



Shropshire Council
 Legal and Democratic Services
 Shirehall
 Abbey Foregate
 Shrewsbury
 SY2 6ND
 Date: Wednesday, 28 June 2023

Committee: Council

Date: Thursday, 6 July 2023

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: Council Chamber, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6ND

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

Members of the Council – a briefing note will be circulated by e-mail prior to the meeting with important housekeeping details and arrangements for the meeting.

Members of the Public – If you wish to attend the meeting, please e-mail democracy@shropshire.gov.uk to check whether 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

Vince Hunt (Chairman)	Rachel Connolly	Kirstie Hurst-Knight
Brian Williams (Vice Chairman)	Gerald Dakin	Mike Isherwood
Lezley Picton (Leader)	Rosemary Dartnall	Mark Jones
Ian Nellins (Deputy Leader)	Steve Davenport	Simon Jones
Roy Aldcroft	Mary Davies	Duncan Kerr
Jeff Anderson	Julian Dean	Heather Kidd
Caroline Bagnall	Geoff Elner	Christian Lea
Nicholas Bardsley	David Evans	Hilary Luff
Joyce Barrow	Julia Evans	Nigel Lumby
Bernie Bentick	Roger Evans	Elliott Lynch
Thomas Biggins	Paul Gill	Robert Macey
Ed Bird	Rob Gittins	Richard Marshall
Andy Boddington	Nat Green	David Minnery
Peter Broomhall	Kate Halliday	Dan Morris
Julia Buckley	Simon Harris	Pamela Moseley
Garry Burchett	Nigel Hartin	Alan Mosley
Gwilym Butler	Nick Hignett	Cecilia Motley
Dean Carroll	Ruth Houghton	Peggy Mullock
Steve Charmley	Richard Huffer	Kevin Pardy
Ted Clarke	Tracey Huffer	Vivienne Parry

Tony Parsons
John Price
Ed Potter
Chris Schofield
Dan Thomas

Robert Tindall
Edward Towers
Kevin Turley
David Vasmer
Alex Wagner

Claire Wild
Mark Williams
Rob Wilson
Paul Wynn

Your Committee Officer is:

Tim Ward Committee Officer

Tel: 01743 257713

Email: tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk

AGENDA

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Disclosable Pecuniary 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 - 12)

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 May 2023

4 Announcements

To receive such communications as the Chairman, Leader and Head of Paid Service may desire to lay before the Council.

5 Public Questions

To receive any questions from the public, notice of which has been given in accordance with Procedure Rule 14. Deadline for notification is 5.00 pm on Friday 30th June 2023

6 Financial Outturn 2022/23 (Pages 13 - 58)

Report of the Executive Director of Resources is attached

Contact: James Walton. Tel. 01743 258915

7 Levelling Up Fund Award for Shrewsbury (Pages 59 - 82)

Report of the Executive Director of Place is attached

Contact Mark Barrow Tel: 01743258919

8 Local Authority Housing Fund Round 2 (Pages 83 - 110)

Report of the Executive Director of Place is attached

Contact Mark Barrow Tel: 01743258919

9 Annual Report of the Portfolio Holder Finance and Corporate Resources (Pages 111 - 126)

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate Resources is attached

10 Annual Report of the Portfolio Holder – Culture and Digital (Pages 127 - 144)

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Culture and Digital is attached

11 Changes to Committee Membership

Transformation and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Kevin Turley is appointed as a member of the Transformation and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Robert Tindall is appointed as a substitute member of the Transformation and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Economy & Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Peggy Mullock to replace Councillor Ed Bird as a substitute member of the Economy & Environment Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Chris Schofield to replace Councillor Jeff Anderson as a substitute member of the Economy & Environment Scrutiny Committee

People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Viv Parry to replace Councillor Mark Williams as a member of the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Mark Williams to replace Councillor Viv Parry as a substitute member of the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Northern Planning Committee

Councillor Roy Aldcroft is appointed as a substitute member of the Northern Planning Committee

12 Motions

The following motions have been received in accordance with Procedure Rule 16:

a **Motion received from Councillor Dan Thomas and supported by Councillors Simon Harris, Kirstie Hurst-Knight, Ian Nellins and Lezley Picton.**

Shropshire Council believes that the use of disposable vapes by young people is concerning. The marketing of colourful, candy-flavoured vapes that are relatively cheap with easy access to them will create a new generation of nicotine addicts and the subsequent public health crisis. We've seen a seven-fold increase in 11 to 17-year-olds nationally choosing single-use vaping products since 2021. The overall message for adult smokers that they are 'better than smoking' means many think they are not harmful, yet there has been no specific research undertaken into the health impacts of vaping on young people's development, including their respiratory health, and impacts for adults in the long term are not yet clear.

We are particularly concerned about disposable vapes which contain lithium and copper. These elements are crucial for our efforts to tackle climate change through the green transition. Shropshire has a unique and beautiful countryside, and it's becoming more and more regular to see disposable vape pens littered there.

Shropshire Council, therefore, calls on the Government to legislate for a ban on the sale

of disposable vapes. This will help to prevent a new public health catastrophe among children and tackle the vast and growing environmental impact of the devices, especially the single-use plastic and use of lithium batteries that are hard to recycle and pose a fire risk.

- b **Motion submitted by Cllr. Julia Evans and supported by the Green Group**
Motion to stop the use of Glyphosates and oppose the use of Neonicotinoids in Shropshire by both Shropshire Council and Shrewsbury Town Council when contracted to do works for the former.

This Council notes:

In 2015, the International Agency for Research on Cancer an agency for the World Health Organisation, published it's findings into the relationship between cancer and glyphosate – a herbicide – and classified it as possibly carcinogenic – it had scientific data that it definitely caused malignant tumours in animals. Glyphosate causes damage in human DNA and chromosomes and is associated with the blood cancer, Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. This is all before the damage it will inflict on our insect and mammal species.
(1)

There has been a 60% increase in the use of pesticides such as glyphosate in the UK since 1990 [3]. Italy, Portugal and the Canadian city of Vancouver have all banned use of glyphosate [or glyphosate based weed killers] and France is working towards this. Mosanto and German owner Bayer face 9,000 lawsuits in the US from those that believe their illnesses are caused by this product, a \$6.9 million settlement in June this year as Monsanto falsely continues to state that it's product is safe [2 and 4]. That recent studies published in ScienceDirect show a 41% increased risk of Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma caused by exposure from glyphosate-based weed killers and products [5]. In Shropshire Unitary Council – there is no Policy on Glyphosate use or guidance on how to use.

This Council believes:

- There is compelling evidence that glyphosate and a wide range of other herbicides and pesticides may be harmful to human health
- The use of pesticides and weed killers reduces biodiversity, impacting negatively on insects, birds and bees, in a time when the world is losing 2.5% of its insect population per-year [6].
- Harmful weed killer residues can creep into the food chain.
- Pets and children should not be playing in parks treated with such chemicals.

This Council resolves to:

- Phase out the use of all pesticides and weed killers on council land, upholding the ban on neonicotinoids.
- Cut out all use of glyphosate based treatments in all council operations in from December 2023.
- Trial pesticide-free alternatives during this period, to use biodegradable foam or hot steam treatments on weeds. To be decided by Executive.
- Grant an exception to the above ban regarding the control of Japanese knotweed, or other invasive species, where there are currently no effective mechanical techniques available. However, in this case chemicals such as glyphosate will only be stem-injected, rather than sprayed, to reduce its spread in the environment.
- Grant an exception on sprays only in relation to Giant Hogweed where it's not safe to be dug out or safely removed by other means.
- Formulate a Policy for pesticides inclusive of above and include Staff protective

equipment when handling and using pesticides.

- Write to the prime minister to inform the government of this Council's opposition to glyphosate-based pesticides and to call for a UK-wide programme to phase out use

1. <https://www.iarc.who.int/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/MonographVolume112-1.pdf>
2. <https://www.syracuse.com/state/2023/06/bayer-to-pay-69-million-in-ny-settlement-over-false-claims-about-weedkiller-roundup.html>
3. <http://www.pan-uk.org/pesticides-agriculture-uk/>
4. <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2018/oct/07/monsanto-trial-cancer-appeal-glyphosate-chemical>
5. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1383574218300887>
6. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/feb/10/plummeting-insect-numbers-threaten->

13 Questions from Members (Pages 145 - 154)

To receive any questions from Members, notice of which has been given in accordance with Procedure Rule 15.2.

14 Report of the Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority (Pages 155 - 158)

To receive the report of the Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority arising from its meeting held on 14 June 2023

15 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

16 Exempt Minutes (Pages 159 - 160)

To approve as a correct record the exempt minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 May 2023

17 Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme Update (Pages 161 - 182)

Exempt report of the Executive Director of Place is attached

Contact Mark Barrow Tel: 01743258919



Committee and Date

Council

6 July 2023

COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2023

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

10.00 - 11.50 am

Responsible Officer: Tim Ward

Email: tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 257713

Present

Councillors Vince Hunt (Chairman) Lezley Picton (Leader), Brian Williams (Vice Chairman), Ian Nellins (Deputy Leader), Roy Aldcroft, Jeff Anderson, Caroline Bagnall, Nicholas Bardsley, Joyce Barrow, Thomas Biggins, Ed Bird, Andy Boddington, Peter Broomhall, Julia Buckley, Garry Burchett, Gwilym Butler, Dean Carroll, Steve Charmley, Ted Clarke, Rachel Connolly, Gerald Dakin, Rosemary Dartnall, Steve Davenport, Mary Davies, Julian Dean, Geoff Elner, David Evans, Julia Evans, Roger Evans, Paul Gill, Nat Green, Kate Halliday, Simon Harris, Nigel Hartin, Nick Hignett, Ruth Houghton, Kirstie Hurst-Knight, Mike Isherwood, Mark Jones, Simon Jones, Duncan Kerr, Heather Kidd, Christian Lea, Hilary Luff, Nigel Lumby, Robert Macey, Richard Marshall, Dan Morris, Pamela Moseley, Alan Mosley, Cecilia Motley, Peggy Mullock, Vivienne Parry, Tony Parsons, John Price, Chris Schofield, Dan Thomas, Robert Tindall, Edward Towers, Kevin Turley, David Vasmer, Alex Wagner, Claire Wild, Mark Williams, Rob Wilson and Paul Wynn

1 Election of Chairman

The Chief Executive informed the Council that he had just received the formal resignation of the Chairman, Councillor Vince Hunt, with immediate effect, thus enabling him to remain in the Chamber and vote in the event of his nomination for the office of Chairman. The Vice-Chairman took the Chair and called for nominations for the election of Chairman of Shropshire Council.

It was proposed by the Leader, Councillor Lezley Picton and seconded by the Deputy Leader, Councillor Ian Nellins that Councillor Vince Hunt be elected as Chairman of Shropshire Council.

It was **RESOLVED:**

That Councillor Vince Hunt be elected as Chairman of Shropshire Council to hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council on 9 May 2024.

Councillor Hunt then took the Chair and subscribed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office before being invested with the Chairman's badge of office.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bernie Bentick, Rob Gittins, Richard Huffer, Tracey Huffer, Elliot Lynch, David Minnery, Kevin Pardy and Ed Potter

3 Election of Vice Chairman

The Chief Executive then informed the Council that he had just received the formal resignation of the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Brian Williams, with immediate effect, thus enabling him to remain in the Chamber and vote in the event of his nomination for the office of Vice-Chairman. The Chairman called for nominations for the election of Vice-Chairman of Shropshire Council.

The Leader, Councillor Lezley Picton proposed that Councillor Brian Williams be elected as Vice Chairman of Shropshire Council. This was seconded by the Deputy Leader, Councillor Ian Nellins.

It was **RESOLVED**: -

That Councillor Brian Williams should be appointed as Vice-Chairman of Shropshire Council to hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council on 9 May 2024.

4 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

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

There were no declarations made.

5 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 30 March 2023, as circulated with the agenda papers, be approved and signed as a correct record.

6 Announcements

Chairman's Engagements

The Chairman referred Members to the list of official engagements carried out by himself and the Vice Chairman since the last meeting of the Council on 30th March 2022, which had been circulated by email prior to the meeting.

7 Public Questions

The Chairman advised that public questions had been received from Heather Waters, Linton Waters and Tom Forrester. A copy of the questions and the responses provided are attached to the minutes and available from the web page for the meeting.

[Agenda for Council on Thursday, 11th May, 2023, 10.00 am — Shropshire Council](#)

8 Constitution of Committees and Allocation of Seats to Political Groups

It was proposed by the Chairman, Councillor Vince Hunt and seconded by the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Brian Williams that the report of the Assistant Director of Legal and Governance, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received, and agreed.

