and resources exist to manage the transfer of responsibilities, records, data and resources.
- 4.3. The Joint Committee will take decisions on the treatment of any residual resources, contingent assets and liabilities of the LEP. This includes taking decisions on projects subject to ongoing monitoring and amendment to any previously agreed delivery criteria or benefits.
- 4.4. Part VI of the Local Government Act 1972 and Part 1, Chapter 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 (as amended) makes provision for local authorities to establish joint committees. Provided that the functions to be exercised are executive functions, it is a matter for the respective Cabinets to determine the establishment of an executive joint committee and to agree the executive functions to be delegated to that joint committee. Every member of the joint committee must be a member of their nominating council's Cabinet. In the absence of an established joint scrutiny committee, decisions of the joint committee will remain subject to the individual council's scrutiny arrangements.
- 4.5. Shropshire Council propose acting as 'Accountable Body' for the Joint Committee as an extension of its current role as Accountable Body for the Marches LEP. Therefore, Shropshire Councils Section 151 Officer will be responsible for ensuring the proper administration of all financial affairs for this Joint Committee.

- 4.6. Government funding for the management of LEP functions for 24/25 and beyond is mooted but not confirmed. As Accountable Body, Shropshire Council must ensure that funding to discharge LEP functions over the transition period and beyond is secured to prevent a financial risk transferring to the Joint Committee and by extension the partner Councils. To manage this risk an element of existing LEP resources could be ringfenced for the Joint Committee to fund the capacities necessary for a smooth transfer and ongoing discharge of responsibilities.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. It is estimated that since the creation of the Marches LEP in 2012 it has distributed circa £200m of government grants for growth and development projects across the three local authority areas. There will be a large number of those project awards that include provisions for clawback or repayment if certain agreed delivery criteria are not met. The Joint Committee will take decisions on the management of such decisions and allocate any residual resources as it sees appropriate.
- 5.2. Managing the legacy and ongoing programme of contracts and funding awards by the Joint Committee will require dedicated resources in addition to those held by the Council partners. It is necessary, therefore, that an element of existing LEP resources is ringfenced for the Joint Committee to fund the capacities necessary for a smooth transfer and ongoing discharge of responsibilities.
- 5.3. Whilst the Councils will no longer be required to financially support the management arrangements of the LEP, the Joint Committee may determine as appropriate to jointly fund or augment ongoing work or any future initiatives.
- 5.4. The Joint Committee will require capacity and support from some of the existing LEP staff to manage the information and data transfer, ongoing monitoring and management of LEP related programmes. The Joint Committee will provide a shared basis to prioritise, agree and appropriate such costs across the collective partners, thereby providing benefit and reducing risks and financial liabilities implications to each individual organisation.
- 5.5. Government has stated that it will provide some revenue funding to local and combined authorities in 2024/25 to support them to deliver the functions currently delivered by LEPs. Details of this support will be confirmed in due course. Funding beyond 2024/25 will be subject to future Spending Review decisions and cannot be relied upon.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.1 The Marches LEP has made investments in a range of renewable energy and low carbon projects, and it is important that these are overseen and enabled through to successful delivery. The Joint Committee provides the vehicle for the partner local authorities to continue to support each other on climate and net zero plans and local delivery as required.
- 6.2 Each council has clear strategies for managing climate change and carbon reduction. The Joint Committee will take decisions on projects and programmes appropriate for its own local context balanced against the collective view.

7. Background

- 7.1 Since the publication of the Levelling Up White Paper, government has made progress on extending devolution across England and has stated that it remains committed to empowering local leaders by integrating Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) functions into local democratic institutions. The Spring Budget 2023 set out that government was minded to withdraw government support (core funding) for LEPs from April 2024 and to transfer LEP functions to local authorities, where appropriate and where not already delivered by combined authorities.
- 7.2 Following an information gathering exercise led by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, and the Department for Business and Trade, the government announced on the 4th August 2023 that it has confirmed its 'minded to' decision.
- 7.3 Government's sponsorship and core funding of LEPs will cease from the end of March 2024. It recognises that as LEPs are legally private enterprises and that they may choose to continue operating in some form, but government is clear that it will support local authorities to take on LEPs' functions and responsibilities. A joint letter from the Leader's of the three councils dated 1st September 2023 (Appendix A) confirms that the Councils wish to follow Government guidance and for the LEP to cease and to transfer its assets and responsibilities by the end of March 2024.
- 7.4 The above decision also specifies activities as set out in the Government guidance of March 2022 LEP integration guidance and previously supported by annual core funding – namely, business representation, strategic economic planning, and responsibility for the delivery of government programmes where directed. Government has been clear that it expects these functions to be exercised by upper tier local authorities (working in collaboration with other upper tier local authorities as appropriate), where they are not already delivered by a combined authority, or in areas where a devolution deal is not yet agreed.
- 7.5 Government has stated that it will provide some revenue funding to local and combined authorities in 2024/25 to support them to deliver the functions currently delivered by LEPs. Details of this support will be confirmed in due course. Funding beyond 2024/25 will be subject to future Spending Review decisions and cannot be relied upon.
- 7.6 The Council understand that the Marches LEP has distributed circa £200m of grants and other funding for project and business support since it was established. A significant number of those awards carry provisions for clawback or repayment dependent upon delivery of stated benefits within individually specified time periods. The LEP has invested in certain projects that can be deemed as contingent assets.
- 7.7 All government funding awarded to Marches LEP has been made via Shropshire Council as the accountable body. Those funding awards have been received as grants under the provisions of Section 31, Local Government Finance Act 2003. In this context the Marches LEP has been acting in a stewardship role and does not itself possess private ownership of those resources. Throughout the existence of the Marches LEP, Shropshire Council's Section 151 Officer has also acted as the Section 151 Officer for Marches LEP and has ensured appropriate financial

governance and systems have been in place for the distribution and management of those resources.

- 7.8 Shropshire Council, Telford and Wrekin Council and Herefordshire Council have been working as local authority partners within the Marches LEP since 2012 and are keen to demonstrate to government a spirit of continuity and stability of decision making in relation to LEP related matters.
- 7.9 The key functions of the Marches Enterprise Partnership Joint Committee which will create the basis for its 'Terms of Reference' are:
- a) Set, monitor and review the programme for transfer of LEP responsibilities and existing programmes of activity across the Marches LEP area.
 - b) Agree allocation of LEP revenue and capital spend previously under the control of the LEP Board and relating to the delivery of the LEP Economic Plan and individual councils' economic plans/strategies.
 - c) To determine, as appropriate, to jointly fund or support ongoing work or any future initiatives
 - d) Ongoing oversight, monitoring and review of ongoing grants, assets, programmes or initiatives.
 - e) Keep under review, influence and align government and public investment in order to boost economic growth across the geography of the three councils.
 - f) Provide an annual report on the activities of the Joint Committee to the respective three partner councils.
 - g) Agree lead or accountable body status for any particular issue as necessary.
 - h) Review and (where all three Leaders are present) amend the Terms of Reference of the Joint Committee.

The final version of the Terms of Reference will be agreed by the Joint Committee pending further guidance from government.

8. Additional Information

- 8.1. Within the 4th August Government decision announcement 'technical details' were included that confirmed how government wishes local authorities to take responsibility for LEP related activities and assets before the 31st March 2024. Council Leaders (or nominated deputies) are engaging with the LEP Board in relation to this process.
- 8.2. At the time of report drafting various private sector LEP board members are expressing a desire for some form of continued commercial offer to the business community. Councils have been clear that governments intention is that all existing

resources and assets will transfer to the local authorities and consequently the Joint Committee will be negotiating any such arrangements, if desired on behalf of the partner councils.

9. Conclusions

- 9.1. Governments decision to empower councils and local leaders is consistent with the aims of the Levelling Up White Paper and is welcomed by the three councils.
- 9.2. Establishing a Joint Committee during autumn 2023 offers the opportunity to create a smooth and well managed transfer of assets and responsibilities in accordance with government guidance. It provides the basis for joint working and collaboration within a formal governance structure without impacting individual local authority working arrangements

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

Local Member:

Appendices [Please list the titles of Appendices]

A - JOINT LETTER FROM COUNCIL LEADERS TO LEP CHAIRMAN; 1ST SEPT 2023

B - GOVERNMENT DECISION ON FUTURE OF LEPS: 4TH AUG 2023

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Sonia Roberts MBE, Chair Marches LEP
sonia.roberts@landau.co.uk

Shropshire Council
Shirehall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
Shropshire SY2 6ND

1 September 2023

Dear Sonia,

TRANSFER OF MARCHES LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP CORE FUNCTIONS

Following Government's announcement of the 4th August we are writing to confirm the position of the local authority members to the Marches LEP. Collectively we support the Government's policy approach of empowering local leaders and the drive towards devolution to local authorities. We are keen to work with you, fellow board members and LEP staff to establish an orderly and structured transition towards transferring LEP assets, functions and responsibilities before the 31st March 2024.

While Government have confirmed the cessation of sponsorship and funding to LEPs and are supporting local authorities to take on the functions currently delivered by LEPs we recognise the huge contribution that the LEP has made to the economic wellbeing of our area over many years and the legacy that it leaves. In making this transition we are committed to ensuring this work and legacy is celebrated alongside establishing appropriate new arrangements that maintain the collaboration between partners and across geographies that remains critical to support our shared ambitions.

To help ensure a smooth transition and meet government's governance expectations, we will be seeking authority from our respective councils to establish a formal 'Joint Committee' of the three councils, comprising of the three council leaders (or nominated representatives). We aim to establish the Joint Committee early this autumn so that it can work with the LEP on agreeing and putting in place transitional arrangements and the transfer of functions in a well-managed, structured and collaborative way.

We recognise that the management of a number of funding programmes, contingent assets and liabilities will take many years to work through the system, so we envisage that the work of the Joint Committee will take as long as is required to manage these responsibilities effectively.

In moving to these new arrangements, we also recognise the vital role that businesses play in developing strong local economic partnerships and we are committed to ensuring a strong business voice and representation within future arrangements. In this sense we hope that businesses can see that we are ambitious for greater levels of investment, growth and development.

To assist in assessing these needs, drawing a programme together and managing the transfer process, we are establishing a senior officer group in support of Leaders and the Joint Committee. As the Accountable Body for the Marches LEP, Shropshire Council will work in partnership with Herefordshire and Telford and Wrekin Council colleagues. As set out in Government guidance we are keen to complete the transfer process by end of March 2024.

We propose that a meeting be organised in September to confirm the above and begin the process of dialogue and planning towards these new arrangements. We welcome working with you on these arrangements and we propose developing a joint public statement with you to help keep business and other local stakeholders informed of these arrangements.

It is appropriate that we formally recognise and thank everyone involved with Marches LEP over the past 12 years for their dedication and hard work. We particularly recognise the work of the existing Team who have had to deal with significant uncertainty over many months showing immense professionalism and maintaining delivery.

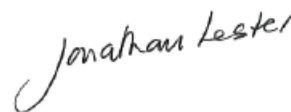
Yours sincerely



Cllr Lezley Picton
Leader - Shropshire Council



Cllr Shaun Davies
Leader – Telford & Wrekin Council



Cllr Jonathan Lester
Leader – Herefordshire Council



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Dehenna Davison MP
Minister for Levelling Up
4th Floor, Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DP



Department for
Business & Trade

Kevin Hollinrake MP
**Minister for Enterprise,
Small Markets and
Business**
Old Admiralty Building
London
SW1A 2DY

To: LEP Chairs, Combined Authority Mayors,
Local Authority Leaders, and the Mayor of London

4th August 2023

Dear all,

TRANSFER OF LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP (LEP) CORE FUNCTIONS TO COMBINED AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES

At [Spring Budget 2023](#), the Chancellor announced that the Government was 'minded to' withdraw central government support (core funding) for Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) from April 2024 and transfer their functions – namely, business representation, strategic economic planning, and the delivery of government programmes where directed – to local authorities, where they are not already being delivered by combined authorities or the Greater London Authority.

We wrote to you on 17th March 2023 to launch an information gathering exercise on the practical implications of this proposal. We would like to thank you for your participation in this. A [summary of the findings](#) has been published today on gov.uk.

Following the conclusion of this exercise, we are now writing to you to confirm our 'minded to' decision. From April 2024, the Government's sponsorship and funding of LEPs will cease. The Government will now support local and combined authorities to take on the functions currently delivered by LEPs. Where not already delivered by a combined authority, or in areas where a devolution deal is not yet agreed, the Government expects these functions to be exercised by upper tier local authorities, working in collaboration with other upper tier local authorities over functional economic areas as appropriate. Alongside this decision, we have published [technical guidance](#) for LEPs and local authorities to support them through this policy change.

The information gathering exercise identified overlap between some of the functions being discharged by LEPs, local authorities and combined authorities, as well as confirming that there is already a high level of integration of LEP functions in Mayoral Combined Authority areas. The exercise also highlighted the different perceived levels of benefit and engagement between LEPs and local authorities. The Government's

view is that there is likely to be scope for greater join-up, efficiencies, and clarity for the private sector by these functions being discharged within Mayoral Combined Authorities, devolution deal areas and upper tier local authorities, working together as appropriate.

The Government will therefore provide some revenue funding to local and combined authorities in 2024/25 to support them in delivering the functions currently delivered by LEPs. We will provide further detail of this support in due course. Funding beyond 2024/25 is subject to future Spending Review decisions.

Reiterating the message we sent to LEPs in March, we would like to thank LEPs and their staff for their hard work in supporting and driving local economic growth across England since 2011. We remain enormously appreciative of all the work LEPs have done in advising and supporting businesses and local decision makers for more than a decade, including through EU Exit and the COVID-19 pandemic. We would again like to thank those LEPs that have played an important role over the last year in helping areas broker new devolution deals and prepare Investment Zone bids.

The Government remains committed to our goal that by 2030, every area in England that wants a devolution deal will have one. By empowering local democratically elected leaders to deliver these key local growth functions from April 2024, we are accelerating the integration process set out in the Levelling Up White Paper.