RESOLVED:

That the Council confirms the constitution of committees and the allocation of seats to each of the political groups for the 20223/24 municipal year and the allocation of seats between the political groups, as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 to the report.

9 Scheme of Delegation

The Chairman, Councillor Vince Hunt moved that the Responsibility for Functions, set out in Part 3 of the Constitution and the Scheme of Delegations, set out in Part 8 of the Constitution be approved. This was seconded by the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Brian Williams.

RESOLVED:

That the Responsibility for Functions, as set out in Part 3 of the Constitution and the Scheme of Delegations, as set out in Part 8 of the Constitution be approved

10 Update on Scrutiny Arrangements

It was proposed by the Leader, Councillor Lezley Picton, and seconded by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate Resources Councillor Gwilym Butler, that the report of the Chief Executive, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received, and agreed.

RESOLVED:

That Members approve the proposed amendments to the overview and scrutiny arrangements within the Constitution as set out in the appendix to the report

11 Motions

The following motion was received from Councillor Joyce Barrow and supported by Councillors David Evans, Simon Harris and Chris Schofield

Dark Skies

Preamble:

Shropshire Council has a Statutory Duty to address issues of pollution, and a Statutory Duty to determine applications for planning. In carrying out that latter duty, considerable care, and attention is given to the environmental impacts (including pollution) of proposed development. Developers are required to submit assessments of the impacts of development on wildlife, and mitigation measures for dealing with any pollution which may be generated by the development.

A 2016 study found that 80 percent of the world – and more than 99 percent of the US and European populations – live under skies polluted by artificial light, impairing their views of the stars above them.

Artificial lighting, particularly in residential areas, can adversely affect people's ability to sleep and ability to view the night sky. The two main causes are the general loss of night sky from the cumulative effects of urban lighting, and the nuisance caused by single sources that emit high levels of glare. The visibility of the night sky is most affected by artificial lighting that is projected upwards and excessive lighting that is reflected upwards, in particular by lighting that creates more blue light (cooler colour temperatures).

The welfare and enjoyment of Shropshire is associated with its character, including its night-time ambience. Shropshire also values the practice of energy conservation, and therefore sustainable outdoor lighting practices should be encouraged to decrease the human impact on the environment since light pollution represents a waste of energy, contributing to our carbon footprint.

The need for outdoor light at night may be appropriately met by considering the purpose of the light, targeting it appropriately to that purpose, using the correct illumination level, limiting the duration of its use to legitimate need, and choosing lights that emit lower amounts of harmful blue light into the night-time environment. Properly designed electric lighting at night can be beautiful, healthy, and functional; saving energy and money, reducing light pollution, and minimizing wildlife disruption.

MOTION:

1. In accordance with its aim of promoting the health and well-being of the residents of Shropshire: AND as part of its statutory duties in relation to pollution control AND planning, the Council will promote sustainable outdoor lighting, through both direct action where the Council has control of lighting sources, through planning policy in relation to new developments, and by advocacy with businesses and residents to encourage more consideration of

the need for light during hours of darkness and alternative solutions e.g. use of motion sensors or infra-red sensors for security purposes.

2. The aim will be to eliminate or reduce wherever possible, instances of light pollution throughout Shropshire. As part of this policy for sustainable lighting, the Council will examine ways to reduce light pollution from both urban and rural settlements and consider areas which might be designated as 'dark sky' places suitable for the enjoyment of the night sky. To further this aim the Council will liaise with other Local Authorities in England and Wales seeking examples of best practice, and with Parish Councils within Shropshire for their views and suggestions as to how the aim might be achieved.

The motion was seconded by Councillor David Evans

By way of amendment Councillor Rachel Connolly proposed the following: -

After preamble 4th para, add:

This clearly needs to be balanced with Shropshire Council's Duty of Care towards pedestrians and their right to a safe environment to walk in. For some essential walking routes this might require additional, brighter and/or longer lighting to make walking a safe travel choice, such as: alleyways, near open spaces, footpaths leading to places of work for shift workers and entrances to public transport. These essential walking routes would be less viable in the dark.

Another aspect of promoting the health and well-being of Shropshire residents, and working to combat climate change; relies upon encouraging more residents to walk rather than drive, wherever possible (especially journeys under 2 miles). In order to promote walking, safety is paramount.

Shift workers, lone women and younger people may only choose to walk if they feel it is safe enough to do so. Retaining stronger lighting along the essential walking routes, may provide a secure environment, not just to reduce risk of assault and trip hazards, but crucially, to instil confidence in pedestrians to feel safe when walking outside of daylight hours.

Add after Motion 2, add:

3. Notwithstanding this aim, as part of the mapping process, Shropshire Council will work with partner Parish and Town Councils to identify those essential walking routes, whose lighting requires retention in order to provide additional confidence to encourage pedestrians towards active travel; and ensure these routes are exempt from any lighting reductions.

Councillor Barrow indicated that she would accept the amendment.

On taking a vote the motion was supported and it was **RESOLVED:**

1. That in accordance with its aim of promoting the health and well-being of the residents of Shropshire: AND as part of its statutory duties in relation to pollution

control AND planning, the Council will promote sustainable outdoor lighting, through both direct action where the Council has control of lighting sources, through planning policy in relation to new developments, and by advocacy with businesses and residents to encourage more consideration of the need for light during hours of darkness and alternative solutions e.g. use of motion sensors or infra-red sensors for security purposes.

2. The aim will be to eliminate or reduce wherever possible, instances of light pollution throughout Shropshire. As part of this policy for sustainable lighting, the Council will examine ways to reduce light pollution from both urban and rural settlements and consider areas which might be designated as 'dark sky' places suitable for the enjoyment of the night sky. To further this aim the Council will liaise with other Local Authorities in England and Wales seeking examples of best practice, and with Parish Councils within Shropshire for their views and suggestions as to how the aim might be achieved.
3. Notwithstanding this aim, as part of the mapping process, Shropshire Council will work with partner Parish and Town Councils to identify those essential walking routes, whose lighting requires retention in order to provide additional confidence to encourage pedestrians towards active travel; and ensure these routes are exempt from any lighting reductions.

The following motion was received from Councillor Lezley Picton and supported by Councillors Ian Nellins, Dean Carroll, Simon Harris, Brian Williams and the Conservative Group

Motion – Time for the Fair Game manifesto in football

Shropshire Council believes that football, the national game in the UK, is currently in crisis.

COVID-19 devastated the revenue of many lower-league clubs, and the cost-of-living crisis could be the knock out blow for dozens of clubs.

Frequently bad management has gone unnoticed or ignored and clubs are run unsustainably, putting at risk all the history, heritage, and economic benefit they bring to an area – often in pursuit of short-term gain.

Shropshire Council believes that football clubs are not ordinary businesses; they are historic sporting institutions that are both a civic and community asset, and a source of pride and unity, in their hometown or city.

Shropshire Council therefore supports Fair Game, a national campaign that seeks radical reform of the way football is managed and run, specifically its call for:

- An independent regulator for the sport.
- A refocus on 'values' rather than profit.
- Football clubs to be recognised as key parts of local communities.

- The establishment of a Sustainability Index, which will reallocate the payments made to clubs to reward those which are run well, respect equality standards and properly engage with their fans and their community.
- Fans to be given the final say on any proposed change to a club's 'crown jewels', including the club's name, nickname, colours, badge and the geographical location from where the club plays.
- Council also notes that the Government has published a White Paper developed from a Government-commissioned fan-led review into football governance led by former Sports Minister Tracey Crouch MP, and that a vast majority of its findings mirror Fair Game's aspirations.

Shropshire Council therefore resolves to:

- Declare its support for the Fair Game manifesto, 'Solutions for our National Game', and calls on other councils to join us in our support.
- Ask the Council's representatives to encourage other like-minded councils to support Fair Game
- Ask the Leader and the Chief Executive to write to the Minister for Sport, our local Members of Parliament, and the Chair of the Local Government Association Culture, Tourism and Sport Board, to lobby for the following to be included in the new remit of the Independent Regulator as proposed in the White Paper:

Football's Financial Flow (particularly over: proportion of broadcast revenues given by the Premier League, the abolition of parachute payments, and the allocation of funds from the Premier League);

Owners' and Directors' Test to include an 'ethics' dimension, particularly around human rights;

Implementation of a Sustainability Index to accurately measure club's progress;

To include National League North and South clubs under their control;

To have stronger powers to implement and enforce governance; and

Measurement of equality standards.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Simon Harris

On taking a vote the motion was supported

The following motion received from Councillor Bernie Bentick and supported by the Liberal Democrat Group and was proposed by Councillor Alex Wagner

Filling the Cavities of Dental Services in Shropshire

This Council notes that:

1. A recent YouGov survey shows that one in five Britons (22%) are currently not registered with a dentist. It also shows that the majority of the unregistered are unable to access or afford treatment. More than a third 37% say it's because they cannot find an NHS dentist to take them on, with a further 5% on a waiting list, while another 23% say they're not registered because they don't think they can afford to be treated.

<https://yougov.co.uk/topics/politics/articles-reports/2023/03/22/one-ten-britons-have-performed-dentistry-themselve>

2. The Great British Oral Health Report – which combines a public attitudes survey with national data – found that 24% of people had not had a dental check up in the last 2 years. Of those who had not had a dental check up in the last 2 years, 56 per cent said this was because they could not get access to a dentist

<https://dentistry.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/the-great-british-oral-health-report-2021.pdf>

3. Figures show nearly one-in-three youngsters aged five in England has tooth decay. In a survey of 5-year-olds in England, the number of children with enamel and/or dentinal decay was 29.3%. In Shropshire, the number is 15% compared with 4% in Cannock Chase.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/oral-health-survey-of-5-year-old-children-2022/national-dental-epidemiology-programme-ndep-for-england-oral-health-survey-of-5-year-old-children-2022>

4. Currently there are 68 NHS general dental practices across our ICS area. However, on 17th April 2023 there were only 50 NHS Dental Practice listed for Shropshire. <https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-dentist>. Of these 19 were not accepting new patients, 18 had not provided a recent update on availability, 7 were only accepting patients from other dentists and just 6 were accepting children aged 17 or under with the nearest to Shrewsbury being Bayston Hill followed by Much Wenlock; only 5 were accepting adults or those entitled to free dental care, the nearest site being Telford; however, access to a dental practice was offered in Walsall and Oldhill, both 33 miles away from Shrewsbury. The response to my Question to HASC on 27th March 2023 included “a clinically led Shropshire Dental Advice Line which can be accessed by dialling 01743 237916” However, upon dialling this number, I received an automated response to phone back later.5 minutes later, I phoned again and entered a queue, estimated at 43 minutes.

This not an adequate service.

This Council resolves to:

1. Liaise with Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Integrated Care System (STW ICS) to ensure that there is sufficient funding and dentist availability to guarantee

that all eligible Shropshire residents are able to register with an NHS Dentist within their locality or nearest town and;

2. Demand that STW ICS keep an updated dashboard of Dentist availability, new patient registrations and those without a registered dentist, to ensure compliance and;
3. Regularly scrutinise the provision of dental service by using Shropshire's Health Scrutiny Committees (HASC & Joint HOSC)

On taking a vote the motion was not supported

12 Questions from Members

The Speaker advised that the following questions had been received in accordance with Procedure Rule 15. A copy of the report containing the detailed questions and their formal response is attached to the signed minutes.

Received from Councillor Tom Biggins and answered by the Portfolio Holder for Highways and Regulatory Services in relation to the installation of a new mini-roundabout at the junction of Claypit Street and London Road, Whitchurch. By way of supplementary question Councillor Biggins asked the Leader of the Council to take a personal interest in the matter

Received from Councillor Ruth Houghton and answered by the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, Public Health, and Communities in relation to attendance allowance. By way of supplementary question Councillor Houghton asked how the Council will help those people who are eligible but don't come under adult social care to gain access to attendance allowance. The Portfolio Holder agreed to provide a response outside of the meeting.

Received from Councillor Heather Kidd and answered by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate Resources in relation to the Marches LEP. By way of supplementary question Councillor Kidd asked what plans were in place in case of a gap in funding caused by the ending of the LEP. The Portfolio Holder advised the meeting that he had already been in discussion with the Executive Director of Resources regarding an exit strategy around the LEP and the funding pots which have not yet been allocated. He added that when more detail was available, he would post a briefing note on the Member Gateway.

Received from Councillor Julian Dean and answered by the Portfolio Holder for Growth, Regeneration and Housing in relation to the Shropshire Economic Partnership Board. By way of supplementary question Councillor Dean asked that when the report to Members was done it included an impact report to show whether the money spent aligned with the Council's priorities. He also asked whether the Portfolio Holder was content with the rate of use of the money. The Portfolio Holder confirmed that he would provide a response outside of the meeting.

Received from Councillor Julia Buckley and answered by the Portfolio Holder for Highways and Regulatory Services in relation to highway repairs in Bridgnorth. By way of supplementary question Councillor Buckley asked why he felt that the level of service she had outlined was acceptable. The Portfolio Holder outlined further work that had been carried out on the example that Councillor Buckley had given. He confirmed that Bridgnorth received the same priority with regard to highway repairs as all other parts of the county.

Received from Councillor Rob Wilson and answered by the Portfolio Holder for Highways and Regulatory Services in relation to aligning the LCWIP with the highways resurfacing programme. By way of supplementary question Councillor Wilson asked when the first LTN120 compliant piece of infrastructure in Shropshire. The Portfolio Holder agreed to supply a response outside of the meeting

13 **Dates of Future Meetings**

RESOLVED:

That meetings of the Council in 2023 – 2024 would be held on the following Thursdays, commencing at 10.00 am.

6 July 2023
21 September 2023
14 December 2023
29 February 2024
21 March 2024
9 May 2024

14 **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

15 **Exempt Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the Exempt Minutes of the meeting held on 30 March 2023, as circulated with the agenda papers, be approved, and signed as a correct record

16 **Cyber Security Proposals**

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Culture and Digital, Councillor Rob Macey, and seconded by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate Resources Councillor Gwilym Butler that the exempt report of the Chief Executive, a copy of which is attached to the signed

minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approve

Signed (Chairman)

Date:

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Committee and Date

Cabinet - 7th June 2023
 Audit Committee - 22nd June 2023
 Council - 6th July 2023

Item

Public



Financial Outturn 2022/23

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1. Synopsis

Shropshire Council ended a very challenging financial year better than expected, with an overspend of £8.5m, better by £1.5m than previous estimates and 3.8% of the net budget. Many of the causes of the overspend have been resolved in the budget for the new financial year.

2. Executive Summary

2.1. This report provides headlines and details of Shropshire Council 2022/23 financial performance for revenue and capital.

2.2. Operationally and financially, 2022/23 was a very challenging year. Challenges included

- a) the invasion of Ukraine and the resulting global inflation pressures,
- b) the energy price increases and the cost of living crisis,
- c) ongoing service pressures,
- d) the removal of Government funding for the impacts of COVID (despite some of these continuing), and
- e) an unusually challenging budget position for 2023/24 to be resolved.

2.3. The Council responded proactively to these challenges and continued to deliver much needed services to local people and businesses. Highlights of the Council's financial management achievements through the year include:

- a) the tactical budget (in response to the emerging inflationary pressures),
- b) repositioning Council activity within the 'Shropshire Plan' (TSP), launched in May for Members and Staff, and setting out a clear sense of the priorities that the Council would be led by, and how the Council can act to shape the lives of Shropshire residents through its partnerships with public and other agencies
- c) the LGA finance peer challenge, and similar reviews of our performance in scrutiny, communications, adults and children's services
- d) a resulting repositioning of the Medium Term Financial Strategy as a key part of the delivery mechanisms for the TSP,
- e) setting up the 'Getting it Right' initiative which gave a clear sense of vision, values, and behaviours for all Council staff, and 'Getting Leadership Right' – a ground-breaking leadership programme specifically designed for the Council, and including the 250 top managers (up to and including the Chief Executive)
- f) preparation of a clear financial plan for 2023/24, presented to and approved by Full Council on 2 March 2023.

2.4. In terms of the LGA finance peer challenge, the team recently returned to consider our progress since the first visit. Overall, they continue to be complimentary about the progress made, but also stark in their assessment of our position. The first report noted that our finances 'while precarious, are not catastrophic'. The follow up review notes, in a similar way, that

"The council has very little remaining in its general reserves to cushion the impact of under-delivery, and will require the delivery of at least 95% of these [2023/24] savings in order for it to avoid depleting its reserves to a level which seriously jeopardises its financial solvency. This is a position which leaves no room for under-delivery."

2.5. The MTFs and budget for 2023/24, agreed by Council in March 2023, includes plans to improve the reserves position, although – as set out above – there is no room for under-delivery in spending reduction plans.

2.6. A key challenge faced by the Council through the last 12 months, has been increases in the inflation rates through the course of the year. At the point of setting the budget, our expectation was for inflation to be around 3% for most of the year. In practice, it has consistently been higher than that. Despite the resulting pressure, the majority of the overspending has been driven by wider demand pressures – the principal impact of the economic changes was to the viability of the commercial property savings planned for the year (and now addressed in the new budget). It is significant, and positive, that the overall position has not been more significantly impacted by those inflationary pressures.

2.7. The overall result for the Council in the context of the challenges and responses set out above can be seen in table 1.

2.8. The key issues for the Council's financial performance in 2022/23 highlighted by this report are:

- a) The Council's revenue outturn position for 2022/23 is an overspend of £8.499m (an improvement of £1.451m when compared with projections made at Quarter 3), which represents a variance of 1.4% on the gross budget (3.8% of net budget).
- b) Consistent forecasting of an overspend of the magnitude during the year, highlighting robust forecasting processes – work is now in hand to ensure that effective interventions to correct overspending are in place across the Council.

- c) A resulting year end position for the General Fund Balance of £7.1m – approx. 50% of the recommended minimum level, but with plans to improve this position for 2023/24.
- d) The Council's capital programme was reprofiled over the year, to align with realistic delivery expectations, to £111.112m. Outturn capital expenditure for 2022/23 is £100.365m, representing 90.3% of the re-profiled budget. All £10.747m of the underspend has been carried forward to the 2023/24 programme.

Table 1: 2022/23 Budget Variations by Service Area (£'000)

Directorate	Revised Budget (£'000)	Controllable Outturn (£'000)	(Under) / Overspend (£'000)	(Under)/ Overspend (%)	RAGY Classification
People	195,734	209,655	13,921		R
Place	70,157	75,263	5,106		R
Strategic Management	33	0	(33)		Y
Health and Wellbeing	2,332	2,025	(307)		Y
Resources	6,622	4,639	(1,983)		Y
Service delivery budgets	274,878	291,582	16,704	6.1%	
Corporate Budgets	(50,262)	(58,467)	(8,205)		Y
Total	224,616	233,115	8,499	3.8%	R

2.9. Three key factors affected the year end position for overall service delivery, which are:

- Activity in Children's Services being higher than anticipated when setting the budget;
- Activity in Adults' services being at a similar level to previous years, but with both working age and older adult clients having more complex – and so more costly care needs, coupled with difficulty moving away from the COVID-era hospital discharge arrangements (so incurring unanticipated costs);
- The inflationary pressures experienced during the year meant that increased income targets, especially in Commercial Services, were no longer viable.

2.10. Corporate budgets (including pensions costs, cost of finance, and other non-operational costs) returned an £8.2m surplus, which reduced the overall outturn to £8.5m overspent (3.8%). This was driven by 2 factors:

- slippage in the delivery of capital programme schemes which reduced the cost of financing incurred during the year (reducing spending below budgeted levels);
- bank interest rates being higher than anticipated (increasing investment returns above budgeted levels).

2.8 The outturn for Council Tax and Business Rates collection was reported to Cabinet in February and were embedded in the values set out in the MTFs approved by Council in March. The Collection Fund outturn was £4.3m surplus. Elsewhere, the overall collection rate for Council Tax achieved the target level of 98.2% (this level of delivery has increased year on year, from 97.7% in 2020/21. This funding supports the delivery of the vital services provided by the Council in support of our objectives, which are set out in The Shropshire Plan.

2.9 Further details are provided in Appendix 1. The movement from the forecast outturn position at Quarter 3 is summarised in Appendix 2.

3. Recommendations

3.1 It is recommended that Members:

In respect of the revenue budget:

- a) Note that the outturn is an overspend of £8.499m.
- b) Note the consequent level of the General Fund balance is £7.093m.
- c) Note the service-related use of £33.192m of Earmarked Reserves & Provisions.
- d) Note that the combination of earmarked and un-earmarked (General) reserves is below a level that would be regarded as safe, taking into account local circumstances. The MTFS sets out an agreed plan to restore these balances to safer levels.

Relating to ringfenced funding:

- e) Note the performance of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) – £0.768m (4%) surplus outturn for 2022/23 on £19m turnover, and the resulting level of the HRA reserve of £12.359m. The level of the accumulated surpluses held as a reserve should be reviewed and an appropriate action plan brought forward.
- f) Note that the level of school balances has increased by £2.296m, from £8.191m in 2021/22 to £10.487m. The level of accumulated net surpluses in schools' balances is considerable, and schools should identify the rationale for holding balances at those levels.

In respect of the capital programme:

- g) Approve net budget variations of -£4.007m to the 2022/23 capital programme (in Appendix 11) and the re-profiled 2022/23 capital budget of £111.112m.
- h) Approve the re-profiled capital budgets of £26.575m for 2023/234, including slippage of £10.747m from 2022/23, £110.787m for 2024/25 and £56.264m for 2025/26 as detailed in Appendix 15.
- i) Accept the outturn expenditure set out in Appendices 12 and 13 of £100.365m, representing 90.3% of the revised capital budget for 2022/23.
- j) Approve retaining a balance of capital receipts set aside of £17.465m as at 31st March 2023 to generate a one-off Minimum Revenue Provision saving of £0.572m in 2023/24.

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1 The management of the Council's Budget is a key process in ensuring the strategic risks are mitigated and the Council can carry out the business as intended and planned for within the Financial Strategy.
- 4.2 When the Council set the Financial Strategy in February 2022, which underpins this report, it took into account the requirements of the relevant legislation and any necessary service user consultation.
- 4.3 The financial results for 2022/23 are better than anticipated, but remain significantly adverse. This highlights an ongoing risk that effective action to address and improve the forecast was not able to be delivered within the year.

4.4 In terms of the recommendations in section 3, risks are as follows:

- a) Revenue budget risks; the issues underlying the outturn position have been substantially mitigated through the budget set for the new financial year. However, overspending in the new year will impact (again) on the General Fund Balance (unallocated reserves), jeopardising the ability of the Council to sustain unanticipated shocks.
- b) Ringfenced budgets: the HRA should hold a level of reserves proportionate to assessed risks. With a further increase in the carried forward surplus, a plan to deploy the HRA accumulated surplus should be prepared. The accumulated surpluses held by schools should be considered by those schools and the Schools Forum should ensure that appropriate plans are in place to deploy them.
- c) Capital programme: budgetary risks arising from the capital programme primarily arise in two ways – inflationary pressures as the construction sector in particular is often highly exposed to price increases, and programme slippages as schemes are delivered slower (or faster) than anticipated. Both of these are reviewed quarterly by those managing the capital investment programme, and the outputs of those reviews are included in updates and revisions to the capital programme. An additional, more detailed review is planned for the summer of 2023, to accommodate the latest information on all capital schemes and proposals.

4.5 The financial position of the Council will be significantly challenged through the new year, 2023/24, as the Council must reduce planned spending from c£695m to c £645m in order to remain within available resources. This £50m spending reduction is the largest efficiency programme the Council has ever undertaken, but it will ensure that the Council is in good financial health across the coming years. To ensure financial sustainability in future years, an overspend on the scale seen in 2022/23 cannot be accommodated.

4.6 Several measures are therefore being undertaken to ensure that the Council has the best chance of success in facing the challenge and to learn from performance in 2022/23, including (for the new year):

- a) More frequent reporting to Chief Officers
- b) Reporting the financial position from the very start of the year
- c) Clear processes for identifying budget variations and appropriate corrective actions
- d) Ensure that budget delivery is part of The Shropshire Plan, and not an obstacle to it
- e) Greater visibility of financial results and projections for budget managers and Directors
- f) Update training in financial management

5. Financial Implications

5.1 This is the subject of the report. Failure to constrain spending within budgets leads to overspending, which must then be funded from un-earmarked reserves. The Council should carry un-earmarked reserves at a level of 5%-15% of turnover – or, £15m-£30m. (This is general advice to Councils provided by Grant Thornton LLP.) The

Council's MTFS, approved by Full Council in March 2023, includes provision to increase the general fund balance (our un-earmarked reserves) to these levels, provided that all spending for the year is constrained within the budgeted levels.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.1. The Council's Financial Strategy supports its strategies for Climate Change and Carbon Reduction in a number of ways. The future programme includes programmes to support a range of initiatives such as moving to LED street lighting; enabling agile and mobile working (including a move to hybrid working at the Council with officers predominantly working from home which has also helped to reduce officer travel); and support for Park and Ride schemes to reduce car emissions within the town centres. A specific climate change revenue budget has been established in 2022/23 and further details about spend in this area is included in Appendix 1 to this report. Several areas of spend in the climate change budget are invest-to-save or future income generating schemes such as energy generation with solar PV or building energy efficiency measures. The climate change schemes involving the Council's assets or infrastructure are included within the capital programme of which further detail can be found within Appendix 16.