With every good wish,



Dehenna Davison MP

Minister for Levelling Up, Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities



Kevin Hollinrake MP

Minister for Enterprise, Markets and Small Business, Department for Business & Trade



Committee and Date

Item

Public



Government's Consultation on Plan-Making Reforms (Local Plan) – Shropshire Council Response

Responsible Officer:	Mark Barrow		
email:	mark.barrow@shropshire.gov.uk	Tel:	01743 258919
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	Chris Schofield, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulatory Services		

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 Government has published a consultation seeking views on their proposals to implement parts of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill (The Bill) which relates to the preparation of Local Plans prepared by Local Planning Authorities. The stated intention of these reforms are to make plans simpler, faster to prepare and more accessible.

Executive Summary

- 1.2 In August 2020, Government published 'Planning for the Future' White Paper. This introduced and tested with the sector proposals for long term structural changes to the English planning system, including plan-making. The preparation of Local Plans is important in seeking to implement the wider objectives of the Council and communities, including those of the Shropshire Plan. 1.3

Following consideration, Government proposed to take forward a proportion of these proposals within the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill (the Bill). The reforms proposed within the Bill are intended to improve the planning system and further empower local leaders to regenerate their local area. The intention is that these reforms would be introduced through primary and secondary legislation, as well as through non-legislative measures.

- 1.4 Shropshire Council issued a response to the Planning for the Future White Paper in 2020 and has also responded to a series of related consultations regarding reforms to the planning system. This includes recent consultations on reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and the technical consultation on the proposed Infrastructure Levy.
- 1.5 This current consultation focusses on those elements of the proposed reforms which will impact the preparation of Local Plans prepared by Local Planning Authorities, and raises 43 specific questions. Details on the full consultation proposals can be viewed here [Plan-making reforms: consultation on implementation - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/plan-making-reforms-consultation-on-implementation). Appendix 1 to this consultation provides a summary of the key elements of the proposals, whilst Appendix 2 provides the proposed response to each of the 43 questions. All Shropshire Councils councillors were invited to feed in views to the proposed response, and the Council's Local Plan Member Group were specifically engaged in the process. However, in accordance with Part 3 of the Constitution formal responses on behalf of the Council to consultation by other bodies on matters that affect the Council as a whole or have a widespread effect across the Council, are a specific responsibility of Cabinet to determine.
- 1.6 In broad summary, the proposed response to the consultation seeks to provide constructive feedback on many aspects of the proposed reforms, especially the overarching principles of ensuring the planning system remains plan-led, making the plan making system clearer and faster to prepare, and the emphasis on ensuring plans are underpinned by a strong vision and have engagement of local communities. However, there are several aspects within the detail of the Government's proposals which do raise significant concern; most notably the proposal to prepare new style Local Plans in 30 months, which is considered to be arbitrary and unrealistic. The proposed response in Appendix 2 sets out the detail of these concerns and constructive feedback on proposed amendments where appropriate.
- 1.7 It should be stressed that, if implemented, Councils currently preparing Local Plans under the current system, such as Shropshire, will continue to be subject to the current arrangements for plan making. These reforms are likely to impact on future reviews of the Local Plan.
- 1.8 In view of the urgent need to submit the Council's consultation response on 18 October 2023, to meet the deadline for responses, the Call in and Urgency Mechanism in paragraph 17 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules will need to be applied to ensure that the response can be submitted within the required timescale i.e. on 18 October 2023.
- 1.9 The consequence of this, is that this decision will not be able to be "called in" in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. To consider and approve the response to the Government's consultation on reforms to Plan making reforms as set out in Appendix 2 to this report.
- 2.2. That authority be given to the Executive Director of Place to agree any additional minor changes to the Council's response to the consultation ahead of its submission to the Government on 18 October 2023

Report

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 3.1. The consultation proposes a range of significant reforms which will have implications on the process of how local plans are prepared by Councils, most notably in relation to the timeframe in which they are prepared and adopted. As with the current system, there is a significant risk to the Council of not following nationally prescribed processes for plan-making. It therefore continues to be particularly important for the Council to understand and respond appropriately to this current consultation and to future consultations relating to planning reform.
- 3.2. If enacted, these proposed reforms will come into effect in autumn 2024. However, there are clear transitional arrangements proposed whereby Councils currently producing a local plan under the current system will be allowed sufficient time (up to June 2025) to submit that plan for examination. This would include Shropshire Council, who are currently at Examination with its Local plan review. Therefore, it is considered there isn't an imminent risk to the Council of aborted work and wasted financial outlay.
- 3.3. It is considered several of the consultation proposals open up positive opportunities to the Council, especially in relation to future Local Plan review processes. In particular, the proposal from the Government to provide greater clarity to Councils regarding expectations for evidence base collection to support future plan making, and the ability to utilise 'gateway' assessments during the plan preparation phase, will both potentially reduce the risk to plans being found unsound or not legally compliant at the Examination process.
- 3.4. However, there is also considered to be additional risk to the Council, especially in relation to the implications of the new 30 month plan preparation and adoption timeframe. For the reasons outlined in the Council's response to Q6 in Appendix 2 to this report, there is significant concern regarding the proposed introduction of this arbitrary and unrealistic timeframe. Should this be enacted, there is a significant risk to the Council of not be able to achieve these expected timeframes, which could have negative implications on the Council's ability to achieve a 'sound' plan. Appendix 2 to this report therefore set out the Council's significant concern and objection to this proposal.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1. Ensuring that Shropshire Council responds positively to national requirements for plan-making is considered essential in order to allow the preparation of sustainable and planned growth strategies for our communities and ensuring that the council is able to robustly resist unwanted speculative development where it does not meet the requirements of adopted local plans. This process inevitably comes with financial implications to the Council in both the production and examination phases.
- 4.2. The proposed plan making reforms outlined in the Government's current consultation, if enacted, will likely have an impact on a number of elements of plan making with financial implications. This includes the collection of evidence to support the plan, the manner and amount of public engagement, and the cost of the examination process. As the Council has set out in previous consultations on the issue, the principle of speedier plan making and shorter examination processes should, in theory, reduce the overall cost of preparing and adopting a local plan. The introduction of a set of national development management proposals should also reduce the financial burden on councils. The principles set out in the consultation are therefore being largely supported.
- 4.3. However, there remains some significant concern regarding the deliverability of the consultation proposals in areas such as Shropshire (see section 6 of this report) and there are also new elements of the proposed process which would likely have additional financial implications. For instance, there is an expectation that during the plan making process Councils utilise a series of 'gateway' assessments. Whilst these are broadly supported in principle, it is expected these will be funded by the planning authority in a similar way to current the examination processes. However, in theory, if used efficiently the new 'gateway' assessment process should reduce the time (and expense) for councils at the examination.
- 4.4. It is difficult to assess with confidence the financial implications of the proposed local plan reforms on local planning authorities. Generally, given the emphasis on faster production and more efficient plans, it is reasonable to assume an overall reduction in the cost of preparing and adopting plans in the future. However, in order to achieve this ambition, there may also be a requirement for additional resources to be made available to planning policy departments, as part of wider planning department budgets, in order to respond effectively to the expectation of the more challenging preparation timeframes, as well as enabling a shift towards more digital processes for plan making.

5. Climate Change Appraisal

- 5.1. The pursuit of sustainable development is at the heart of plan-making process. The core principle of the Local Plan being the key mechanism for councils to guide and manage development in their areas remains. Shropshire Council, along with all other local planning authorities, will continue to need to prepare their Local Plans in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework and wider planning legislation.
- 5.2. This particular consultation is concerned primarily with the process of plan making rather than the content of future Plans. However, Chapter 5 of the consultation material does discuss the need for evidence to support a local plan. Whilst the Council's proposed response provides general support to the proposal to increase levels of standardisation to some aspects of national evidence requirements on certain topics, the response also recognises that the opportunity for Councils to prepare additional evidence in order to respond to local circumstances should remain. For instance this could allow councils to produce additional local evidence related to local opportunities for the mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

6. Background

- 6.1 In August 2020, Government published the Planning for the Future White Paper. This introduced and tested proposals for long term structural changes to the English planning system, including with regard to plan-making.
- 6.2 Following consideration, Government proposed to take forward a proportion of these proposals within the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill (the Bill). The reforms proposed within the Bill are intended to improve the planning system and further empower local leaders to regenerate their local area. The intention is that these reforms would be introduced through primary and secondary legislation, as well as through non-legislative measures.
- 6.3 The Bill was introduced to Parliament in May 2022. It has now progressed through the various stages of consideration within the House of Commons and is currently progressing through the House of Lords. Following completion of the consideration within the House of Lords, the final stages will likely involve consideration of amendments and then consideration of suitability for Royal Assent.
- 6.4 Shropshire Council issued a response to the Planning for the Future White Paper in 2020 and has also responded to a series of related consultations regarding reforms to the planning system. This includes recent consultations on reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and the technical consultation on the proposed Infrastructure Levy.
- 6.5 The Government's current consultation focusses on those parts of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill which relate to plan-making, specifically local plans and minerals and waste plans prepared by planning authorities.
- 6.6 The consultation reiterates that local plans are important documents for local communities in setting the development framework for the area for next 10 to 15 years, in doing so allocating sites for development, preparing policies to manage and protect land, and providing the basis for deciding whether to determine planning applications. The consultation does not propose any changes to the primacy of the local plan in decision making or to its role in providing a framework

for the delivery of wider cooperate visions and objectives. Instead, the focus of the consultation is on the process and timeframe for preparing plans.

6.7 The consultation proposes plan making reform around a number of headline objectives, namely:

- **Making the role and content of plans clearer** – making plans simpler, shorter and more visual, focussing on more local issues. The Government’s intention to introduce a set of ‘national development management policies’ (not part of this consultation) will support this objective;
- **Speeding up the process for preparing a plan** – the centrepiece of the proposed reforms is to establish a new 30 month timeframe to prepare and adopt a plan. This is acknowledged to be much faster than current average preparation timeframes. Many of the wider proposals are included to support this key objective, such as the use of new ‘gateway’ assessments and the proposal to standardise more of the evidence required to support effective plan making;
- **Ensuring local communities are engaged** - there will be a requirement for two periods of public consultation, as well as proposals to “notify” and “invite” early participation on matters that shape a plan;
- **Dealing with complexity** – There is a desire to remove ambiguity and uncertainty, to ensure that people participating in the process are clear about what is expected at every stage;
- **Making the most of digital technology** – a key proposal in order to make the plan making process simpler and more accessible, which could mean changes to the way in which plans are presented, such as the increased use of interactive maps and the use of new digital tools;
- **Supplementary Plans** – this would be a new type of plan, which will allow planning authorities to react more quickly to changes in their area. These would differ from the current Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) as Supplementary Plans are proposed to form part of the development plan for the area and would be subject to an examination process. The proposal would also see the phasing out of SPDs.

6.8 The Government’s proposal is to bring the new system into force by autumn 2024. However, for those Councils currently working on Local Plans under the current system, which includes Shropshire, they will be able to carry on with their current process as long as they submit their Plan for Examination by June 2025. These proposed reforms, if enacted, will therefore not have an impact on current plan making arrangements in Shropshire. They will however, impact on future plan making reviews.

Overview of Shropshire Council Comments

6.9 Appendix 2 to this report provides the Council’s proposed response to each of the 43 questions posed in the consultation. The following section of this report provides an overview of the key aspects of the Council’s proposed response. Particular consideration has been given to the character and nature of Shropshire,

along with current and past experiences of seeking to plan effectively for a large, predominantly rural county. In addition, all Shropshire Councils councillors were invited to feed in views to the proposed response, and the Council's Local Plan Member Group was specifically engaged in the process.

Key Objectives of the Reforms

- 6.10 Generally, there are many aspects of the current consultation the Council can support. Most notably, the overarching objectives relating to the content of local plans appears to be sensible and would give further emphasis on the role of the local plan as a mechanism for delivering the key cooperate objectives of the Council, in our case set out in the Shropshire Plan. This is perhaps most notably recognised in the emphasis on plans being supported by a vision which should act as the 'golden thread' to the development of locally responsive policy making.
- 6.11 The Council fully supports the principle of maintaining the primacy of local plans in the decision-making process on planning matters, but that new style national development management policies have a potentially helpful role in making the role of local plans more efficient in nature and more genuinely locally responsive. For the same reason, there are some concerns about the proposed introduction of nationally defined templates for local plan making, as there is concern this could lead to formulaic plan making and stifle local innovation.

30 Month Local Plan Preparation and Adoption Process

- 6.12 A central objective of the proposed reforms is the need to speed up the process of plan making. Whilst support is given to this general objective, there are significant concerns regarding the detailed proposal to achieve this through the introduction of a 30 month planning and adoption timeframe.
- 6.13 The Council's comments on this issue are captured in the response to Q6 in Appendix 2 to this report. Whilst there is a recognition that the current plan making process can lead to overly lengthy preparation timeframes, and that this can lead to issues with localised housing land supply and delivery of responsive planning polices, as currently set out in the consultation document there is significant concern the proposed 30 month timeframes is arbitrary, unrealistic, and could lead to rushed decisions on matters of significant importance.
- 6.14 Specifically, it is felt the proposals fail to properly recognise the differing characteristics of local planning authorities, instead opting for a 'one size fits all' approach. It is considered large rural unitary authority areas, such as Shropshire are a good examples of where longer timeframes are likely to be necessary, for entirely legitimate reasons such as: the number of issues the local plan will need to consider (housing, employment, minerals and waste for example); the resource intensive nature of the site allocation processes (in Shropshire's case over 2,000 sites were assessed for potential inclusion in the current Local Plan Review); and, the expectations of engaging with large and diverse communities across a large geographic area, whilst also allowing sufficient time to properly consider consultation responses.
- 6.15 Ultimately, there are significant concerns that this proposal simply places the focus on timescales rather than good plan making. Local Planning Authorities face

having to significantly compromise on aspiration, quality of content and quality of product to deliver within arbitrary timescales. For these reasons it is proposed to raise significant concerns to these proposals in the Council's response.