7. Background

- 7.1. Budget monitoring reports are produced regularly for Executive Directors, and quarterly for Cabinet, highlighting the anticipated year end projection. The outturn report confirms the actual year end position compared to those earlier projections.
- 7.2. The monitoring reports track progress against agreed budget decisions, consider any budget changes (including re-profiling on Capital), forecast any significant variances to the budget, and enable corrective action to be taken to ensure a balanced budget at year end. Capital schemes are similarly reported on an exception basis.

8. Additional Information

- 8.1 The Council approved a gross budget of £597.560m (net £224.616m) on 24th February 2022. This included savings of £10.655m. The final outturn for 2022/23 shows controllable net revenue expenditure of £223.115m and an overspend of £8.499m.

9. Update on Savings Delivery

- 9.1 69% of the 2022/23 savings required have been delivered. £6.566m savings have not been achieved, and £1.965m of those will be carried forward into 2023/24 to be delivered as soon as possible. The savings outturn in 2022/23 are presented in Appendix 3. The impact on the outturn position of the savings that have not been delivered can be seen in Appendix 5.

10. Analysis of Outturn Projections including Ongoing Budget Pressures

- 10.1 The outturn position of £8.499m overspend (see paragraph 8.2 above) includes ongoing and new budget pressures identified. Appendix 4 lists the ongoing budget pressures that the Council is facing and Appendix 5 reconciles the monitoring position to savings delivery.

11. General Fund Balance

- 11.1 A breakdown of transactions impacting on the General Fund in 2022/23 are detailed in Appendix 6 and this shows a reduction in the balance held of £4.429m to £7.093m. The MTFs approved in March 2023 includes provision to increase this to safe levels, provided that spending is held within budgeted levels in the new financial year.

12 Housing Revenue Account

- 12.1 The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) outturn for 2022/23 shows a surplus of £0.768m against a budgeted deficit of £0.803m, giving a £1.570m variance against the approved budget. This was mainly due to delays in the capital programme resulting in the budgeted revenue contributions to capital (£1.693m) not being required in year. As at 31 March 2023 the HRA reserve stood at £12.359m. A breakdown of the HRA is provided at Appendix 8. Clear plans should be set out for the application of the HRA reserve.

13 Dedicated Schools Grant

- 13.1 There is a (£1.979m) in year surplus reported against the Central Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), leaving a cumulative DSG surplus of £2.695m at the end of the financial year. This in year-surplus was largely due to an in-year underspend reported on the High Needs Block of DSG totalling (£1.177m). There was also an underspend of (£0.083m) against the Council's Schools Growth funding allocation of £0.366m, as well as an underspend of (£0.036m) against the Council's Early Years Block DSG allocation of £17.367m. With the Early Years Block DSG allocation it is important to note that the final Early Years Block DSG allocation is not published until well in to the 2023/24 financial year, so the underspend of (£0.036m) remains a provisional figure until that point.
- 13.2 For context, significant growth was allocated for 2022-23 by the Government; the High Needs Block DSG allocation was significantly increased by £3.946m from £31.797m in 2021-22 to £35.743m in 2022-23. In December 2021, Schools Forum approved a transfer of 0.5% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block to support growth pressures on the High Needs Block. In 2022-23, the Council has been able to fully fund schools in this way, while transferring across the full 0.5% of the Schools Block budget to the High Needs Block budget which has increased the High Needs Block budget in year by £0.949m from the published allocation of £35.743m to a budget of £36.692m. While the expenditure continues to increase year on year in most areas of the budget, the level of spend has not increased by as much as the increase in High Needs Block DSG allocation.
- 13.3 While carrying a surplus of £2.695m forward reflects a healthy financial position for the Council's DSG, it is important to note that a small proportion of high-cost, low incident cases can disproportionately impact the High Needs Block DSG financial position. We know that many young people have been adversely impacted over the past 3 years and this is no different for SEND children, and may well be even more

pronounced. The impact over this period has the potential to see the number of vulnerable children and young people presenting with complex mental health and behavioural needs requiring provision increasing and this will have a knock on effect on the High Needs Block DSG as we meet the needs of this cohort. A 3 year-forecasting exercise was undertaken for the High Needs Block DSG and presented to Schools Forum in January 2023. This concluded that while the current DSG financial position is healthy, less anticipated growth in the High Needs Block DSG allocation for 2024-25 financial year indicates that the Council could move from a forecasted surplus as at the end of 2023/24 financial year to a forecasted deficit at the end of 2024/25 financial year if demand growth assumptions are accurate.

14 Reserves and Provisions

- 14.1 The overall position for reserves and provisions is set out in the Statement of Accounts 2022/23, however a detailed breakdown of the balances is contained at Appendix 9 and shows an overall reduction of £33.192m in reserves and provision (excl. delegated schools balances).

15. Original & Final Capital Programme for 2022/23

- 15.1 The capital budget for 2022/23 was subject to a review of all projects at Quarter 3 and re-profiling where required into future years with no further re-profiling into future years being anticipated during Quarter 4. However, in Quarter 4 it has been necessary to undertake further re-profiling of £1.017m. Additionally, in Quarter 4 there has been a net budget decrease of £2.990m for 2022/23. In total, during Quarter 4 there has been a net budget decrease of £4.007m compared to the position reported at Quarter 3 2022/23. Appendix 10 summarises the overall movement, between that already approved and changes for Quarter 4 that require approval.

16. Capital Outturn Position

- 16.1 Total capital expenditure for 2022/23 was £100.365m, which equated to 90.3% of the re-profiled capital programme of £111.112m. Appendix 11 summarises the outturn position for 2022/23 with Appendix 13 detailing the capital financing of the programme. A summary of significant variances by directorate and service area are provided in Appendix 12.

17. Projected Future Capital Programme

- 17.1 The updated capital programme and the financing of the programme is summarised by year in Appendix 14.

18. Capital Receipts Position

- 18.1 Appendix 15 summarises the current allocated and projected capital receipt position across 2022/23 to 2025/26.

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

Financial Strategy 2022/23 – 2026/27

Financial Rules

Financial Monitoring Report – Quarter 1 2022/23

Financial Monitoring Report – Quarter 2 2022/23

Financial Monitoring Report – Quarter 3 2022/23

Appendices

Appendix 1 – 2022/23 Budget Variations by Service

Appendix 2 – Movement in Projections Between Q3 and Outturn

Appendix 3 – Update on Delivery of 2022/23 Savings Proposals

Appendix 4 – Ongoing Budget Pressures

Appendix 5 – Reconciliation of Monitoring Projections to Savings Delivery

Appendix 6 – General Fund Balance

Appendix 7 – Amendments to Original Budget

Appendix 8 – Housing Revenue Account

Appendix 9 – Reserves and Provision 2022/23

Appendix 10 – Revised Capital Programme

Appendix 11 – Capital Programme Outturn Position by Directorate 2022/23

Appendix 12 – Summary of Significant Variances Between Revised Outturn Budget & Outturn Expenditure by Directorate and Service Area For 2022-23

Appendix 13 – Revised Capital Programme Financing 2022/23

Appendix 14 – Capital Programme 2023/24 To 2025/26

Appendix 15 – Projected Capital Receipts Position

Appendix 16 – Capital Programme Summary Outturn 2022/23

APPENDIX 1**2022/23 BUDGET VARIATIONS BY SERVICE****1.1 Summary**

Revenue variances are reported on an exception basis depending on the total variance from budget, and the percentage change in projection in any one period.

- Green Variance +/- 1% (or £0.05m if budget less than £5m)
- Amber Overspend between 1%-2% (or £0.05m-£0.1m if budget less than £5m)
- Red Variance over 2% (or £0.1m if budget less than £5m)
- Yellow Underspend more than 1% (or £0.05m if budget less than £5m)

Directorate	Full Year			RAGY	FOR INFORMATION ONLY		
	Net Budget £	Controllable Outturn £	Controllable Variation £		Outturn (inc. Non Controllable Items) £	Non Controllable Variation £	Total Variation £
Corporate Budgets	(50,262,450)	(58,467,653)	(8,205,203)	Y	(58,472,603)	(4,950)	(8,210,153)
Health and Wellbeing	2,332,610	2,025,360	(307,250)	Y	2,026,320	960	(306,290)
People	195,734,500	209,654,960	13,920,460	R	209,667,696	12,736	13,933,196
Place	70,157,150	75,263,459	5,106,309	R	75,209,025	(54,434)	5,051,875
Resources	6,621,680	4,638,962	(1,982,718)	Y	4,649,932	10,970	(1,971,748)
Strategic Management Board	32,810	345	(32,465)	Y	835	490	(31,975)
TOTAL	224,616,300	233,115,433	8,499,133	R	233,081,205	(34,228)	8,464,905

*The non-controllable items included in the table above include items such as depreciation, impairment of assets, other capital charges and IAS19 (pension costs) that are not included within service projections throughout the year. These charges are produced at the year-end as they are calculated as part of the closedown procedures. The budgets for the year are set in the February of the preceding financial year, and rather than reallocate these budgets at the year end to match where the accounting entries are processed, we allow variations from budget to be reported instead. With the exception of insurance costs, the net effect of these variations across the Council will always be nil, as any overspends within non-controllable budgets for service areas will be offset by a Corporate underspend which reflects the statutory requirement that any variations in these budgets should not impact on the Council Tax payer and ultimately the Council Tax that we charge.

1.2 Detail of Controllable Outturn and Variations by Service Area

PEOPLE		Full Year			RAGY
		Budget £	Controllable Outturn £	Controllable Variance £	
Total – People Directorate		195,734,500	209,654,960	13,920,460	R
Children’s Social Care and Safeguarding	Children & Education	48,473,260	56,876,658	8,403,398	R
<p>£5.935m overspending for Looked After Children due to higher than budgeted levels of children entering the care system. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £2.152m overspend on residential and fostering placement costs, notably external residential spot placements which has seen an increase of 16 placements (from 36 to 52) during the financial year. • £2.143m overspend on staffing due to agency social workers (34.4FTE as at the end of March 2023) covering staff vacancies, sickness leave and maternity leave • £1.640m overspend relating to other costs such as transport recharges and taxi costs, legal/barrister fees, medical assessments, and interpreting fees. These costs have increased in line with the increase in demand. <p>£1.236m overspend in the Disabled Children's Team.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £0.691m of this overspend relates to bespoke, short term care packages of support for disabled children. This is an area which has seen a significant increase in demand. • £0.292m relates to direct payments for disabled children related to an increase in complexity of their needs. • £0.253m relates to the commissioning of additional overnight and community short breaks capacity during the year in line with increasing demand. <p>£0.515m overspend in the Leaving Care Team.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £0.440m of this overspend relates to accommodation costs for care leavers and allowances paid to care leavers, reflecting an increase in the number of children staying in relatively high cost supported accommodation placements beyond their 18th birthday. <p>£0.360m overspend on the Council's internal residential children's homes. The majority of this overspend is due to increased complexity and higher levels of staff support being required for some children, delivered through existing staff working additional hours & overtime. There has also been increased demand for crisis provision and outreach work.</p> <p>£0.358m overspend in Adoption Services. £0.151m relates to Adoption Allowances, where there has been an increase in 2022/23.</p>					

Adult Social Care Operations	Adult Social Care, Public Health and Communities	110,338,330	115,357,792	5,019,462	R
<p>Purchasing Care: £5.440m:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £1.839m overspend on spot purchasing costs. Despite overall reduction in client numbers there has been an increase in the complexity of client needs (both in the community and after the discharge from hospital). In addition, care market costs have significantly increased compared to pre pandemic levels and continue to remain high. Work is in hand to manage the increased costs of care. Further cost pressures arose from hospital discharge process and short-term care provision. Overall costs mitigated by application of one-off funding (reserves) of £0.702m. • £1.820m overspend on new/increased supported living packages. This is driven by the complexity of service users' needs. Work is underway to remodel the service, to better meet those needs and reduce costs. • £0.865 bad debt provision increased. Due to the increased level of debt across the service. 					

•**£0.757m shortfall in client contributions to care costs.** Actual increases in contributions have been smaller than was assumed in the budget.

•**£0.597m overspend on reablement (net).** (NB Gross costs of £10.274m offset by NHS/ICB funding of £9.256m) and **ASC Support Grant £0.382m).** Up until 31st March 2022 national guidance dictated that hospital discharge arrangements would be covered by Covid monies via Health partners. Following the withdrawal of that funding, a number of different initiatives have been taken, both locally and nationally. Latest information is that we are seeing fewer people go into short term beds and more people returning home, with a resulting increase in the rate of hospital discharges.

•**(£0.431m) overachievement of part funded continuing healthcare income.** This offsets some of the increased expenditure above and again highlights the complex nature of service users we are supporting.

Other variations below of £0.429m, including £0.96m staffing underspending due to recruitment delays.

Housing Services	Growth, Regeneration and Housing	4,447,830	5,052,166	604,336	R
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Housing have an overspend of £0.604m. This is solely down to the continued increase on Temporary accommodation, to include B&B costs, offset by some vacancies.

Learning and Skills	Children & Education	17,852,790	18,347,422	494,632	R
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• **£0.951m overspend on home to school transport** against a budget of £13.067m. This was largely caused by increased fuel costs.

• **£0.295m underspend against schools staff related budgets** (former teacher's pension compensation payments and schools redundancies).

• **£0.143m underspend within Learning & Skills Business Support** relating to the use of one-off external funding, temporary vacancy management savings e.g. Schools Funding and NEETs data tracking teams and underspends on supplies and services e.g. postage and software/licenses.

Adult Social Care Business Support and Development	Adult Social Care, Public Health and Communities	3,733,680	3,498,354	(235,326)	Y
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(£0.235m) underspend within Adult Social Care Business Support, mostly due to vacancies

Adult Social Care Management	Adult Social Care, Public Health and Communities	1,046,130	921,992	(124,138)	Y
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(£0.124m) Underspend due to staff vacancies, with posts now having been filled.

Adult Social Care Provider Services	Adult Social Care, Public Health and Communities	3,682,330	3,586,827	(95,503)	Y
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Overall Provider Services have an underspend of (£0.096m), arising from a combination of overspending (due to contract price pressures and agency costs to cover vacancies) and underspending (START and day services, both due to vacancies).

Children's Early Help, Partnerships and Commissioning	Children & Education	3,134,410	2,843,378	(291,032)	Y
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The majority of the underspend is due to delays in recruiting staff to new posts.

Central DSG	Children & Education	0	0	0	G
<p>There is a (£1.979m) in year surplus reported against the Central Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), leaving a cumulative DSG surplus of £2.695m at the end of the financial year. This in year -surplus was largely due to an in-year underspend reported on the High Needs Block of DSG totalling (£1.177m).</p> <p>There was also an underspend of (£0.083m) against the Council's Schools Growth funding allocation of £0.366m, as well as an underspend of (£0.036m) against the Council's Early Years Block DSG allocation of £17.3 67m. With the Early Years Block DSG allocation it is important to note that the final Early Years Block DSG allocation is not published until well in to the 2023/24 financial year, so the underspend of (£0.036m) remains a provisional figure until that point.</p> <p>While carrying a surplus of £2.695m forward reflects a healthy financial position for the Council's DSG, it is important to note that a small proportion of high-cost, low incident cases can disproportionately impact the High Needs Block DSG financial position.</p>					
People Directorate Management	Adult Social Care, Public Health and Communities	3,025,740	3,170,371	144,631	R
<p>· There was a £0.067m overspend within the Adult Services Director cost centre that relates to a one-off legal cost.</p> <p>· A further £0.021m of overspend relates to additional management capacity paid for at the start of the financial year and the remaining £0.057m of overspend relates to Unison staffing recharges not budgeted for and an overspend on the directorate's Apprenticeship Levy budget.</p>					

PLACE	Full Year			RAGY	
	Budget £	Controllable Outturn £	Controllable Variance £		
Total – Place Directorate	70,157,150	75,263,459	5,106,309	R	
Corporate Landlord, Property and Development	Growth, Regeneration and Housing	(3,481,710)	632,326	4,114,036	R
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £1.391m due to delay in achievement of planned efficiencies within administrative buildings, arising from the repurposing of Shirehall and Mount McKinley, also rent charges to the University of Chester for the use of the Guildhall. The new plans are reflected in the budget for the new year, notably to achieve full savings but by 2026-27 when Council moves to new Multi-Agency Hub in Shrewsbury town centre. • £1.442m delay in achievement of Commercial Savings for 2022/23 but which remain achievable in future years. • £2.021m Unachievable commercial savings. OF which £0.934m pressure arising from inflationary pressures outside those provided for in the budget across utilities & Maintenance offset by one off (£0.313m) use of reserves. • £0.092m additional valuation costs have been incurred as required by accounts auditors. • (£0.816m) savings secured through releasing unused MRP budget, an underspend on enabling budgets (£0.163m) and providing conditions surveys in house (£0.060m); generating one off income across the estate of (£0.315m) and delays between vacant posts being appointed to due to market issues results in a projected (£0.025m) salary underspend. Also Bad Debt provision released (£0.071m). Balanced by other smaller variances across the estate. 					
Shire Services	Growth, Regeneration and Housing	(398,260)	295,330	693,590	R
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £0.410m due to savings target not achieved. • £0.220m relates to the salary overspend due to the increased pay award. • £0.246m in additional income in the form of increased food rebates due to the current increase in food prices. 					
Leisure	Culture and Digital	1,938,500	2,649,623	711,123	R
<p>Overspending as -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> £0.269m pressure on Council operated Leisure centres. £0.193m Increased cost of renegotiated SERCO contract. £0.236m new equipment as part of SERCO contract. £0.223m Compensation payments to SERCO for Quarry closure. £0.091m utilities provision for Serco Managed centres. £0.140m Support for Bridgnorth, Highley and Ludlow leisure centres. £0.045m Legal and consultant fees. £0.077m repairs & maintenance of outsourced leisure facilities. <p>Offset by underspending, as -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (£0.416m) use of provisions and reserves. (£0.142m) Funding from Public Health to support delivery of PH/Leisure SLA. 					
Bereavement Services	Highways and Regulatory Services	(216,140)	(217,894)	(1,754)	Y
Minor variance from budget at Period 13					
Trading Standards and Licensing	Highways and Regulatory Services	1,955,290	1,807,288	(148,002)	Y
The year end underspend is as a result of savings on employee costs due to recruitment difficulties and additional income achieved in Licencing partly offset by the contribution of funds to a provision for Home Loss Payments.					
Registrars and Coroners	Highways and Regulatory Services	571,580	583,595	12,015	G

Minor variance from budget at Period 13					
Assistant Director Commercial Services	Growth, Regeneration and Housing	161,450	169,134	7,684	G
Minor variance from budget at Period 13					
Director of Place	Growth, Regeneration and Housing	693,370	754,663	61,293	A
£0.032m cost of union support in excess of £0.005m available budget, £0.036m pressure on annual subscriptions.					
Assistant Director Economy & Place	Growth, Regeneration and Housing	315,500	315,807	307	G
Minor variance from budget at Period 13					
Planning Services	Highways and Regulatory Services	1,593,420	1,405,281	(188,139)	Y
<p>Street Naming & Numbering and Land Charges:- A variance of £0.050m resulting from a reduction in net income (mainly Land Charges property search income).</p> <p>Building Control:- Slightly under budget at -£0.039m mainly resulting from a reduction in the bad debt provision following pursuit of payments for Works in Default.</p> <p>Natural and Historic Environment:- A variance of £0.044m associated with external income generated.</p> <p>Development Management:- Under budget by -£0.138m resulting from significant Planning Application receipts in February and March.</p> <p>Highways Development Control:- a net saving of £0.105m mainly through a reduction in external professional/engineering support.</p>					
Economic Growth	Growth, Regeneration and Housing	1,215,380	1,215,351	(29)	Y
Minor variance from budget at Period 13					
Broadband	Culture and Digital	161,140	161,140	0	G
No variance from budget.					
Planning Policy	Highways and Regulatory Services	975,220	976,489	1,269	G
Minor variance from budget at Period 13					
Shrewsbury Shopping Centres (Commercial)	Growth, Regeneration and Housing	(129,140)	(197,495)	(68,355)	Y
Saving on Shopping Centre Management as a result of on-shoring shopping centres and no longer incurring fees for Unit Trusts.					
Arts	Culture and Digital	66,670	54,731	(11,939)	Y
Minor variance from budget at Period 13					
Highways	Highways and Regulatory Services	12,861,290	13,082,353	221,063	A
<p>Highways (Operations) - Additional network maintenance costs of £1.110m together with an energy saving of £0.190m, resulting from the LED streetlights already installed (a saving of 5% compared to the 2022/23 budget).</p> <p>Highways (Bridges, Structures and Drainage) - A budget saving of £0.145m resulting from a reduction in revenue works completed.</p> <p>Highways (Streetworks) - This service area seeks to minimise disruption to the highways network and will penalise organisations that fail to complete their interventions in accordance with their permit to operate. Net income for this service area is anticipated to be £1.023m greater than budget.</p> <p>Highways (Governance) - Additional agency costs of £0.131m, contractor costs of £0.204m and insurance (claims settlement) of £0.146m.</p>					
Shropshire Hills AONB	Culture and Digital	29,430	29,429	(1)	Y
Minor variance from budget at Period 13					
Outdoor Partnerships	Culture and Digital	1,302,290	1,315,373	13,083	G

Minor variance from budget at Period 13					
Libraries	Culture and Digital	3,448,410	3,497,968	49,558	G
The Overspend on Libraries is due to the cumulative small overspends on Salaries due to the use of additional hours.					
Museums and Archives	Culture and Digital	1,420,200	1,557,588	137,388	R
The Overspend on Museums is almost entirely due to shortfall on income at Acton Scott, which is closed. Further overspends are due to a shortfall in income for Museum Learning & Shropshire Archives.					
Theatre Services	Culture and Digital	(129,750)	(51,606)	78,144	A
Whilst there has been good post-pandemic admissions at the Theatre and Old Market Hall there continues to be significant challenges both from the costs of operating and the cost of living crisis. The overall impact on the service has been a net variance of £0.078m.					
Waste Management	Deputy Leader, Climate Change, Environment and Transport	33,565,900	33,266,504	(299,396)	Y
There has been an unprecedented level of landfill waste in 22/23 which has been much lower than anticipated and lead to underspends against the budget. There has also been more trade waste going to the Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) than budgeted for and improved ERF performance in general has led to further underspends.					
Assistant Director Infrastructure	Deputy Leader, Climate Change, Environment and Transport	262,610	219,679	(42,931)	Y
A vacant post resulting in an underspend of £0.043m.					
Commercial Services Business Development	Growth, Regeneration and Housing	20,030	156,224	136,194	R
£0.022 Unachieved income to cover salary costs. £0.026 unachieved commercial income savings. £0.085 of savings targeted to be achieved in 23-24. Balanced by other small variances					
Head of Culture, Leisure & Tourism	Culture and Digital	525,150	527,621	2,471	G
Minor variance from budget at Period 13					
Climate Change	Deputy Leader, Climate Change, Environment and Transport	533,120	481,100	(52,020)	Y
One off underspend as a result of maximising capital funds to cover previously budgeted for revenue costs. Balanced by other small variances.					
Environment and Transport	Deputy Leader, Climate Change, Environment and Transport	10,166,100	10,362,408	196,308	A
Public Transport:- A net reduction in the costs of supported bus services, amounting to £0.145m.					
Street Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance:- A service variance of -£0.056m resulting from the release of a provision.					
Parking:- Net parking income lower than budget, £0.230m.					
Strategic:- This service area is £0.177m over budget mainly connected to Traffic Engineering works and assessments					
Assistant Director Homes and Communities	Growth, Regeneration and Housing	144,970	348,817	203,847	R
The Shropshire Local initiative is projected to incur unbudgeted costs of £0.119m from the centre located in the Darwin shopping centre. £0.061m pressure as unable to recharge management salary costs to Cornovii - budget amended for 23-24. Balanced by other small variances					
Housing Development and HRA	Growth, Regeneration and Housing	35,390	(583,660)	(619,050)	Y
Receipt of one off overage payment from Cornovii of (£0.587m) from a Housing Development.					

Shrewsbury Shopping Centres (Development)	Growth, Regeneration and Housing	549,740	448,294	(101,446)	Y
Underspend as a result of savings on insurance as centres are now empty, rates and service charge expenditure.					