Digital plans

6.16 The detail of the Council's proposed to this issue are included in Chapter 3 within Appendix 2 to this report. In summary Shropshire Council considers there is significant potential for digital planning to increase the efficiency of plan making, increase the ability for communities and individuals to engage in and understand the plan making process, and engage and understand the subsequent Local Plan itself.

6.17 However, unfortunately the Council does not consider that digital plans and the associated efficiencies alone will enable the proposed 30 month timescales for plan making to be achievable. With specific regard to public engagement, whilst the Council is of the view that digital forms of engagement clearly have the potential to increase the 'reach' of consultations, these forms of engagement will need to be complementary to other more traditional forms of engagement, otherwise there is a very real risk that many interested in the plan making process who do not use digital technologies will be excluded from the process.

Supplementary Plans

6.18 The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill provides for the creation of new Supplementary Plans, to enable Councils to respond positively and quickly to unanticipated changes to their areas. This could include allocating an unexpected development opportunity.

6.19 The Council has previously provided positive support for the concept of Supplementary Plans. Importantly, their proposed status would be as part of the Development Plan and therefore would have the same weight in decision making as the Local Plan for the area. Chapter 11 of the consultation material provides more detail on the proposed implementation of Supplementary Plans, and includes for information on their proposed preparation procedure, consultation and examination.

6.20 Whilst the Council's proposed response continues to provide broad support for the principle of new style Supplementary Plans and to the proposals for their procedure, consultation and examination, it is disappointing to see the proposal to phase out current Supplementary Planning Documents which provide a broader opportunity to deliver important additional guidance to the implementation of Local Plan policies. To this end, the Council's proposed response strongly encourages this principle of maintaining a formal opportunity for Councils to prepare 'accompanying guidance documents' on a range of thematic areas, and for these to have weight as a material consideration in decision making (although acknowledging they would not form part of the Development Plan for the area)

7. Conclusions

- 7.1. Appendix 2 to this report sets out the proposed response to the questions raised in the consultation on plan making reform. It is recommended that the Cabinet agree this as the Council's response to enable the submission of these comments back to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities by 18 October 2023.

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

Local Member: *All members*

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Summary of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill: Consultation on Implementation of Plan-Making Reforms

Appendix 2 - Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill: Consultation on Implementation of Plan-Making Reforms: Shropshire Council Response

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Summary of the Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill: Consultation on implementation of plan-making reforms

September 2023



Introduction

Government has published a consultation seeking views on their proposals to implement the parts of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill (the Bill) which relate to plan-making (for both Local Plans and Mineral & Waste Plans). The stated intention of these reforms are to make plans simpler, faster to prepare and more accessible.

The Bill is currently undergoing Parliamentary scrutiny and as such proposals are subject to the Bill receiving Royal Assent. The proposals would apply to England only.

The consultation itself consists of 15 chapters addressing a range of issues from the content of Local Plans, process and timescales for their preparation (including proposed 'gateway' checks and refinement of the examination process), the use of 'digital' means to consult and present Local Plans, the role of other public bodies in informing plan making, the role of new 'Supplementary Plans' in complementing Local Plans, monitoring the effectiveness of Local Plans, and transitional arrangements between the current and new proposed plan making process. In total, some 43 questions are posed across these various issues.

The full consultation document can be viewed at:

www.gov.uk/government/consultations/plan-making-reforms-consultation-on-implementation

Background

In August 2020, Government published the Planning for the Future White Paper. This introduced and tested with the sector proposals for long term structural changes to the English planning system, including with regard to plan-making.

Following consideration, Government proposed to take forward a proportion of these proposals within the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill (the Bill). The reforms proposed within the Bill are intended to improve the planning system and further empower local leaders to regenerate their local area. The intention is that these reforms would be introduced through primary and secondary legislation, and through non-legislative measures.

The Bill was introduced to Parliament in May 2022. It has now progressed through the various stages of consideration within the House of Commons (1st reading, 2nd reading, Committee stage, Report stage and 3rd reading). The Bill is currently progressing through the various stages of consideration within the House of Lords (1st reading, 2nd reading and committee stage have been undertaken and the report stage is now ongoing with the 3rd reading to come). Following completion of the consideration within the House of Lords, the final stages will likely involve consideration of amendments and then consideration of suitability for Royal Assent.

Shropshire Council issued a response to the Planning for the Future White Paper in 2020 and has also responded to a series of related consultations regarding reforms to the planning system. This includes recent consultations on reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and the technical consultation on the proposed Infrastructure Levy.

Summary of the Key Proposals

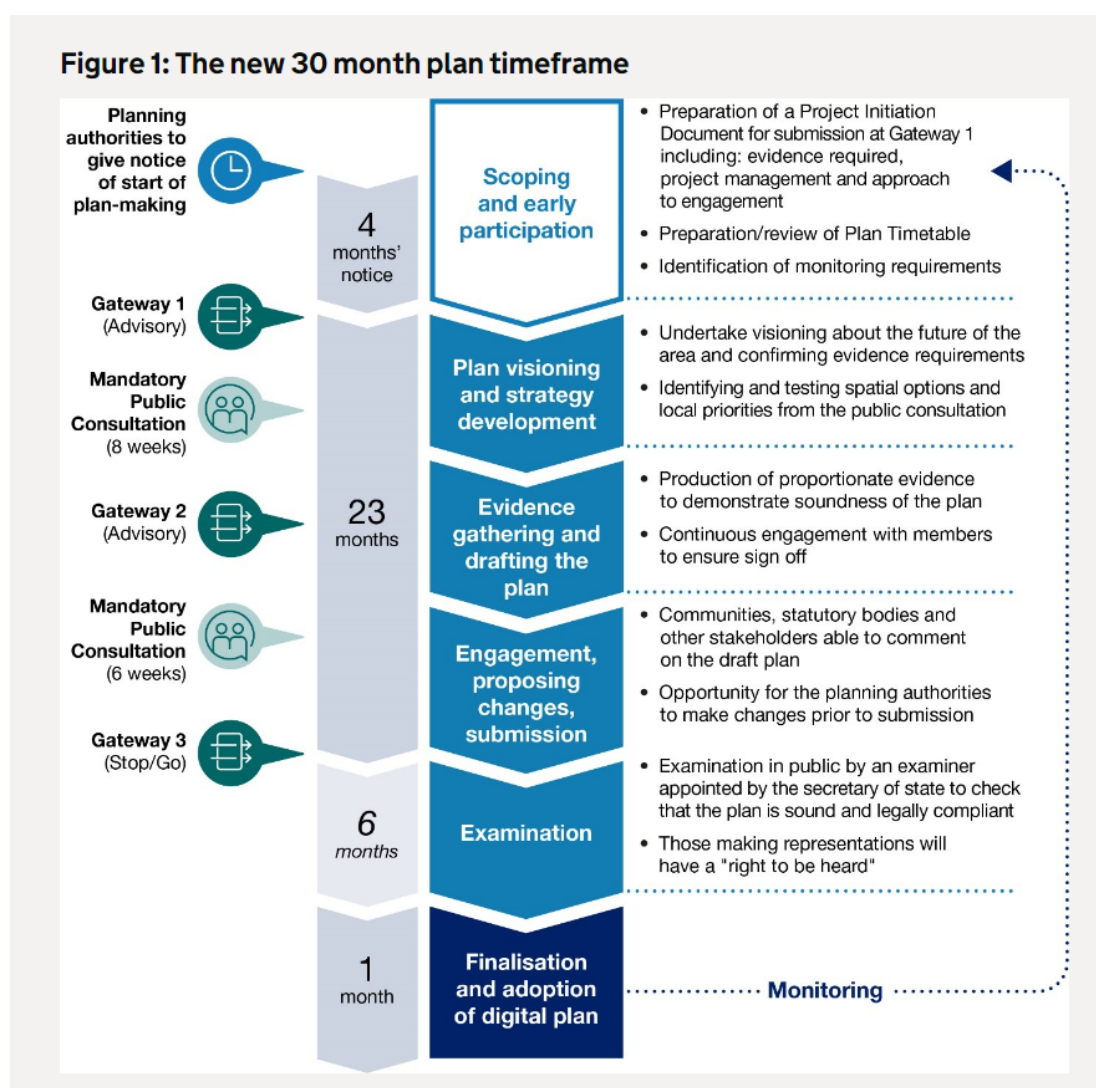
1. Local Plans would need to be updated at least every 5 years.

Within the consultation document, Government is proposing that “*there will be a requirement for planning authorities to commence an update of their plans every 5 years.*” Currently the requirement is to review the need for an update at least once every five years.

Furthermore, Government also proposes that in “*certain circumstances*”, they could require Local Planning Authorities to commence these updates earlier.

2. The Local Plan making process would be amended to consist of six stages.

Within the consultation document, Government proposes that the new Local Plan making process will consist of six key stages, these are summarised with the following Figure:



3. The Local Plan making process to be completed within a 30-month timescale.

As also documented within the above Figure, Government is also proposing that a **new Local Plan would then be prepared in just 30 months**, through a process that is “*more standardised and front-loaded*”.

Prior to the 30 month period commencing, Local Planning Authorities would need to provide 4 months' notice, during which they undertake scoping and early participation.

The 30 month process does however include three newly proposed 'gateway checks', two periods of consultation, and examination. Government proposes that the examination process will become *"more efficient"* and should take no longer than six months.

4. Draft Local Plans will have to pass three gateway checks.

Within the consultation document, Government proposes that during the Local Plan making process, three gateway checks can/must be undertaken.

The **first gateway check** would be undertaken in the early part of the process, following the first scoping stage and *"may involve"* Planning Inspectors. The purpose is to ensure the plan *"sets off in the right direction"*.

The **second gateway check** would be undertaken between the two mandatory consultations in the middle of the plan making process and will involve Planning Inspectors. The purpose is to ensure *"compliance with legal and procedural requirements and (wherever possible) supporting early resolution of potential soundness issues"*.

The **third gateway check** will take place at the point just before submission and will involve Planning Inspectors. It is designed to *"monitor and track progress"*.

5. Two mandatory consultation periods will be required. These should be longer and "more clearly defined".

Within the consultation document, Government is proposing two mandatory stages of consultation, which would be set out in regulation.

These mandatory consultations would take place following the conclusion of the first and before the third gateway assessments and would last for a minimum of eight and six weeks respectively - *"longer than the current statutory minimum and is in addition to early participation that would be required during the scoping phase"*.

These consultations would be *"more clearly defined and strengthened through regulations to increase their impact"*.

6. Examinations should take "no longer than six months".

Within the consultation document, Government proposes that Local Plan examinations should take *"no longer than six months"*. In order to achieve this, it proposes a number of changes to the existing process, including appointing examining inspectors when the Local Planning Authority commences the third gateway assessment, using panels of two or more inspectors *"by default"* to increase efficiency and *"revising the way the Matters, Issues and Questions (MIQs) stage of the process works, so that only the relevant planning authority is invited to submit responses"*.

Planning Inspectors would still be allowed to pause examinations for a limited period of time but it is proposed to be *"set out in regulations that the pause period may not be longer than 6 months"*. If the *"relevant matters"* responsible for the pause cannot be *"dealt with to the necessary degree before the end of the pause period"* the inspector will be required to recommend that the Local Planning Authority withdraw the plan.

7. New approaches to engagement.

Within the consultation document, Government states that *“existing practices of engagement and consultation in plan-making are widely perceived to be narrow and ineffective”* as loosely defined regulations *“create confusion”* and result in consultations which often feel *“too technical and difficult to engage with”*.

As such, Government is proposing a series of changes to the approach to engagement, including through the use of two new *“key levers to drive improvements to the quality of engagement”*.

Firstly, Government proposes to introduce in regulations, a new requirement for Local Planning Authorities to *“notify”* stakeholders and *“invite”* early participation on matters that might shape the direction of the plan. This requirement would *“sit within the scoping stage, prior to commencement of the 30 month process and before the first mandatory consultation window”*, and would place a *“stronger emphasis on early participation during the initial stages of plan-making”*.

Secondly, Government is proposing to replace the statement of community involvement - where authorities document how the public, statutory bodies and other interested parties will be involved in the plan’s preparation - with a new *“project initiation documents”* which would be required to set out what engagement is planned and what resources and skills would be required to deliver it.

These measures are intended to complement the two mandatory consultations proposed.

8. Government will publish a new series of ‘core principles’ setting out what Local Plans should contain.

In order to *“support the approach outlined in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill”*, within the consultation document Government is proposing to *“set out, through policy and supported by guidance, a series of additional core principles around what plans should contain, to ensure plans are focused on the right things and users are able to understand clearly the ‘story’ of how the planning authority’s area will develop”*.

Government is proposing that this will be achieved by requiring Local Plans to *“contain a locally distinct vision which will anchor the plan, provide strategic direction for the underpinning policies and set out measurable outcomes for the plan period”*.

9. New regulations will require that a plan’s ‘vision’ should serve as a ‘golden thread’ through the strategy.

Within the consultation document, Government is proposing that the Local Plan ‘vision’ should *“serve as a ‘golden thread’ through the entire local plan, with policies and allocations linking directly to delivering the outcomes set out in the vision”*.

Specifically, Government has indicated that they want to *“strengthen the role of the vision in new-style local plans, ensuring they are more focused and specific than those prepared for plans in the current system”*. They propose to achieve this by introducing regulations that require it to be the *“golden thread”* through the entire strategy, with policies and allocations linking directly to delivering *“measurable outcomes”* set out by the Local Plan strategy. The vision should be supported by a key diagram.

Government also proposes *“to encourage planning authorities to make links more explicitly between the vision and other relevant corporate or thematic strategies produced by other authorities, public bodies and partnerships, to help secure more buy-in for local plans as vehicles of change”*.

10. New “digital templates” to be used to help Local Planning Authorities.

Within the consultation document, Government specifies that *“through engagement with the sector”* it has *“consistently heard that nationally-defined digital templates would support planning authorities in drafting their plans and doing so within the proposed 30 month timeframe”*.