CORPORATE BUDGETS	Full Year			RAGY
	Budget £	Controllable Outturn £	Controllable Variance £	
Total	(50,262,450)	(58,467,653)	(8,205,203)	Y

Corporate Budgets	Finance and Corporate Resources	(50,262,450)	(58,467,653)	(8,205,203)	Y
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Following a review of earmarked reserves, it was agreed that (£1.95m) could be released from the Development Reserve, COVID Funding Reserve and Insurance Fund as there were no longer any commitments identified against these balances. In addition the Council received an unbudgeted distribution of (£0.430m) from the Government from the levy account which was notified to the Council in March. Also as result of paying 2022/23 employer contributions to the pension fund in April in full, the Council achieved a (£0.368m) discount which was calculated in the year end reconciliation.

The interest receivable budget delivered net additional income of (£2.146m) due to changes in the Bank of England base rate, increased from 0.75% to 4.25%. This was based on the value of investment balances held throughout the year.

The MRP budget delivered the expected one-off in year savings of (£1.300m). Of this, (£1.000m) was the result of releasing budget held for potential additional MRP costs from new projects. (£0.300m) was as a result of changes in actual borrowing requirements identified during the 2021-22 closedown.

Savings of (£1.064m) were delivered interest payable budgets, however recent Bank of England base rate increases will have an impact on borrowing rates going forward; i.e. it will be more expensive to borrow. The interest payable budget includes the current fixed term debt charges only.

Additional income of (£0.249m) was received in relation to the profit share from WME, alongside savings totalling (£0.698m) across corporate subscriptions, Non-Distributable costs, QICS PFI, and additional revenue grants and income received in year.

RESOURCES		Full Year			RAGY
		Budget £	Controllable Outturn £	Controllable Variance £	
Total Resources Directorate		6,621,680	4,638,962	(1,982,718)	Y
Finance	Finance and Corporate Resources	2,594,770	1,919,000	(675,770)	Y
<p>There were net savings identified across the Revenues and Benefits teams in relation to vacancies and staffing recharges due to issues with recruiting staff to the vacant positions, and in relation to recharging staff to externally funded grant projects.</p> <p>There have been workforce pressures in relation to additional responsibilities within the team for administering new grants such as Test and Trace Support grants, and energy rebates. This had resulted in the need for existing staff to work additional hours and to bring in additional resources from agencies to support the team to deliver business critical activities, although this additional cost was funded by administration elements of the grant funding and from savings on vacant posts. There has been a successful recruitment activity focused on filling apprenticeship posts within the teams, this will help to create a pool of experienced staff for the future to fill future vacancies and to aid with succession planning.</p> <p>Additional one off savings were identified across grant income and a review of supplies and services budgets.</p> <p>There was a net underspend within the Finance Team, due to staffing savings and additional income generation.</p>					
Organisation Performance Management	Culture and Digital	0	0	0	G
No variation from budget.					
Automation and Technology	Culture and Digital	260,880	11,573	(249,307)	Y
Savings have been identified on ICT system budgets.					
Communications & Engagement	Leader, Policy and Strategy, Improvement and Communications	752,830	355,591	(397,239)	Y
Net savings were delivered across Customer Services and Communications as a result of several posts held vacant. A proportion of the staff budget savings were reallocated to support the creation of a 24/7 out of hours support service within the Safer Communities Coordination Team.					
Business Improvement: Data, Analysis and Intelligence	Culture and Digital	232,240	171,227	(61,013)	Y
Net savings were delivered as a result of vacancy management throughout the year.					
Human Resources and Organisational Development	Finance and Corporate Resources	413,760	123,963	(289,797)	Y
<p>Human Resources Advice Team lost income from SLAs relating to maintained schools and unachieved income targets to increase external income generation. Income targets were difficult to meet due to loss of resources within the team, however most of the resulting budget pressures have been offset by one off underspends on staffing. The team has recently been subject to restructure of the service and all posts will be filled moving forwards.</p> <p>There were further underspends from a combination of additional income generation and vacancy management across Health & Safety and Occupational Health Teams, and Payroll Services (as a result of vacancy management).</p>					
Treasury and Pensions	Finance and Corporate Resources	11,790	12,854	1,064	G
Minor Variance from budget as at period 13					
Commissioning Development and Procurement	Finance and Corporate Resources	123,350	(2,344)	(125,694)	Y

Additional income was received above initial forecasts in relation to the Matrix contract rebates linked to the use of agency staffing across the organisation, savings were also realised from vacancy management across the team.					
Risk Management and Insurance	Finance and Corporate Resources	(25,410)	(18,408)	7,002	G
Minor variance from budget at Period 13.					
Democratic Services	Finance and Corporate Resources	89,030	75,289	(13,741)	Y
Minor variance from budget at Period 13					
Elections	Finance and Corporate Resources	533,270	477,459	(55,811)	Y
Savings were delivered across the Elections team from vacancy management and reduced costs above those expected for Individual Electoral Registration.					
Legal Services	Finance and Corporate Resources	209,950	210,718	768	G
Minor variance from budget at Period 13					
Audit and Information Governance	Finance and Corporate Resources	30,340	(151,387)	(181,727)	Y
Due to staff turnover within the Audit team, there were underspends due to vacancy management within the team. This was partly offset by additional expenditure on agency staff to support the team. The current level of vacancies is not sustainable and recruitment activity is in progress.					
Resources Management Team	Finance and Corporate Resources	(112,290)	(81,085)	31,205	G
Additional costs were charged to the Resources Management Team above those expected at year end in relation to recharges for Union costs.					
Housing Benefits	Finance and Corporate Resources	1,513,700	1,513,700	0	G
No variation from budget as at period 13.					
Scrutiny	Finance and Corporate Resources	(6,530)	20,811	27,341	G
Additional staffing costs were incurred above those anticipated due to increased support for scrutiny.					

HEALTH AND WELLBEING	Full Year			RAGY
	Budget £	Controllable Outturn £	Controllable Variance £	
Total	2,332,610	2,025,360	(307,250)	Y

Regulatory Services	Highways and Regulatory Services	2,043,830	1,816,825	(227,005)	Y
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The underspend is due to vacant posts within the Health Protection Team and a significant review and redesign of the service to optimise capacity, resilience and performance. The new structure has now been developed with recruitment to all posts, providing confidence internally and externally (to the Food Standards Agency), that the service has an appropriate establishment for meeting statutory Official Food Control targets moving forward. Underspends occurred due to delays in filling vacant posts. In the interim, and to assist with meeting existing food inspection targets, EHO Food Safety Consultants were appointed, funded from that underspend. In addition, resources have been diverted to activities associated with Contain Outbreak Management.

Non Ring Fenced Public Health Services	Adult Social Care, Public Health and Communities	288,780	208,535	(80,245)	Y
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The favourable variance is due to the application of Contain Outbreak Management Funding, where resources have been diverted to this initiative.

Ring Fenced Public Health Services	Adult Social Care, Public Health and Communities	0	0	0	Y
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No variation from budget.

STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT BOARD	Full Year			RAGY
	Budget £	Controllable Outturn £	Controllable Variance £	
Total	32,810	345	(32,465)	Y

Chief Executive & PAs	Leader, Policy and Strategy, Improvement and Communications	21,870	(12,236)	(34,106)	Y
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There were net savings within the PA's Team as a result of a number of posts held vacant that have now filled.

Programme Management	Leader, Policy and Strategy, Improvement and Communications	10,940	12,581	1,641	G
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Minor variance from budget at Period 13

1.3 2022/23 Revenue Outturn By Portfolio Holder

Portfolio Holder	Revised Budget*	Controllable Outturn	Controllable Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Portfolio Holder Children and Education	68,814	77,421	8,607
Portfolio Holder Adult Social Care, Public Health and Communities	121,197	125,826	4,629
Portfolio Holder Growth, Regeneration and Housing	3,273	8,305	5,032
Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder Climate Change, Environment and Transport	44,579	44,381	(198)
Portfolio Holder Culture and Digital	8,903	9,573	670
Leader and Portfolio Holder Policy and Strategy, Improvement and Communications	633	203	(430)
Portfolio Holder Highways and Regulatory Services	19,475	19,144	(331)
Portfolio Holder Finance and Corporate Resources	(42,257)	(51,737)	(9,480)
Total	224,616	233,115	8,499

APPENDIX 2**MOVEMENT IN PROJECTIONS BETWEEN Q3 AND OUTTURN**

Directorate	Q3 Controllable Variance (£'000)	Outturn Controllable Variance (£'000)	Movement (£'000)	Key Reasons for Movement
Corporate Budgets	(3,947)	(8,205)	(4,258)	Release of reserves and allocation of grants. Reduction in MRP requirement following lower than anticipated delivery of new projects.
Health and Wellbeing	(265)	(307)	(42)	Minor variations between Q3 and outturn position.
People	12,987	13,920	933	Home to school transport pressures due to increase in numbers and inflation and further pressures linked to agency spend on Childrens social workers.
Place	5,018	5,106	89	Additional costs against Highways service for safety maintenance, engineering support, safety repairs, drain clearing and agency staff offset in the main against landfill waste amounts being less than anticipated at year end and increase in planning fee income.
Resources	(1,647)	(1,983)	(336)	Savings against vacancy management, agency staff and additional grant funding not anticipated.
Strategic Management Board	(32)	(32)	0	No variation between Q3 and outturn position.
Total				

APPENDIX 3**UPDATE ON DELIVERY OF 2022/23 SAVINGS PROPOSALS****3.1 Summary**

Throughout 2022/23, savings have been RAG rated in order to establish the deliverability of the savings and any potential impact on the outturn position for the financial year. RAG ratings have been categorised as follows:

Red – Savings are not solved on an ongoing basis, nor have they been achieved in the current financial year. These are reflected as unachieved within this monitoring report.

Amber – Savings have been identified on an ongoing basis in the current financial year, however there is no clear evidence to support the delivery as yet. The projected outturn within this report assumes these savings will be delivered.

Green – Savings have been identified on an ongoing basis in the current financial year, with evidence of delivery. The RAG ratings are updated monthly to determine progress on delivery.

The table below summarises the outturn position.

Service Area	Red £'000	Amber £'000	Green £'000	Total Savings £'000
Corporate Budgets	0	0	50	50
Health and Wellbeing	0	0	209	209
People	501	0	2,530	3,030
Place	5,247	0	3,466	8,713
Resources	50	0	634	684
Strategic Management Board	0	0	9	9
Tactical Budget Savings	768	0	7,712	8,480
Council	6,566	0	14,610	21,175
	31%	0%	69%	

The total tactical budget savings identified in the updated Financial Strategy and delivery against the savings plans are included in the table above alongside those approved at Council in February 2022.

The position above also includes unachievable savings which have been provided budget growth within the 2023/24 budget of £4.599m. These are detailed in the table below.

The figures presented above show that 69% of the 2022/23 savings required have been delivered. Savings that have not been delivered are presented below.