As such, they propose to *“produce a series of templates, setting out standardised approaches to specific parts of the plan.”* They are also proposing to include an *“expectation that any templates provided ... will be used in the preparation of plans.”*

11. Old-style PDF plans should be replaced with digital versions that are shorter and “more visual”.

Within the consultation document, Government proposes that *“plans will wherever possible make the best use of modern technology and be produced digitally, rather than as “analogue” (PDF or paper)”*.

They have also specified that Local Plans will be *“shorter, more visual and map-based, enabling communities to engage more easily with their content”*.

12. Digital support for Local Plans will be provided via a new “pick and mix toolkit”.

Within the consultation document, Government specifies that it intends to provide a *“set of tools that can be used by different types of planning authorities, at different stages of the plan cycle, to make the process more efficient, more cost effective and more accessible”*. This toolkit would *“evolve over time as more best practice emerges”*, but might include such things as search tools, dashboards, digital checklists and step-by-step guides.

13. Requirement to assist in plan-making

The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill sets out a *“Requirement to Assist with Certain Plan Making”*. This will give plan making authorities the power to legally require that *“prescribed public bodies”* provide assistance to develop or review the Local Plan (and certain other policy documents). Within the consultation document, Government identifies the proposed list of public bodies to which this requirement will apply. This includes the Environment Agency, Historic England, Natural England, and Sport England.

14. Local development schemes would be scrapped and replaced by new “timetable” documents.

Within the consultation document, Government proposes to replace local development schemes (which constitute the formal Local Plan timetable) with *“a new, simpler*

requirement to prepare and maintain a local plan timetable or minerals and waste plan timetable”.

15. Local Planning Authorities to produce Annual Monitoring Reports reporting on a series of new “nationally prescribed metrics” with a “fuller analysis” four years after adoption.

To support a “clearer, more focused approach to monitoring”, within the consultation document Government is proposing a new system of monitoring that would have “two distinct elements”.

Firstly, Local Planning Authorities would have to produce “a light touch annual return” which would “report on a small number of nationally prescribed metrics... to assess the implementation of key policies against the output of the plan”.

Secondly, “by 4 years after adoption of a local plan”, Local Planning Authorities would need to prepare a “fuller analysis of how planning policies and designations are being implemented, and the extent to which the plan is meeting the overall vision for their area”. This would represent a “detailed return to inform updates to the plan”, the scope and content of which would be “left to individual planning authorities but should be designed to inform the forthcoming update of the plan, which will need to commence five years after adoption, at the latest”.

16. A “phased roll-out” focusing initially on ten ‘front runner’ authorities would be undertaken to the plan-making system, from autumn 2024.

Government has indicated that it wants to “ensure a smooth transition to the new system for planning authorities, but have heard concerns about the impact on the sector of a large group of authorities commencing plan-making at exactly the same point”.

A previous Government consultation (to which Shropshire Council responded in February 2023) proposed transitional arrangements to the new Local Plan making system, to begin in November 2024. Reflecting this, within the consultation document Government has now “proposed options for phasing the roll-out of the new local plan-making system from autumn 2024”.

To achieve this, Government has proposed to “provide expert plan-making support to a first, small cohort of around ten ‘front runner’ authorities to prepare new-style local plans”, this will ensure “a strong foundation of learning and best practice for other authorities to draw upon”. This cohort could start plan-making in 2024 and should have completed all three gateway assessments by June the following year.

All remaining authorities would be ranked chronologically by the date that they adopted their current Local Plan. Groups of 25 authorities at a time would then be allocated a “six month plan-making commencement window”.

17. New Supplementary Plans

The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill provides for the creation of new supplementary plans, which will replace current supplementary planning documents.

The key distinction between these documents is:

- Current supplementary planning documents do not form part of the Development Plan (alongside the Local Plan) and as such cannot introduce new policy, rather they provide guidance on the application of policies within the Local Plan. For this reason, they are not the subject of examination.
- New supplementary plans would form part Development Plan (alongside the Local Plan) and as such they can introduce new policy. However, they would also need to be the subject of examination.

Within the consultation document, Government provides further information on the proposed process for preparing and intended role of supplementary plans. In summary, supplementary plans are not intended to be routinely utilised (with the Local Plan remaining the key document for local policies), rather they are intended to be prepared at pace, in order to respond positively to unanticipated change such as a regeneration opportunity, between plan review cycles. Furthermore, their geographic scope should be limited to a specific site / cluster of sites.

The exception to the above is supplementary plans that provide 'design codes' - setting out high level strategic design parameters to apply to development across a specified area. These can apply to either the entire geography or a sub-geography of a Local Planning Authority area and would be viewed as complementary to the policies in the Local Plan.

18. Community Land Auctions

The principle of Community Land Auctions was introduced within the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill, which provides for time-limited pilots of Community Land Auctions (CLAs), expiring ten years after the date the first CLA regulations are made. The intention of a CLA's is that it allows landowners to identify the price at which they will sell their land, which can then inform the site allocation process and assist in securing more of the subsequent land value uplift for infrastructure provision.

Within the consultation document, Government provides further information on the proposed CLA process. This includes details of:

- The site identification process.
- Site assessment process.
- Interface with the Local Plan making process, including consultation and examination.
- Process following adoptions of the Local Plan (and land allocation).

Assuming sites identified through this process are allocated, Government proposes that there are 3 options for the Local Planning Authority. In summary, these are:

1. LPA sells the option to a developer.
2. LPA exercises the option and then sells the land.
3. LPA exercises the option and then develops the land.

Within the consultation document, Government explains that areas that use CLA would still be able to require other forms of developer contributions to secure infrastructure and affordable housing.

Shropshire Council Response

Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill: consultation on implementation of plan-making reforms

18th October 2023

Respondent: Shropshire Council

Respondent Address: Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND

Respondent Email Address: planningpolicy@shropshire.gov.uk

Respondent Phone Number (Planning): 0345 678 9004



Chapter 1: Plan Content

Question 1: Do you agree with the core principles for plan content? Do you think there are other principles that could be included?

Shropshire Council Response:

- 1.1. The Council is generally supportive of the core principles proposed for Local Plan content. With regard to the specific proposals:
 - a. The proposed requirement for a more locally distinctive vision which forms an 'anchor' for the wider plan making process is welcomed. Further advice on consensus building within the visioning process to balance views from engagement and Local Planning Authority's objectives and aspirations would be welcome.
 - b. Sustainable development already constitutes a 'golden thread' running through the plan making and site allocation process. The Council supports the proposal to emphasise this requirement.
 - c. The Council welcomes the proposal for plans to contain locally distinctive policies which meet key economic, social and environmental objectives linked to and supporting the achievement of the locally distinctive vision.
 - d. The Council supports the proposal that design forms an increasingly important focus for Local Plans. It also welcomes recognition that in some areas this may need to be achieved through a strategic high-quality design policy supported by a series of subsequent 'design codes'.
 - e. The Council supports the need to have an appropriate monitoring framework, but would emphasise the need for this to be proportionate – appropriately balancing the need to understand the effects of the Local Plan with the ability to actually obtain data / the burden associated with data collection.
 - f. The Council supports the proposed increased focus on and use of a key diagram. This provides an opportunity to visually represent the vision and spatial strategy within a plan. However, clear distinction is required between the key diagram and policies map. A key diagram should be a high level visualisation of the vision and spatial strategy, rather than seeking to visualise the geographical application of plan policies (including allocations) which is the role of the policies map.
 - g. The Council supports the role of the policies map. However, clarity is required on the relationship between the policies map and key diagram; and how the digital platforms for the policies maps and Local Plan can be brought together in a clear and concise way.

Question 2: Do you agree that plans should contain a vision, and with our proposed principles preparing the vision? Do you think there are other principles that could be included?

Shropshire Council Response:

- 2.1. Shropshire Council agrees that a Local Plan should contain a vision and is generally supportive of the proposed principles for the 'evolution' of the vision, from that within the current plan making process.
- 2.2. The Council can also see the value of the vision being prepared much earlier in the plan making process and forms a 'golden thread' through the entire local plan, with policies and allocations linking directly to delivering the outcomes set out in the vision. The Council also sees the value of the vision being 'measurable' and linked to the monitoring framework.

- 2.3. However, producing the vision earlier in the process, means it is assembled before necessary supporting evidence. There is therefore a risk that subsequent evidence does not align with certain aspects of the vision.
- 2.4. As such, Shropshire Council would advocate the development of the vision reflecting the development of the Local Plan. Initially a 'high-level' vision is prepared and used to build consensus on the direction of the Local Plan, through the first stage of consultation. This is then refined so that it is more detailed and provides measurable outcomes informed by responses to the initial consultation, other relevant corporate or thematic strategies produced by other authorities, public bodies, and the evidence necessary to inform this detail, as it becomes available. This would allow the detailed vision to be consulted upon within the second stage of consultation.
- 2.5. The principle that the vision should be supported by a 'key diagram' is also welcomed and has the potential to support the vision and the wider Local Plan being more 'user friendly'.
- 2.6. It is noted that the aspiration is for visions to be concise. Whilst it is appreciated that a concise vision is preferable, achieving this whilst still providing location distinction, a sufficient foundation for the wider plan and measurable outcomes is likely to be extremely challenging. As such, further clarity on what exactly is considered to constitute a concise vision would be welcome.

Question 3: Do you agree with the proposed framework for local development management policies?

Shropshire Council Response:

- 3.1. In previous consultations, Shropshire Council has indicated its support for the national development management polices becoming a statutory part of the policy framework, as this will aid decision making, make the basis of decisions clearer and reduce the number of local development management policies needed.
- 3.2. However, the Council also noted the need to ensure the primacy of Local Plans and to recognise the diversity of the country by maintaining a role for local development management policies - where they expand upon national development management policies or address issues relevant locally but not addressed in national development management policies. As such, Shropshire Council is very much supportive of the principle of the continuation of local development management policies and is also generally supportive of the framework proposed for these local development management policies.
- 3.3. It is entirely logical that any local development management policy is justified, although it is important to clearly specify that this justification can be linked to either evidence of existing issues to be addressed **or** the achievement of future aspirations within the vision and wider spatial strategy of the Local Plan.
- 3.4. It is also sensible that local development management policies should, wherever possible, enable delivery of the plans vision. This is responsive to the principles that Local Plans should be consistent and read and applied as a whole.

Question 4: Would templates make it easier for local planning authorities to prepare local plans? Which parts of the local plan would benefit from consistency?

Shropshire Council Response:

- 4.1. Whilst templates would make it easier to prepare Local Plans, Shropshire Council is concerned that they could remove the ability for local distinctiveness and innovation. It is important to recognise that Local Planning Authority areas are very diverse.
- 4.2. As such, Shropshire Council would endorse the provision of a 'portfolio' of templates for various elements of a Local Plan, which allow Local Planning Authorities flexibility to select a template which best aligns with their vision and spatial issues/opportunities. This would strike a balance between providing some standardisation, without jeopardising flexibility to respond to local circumstances, achieve local distinctiveness, and achieve innovation.
- 4.3. Furthermore, the Council does not support suggestions that these should be mandatory, rather these templates should be discretionary in order to ensure that a Local Plan can be responsive to and reflect the local area and local issues and has the ability to be innovative.
- 4.4. In terms of areas of a plan that would benefit from consistency, Shropshire Council can see merit in producing:
 - a. A series of template options for the order / layout of strategic policies.
 - b. A series of template options for the order / layout of development management policies.
 - c. A series of template options for the structure of presenting site allocations (reference, name, location, guidelines, capacity etc).
 - d. A series of template options for the order / layout of the monitoring framework.
 - e. A series of scaled design template options for the design and content of the Key Diagram.
 - f. A standard key for policy maps – however this needs to reflect the various constraints, types of allocation and other factors that Local Planning Authorities illustrate on policy maps.

Question 5: Do you think templates for new style minerals and waste plans would need to differ from local plans? If so, how?

Shropshire Council Response:

- 5.1. See response to Question 4 regarding the format for templates. The Council considers that templates for minerals and waste plans would need to be tailored to these issues. This is because planning for minerals and waste entails a distinctly different process to planning for other forms of development - minerals are essential raw materials which can only be worked where they are found, but the relationship of mineral working to existing communities and built form is very different to that for other development. A similar issue exists for some waste management facilities. Furthermore, Minerals and Waste Plans are often prepared for a larger geography than Local Plans (although this is not the case in Shropshire).

- 5.2. Shropshire Council would suggest that Aggregate Working Parties (for minerals) and Regional Technical Advisory Bodies (for waste) are well placed to assist in the production of these high-level templates.
- 5.3. Shropshire Council would also suggest that a standard template for Local Aggregate Assessments which inform mineral planning may be beneficial to ensure consistency on data collected and presented. Any standard template must be responsive to the commercial sensitivity and availability of data (for instance information on secondary aggregates is very limited).

Chapter 2: The New 30 Month Plan Timeframe

Question 6: Do you agree with the proposal to set out in policy that planning authorities should adopt their plan, at the latest, 30 months after the plan preparation process begins?

Shropshire Council Response:

- 6.1. **Shropshire Council has significant concerns and as things stand does not agree with the proposal that Local Planning Authorities should adopt their Local Plan (or Minerals and Waste Plan), at the latest, 30 months after the plan preparation process begins. These timescales would appear to be arbitrary and unrealistic.**
- 6.2. Local Planning Authority areas are diverse, with very different scales and types of geographic area, very different quantities and types of settlement, and whilst some Local Planning Authorities are relatively consistent in character, others contain significant variance. Local Planning Authorities will also face different issues and opportunities when plan making, they will have different planning objectives and will identify different levels of aspiration. As such, suggesting a one-size fits all in terms of plan production timescales is considered too arbitrary.
- 6.3. This issue is specifically recognised within the consultation material. Paragraph 72 includes *“We are aware that every planning authority is different both in its planning context, organisational set up and resource. And so it is important that when we look to the future of plans and how digital will improve plan making, that we consider a range of solutions to fit these richly varying needs and circumstances.”*
- 6.4. Using Shropshire as an example, the draft Shropshire Local Plan which is currently the subject of examination includes ambitious proposed housing and employment land requirements of 30,800 dwellings and 300ha of employment land, both of which significantly exceed local needs (in order to support the achievement of various local priorities). Around 70 allocations are proposed across more than 40 settlements to contribute to the achievement of these requirements. In excess of 2,000 sites were assessed and a series of consultations were undertaken to inform the identification of the proposed spatial strategy and associated allocations. This is clearly a very different undertaking to a small urban authority for example.
- 6.5. There is significant concern the proposed timescales could be construed to undermine the objectives to ensure meaningful consultation, which requires sufficient opportunity to consult, consider consultation responses, and if necessary to make appropriate modifications. There is a real risk that this either cannot be undertaken within the proposed timescales or at the least that there is a perception that this is the case.

- 6.6. The proposed timescales could also be construed as undermining the expectation that robust evidence be provided to inform key components of the Local Plan, especially the vision. Preparing, analysing and responding to evidence inevitably takes time, even with a more proportionate approach to evidence proposed through this consultation. Again, there is significant concern that for large authority areas that this cannot be undertaken robustly within the proposed time constraints.
- 6.7. Looking specifically at the proposals, it is noted that a significant part (around 50%) of the timescales for the proposed plan making process are already determined, including:
- The proposed three new 'gateway assessments' (which this response broadly agrees with) constitute around 10% of the total plan making process.
 - The examination process constitutes around 20% of the total plan making process.
 - Two periods of consultation constitute around 10% of the total plan making process, excluding the post consultation analysis/response period.
 - The post examination period constitutes around 2.5% of the total plan making period – although this is likely insufficient given lead-in times and call-in periods for democratic decisions.
- 6.8. In reality, there is significant concern this does not allow sufficient time to undertake the wider plan-making process, including identifying the vision and objectives of the plan, preparing necessary evidence, undertaking necessary assessments (particularly site assessments), preparing proposals for inclusion within the Local Plan, considering the outcomes of consultation, refining proposals, and undertaking all necessary Council procedures.
- 6.9. It is also important to recognise that there is a democratic process required to approve consultations, submissions for gateway checks, submission of Local Plans for examination, and adoption of a Local Plan (although the proposals regarding the timetable document are noted). This process has necessary lead-in times, and a call-in period, all of which are essential to ensure that the plan making process remains democratic, but do have implications for the length of the plan making process. Furthermore, there are of course periods where decisions cannot be taken, for instance during the pre-election period, the need for leeway around these periods must be recognised.
- 6.10. Pragmatically, when the Local Plan is at the 'gateway assessment' and examination stages, the Local Planning Authority has no control of timescales, and it is noted that it is proposed that the timescales for these processes would not be mandatory. As such, Shropshire Council is concerned that many Local Plans could fail to be prepared within timescales due to factors beyond Local Planning Authority control.
- 6.11. It is recognised that the proposal to limit the scope of local development management policies will narrow the scope of a Local Plan, but it is important to understand that the preparation of necessary evidence, development of draft local development management policies and the consultation on draft local development management policies are not the components of plan making that cause the lengthy timescales for plan production. Rather, it is the identification and refinement of the overarching strategy (particularly levels and distribution of growth) and the identification of site allocations that are the time consuming elements of plan making and also, generally, those that are the subject of greatest interest during consultation and examination.

- 6.12. It is noted that paragraph 41 of the consultation document states that *“there are recent examples of planning authorities making a plan in just over 30 months within the current system”*. However, the specific circumstances within which the plan making was undertaken or the scope of the Local Plan are unclear, as such it would be beneficial if these examples were provided. Ultimately, the wider context is provided within paragraph 38 of the consultation document, which recognises that *“Our evidence on local plan progress shows that it takes 7 years, on average, to produce a local plan.”*
- 6.13. As such, Shropshire Council would strongly suggest that it would be sensible to roll-out this process and gain an understanding of timescales involved, before proposing any maximum timescales. If this approach is not taken, then the vast array of evidence on timescales for preparing Local Plans under the current system cannot simply be ignored. Whilst Shropshire Council acknowledges that a 7 year average for preparing a Local Plan is longer than would be preferable, this is the average for a reason and is based on a very large sample size.
- 6.14. Ultimately, Shropshire Council is concerned that this proposal simply places the focus on timescales rather than good plan making. Local Planning Authorities face having to significantly compromise on aspiration, quality of content and quality of product to deliver within arbitrary timescales.**
- 6.15. Shropshire Council is also concerned that these proposed timescales will create unreasonable expectations within the development industry, which could have financial implications if/when not realised.
- 6.16. Shropshire Council strongly suggests that any timeframes for plan making should be identified as targets rather than being mandatory. This allows flexibility to respond to the differing scale and characteristics of Local Planning Authority administrative areas; the varied complexity and aspirations of Local Plans; any unexpected issues which may arise during the plan making process; the need to allow for appropriate democratic processes; and the potential for differing levels and types of ‘challenge’ during examination.
- 6.17. Furthermore, Shropshire Council would strongly endorse any timescales for plan making to be linked to the point of submission rather than examination. The examination timescales and process are beyond the control of Local Planning Authorities and as such should be beyond the scope of timescale expectations placed upon them.
- 6.18. Local Planning Authorities are responsible for Plan making and as such have significant first-hand experience of the challenges in preparing Local Plans. It is therefore essential that Government gives considerable weight to the views of Local Planning Authorities when finalising any proposals for timescales for plan making.

Question 7: Do you agree that a Project Initiation Document will help define the scope of the plan and be a useful tool throughout the plan making process?

Shropshire Council Response:

- 7.1. Shropshire Council is supportive of the principle of a Project Initiation Document. This will help to define the scope of the Local Plan and provide structure for the wider plan making process. However, Shropshire Council suggests that it be viewed as a ‘live’ document which amended as the plan making process progresses.

- 7.2. The principle of early consultation alongside and to inform the Project Initiation Document is noted. However, further guidance on the purpose and structure of this consultation is required in order to ensure that it is meaningful and focused on issues that are relevant to Local Plans.

Chapter 3: Digital Plans

Question 8: What information produced during plan-making do you think would most benefit from data standardisation, and/or being openly published?

Shropshire Council Response:

- 8.1. Shropshire Council considers there is significant potential for digital planning to increase the efficiency of plan making, increase the ability for communities and individuals to engage in and understand the plan making process, and engage and understand the subsequent Local Plan itself.
- 8.2. However, unfortunately the Council does not consider that digital plans and the associated efficiencies are such that the proposed timescales for plan making are achievable. On this matter we would cross-reference the Council's response to Question 6 of this consultation.
- 8.3. With specific regard to engagement, whilst the Council is of the view that digital forms of engagement clearly have the potential to increase the 'reach' of consultations, these forms of engagement will need to be complementary of rather than instead of other more traditional forms of engagement, otherwise there is a very real risk that many interested in the plan making process who do not use digital technologies will be excluded from the process.
- 8.4. The Council is also supportive of appropriate data standardisation. However, as is recognised within paragraph 72 of this consultation document, this standardisation needs to be tempered by a recognition of the diversity of Local Planning Authorities and their administrative areas.
- 8.5. With regard to standardisation, the one significant contribution that Government could make is to produce certain data / evidence documents at a national level, which can then be made available to all Local Planning Authorities to inform their plan making. This would also have potential benefits for the timescales and cost effectiveness of plan making. Good examples of evidence which can be prepared effectively at a national level are flood risk assessments; agricultural land quality assessments; Green Belt assessments; and landscape and visual sensitivity assessments.
- 8.6. There is also potential for an agency such as the British Geological Survey to provide support for Aggregate Working Parties and Mineral Planning Authorities by producing standard mapping of aggregate mineral resources, permitted mineral working areas, and mineral safeguarding areas across the country. Data on recycled aggregates is generally unavailable to Local Planning Authorities. Any evidence that could be prepared on this issue at a national level would be invaluable to Aggregate Working Parties and Mineral Planning Authorities.
- 8.7. Similarly, the Environment Agency is responsible for licensing of waste management facilities and monitors the management of waste. It is acknowledged that they publish

data on these issues, but there are opportunities to enhance this information so that it is more readily able to inform waste planning at a Waste Planning Authority level.

- 8.8. A 'template' for the scope of the site assessment process may also be beneficial, although this would need to have sufficient flexibility to respond to the diverse situations within which it would be applied.
- 8.9. With regard to open publication, whilst Shropshire Council is very much supportive of transparency and clarity regarding the decision making process, this does have the potential to represent another resource burden without any additional funding. This needs to be given careful consideration, particularly given the potential benefits for the wider industry and the other potential resource implications for Local Planning Authorities of the proposed changes to the plan making process.

Question 9: Do you recognise and agree that these are some of the challenges faced as part of plan preparation which could benefit from digitalisation? Are there any others you would like to add and tell us about?

Shropshire Council Response:

- 9.1. Shropshire Council agrees that some of the 'challenges' identified could be positively contributed to through digitalisation. However, the Council disagrees with a some of the identified 'challenges' and does not consider digitalisation alone is the answer to others. Dealing with each in turn:
 - a. Shropshire Council generally agrees there is "*lack of clear guidance*" for certain components of the plan making process. However, whilst standardisation of approach may be beneficial this should not be at the expense of local distinctiveness or innovation – see suggestion in response to Questions 4 and 5 of this consultation.
 - b. Shropshire Council agrees a "*lack of standard ... terminology*" is unhelpful. Provision of standardisation through digital means would therefore be beneficial. However, this also needs to balance with the ability to achieve local distinctiveness and innovation.
 - c. Shropshire Council agrees "*uncertainty about evidence requirements and fear of challenge at examination drives over production of evidence*". This could be positively contributed to through production of guidance on the evidence necessary, optional and unnecessary to support plan making and the production of certain evidence at a national level (see response to Question 8 of this consultation).
 - d. Shropshire Council disagrees a "*lack of clear communicable timelines and updates prevents users from understanding and getting involved.*" A mechanism exists for communicating timescales for plan production, this is the Local Development Scheme. However, a digital format could make this more accessible. A key issue however is that Local Planning Authorities prepare these timetables, but during the 'gateway assessments' and examination it is the Planning Inspectorate that determines timetables. This should be given due consideration.
 - e. Shropshire Council disagrees that "*plans are static and PDF-based meaning they go out of date quickly*". The format in which a document has been saved has little relevance to the provenance of the document's content. Local Plans are intended to be strategic documents that 'look forward' over a long period. The perception that they quickly become out of date is a common misconception that rarely translates

into practice. However, Shropshire Council is supportive of using 'digital' means to make Local Plans more accessible.

- f. Shropshire Council disagrees that "*poor monitoring and feedback loops make it difficult to understand if the plan and its policies are working well*". Local Planning Authorities undertake significant monitoring to inform plan making. However, the Council agrees 'digital advancements' might increase the range of data and the efficiency of its production. To this end, the Council would welcome support from Government for data production at the national level. This might be complemented by imposing data provision requirements on statutory consultees, developers and others in the planning process, to accelerate the monitoring process.
- g. Shropshire Council recognises "*the majority of people do not engage in plans*", although a very significant proportion of this is through personal choice. However, the Council is supportive of the principle that digital means could assist in reaching more people, particularly those in hard to access groups – however this needs to be complementary rather than instead of more traditional means of consultation or it risks excluding other groups. Digital means could also assist in collating and analysing consultation responses.
- h. Decisions taken by Local Planning Authorities are either delivered by elected members at the relevant committee or in accordance with the agreed scheme of delegation. As such, Shropshire Council agrees with the statement that "*plans often involve making difficult local decisions*", and recognises that "*the political nature of local decision making and how it shapes plan content is often not understood*", but considers there is already transparency on decision making and the processes of decision making for those seeking to understand these processes.

Question 10: Do you agree with the opportunities identified? Can you tell us about other examples of digital innovation or best practice that should also be considered?

Shropshire Council Response:

- 10.1. Shropshire Council generally agrees with the opportunities identified with regard to areas for digital innovation, particularly through bespoke, tested products which can be tailored to reflect local requirements.
- 6.19. However, this should be read in the context of the concerns raised by the Council in response to Questions 4-9 of this consultation, with regard to achieving appropriate balance between standardisation and reflecting the varied character / objectives of Local Planning Authorities and also the ability to innovate. It is also important to recognise that digital innovation can shorten or lengthen timescales for plan production dependent on the specific issue they address.

Question 11: What innovations or changes would you like to see prioritised to deliver efficiencies in how plans are prepared and used, both now and in the future?

Shropshire Council Response:

- 11.1. The Council considers there is significant potential for digital planning. However, the value and purpose of the various innovations referenced would need to be more clearly understood in order to provide specific feedback on their prioritisation.

11.2. An obvious priority would be greater efficiency in the processes of undertaking, summarising and analysing consultation responses. This could also encompass visualisation tools to facilitate effective consultation as well as assisting in the 'mechanics' of consultation and processing responses. Another priority would be that relating to site identification and assessment, which has significant potential to draw on data digitally.

Chapter 4: The Local Plan Timetable

Question 12: Do you agree with our proposals on the milestones to be reported on in the local plan timetable and minerals and waste timetable, and our proposals surrounding when timetables must be updated?

Shropshire Council Response:

- 12.1. Shropshire Council is supportive of the proposed milestones for reporting within the new Local Plan and Minerals and Waste Plan timetables. These milestones respond to and align with the key stages within the proposed new plan making process. They are also sufficient to provide 'structure' to the timetable for the plan making process.
- 12.2. Shropshire Council recognises the current plan making timetables (Local Development Schemes) can become 'out-of-date', and as such there is value in ensuring updates to the timetables are undertaken more regularly. However, on reflection, the proposed 6 month period is considered too regular. Shropshire Council would suggest a 12 month review period, aligning with the production of the light touch / detailed annual monitoring return.
- 12.3. It is considered that this strikes the appropriate balance between ensuring that the plan making timetable is subject to regular review, with the resource burden placed on Local Planning Authorities during the plan making process.