3.2 Breakdown of Red Savings

Ref	Directorate	Service Area	Description	Financial Year Saving Originally Required (£'000)	Total Saving Rated Red (£'000)	Value Rated Red (£,000)	Value Unachievable - Budget Growth Allocated within 2023/24 Budget (£'000)
AS6	People	Adult Social Care Operations	Adult Social Care - Review of double handed care	2022/23	192		192
CW2	People	Adult Social Care Provider Services	Increase to fees and charges income	2022/23	6		6
AS12	People	Adult Social Care Operations	Adult Social Care - Review care provider contract arrangements	2022/23	119		119
AS15c	People	Adult Social Care Operations	Review pre-placement framework	2022/23	70		70
2A37R	People	Housing Services	Increased Housing income	2020/21	114	15	99
PS4	Place	Planning Services	Building Control - Use of reserve	2022/23	37	37	
PS5	Place	Planning Services	Enhanced income through commercial activity in Natural & Historic Environment teams	2022/23	40		40
CW2	Place	Leisure	Increase to fees and charges income	2022/23	22		22
CW2	Place	Theatre Services	Increase to fees and charges income	2022/23	162		162
PS12	Place	Environment and Transport	Review of parking charges	2022/23	350		350
P33	Place	Corporate Landlord, Property and Development	Raise additional income from new development	2022/23	27		27
P35	Place	Corporate Landlord, Property and Development	Efficiencies within administrative buildings	2022/23	1,205	309	896
P39	Place	Corporate Landlord, Property and Development	Raise income from investment in assets	2022/23	2,000		2,000
P39	Place	Corporate Landlord, Property and Development	Raise income from investment in assets	2021/22	1,259	732	527

H16	Place	Trading Standards and Licensing	Increase parking enforcement functions in line with the parking strategy	2020/21	40		40
P11	Place	Libraries	Review of library provision	2022/23	104	104	
RS9	Resources	Human Resources and Organisational Development	Increase Human Resources and Development income generated from commercial activities	2022/23	50		50
Tactical Budget Savings				2022/23	768	768	
					6,565	1,965	4,600

3.3 Unachieved Savings Carried Forward to 2023/24

As per 3.2, £6.565m savings remain unachieved at outturn, some of which have been offset in part by one-off savings in year. However, when setting the Council's budget for 2023/24, £4.600m growth funding has been applied in order to remove the 2022/23 red savings that have been determined to be undeliverable. Following the application of growth funding during the budget setting process, £1.965m of the red savings still remain within the Council's budget and are still required to be delivered, as the delivery of these savings targets was considered to be delayed rather than undeliverable. Delivery of these savings will be scrutinised monthly with Directors throughout 2023/24. The £1.965m of unachieved savings carried forward into 2023/24 are shown in the penultimate column of 3.2 above

APPENDIX 4**ONGOING BUDGET PRESSURES**

Directorate	Service	Nature of Pressure	Value (£'000)
People	Children's Social Care	Disabled Children's Team	292
People	Children's Social Care	Public law outline support packages (medical assessments and legal costs)	257
People	Children's Social Care	Increase in expenditure relating to operating the Council's children's residential homes	260
People	Children's Social Care	External Residential placements	6,045
People	Adults Social Care	Purchasing Costs increase in short term packages and rates	5,060
People	Housing	Temporary Accommodation and B&B numbers high	1,638
Place	Leisure	Pressure on Council Managed Leisure Centres	247
Place	Leisure	Serco Leisure Contract extension	193
Place	Leisure	Repairs & Maintenance	77
Place	Leisure	Leisure Contract utility unit cost increases	92
Place	Assistant Director, Homes and Communities	Shropshire Local	119
Place	Waste Management	Veolia contract price	450
Place	Shire Services	Ongoing pressures on Catering provision	694
Place	Corporate Landlord	Utility (electricity, water and gas) costs	231
Place	Corporate Landlord	Rates (Across Corporate Landlord estate)	266
Place	Corporate Landlord	Building Rental Contracts on ASC Housing	69
Place	Corporate Landlord	IT Hardware/Software	56
Place	Corporate Landlord	Repairs & Maintenance (across Corporate Landlord estate) & Grounds Maintenance	416
TOTAL			16,462

APPENDIX 5

RECONCILIATION OF MONITORING PROJECTIONS TO SAVINGS DELIVERY

	Outturn Variance (Controllable) £000	Savings Pressure in 2022/23 £000	Ongoing Monitoring Pressures Identified £000	Ongoing Monitoring Savings Identified £000	One Off Monitoring Pressures Identified £000	One Off Monitoring Savings Identified £000
Corporate Budgets	(8,205)	0	0	0	0	(8,205)
Corporate Budgets	(8,205)	0	0	0	0	(8,205)
Regulatory Services	(227)	0	0	0	24	(251)
Non Ring Fenced Public Health Services	(80)	0	0	0	214	(295)
Ring Fenced Public Health Services	0	0	0	0	3,965	(3,965)
Health and Wellbeing	(307)	0	0	0	4,203	(4,510)
People Directorate Management	145	0	0	0	169	(23)
Adult Social Care Business Support and Development	(235)	0	0	0	15	(250)
Adult Social Care Management	(124)	0	0	0	0	(124)
Adult Social Care Provider Services	(95)	6	0	0	290	(391)
Adult Social Care Operations	5,020	381	5,060	0	539	(960)
Housing Services	604	114	1,637	0	32	(1,179)
Children's Social Care & Safeguarding	8,404	0	6,854	0	8,075	(6,525)
Children's Early Help, Partnerships and Commissioning	(291)	0	0	0	56	(347)
Learning and Skills	494	0	0	0	971	(476)
Central DSG	0	0	0	0	1,999	(1,999)
People	13,922	501	13,551	0	12,145	(12,274)
Director of Place	61	0	0	0	61	0
Assistant Director, Commercial Services	8	0	0	0	8	0
Corporate Landlord & Property and Development	4,114	4,380	1,038	0	850	(2,154)
Commercial Services Business Development	136	111	0	0	25	0
Climate Change	(52)	0	0	0	0	(52)
Shire Services	694	0	694	0	0	0
Assistant Director, Economy and Place	0	0	0	0	0	0
Planning Services	(189)	77	0	0	0	(266)
Economic Growth	0	0	0	0	0	0
Broadband	0	0	0	0	0	0
Planning Policy	1	0	0	0	1	0
Shrewsbury Shopping Centres – Development Sites	(101)	0	0	0	0	(101)
Shrewsbury Shopping Centres – Commercial Sites	(68)	0	0	0	0	(68)
Assistant Director, Infrastructure	(43)	0	0	0	0	(43)
Environment and Transport	196	350	0	0	0	(154)
Highways	221	0	0	0	221	0
Waste Management	(299)	0	450	0	12	(761)
Assistant Director, Homes and Communities	204	0	119	0	85	0
Housing Development and HRA	(619)	0	0	0	0	(619)
Bereavement Services	(2)	0	0	0	0	(2)
Registrars and Coroners	12	0	0	0	12	0
Trading Standards and Licensing	(148)	40	0	0	0	(188)
Head of Culture, Leisure and Tourism	2	0	0	0	2	0
Arts	(12)	0	0	0	0	(12)
Shropshire Hills AONB	0	0	0	0	0	0
Outdoor Partnerships	13	0	0	0	13	0
Leisure	711	22	609	0	667	(587)
Libraries	49	104	0	0	0	(55)
Museums and Archives	137	0	0	0	186	(49)
Theatre Services	78	162	0	0	0	(84)
Place	5,105	5,247	2,910	0	2,143	(5,195)
Resources Directorate Management	31	0	0	0	31	0
Automation and Technology	(249)	0	0	0	259	(508)
Finance	(676)	0	0	0	47	(723)

	Outturn Variance (Controllable) £000	Savings Pressure in 2022/23 £000	Ongoing Monitoring Pressures Identified £000	Ongoing Monitoring Savings Identified £000	One Off Monitoring Pressures Identified £000	One Off Monitoring Savings Identified £000
Housing Benefits	0	0	0	0	0	0
Business Improvement: Data, Analysis and Intelligence	(61)	0	0	0	7	(68)
Human Resources & Organisational Development	(290)	50	0	0	72	(412)
Risk Management and Insurance	7	0	0	0	77	(70)
Scrutiny	27	0	0	0	27	0
Commissioning Development and Procurement	(126)	0	0	0	0	(126)
Legal Services	1	0	0	0	133	(132)
Democratic Services	(14)	0	0	0	54	(68)
Elections	(56)	0	0	0	0	(56)
Audit and Information Governance	(182)	0	0	0	0	(182)
Treasury and Pensions	1	0	0	0	7	(6)
Communications and Engagement	(397)	0	0	0	33	(430)
Resources	(1,984)	50	0	0	747	(2,781)
Chief Executive and PAs	(34)	0	0	0	0	(34)
Programme Management	2	0	0	0	2	0
Strategic Management Board	(32)	0	0	0	2	(34)
TOTAL	8,499	5,797	16,461	0	19,240	(33,000)

APPENDIX 6**GENERAL FUND BALANCE**

7.1 In 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22, the General Fund was used to offset Shire Services' deficit outturn position, as the Shire Services' earmarked reserve had been fully utilised in 2019/20. This use of the General Fund effectively represents a loan to Shire Services which must be repaid. The General Fund has been used again in 2022/23 to offset Shire Services' unfunded deficit (£0.694m), following a further year in which the service has been unable to repay the General Fund contribution made in the last 3 years. Therefore, the total loan now stands at £1.350m, and this must be repaid within a reasonable time frame.

	£'000
Balance at 1 st April 2023	11,522
Budgeted Contribution to GF	4,028
Outturn Controllable Overspend (all services excluding Shire Services)	(7,797)
Use of Fund to Offset Shire Services' Deficit Position – to be repaid	(694)
Net Outturn Controllable Overspend (all services)	
Outturn Non-Controllable Insurance Underspend	34
Balance at 31 March 2023	7,093

APPENDIX 7**AMENDMENTS TO ORIGINAL BUDGET 2022/23**

£'000	Total	Corporate Budgets	Health and Wellbeing	People	Place	Resources	Strategic Management Board
Original Budget as Agreed by Council	224,616	(54,919)	3,449	198,809	70,934	6,328	15
<u>Quarter 1</u>							
Structure Changes	0	0	(1,266)	1	1,292	(28)	0
Virements	0	521	276	99	(797)	(99)	0
<u>Quarter 2</u>							
Virements	0	(284)	(1)	32	217	36	0
<u>Quarter 3</u>							
Virements	0	(3,185)	49	1,505	885	730	16
<u>Quarter 4</u>							
<u>Virements</u>	0	(167)	7	70	45	38	7
Q4 Revised Budget	224,616	(58,034)	2,514	200,516	72,576	7,005	38

APPENDIX 8**HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT 2022/23**

As at 31 March 2023	Original Budget £	Outturn £	Variance Adverse/ (Favourable) £
Income			
Dwellings Rent	(18,101,280)	(17,965,084)	136,196
Garage Rent	(104,900)	(102,978)	1,922
Other Rent	(17,000)	(6,290)	10,710
Charges for Services	(686,820)	(916,143)	(229,323)
Total Income	(18,910,000)	(18,990,494)	(80,494)
Expenditure			
ALMO Management Fee	9,021,410	9,021,409	(1)
Supplies and Services	640,370	591,997	(48,373)
Capital Charges - Dwelling Depreciation	4,047,050	4,471,690	424,640
Capital Charges - Depreciation Other	196,250	203,130	6,880
Interest Paid	2,988,250	3,196,356	208,106
Repairs charged to revenue	600,000	542,718	(57,282)
Revenue Financing Capital Expenditure	1,693,450	0	(1,693,450)
New Development Feasibility	200,000	100,718	(99,282)
Increase in Bad Debt Provision	50,000	50,000	0
Corporate & Democratic Core	335,910	340,886	4,976
Total Expenditure	19,772,690	18,518,904	(1,253,786)
Net Cost of Services	862,690	(471,590)	(1,334,280)
Interest Received	(60,000)	(295,956)	(235,956)
Net Operating Expenditure	802,690	(767,547)	(1,570,237)
Net Cost of Service/(Surplus) for Year	802,690	(767,547)	(1,570,237)
HRA Reserve			
B/fwd 1 April	11,055,680	11,591,766	
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	(802,690)	767,547	
Carried Forward 31 March	10,252,990	12,359,313	

APPENDIX 9**EARMARKED RESERVES**

9.1 The change in revenue reserves and provisions are detailed in the table below and shows a reduction in the overall reserves and provisions held.