Question 13: Are there any key milestones that you think should automatically trigger a review of the local plan timetable and/or minerals and waste plan timetable?

Shropshire Council Response:

- 13.1. Shropshire Council does not consider that specific milestones need to be identified that would automatically trigger a review of the Local Plan / Minerals and Waste Plan timetables. An annual requirement supplemented by Local Planning Authorities having discretion to update the plan making timetable more regularly is considered sufficient.

Chapter 5: Evidence and the Tests of Soundness

Question 14: Do you think this direction of travel for national policy and guidance set out in this chapter would provide more clarity on what evidence is expected? Are there other changes you would like to see?

Shropshire Council Response:

- 14.1. Shropshire Council is content with the proposed removal of 'justified' as a specific soundness test – as documented within the response to the consultation on proposed changes to the NPPF.
- 14.2. Shropshire Council also welcomes the intention to provide clearer expectations on the evidence required to support assessment of compliance with legal requirements and the remaining tests of soundness. Specifically, the consultation suggests two categories of evidence, that “*produced and submitted to demonstrate that the plan is sound and legally compliant*” and that “*used to inform the plan but are not related to soundness or legal compliance*”. The category within which evidence ‘sits’ is however somewhat dependent on local circumstances and the content of a Local Plan. Therefore, there may be value in recognition that some evidence may fall in either category, dependent on the specific Local Plan.
- 14.3. The proposal to provide ‘additional overarching guidance’ on ‘what good evidence looks like’ would be generally welcomed subject to appropriate baselines being set which recognise differing Local Planning Authority circumstances.
- 14.4. Clarifying in the NPPF that ‘evidence should only normally be discussed and argued against at examination where there is a significant and demonstrable reason for doing so, in relation to the tests of soundness and legal requirements’ would be supported and this is considered consistent with expectations currently set out in Local Plan procedure regulations in relation to the making of Regulation 19 responses.
- 14.5. As proposed by the consultation, it would also be helpful to reassert and provide clearer guidance identifying that Local Planning Authorities do not need to demonstrate a Local Plan provides the most appropriate strategy (which is subjective), but only an appropriate strategy.
- 14.6. It is agreed that rolling out a simple, templated ‘statement of compliance with legislation and national policy’ combined with greater definition of requirements in the NPPF, where the template provides a recognised mechanism for the Local Planning Authority to demonstrate consistency with national policy, could be beneficial in addressing this source of challenge at examination and the planning application appeal process.
- 14.7. Any proposals which clearly set out national policy expectations for what constitutes effective cross boundary working and how this should be set out in statements of common ground would be helpful in reducing challenge and time taken in considering this matter at examination.
- 14.8. There is no detail of proposed changes to the effectiveness test, and this would be needed before the Council can comment further.

Question 15: Do you support the standardisation of evidence requirements for certain topics? What evidence topics do you think would be particularly important or beneficial to standardise and/or have more readily available baseline data?

Shropshire Council Response:

- 15.1. Please see the response to Question 8 of this consultation regarding the value of producing data / evidence documents at a national level, to inform Local Planning Authority plan making. This approach would achieve standardisation whilst also

representing effective use of resources and support the achievement of timelier plan making.

- 15.2. Please also see the response to Question 9 of this consultation, which highlights that standardisation of evidence requirements accompanied by clear guidance on and categorisation of the evidence necessary to support the preparation of a Local Plan would help address uncertainty and reduce unnecessary evidence production.
- 15.3. Data standardisation for evidence documents prepared at a local level has the potential to achieve resource and time benefits; support the achievement of methodology consistency across Local Planning Authorities; aid in clarity of understanding both within Local Planning Authorities and other parties; and help to minimise potential challenges at examination. However, this is only achievable where the approach to data standardisation achieves consensus and the associated methodologies are sufficiently responsive to local circumstances and consistently maintained.
- 15.4. A good example of the importance of these issues in the existing standard methodology for calculating housing need. Shropshire Council is supportive of both the principles (providing a clear and transparent process for all; utilising publicly available data; and ensuring the assessment is realistic and reflects the actual need) and specifics of this methodology, but is aware that uncertainty regarding it has resulted in significant delays to plan making across other parts of the country. Shropshire Council is concerned that similar attempts to achieve standardisation on other issues has the potential to result in similar delays.
- 15.5. With regard to the need to be responsive to local circumstances, it is important to recognise the diversity of Local Planning Authorities when establishing data standardisation and standard methodologies for assessment work. They must be sufficiently flexible to recognise that each Local Planning Authority area is different and furthermore there is significant diversity within Local Planning Authority areas themselves.

Question 16: Do you support the freezing of data or evidence at certain points of the process? If so which approach(es) do you favour?

Shropshire Council Response:

- 16.1. Shropshire Council agrees that setting clear expectations for when evidence should be updated and similarly when it does not require updating during plan-making would be beneficial, providing clarity for all those involved in the plan making process, reducing delays, and making more efficient use of resources. This will also complement the proposals for greater clarity on what evidence is and is not required to inform the plan making process.
- 16.2. It is noted however that Planning Inspectors examining Local Plans will have discretion to request additional evidence / updated evidence and this requirement can be reflected by a pause in the examination. Whilst the necessity of this is recognised, Shropshire Council is concerned that this could undermine the intention of providing clarity of what evidence is and is not required and similarly when evidence can be 'frozen' – specifically focusing resources, focusing discussion at examination and making effective use of time both during the plan making and examination processes. As such further clarity on this issue is essential for all parties, including the Planning

Inspectors, regarding the extent to which additional / updated evidence can be requested and the specific circumstances in which this can arise.

- 16.3. It should also be recognised that in addition to the timescale implications, the preparation of new / updated evidence may have implications for fundamental elements of the Local Plan and the approach taken and may need to be reflected in modifications which will take time to develop. In any case where additional evidence is presented, additional consultation is likely to be required, as this will be information that was not previously available to participants in the process.

Question 17: Do you support this proposal to require local planning authorities to submit only supporting documents that are related to the soundness of the plan?

Shropshire Council Response:

- 17.1. Whilst Shropshire Council is generally supportive of a reduction in evidence and supporting document submission requirements, as this could improve engagement by reducing complexity and bring resource efficiency benefits, the principles set out in the comments above in relation to the 'freezing' of data are equally relevant.
- 17.2. That is, whilst paragraph 100 of the consultation specifies less evidence may be required to be submitted it does *'not preclude the Inspector from requesting additional evidence at examination if they felt it was necessary'*. Shropshire Council is very much concerned that this could potentially delay the examination process, undermining the ability to complete Local Plans within the expected timeframe.
- 17.3. It is noted that there is recognition of this in paragraph 121 of the consultation, which proposes a mechanism for Planning Inspectors to pause local plan examinations for a period of no longer than 6 months to prepare additional evidence. Comments on this matter are provided in response to Question 23 of this consultation.
- 17.4. Furthermore, as referenced in response to Question 16 of this consultation, there is also the issue of engagement with other parties on any new evidence to consider.
- 17.5. Unless clear guidance on this matter is provided, there is a risk Local Planning Authorities will need to continue to produce and submit copious amounts of evidence that is not considered 'mandatory' simply to manage risk of delays / need to withdraw the plan and causing significant abortive work.

Chapter 6: Gateway Assessments During Plan-Making

Question 18: Do you agree that these should be the overarching purposes of gateway assessments? Are there other purposes we should consider alongside those set out above?

Shropshire Council Response:

- 18.1. Shropshire Council is generally supportive of the principle and overarching purpose of the proposed 'gateway assessments'. These principles appear to address the main issues that would require consideration at the relevant stages in the process.

Question 19: Do you agree with these proposals around the frequency and timing of gateways and who is responsible?

Shropshire Council Response:

- 19.1. Shropshire Council generally supports the frequency and timing of proposed 'gateway assessments' within the overall plan making process. However, it is important to recognise that proposed 'gateway assessments' represent a significant component (around 10%) of the total plan making process.
- 19.2. It is noted that the consultation suggests that the preparation of the plan can continue whilst these 'gateway assessments' are ongoing. However, this fails to recognise two key issues:
 - a. Preparing for and informing the 'gateway assessments' will represent a resource burden on Local Planning Authorities, thereby reducing time available for other work on the plan in the lead-up and during the 'gateway assessments'.
 - b. Subsequent plan making work will need to be informed by the conclusions of the 'gateway assessments' – if it is not, then these assessments would be of no purpose. Therefore, there is a very serious risk to Local Planning Authorities of abortive work and costs if this approach is actually taken.
- 19.3. This expectation therefore increases Shropshire Council's concerns regarding the proposed 30 month plan making timeframe, as documented in the response to Question 6 of this consultation.
- 19.4. Furthermore, paragraph 109 of the consultation explains the 4 week / 6 week timescale for 'gateway assessments' will not be specified in regulations. Whilst the need to provide flexibility on this process is recognised, Shropshire Council is very much concerned that delays at this stage could have significant implications on the wider plan making process. Despite this, it is only the Local Planning Authority, which has no control over timescales for 'gateway assessments', which will be held accountable if the wider 30 month timeframe is not achieved.
- 19.5. Shropshire Council is very much concerned that 'gateway assessments' and 'examinations' will take longer than envisaged. This is particularly likely in circumstances where resources / other commitments impact on capacity at the Planning Inspectorate.

Question 20: Do you agree with our proposals for the gateway assessment process, and the scope of the key topics? Are there any other topics we should consider?

Shropshire Council Response:

- 20.1. See the response to Question 19 of this consultation.

Question 21: Do you agree with our proposal to charge planning authorities for gateway assessments?

Shropshire Council Response:

- 21.1. Shropshire Council does not support the proposal to charge Local Planning Authorities for gateway assessments. As is recognised within the consultation material, currently discretionary guidance provided to Local Planning Authorities during the plan making

process is free of charge. It is now proposed that this service would be removed and replaced by mandatory paid for assessments. Whilst the Council is supportive of the principle of 'gateway assessments' it is considered that this process should remain one that does not entail a cost to the Local Planning Authority.

- 21.2. The plan making process, whilst of critical importance to local communities, represents a significant financial cost to Local Planning Authorities and this proposal risks increasing the financial burden further. Shropshire Council is very much concerned that Local Planning Authorities may not pursue the preparation of Local Plans, simply because of the costs entailed in the process.
- 21.3. If Government is minded to introduce a cost for 'gateway assessments', Shropshire Council would very strongly encourage identification of a maximum total cost for the 'gateway assessments' and examination processes. It is considered that this would have the dual benefits of providing certainty to Local Planning Authorities and communities about the total cost of 'gateway assessments' and examination thereby increasing transparency for all, whilst also incentivising the Planning Inspectorate to undertake proportionate and timely consideration of Local Plan's during the 'gateway checks' and examination.
- 21.4. If Government is minded not to introduce a cost for 'gateway assessments', Shropshire Council would still advocate the introduction of a maximum total cost for the examination of Local Plans, again to provide certainty, transparency and to incentivise proportionate and timely consideration of Local Plan's during examination.

Chapter 7: Plan Examination

Question 22: Do you agree with our proposals to speed up plan examinations? Are there additional changes that we should be considering to enable faster examinations?

Shropshire Council Response:

- 22.1. Shropshire Council agrees that a 'speedier' examination process would be beneficial, assisting both the Local Planning Authority and development industry in planning for delivery and creating certainty for communities.
- 22.2. However as indicated earlier in this response, Shropshire is a large and varied Unitary Authority. Given this significant geography; likely volume of participants in the examination process; the need to consider strategic matters relating to a large number of neighbouring areas; recent experience of the complexity of issues considered at examination and the need for additional work and hearing sessions, it is considered that achieving a 6 or even 9 month examination would be extremely challenging, despite the identified procedural changes. This issue is not unique to Shropshire and emphasises concerns highlighted in response to Question 6 of this consultation.
- 22.3. It is encouraging that it is proposed Matters Issues and Question's will be more focused and that there will be an opportunity for hearing '*written representations*' to be used although, as suggested, these would need to be limited to short submissions to avoid significant additional work in considering these. Proposals to streamline the main modifications stage are generally supported subject to clear guidance on what constitutes a main modification.

- 22.4. It is also positive that reforms would seek to ensure Planning Inspectors are appointed during plan preparation (at the third 'gateway assessment') and that engagement with the Planning Inspectorate is ongoing, as they have key role in achieving a timely examination.
- 22.5. Whilst Shropshire Council supports the principle of allocating additional Planning Inspectorate resource to 'speed up' examination, it should be recognised that this principle will result in additional cost implications for Local Planning Authorities – Shropshire Council's experience is whilst Planning Inspectors may seek to 'divide' issues amongst them, there is an inevitable overlap which results in increased costs. This therefore emphasises the importance of the points made in response to Question 21 of this consultation regarding the financial burden of plan making and the need for cost thresholds to provide certainty and transparency.
- 22.6. Furthermore, whilst this principle may 'speed up' examinations, it also represents a further resource burden for the Planning Inspectorate which needs to be carefully considered, particularly in a large group of Local Planning Authorities submit their Local Plans at the same time (it is acknowledged that the proposed 'waves' seek to control this, but Local Planning Authorities may choose to commence working earlier than their 'wave' allocation envisions).

Question 23: Do you agree that six months is an adequate time for the pause period, and with the government's expectations around how this would operate?

Shropshire Council Response:

- 23.1. Shropshire Council recognises the importance of Planning Inspectors being able to pause examinations in order to solve issues by requesting additional evidence or requiring further work, in order to seek to address soundness issues or other significant concerns – this principle is well established. However, the factors requiring such pauses can vary considerably, as implied by paragraph 122 of the consultation.
- 23.2. As such, the timescales for a 'pause period' is dependent on the additional evidence or requiring further work. In the Council's experience, evidence requirements can vary considerably, some requiring mainly in-house work and analysis of existing information that is available, whilst other evidence requirements involve new research and/or the engagement of specialist consultants who have their own work commitments which impact on their capacity to deliver within tight timelines. Some requirements could also necessitate information and feedback from other organisations or statutory bodies, timescales for their input are also beyond the Local Planning Authority's or Planning Inspectorate's control.
- 23.3. There is also likely to be a need for decisions to be made through a Local Planning Authorities own democratic processes, particularly where the additional evidence results in proposals to make main modifications to issues such as the level and distribution of development and/or the location of specific site allocations.

- 23.4. Irrespective of the outlined changes to evidence requirements and procedure, six months is therefore likely to present a challenging timescale which cannot always be achieved – but it would be unfortunate to simply conclude that where this is the case the Local Plan should be withdrawn, which has significant implications for abortive time and work.
- 23.5. As such, Shropshire Council would suggest that there is recognition that whilst this pause should ordinarily be for no more than 6 months, Planning Inspectors are provided some discretion on this matter in order to allow a level of pragmatism.
- 23.6. In addition to the matters raised in the response to Question 16 of this consultation, there is also concern that the mechanism permits only one pause, which does not cater for circumstances where second or more requests for further information are issued by the Planning Inspector. Given these uncertainties it is strongly considered that there should a more flexible approach, rather than one set pause period of 6 months.

Chapter 8: Community Engagement and Consultation

Question 24: Do you agree with our proposal that planning authorities should set out their overall approach to engagement as part of their Project Initiation Document? What should this contain?

Shropshire Council Response:

- 24.1. Shropshire Council supports the principle of the approach to consultation during the plan making process being established as part of the Project Initiation Document.
- 24.2. However, the Council is concerned that either the perceived issue with Statements of Community Involvement (SCI) remain – Local Planning Authorities will limit methods of consultation to those which are required to comply with legislation in order to avoid the risk of over-promising; or if Local Planning Authorities are more aspirational but ultimately find a particular mechanism inappropriate, unsuitable, or unachievable for the consultation, that objectors will use this as a means of undermining the plan making process.
- 24.3. As such, Shropshire Council would suggest that Project Initiation Documents identifies basic consultation mechanisms that will be utilised and potential consultation mechanisms which will be considered to complement the basic consultation mechanisms dependent on the issues/purpose of the consultation and feasibility of the various mechanisms. It would however need to be made clear in legislation that a failure to utilise a specific consultation mechanism does not mean that the entire consultation is invalid, provided the other mechanisms utilised resulted in an appropriate consultation.
- 24.4. With specific regard to forms of engagement, whilst the Council is of the view that 'digital' forms of engagement clearly have the potential to increase the 'reach' of consultations, these forms of engagement will need to be complementary of rather than instead of other more traditional forms of engagement, otherwise there is a very real risk that many interested in the plan making process who do not use digital technologies will be excluded from the process.

24.5. Additionally, as addressed in response to Question 6 of this consultation, whilst the Council is very much supportive of seeking to increase the volume of consultation responses in order to increase the understanding of views on key issues, this does have implications for timescales for analysing responses. These issues further highlight the Council's concerns regarding deliverability of the 30 month plan making timescale.

Question 25: Do you support our proposal to require planning authorities to notify relevant persons and/or bodies and invite participation, prior to commencement of the 30 month process?

Shropshire Council Response:

- 25.1. Shropshire Council is supportive of the principle of notifying relevant persons and/or bodies that the plan making process will be commencing. However, if this is to effectively ensure statutory bodies engage from the outset, it must be complemented by ensuring sufficient resources are available and clear expectations are placed upon such bodies. Shropshire Council's experience is that due to resource availability, statutory bodies are often difficult to engage with during the plan making process which can lead to delays in the process and disagreement in later stages of plan making and the subsequent examination.
- 25.2. Shropshire Council is also very much supportive of the principle of early engagement as part of the plan making process. However, greater clarity is required on the purpose and format of this proposal in order to understand its value and feasibility.
- 25.3. Firstly, whilst the Council welcomes this engagement being outside the commencement of the 30 month period from a logistical perspective - as it is considered that the period allowed for plan making is insufficient (as documented in response to Question 6 of this consultation), the Council is concerned this could cause confusion amongst communities and other parties. What is the purpose and value of engagement on plan making, before the plan making process commences and potentially before the notification of the intention to commence the plan making process is even issued (as suggested in paragraph 145 of the consultation).
- 25.4. Secondly, it is important to recognise that undertaking early engagement whilst potentially very valuable in setting the 'direction' of the plan, can also be challenging as there is less focus for discussion/response in the early stages of the plan making process. As such, guidance on the structure and outputs of such engagement would be essential.

Question 26: Should early participation inform the Project Initiation Document? What sorts of approaches might help to facilitate positive early participation in plan-preparation?

Shropshire Council Response:

- 26.1. Shropshire Council considers there is value in early participation informing the content of the Project Initiation Document.
- 26.2. However, it is important to note that the mechanisms used for effective consultation will depend on the subject. Furthermore, there are of course resource and time implications for consultation and this can significantly increase dependent on the mechanisms utilised. Therefore, whilst Shropshire Council welcomes the views of our

communities and other parties in shaping the Local Plan and on how to effectively engage during the plan marking process, there is a very real risk that this could unreasonably increase expectations.

- 26.3. A good example of this is timescales for engagement/consultation. Many communities would prefer to allow for longer consultations to provide greater opportunities for engagement activities and allow longer to respond. However, this is contrary to the expectations of the plan-making reforms, which specify in the opinion of Shropshire Council, very challenging timescales for plan making, even with consultations limited to new proposed minimums timescales.
- 26.4. Whilst the consultation specifies that an 8 week consultation and 6 week consultation (14 weeks total) exceed current statutory minimums, it is important to note that most Local Planning Authorities currently consult for significantly longer than the statutory minimums and indeed are often criticised/challenged if this is not the case. For example, Shropshire Council consulted for more than 50 weeks in total when preparing the draft Shropshire Local Plan that is currently the subject of examination. Despite this, we are aware that some felt the consultation period were insufficient.
- 26.5. Therefore, greater clarity on how early engagement, statutory requirements and the expectations of guidance on the plan making process interplay in informing the engagement processes outlined within the Project Initiation Document is required.

Question 27: Do you agree with our proposal to define more clearly what the role and purpose of the two mandatory consultation windows should be?

Shropshire Council Response:

- 27.1. Yes, Shropshire Council is supportive of clarity being provided on the role and purpose of the two mandatory consultation windows. This will allow a common understanding of what is expected at each of these stages.
- 27.2. However, as described the Council is concerned about the significant 'leap' from the first to the second consultation. In effect:
- a. The first consultation appears equivalent to a more developed Issues and Options Consultation; and
 - b. The second is equivalent to the Pre-Submission Consultation.
- 27.3. Inevitably the issues which garner the greatest interest amongst communities and other interested parties are the levels, distribution and specific locations for development. As currently structured the details of many of these proposals would only be available at the second stage of consultation (otherwise they would have to be determined before much of the detailed evidence gathering and drafting of the plan occurs).
- 27.4. This is late in the process for such significant issues to be first consulted upon and provides little opportunity for Local Planning Authorities to make any necessary amendments without either failing to comply with the 30 month plan making timescales

by undertaking a further stage of consultation; or being required to introduce new proposals post final stage of consultation – which may have legal and/or soundness implications. These issues require further consideration and subsequently clear guidance should be provided on them.

- 27.5. On reflection, Shropshire Council would suggest that it may be better for the first stage of consultation to occur later in the process, once further evidence is available and proposals are more developed. This would also allow for clear development of the plan between the informal engagement undertaken before the process formally commences and the first formal stage of consultation.

Question 28: Do you agree with our proposal to use templates to guide the form in which representations are submitted?

Shropshire Council Response:

- 28.1. Shropshire Council is generally supportive of the principle of providing templates to guide the preparation of consultation response forms.
- 28.2. However, these templates need to be sufficiently flexible to respond to the diverse nature of Local Planning Authorities and the diverse vision, objectives and strategies of their Local Plans.
- 28.3. Furthermore, it should be noted that a significant proportion of respondents to consultations choose to not use respondent forms when responding. This issue should be recognised when preparing any such templates, so that they are sufficiently flexible to allow analysis of responses within them alongside responses provided in other formats. This of course also has implications for timescales when analysing consultation responses.

Chapter 9: Requirement to Assist With Certain Plan-Making

Question 29: Do you have any comments on the proposed list of prescribed public bodies?

Shropshire Council Response:

- 29.1. Shropshire Council is generally supportive of public bodies proposed to be identified as being subject to this requirement. However, as a Local Planning Authority on the border with Wales, the Council considers that it would be beneficial for equivalent Welsh public bodies to also be subject to this requirement. If this is not the case, then Local Planning Authorities such as Shropshire Council would remain in a situation where there is no specific mechanism for 'levering in' assistance from relevant Welsh public bodies during the plan making process. A similar situation would of course exist for those Local Planning Authorities on the Scottish border.
- 29.2. The Council considers that it is best for the list of prescribed public bodies to be as comprehensive as possible, to cover all potential circumstances where public bodies may need to be involved in plan making.
- 29.3. There should also be provision for successors of relevant responsibilities to 'inherit' this requirement, in circumstances where responsibilities are transferred to a new/alternative public body or a public body is re-branded. Finally, there should also be provision to add additional public bodies in circumstances where new public bodies are formed and their responsibilities are relevant to plan making.

Question 30: Do you agree with the proposed approach? If not, please comment on whether the alternative approach or another approach is preferable and why.

Shropshire Council Response:

- 30.1. Yes, Shropshire Council is very much supportive of the principle of introducing a 'requirements to assist' with plan making on relevant prescribed public bodies. It would provide a much needed mechanism to allow Local Planning Authorities to 'lever' in 'assistance' from these prescribed public bodies which is required in order to facilitate resolution of issues facing the plan making process and allow the progression/completion of plan making.
- 30.2. The Council would note that there are numerous examples within the current system of significant delays to plan making as a result of difficulties in securing the input of relevant public bodies on matters which cannot be fully established/resolved without this input.
- 30.3. Perhaps more alarmingly, there are also numerous examples of circumstances where public bodies fail to engage in plan making, despite the best efforts of Local Planning Authorities, until the later stages of the process, which can result in unforeseen issues arising which have significant implications for timescales for production of a Local Plan, the soundness of a Local Plan, or both.
- 30.4. Currently there are instances where Local Planning Authorities are 'charged' for 'assistance' (including for responses to consultations), by certain public bodies. Clarification on whether public bodies should be charging for their 'assistance' and if so which components of their 'assistance' would therefore be extremely beneficial, creating certainty, transparency, and streamlining any discussions on this matter.
- 30.5. There is also the issue of the resources available to prescribed public bodies to ensure that they are able to provide a timely response, which may conflict with this requirement and as such needs to be duly considered.
- 30.6. Currently the NPPF encourages collaborative working between neighbouring Local Planning Authorities. However, scope for joint working in particular in relation to evidence base preparation is already limited by resources and mismatches in local plan timetables and this difficulty is likely to increase with the proposed condensed timeline for plan production and potentially due to the approach to determining when Local Planning Authorities commence plan making under the new system. As such, this matter would benefit from further consideration.
- 30.7. There appears to be a provision proposed for a 'requirement to assist in the initiation period' of plan making. If so, this would be helpful in identifying issues and ensuring that relevant requirements can be addressed early in the plan making process. However, the wording of paragraph 162 of the consultation document is unclear on this matter. Shropshire Council would be grateful for clarification in respect of the provisions proposed on this matter.
- 30.8. It is currently considered that despite provision for early assistance, that this would not preclude a change in position by the public body later in the plan making process, which could result in unexpected critical soundness issues which would undermine the ability of plan making to proceed in a timely manner. Further clarification on this matter would be welcomed.

Chapter 10: Monitoring of Plans

Question 31: Do you agree with the proposed requirements for monitoring?

Shropshire Council Response:

- 31.1. Shropshire Council is generally supportive of the principle of undertaking 'light touch' monitoring for the first 3 years following adoption of a Local Plan, proceeding to more 'detailed' monitoring in years 4 onwards following adoption of a Local Plan.
- 31.2. However, as currently proposed the timing of this return would not be regularised across Local Planning Authorities or linked to annual data collection exercises undertaken, rather it is proposed to be linked to the date of adoption of a Local Plan. As such, to allow for effective comparison of data across different Local Planning Authorities and to reflect monitoring processes already undertaken (e.g. for making housing flow reconciliation returns to Government), it is considered that the publication of monitoring reports should be linked to a specific month (ideally December) following the full first year of adoption of a Local Plan.
- 31.3. Shropshire Council is also generally supportive of the principle of providing a template for the 'light touch' monitoring, provided this is sufficiently flexible to respond to the diverse nature of Local Planning Authorities; the diverse vision, objectives and strategies of their Local Plans; and the diverse local metrics that may be identified. A similar flexible template for the 'detailed' monitoring is provided to achieve the same benefits as for the 'light touch' monitoring.
- 31.4. The recognition that the vision may address long-term matters the effects of which may not be identifiable in the shorter term is welcome, however this recognition should be extended to other aspects of the Local Plan. It should also be recognised that 4 years is not long-term, as seems to be implied within the consultation. Whilst there is value in refreshing Local Plan's regularly, they are still intended to 'look ahead' over a 15 year period or more. The positive effects of proposals are therefore often intended to address issues over this longer period or beyond. This needs to be appropriately recognised within any guidance on monitoring.

Question 32: Do you agree with the proposed metrics? Do you think there are any other metrics which planning authorities should be required to report on?

Shropshire Council Response:

- 32.1. Shropshire Council is generally supportive of the parameters identified, which address many of the key thematic issues/topics addressed within Local Plans. However, greater clarity is required with regard to the metrics identified under the environment and open space.
- 32.2. The metric related to net change in designated habitats implies it relates to circumstances where there is an actual change in the amount of either designated habitat or the number of designated sites, is this the intention or is it related to development that detrimentally occurs within/affecting such areas?

- 32.3. The metric related to progress towards net zero emissions from buildings needs careful consideration. Shropshire Council has declared a climate emergency and strongly supports the need for new development to progress towards net zero emissions, with the Local Plan one mechanism for supporting this transition. However, Government has made it clear that Building Regulations are the key mechanism for imposing specific build standards on new development. This therefore needs to be duly considered when establishing this metric.
- 32.4. With regard to waste, Local Planning Authorities generally have very good data on municipal waste, but are reliant on Environment Agency data for commercial waste. This needs to be recognised when establishing metrics on this issue.

Chapter 11: Supplementary Plans

Question 33: Do you agree with the suggested factors which could be taken into consideration when assessing whether two or more sites are 'nearby' to each other? Are there any other factors that would indicate whether two or more sites are 'nearby' to each other?

Shropshire Council Response:

- 33.1. Shropshire Council has encountered significant difficulties in the past in seeking to define spatial concepts such as 'nearby' and 'close to' in relation to sites and settlements, due to the diversity of the geography of the county and varied settlement scale and form (for example, settlements range from small very dispersed settlements with no obvious centre to small but more tightly knit settlements and larger market towns and urban areas). It is suggested therefore that the concepts of 'nearby' and 'close to' will need to allow reflection of scale and variety of development forms and functional relationship of sites within a location.

Question 34: What preparation procedures would be helpful, or unhelpful, to prescribe for supplementary plans? e.g. Design: design review and engagement event; large sites: masterplan engagement, etc.

Shropshire Council Response:

- 34.1. It is noted the proposals suggest Supplementary Plans will not have a defined preparation timeframe (like the 30 month period proposed for Local Plans and Minerals and Waste Plans), but will rather be subject to an expectation that they are prepared swiftly to provide a planning framework to address site-specific requirements / capture opportunities. Shropshire Council is supportive of this proposed approach, which emphasises the fundamental principle that they should be prepared swiftly, but provides discretion to Local Planning Authorities to establish appropriate timescales, informed by consideration of the relevant topic, scope of the document, intended processes for plan making and available resource. The Council would strongly advocate a similar approach being taken to Local Plans and Minerals and Waste Plans.
- 34.2. With regard to procedures for preparation of Supplementary Plans, as the consultation material recognises, due to the potential diversity of these documents there needs to

be sufficient flexibility regarding their structure and the processes required for their development. Overly prescriptive procedures may not be sufficiently flexible to respond to this diversity and could stifle innovation. However, conversely if they are not sufficiently clear, this could lead to disagreements around suitable processes, delaying adoption and increasing the risk of challenge.

34.3. In terms of opportunities for positive procedures:

- a. For Supplementary Plans that are specific to a site or cluster of sites, as with current masterplanning for such sites, there may be significant scope for joint working between the site promoter/developer and the Local Planning Authority and early community engagement to evolve proposals. Therefore, the procedures could identify the opportunities for preliminary engagement at the outset of the plan making process, similar to that proposed for Local Plans and Minerals and Waste Plans.
- b. Since Supplementary Plans are to be subject to consultation and an independent examination, it would be extremely beneficial to provide clear expectations on the timescales and minimum requirements of consultation, evidence base requirements, and also the grounds for objection during the examination process. Comments set out in responding to other questions within this consultation, in respect of evidence and consultation requirements during the plan making and examination processes, similarly apply to Supplementary Plans.
- c. A preliminary conformity check by the Planning Inspectorate / Examiner, prior to formal submission of Supplementary Plans would also be helpful in avoiding challenge on the basis of lack of conformity with the adopted Local Plan or national policy and would allow revision prior to examination.

Question 35: Do you agree that a single formal stage of consultation is considered sufficient for a supplementary plan? If not, in what circumstances would more formal consultation stages be required?

Shropshire Council Response:

- 35.1. Given the more targeted scope of Supplementary Plans compared with Local Plans; the need for them to be prepared rapidly in order to respond to emerging circumstances/opportunities; the fact that they are 'building on' the content of Local Plans (providing more specific content on sites or design requirements); evidence and supporting documentation is likely to be more limited/focused; and the fact that they would be reviewed on a regular cycle alongside reviews of Local Plans, a single stage of formal consultation seems appropriate.
- 35.2. Additional consultation stages would have additional time and resource implications that could be counterproductive to the aims of the Supplementary Plan process.
- 35.3. However, as documented in the Council's response to Question 34 of this consultation, where appropriate this could be complemented by early informal engagement in a manner similar to that proposed for Local Plans / currently utilised for masterplanning.

Question 36: Should government set thresholds to guide the decision that authorities make about the choice of supplementary plan examination routes? If so, what thresholds would be most helpful? For example, minimum size of development planned for, which could be

quantitative both in terms of land use and spatial coverage; level of interaction of proposal with sensitive designations, such as environmental or heritage.

Shropshire Council Response:

- 36.1. As preceding responses to the consultation have commented there is likely to be significant diversity in the nature and type of supplementary plans (and this is acknowledged in the consultation itself) and also in the localities to which they relate. Therefore, it would be extremely difficult to set out criteria which would be clear and relevant to all situations and not add unnecessary, additional procedural complexity and issues of interpretation for Local Planning Authorities.
- 36.2. As there is already significant expertise within Local Planning Authorities of examination processes related to preparing Local Plans and supporting the development of Neighbourhood Plans, Shropshire Council would suggest that this local expertise should be drawn upon in determining the most appropriate approach to examination. Therefore, Shropshire Council's preference would be for the relevant Local Planning Authority to determine the most appropriate route. A Secretary of State 'call in' power could be used in exceptional circumstances where the Local Planning Authority is minded to utilise an independent examiner.

Question 37: Do you agree that the approach set out above provides a proportionate basis for the independent examination of supplementary plans? If not, what policy or regulatory measures would ensure this?

Shropshire Council Response:

- 37.1. Shropshire Council considers that, subject to the comments made earlier in response to Question 33 regarding the difficulties of defining 'nearby', the procedural requirements and criteria set out in paragraphs 200 and 201 of the consultation document are appropriate in principle.
- 37.2. The requirement to prepare and submit a statement establishing how Local Planning Authorities consider a draft Supplementary Plan addresses relevant criteria is considered helpful and could usefully provide a structure for examination and avoid the need for extensive Matters, Issues and Questions or similar such submissions.
- 37.3. On this basis it may also be useful for the Local Planning Authority to as part of this submission, differentiate between evidence supporting the wider Local Plan and that specifically prepared to support Supplementary Plan preparation. It is assumed Supplementary Plans would benefit from the wider reforms proposed within this consultation regarding evidence base - this principle is supported, subject to the reservations previously expressed by Shropshire Council.
- 37.4. Additionally, Shropshire Council supports transitional provisions (proposed by the previous consultation on reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and identified in paragraphs 203 of this consultation) which allow existing Supplementary Planning Documents to remain in force until a new local plan is adopted.
- 37.5. It is noted that the consultation suggests that there is a review of existing Supplementary Planning Documents to establish those which need to be incorporated into Local Plans and those which can be identified as 'guidance', aiding interpretation of policy. It is assumed such 'guidance' would constitute a material consideration in the planning process.

- 37.6. As such status is very similar to that of existing Supplementary Planning Documents, Shropshire Council would strongly encourage this principle to be 'formalised' to provide greater clarity on the policy framework for an area and also assisting in 'streamlining' content of Local Plans. These resultant documents could be termed 'accompanying guidance'.

Chapter 12: Minerals and Waste Plans

Question 38: Are there any unique challenges facing the preparation of minerals and waste plans which we should consider in developing the approach to implement the new plan-making system?

Shropshire Council Response:

- 38.1. Planning for minerals and waste entails a distinctly different process to planning for other forms of development. Minerals are essential raw materials which can only be worked where they are found, but the relationship of mineral working to existing communities and built form is very different to that for other development. A similar issue exists for some waste management facilities. As such, the approach to achieving meaningful and effective public engagement; undertaking effective site assessments; and the presentation of the strategy, local development management policies, and site guidelines for these issues, are also different to that for other forms of development.
- 38.2. A key challenge in planning for aggregate minerals is that often significant quantities of mineral resource are extracted for needs beyond the Mineral Planning Authority area (and the communities within it) from which they are derived. This is particularly the case for crushed rock. Appropriate guidance and data on these issues, produced or collated at a national level would significantly aid Mineral Planning Authorities in undertaking robust assessments of need and robustly planning for mineral provision.
- 38.3. Similarly, it is important to recognise that waste streams inevitably cross Waste Planning Authority boundaries. A key driver for this is the fact that certain waste streams are relatively small and/or require specialist processing, as such they are drawn from a wider area to a single facility in order for their treatment to be commercially viable. This also positively responds to the principles of sustainable development and efficient use of land. Waste management is also a commercial process, so there is competition within the market for the treatment of waste.
- 38.4. As such, guidance and legislation needs to be very clear that Waste Planning Authorities are not expected to manage the entirety of the waste that is generated within their administrative area – which is not feasible. Rather guidance and legislation should require that Waste Planning Authorities plan to make provision for equivalent waste management capacity to the amount of waste generated within their area, albeit this may be for different waste streams and for reasons of commerciality in the market, the entirety of this capacity may or may not be utilised.
- 38.5. Furthermore, the role of Aggregate Working Parties and Resource Technical Advisory Boards in assisting with the process of achieving meaningful engagement between Mineral and Waste Planning Authorities and with the relevant industries also needs to be explicitly recognised.

Chapter 13: Community Land Auctions

Question 39: Do you have any views on how we envisage the Community Land Auctions process would operate?

Shropshire Council Response:

- 39.1. Shropshire Council recognises the intention of this mechanism of capturing more of the land value uplift for infrastructure provision, associated with securing a planning allocation and subsequent planning permission. However, the Council is concerned with a number of components of this proposal, including:
- a. How the financial implications of Community Land Auctions would be balanced with the wider factors considered as part of the site assessment process and the principle of sustainable development.
 - b. Potential reluctance of landowners and developers to make available commercial information and associated risk (actual or perception) of site promotions being 'disenfranchised' from the process if they fail to make this information available or engage in the Community Land Auction process.
 - c. How Community Land Auctions would interplay with the principle of 'brownfield' first. Such sites may be cheaper to purchase but are often more expensive to develop.
 - d. How Community Land Auctions would effectively interplay with other forms of developer contributions.
 - e. Implications on reality/perception of the objectivity of the site assessment process amongst landowners, developers and communities.
 - f. How the site assessment process, integrating Community Land Auctions, would be appropriately considered during the examination process.
 - g. Resource and time implications – undertaking more complex site assessments; the need for greater resource/expertise in the field of land valuations; and the potential legal resources required to support this process.
 - h. Implications for Community Land Auction 'options' if sites are ultimately not allocated within the plan as a result of examination. Plus the associated risk of the added complexity/timescale implications of identifying alternative site allocations in these circumstances.
 - i. Increased risk of legal challenges of plan making.
 - j. Risks once sites are allocated – approach to activating/transferring the 'option'; risk of discussions 'breaking down' / failure to transfer the 'option' due to increased land values as a result of allocation; and risk of changes to schemes in an attempt to ensure viability / maximising profit in changing markets.
- 39.2. It is noted that the consultation indicates further information will be forthcoming on the specific approach to Community Land Auctions. This detail may alleviate some or all of these concerns.

Question 40: To what extent should financial considerations be taken into account by local planning authorities in Community Land Auction pilots, when deciding to allocate sites in the local plan, and how should this be balanced against other factors?

Shropshire Council Response:

- 40.1. Please see response to Question 39 of this consultation.
- 40.2. If Community Land Auctions are to be introduced it must be very clear and transparent regarding the amount of weight attributed to the associated financial considerations and implications if site promoters fail to engage in the process.
- 40.3. Irrespective of the level of transparency, Shropshire Council is concerned that there will remain a perception that the process is no longer objective and the associated risks that this entails.
- 40.4. Ultimately it will be important to ensure that any guidance on the process of considering Community Land Auctions within the site assessment process is aligned with consideration during examination.

Chapter 14: Approach to Roll-Out and Transition

Question 41: Which of these options should be implemented, and why? Are there any alternative options that we should be considering?

Shropshire Council Response:

- 41.1. Shropshire Council is very much supportive of the intention to establish ‘front runner’ Local Planning Authorities to pilot the new plan making process and establish a strong foundation of learning and best practice for other Local Planning Authorities to draw upon. For the same reasons, the Council would encourage this principle to be similarly applied to Mineral and Waste Planning Authorities.
- 41.2. Shropshire Council also supports the principle of identifying ‘waves’ of around 25 Local Planning Authorities, to commence plan making, as this will assist in ensuring the availability of professional capacity in the sector – particularly that of the Planning Inspectorate.
- 41.3. In terms of how cohorts of Local Planning Authorities for each ‘wave’ are identified, there are clear advantages of grouping Local Planning Authorities by geography as this would support joint working on evidence, increase the ability to effectively engage and increase the ability to achieve complementary strategies. It is also important to note that the order established at this stage, will of course be repeated at each future cycle. However, this also needs to be tempered by the principle of prioritising Local Planning Authorities with older Local Plans. As such, a hybrid of these two considerations may be best.

Chapter 15: Saving Existing Plans and Planning Documents

Question 42: Do you agree with our proposals for saving existing plans and planning documents? If not, why?

Shropshire Council Response:

42.1. Shropshire Council supports the proposed approach to 'saving' existing plans and planning documents. It ensures that there is no 'vacuum' between the operation of these existing plans and planning documents and the introduction of a Local Plan under the new system.

42.2. It is also sufficiently flexible to respond to the transition period over which Local Plans under the new system will be brought forward.

Equalities Impacts

Question 43: Do you have any views on the potential impact of the proposals raised in this consultation on people with protected characteristics as defined in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010?

Shropshire Council Response:

43.1. There may be a need to consider the implications of changes to the approach and timescales for public consultation on people with protected characteristics as defined in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, particularly those that are less able or engaged in digital technology.

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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