Movement in Reserves and Provisions 2022/23

	Reserves	Provisions	Bad Debt Provisions	Total Reserves & Provisions
	£000	£000	£000	£000
As at 31 March 2022	89,638	8,549	18,572	116,759
As at 31 March 2023	52,579	12,240	21,044	85,863
Increase/(Decrease)	(37,059)	3,691	2,472	(31,697)
Delegated School Balances Movement	2,296	0	0	2,296
Increase/(Decrease) (excluding Delegated School Balances)	(39,355)	3,691	2,472	(33,192)

	Purpose of Balance	Balance Brought Forward (£'000)	Transfer Balance Between Reserves (£'000)	Expenditure in 2022/23 (£'000)	Income in 2022/23 (£'000)	Balance Carried Forward (£'000)
Reserves						
Sums set aside for major schemes, such as capital developments, or to fund major reorganisation						
Redundancy	Required to meet one-off costs arising from approved staffing reductions, allowing the full approved savings in salaries or wages to reach the revenue account.	0	0	0	0	0
Revenue Commitments for Future Capital Expenditure	Comprises of underspends against budgeted revenue contributions available for capital schemes. The underspends have arisen due to slippage in capital schemes or because other funding streams were utilised during the year so as to maximise time limited grants.	4,079	0	-994	731	3,815
Development Reserve	Required to fund development projects or training that will deliver efficiency savings.	18,389	-190	-13,813	4,476	8,862
Invest to save Reserve	Required to fund invest to save projects in order to deliver the service transformation programme.	2,964	0	-1,022	128	2,070
		25,431	-190	-15,829	5,335	14,747
Insurance Reserves						
Fire Liability	Required to meet the cost of excesses on all council properties.	2,412	0	-501	305	2,216
Motor Insurance	An internally operated self-insurance reserve to meet costs not covered by the Council's Motor Insurance Policy.	1,341	0	-46	124	1,420
		3,754	0	-547	429	3,636
Reserves of trading and business units						
Shire Catering and Cleaning Efficiency	Built up from trading surpluses to invest in new initiatives, to meet exceptional unbudgeted costs or cover any trading deficits.	0	0	-8	8	0
		0	0	-8	8	0
Reserves retained for service departmental use						
Building Control	Required to manage the position regarding building control charges.	487	0	-63	0	424
Care Act & IBCF Reserve	Required to fund the costs of implementing the Care Act requirements within the Council. This will be committed to the costs of one off posts required to implement the changes and training costs for staff within Adult Services. Plus unspent IBCF monies required to fund the IBCF programme in future years.	4,137	0	-2,477	308	1,968
Economic Development Workshops Major Maintenance	Established to meet the costs of major maintenance of Economic Development Workshops.	149	0	0	0	149
External Fund Reserve	Reserves held where the Council is the administering body for trust funds or partnership working.	2,838	0	-520	380	2,698
Financial Strategy Reserve	Established specifically to provide one off funding for savings proposals in the Financial Strategy	7,043	0	-7,043	0	0
COVID Government Funding Reserve	Established to hold funds advanced by Government to respond to the COVID 19 pandemic which require to be applied in future years	14,415	0	-14,024	0	391

	Purpose of Balance	Balance Brought Forward (£'000)	Transfer Balance Between Reserves (£'000)	Expenditure in 2022/23 (£'000)	Income in 2022/23 (£'000)	Balance Carried Forward (£'000)
Savings Management - Highways	Established specifically to provide one off funding for highways savings proposals in the Financial Strategy	409	0	-1,609	1,200	0
Highways Development & Innovation Fund	Set aside funds for pump priming the Development and Innovation programme.	1,200	0	0	300	1,500
New Homes Bonus	Established from unapplied New Homes Bonus Grant balances.	1,633	0	-5,108	4,652	1,177
Public Health Reserve	This reserve includes balances committed to specific public health projects.	3,750	0	-158	732	4,323
Repairs & Maintenance Reserve	Set aside for known repairs and maintenance required to Council owned properties.	685	0	-351	0	333
Resources Efficiency	Established for investment in new developments, particularly information technology, that service area would not be expected to meet from their internal service level agreements for support services.	987	0	-237	466	1,217
Revenue Commitments from Unringfenced Revenue Grants	Established from unapplied unringfenced Grant balances. Commitments have been made against these balances in 2023/24	9,381	0	-5,481	428	4,328
Severe Weather	Required to meet unbudgeted costs arising from the damage caused by severe weather. The policy of the Council is to budget for an average year's expenditure in the revenue accounts and transfer any underspend to the reserve or fund any overspend from the reserve.	2,809	190	-787	797	3,009
TMO Vehicle Replacement	Set up to meet the costs of replacement vehicles by the Integrated Transport Unit.	80	0	-13	0	67
		50,001	190	-37,870	9,263	21,583
School Balances						
Balances held by schools under a scheme of delegation	Schools' balances have to be ringfenced for use by schools and schools have the right to spend those balances at their discretion.	8,191	0	-7,154	9,450	10,487
Schools Building Maintenance Insurance	The schools building maintenance insurance scheme is a service provided by Property Services for schools. In return for an annual sum all structural repairs and maintenance responsibilities previously identified as the "authority's responsibility" are carried out at no additional charge to the school.	2,261	0	-313	177	2,126
		10,452	0	-7,467	9,627	12,612
Total Reserves		89,638	0	-61,721	24,662	52,579
Provisions						
Provisions - Short Term						
Accumulated Absences Account	Provision to cover potential future payments of employee benefits not taken as at the end of the year. This is required under IFRS accounting regulations.	3,013	0	3,055	-3,013	3,055

	Purpose of Balance	Balance Brought Forward (£'000)	Transfer Balance Between Reserves (£'000)	Expenditure in 2022/23 (£'000)	Income in 2022/23 (£'000)	Balance Carried Forward (£'000)
Other Provisions - Short Term	Includes a number of small provisions including Environmental Maintenance contract commitments and Shopping Centre rental payments	705	0	303	-300	708
Provisions - Long Term						
Other Provisions - Long Term	Includes a number of small provisions including S106 Accrued Interest, profit share agreements and Shopping Centre rental payments.	73	0	0	0	73
Tenancy Deposit Claw backs	This represents deposits held for the economic development workshops that may be repaid at some point in the future.	216	0	38	-20	234
Liability Insurance	Provision to meet the estimated actuarial valuation of claims for public liability and employers' liability	3,706	0	868	-479	4,096
NDR Appeals	Represents the Council's share of the provision held for successful appeals against business rates.	835	0	6,572	-3,332	4,074
Council Tax Bad Debt	Held for potential write offs of Council tax debtor balances.	8,993	0	1,724	0	10,717
NNDR Bad Debt	Held for potential write offs of NNDR debtor balances.	2,020	0	499	0	2,520
General Fund Bad Debts	Held for potential write offs of debtor balances for General Fund Services including Housing Benefits.	7,168	0	1,057	-813	7,412
HRA Bad Debts	Held for potential write offs of debtor balances for Housing Revenue Account rents and other debtor balances.	391	0	50	-45	395
Total Provisions		27,121	0	14,165	-8,002	33,284

Total Reserves & Provisions	116,759	0	-47,555	16,659	85,863
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HRA Earmarked Reserves						
Major Repairs Reserve	Required to meet the costs of major repairs to be undertaken on the Council's housing stock.	6,919	0	4,675	-4,194	7,400
		6,919	0	4,675	-4,194	7,400

Delegated School Balances

9.2 The movement in delegated schools' balances are detailed in the table below.

Movement in delegated schools' balances 2022/23

	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000	Increase/ (Decrease) £'000
Schools:			
- Revenue Balances	6,215	6,486	271
- Invested Balances	400	382	(18)
- Extended Schools Activities Balance	1,002	923	(79)
Sub Total within Schools	7,617	7,791	174
Purchasing IT equipment	(9)	0	9
DSG (Deficit) / Surplus	582	2,695	2,113
Total Delegated School Balances	8,190	10,486	2,296

9.3 Schools' balances have to be ringfenced for use by schools and schools have the right to spend those balances at their discretion. Of the 85 schools with balances, 5 have deficit balances.

9.54 The Extended Schools activities allocations for schools were paid over during 2022/23, these balances have been ringfenced to each individual school within School Balances.

9.65 In 2020, new reporting requirements were introduced to establish a new reserve for Dedicated Schools Grant balances. For those local authorities with a schools budget surplus, the requirement is that the surplus is held in a earmarked useable reserve. As at the end of 2022/23 financial year, Shropshire Council has a £2.695m DSG surplus which is required to be held in a statutorily ring-fenced unusable reserve called the DSG Adjustment Account.

APPENDIX 10**REVISED CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

Detail	Agreed Capital Programme - Council 24/02/22 £m	Slippage & Budget Changes Approved To Quarter 3 20221/23	Quarter 4 Budget Changes to be Approved £m	Revised 2022/23 Capital Programme Quarter 4 £m
General Fund				
Adult Services	-	-	-	-
Childrens Services	17.795	7.430	(8.950)	16.275
Place	90.657	(19.1950)	5.038	76.500
Workforce & Transformation	0.351	0.135	0.000	0.486
Total General Fund	108.803	(11.630)	(3.9122)	93.261
Housing Revenue Account	16.511	1.435	(0.095)	17.851
Total Approved Budget	125.314	(10.195)	(4.007)	111.112

APPENDIX 11**CAPITAL PROGRAMME OUTTURN POSITION BY DIRECTORATE 2022/23**

Detail	Revised Capital Programme - Outturn 2022/23 £m	Actual Expenditure 31/03/2023 £m	Variance £m	Spend To Budget %
General Fund				
Health & Wellbeing	-	-	-	-
People	16.275	19.175	(2.899)	117.8%
Place	76.500	67.289	9.211	88.0%
Workforce & Transformation	0.486	0.443	0.042	91.3%
Total General Fund	93.261	86.907	6.354	93.2%
Housing Revenue Account	17.851	13.458	4.393	75.4%
Total Approved Budget	111.112	100.365	10.747	90.3%

APPENDIX 12

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT VARIANCES BETWEEN REVISED OUTTURN BUDGET & OUTTURN EXPENDITURE BY DIRECTORATE AND SERVICE AREA FOR 2022-23

People - Total overspend against People capital programme was £2.900m.

- 0.265m overspend against Adult Social Care for OT Equipment purchases across county. This has been carried forward for financing from the 2023-24 Disabled Facilities Grant allocation. This is mainly as a result of inflationary pressures on equipment costs. Work is under way to review the purchasing process and how savings can be achieved in this area through more bulk purchasing in future. This overspend was forecast earlier in year and reported.
- £2.654m overspend against Learning and Skills. This is mainly in relation to cashflow timing of payments rather than a budget pressure on the Schools Future Place Planning Programme for the new Bowbrook Primary School. The overspend will be carried forward into 2023-24 for allocation against the budget set in 2023-24. The overall programme is still within budget allocation.

Place – Total underspend against the Place capital programme was £9.211m, which was comprised of the following areas of main underspends and overspends:

- £0.738m overspend against budget on the NWRR. The current budget in the capital programme is only representative of the DfT large local majors grant award. The spend in 2022-23 was above the allocation and has been funded from the capital receipt projections.
- £0.410 on the Shrewsbury SITP programme due to delays in the final instalment of the VMS signage and agreement on locations.
- £1.563m underspend on various LTP projects, including Schools 20mph Scheme and Shifnal Network Improvements, these are expected to continue into 2023-24.
- £0.981m underspend against expected profile on various Highways CIL and Section 106 projects which will continue into 2023-24.
- £1.933m underspend against Corporate Landlord capital maintenance programme due to delays in the deliverability of some schemes. These schemes are expected to complete in early 2023-24.
- £0.444m underspend against budget profile on the Oswestry Mile End pedestrian overbridge scheme due to delays in revising the procurement options to ensure savings on construction where possible.
- £1.484m underspend against forecast on the On Street Residential Charging Point Scheme due to an extension of the programme until June 2023.
- £1.103m underspend against the Whitchurch Medical Practice project which is as a result in payment drawdowns behind expected profile.
- 0.484m underspend on the Meole Brace Pitch and Putt project against expected profile due to planning requirements.

Resources - Total underspend against the Resources capital programme was £0.043m. This is in relation to the allocation of funding towards the cost of IT Kit Replacement Programme which will continue into 2023-24.

Housing Revenue Account - Total underspend against the HRA programme was £4.393m, of which £0.817m was on the Major Repairs Programme against an overall budget allocation of £5.055m so significant expenditure has been invested with just a slight underspend. £2.588m was on the New Build Programme which was mainly due to profiling of contractor payments and costs which will continue into 2023-24, with the overall programme still on schedule. £0.938m was on the Temporary Accommodation Programme against an overall budget allocation of £1.871m, careful consideration of suitable properties and locations has resulted in a slight delay on completions against profile, but considerable progress has been made in securing properties.

APPENDIX 13**REVISED CAPITAL PROGRAMME FINANCING 2022/23**

Within the financing of the Capital Programme £5.656m is funded from revenue contributions. The major areas of revenue contributions to capital are in ringfenced HRA monies to undertake major housing stock repairs (£1.052m) and new build schemes (£2.364m), essential repairs in relation to the Corporate Landlord estate (£1.456m), the Community Led Affordable Housing Contributions Grant Scheme (£0.379m) and Schools revenue contributions to various capital schemes (0.243m).

Detail	Agreed Capital Programme - Council 24/02/22	Slippage & Budget Changes Approved To Quarter 3 2022/23	Quarter 4 Budget Changes to be Approved	Revised 2022/23 Capital Programme Quarter 4
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Financing				
Self Financed Prudential Borrowing *	22.176	12.454	3.869	38.499
SALIX Loan	1.790	(1.003)	-	0.787
Government Grants	69.413	(28.398)	(4.805)	36.210
Other Grants	0.138	6.377	(4.999)	1.515
Other Contributions	14.468	0.599	0.244	15.311
Revenue Contributions to Capital	3.428	1.767	0.461	5.656
Major Repairs Allowance	3.780	0.310	(0.267)	3.823
Corporate Resources (expectation - Capital Receipts only)	10.121	(2.300)	1.490	9.310
Total Confirmed Funding	125.314	(10.195)	(4.007)	111.112

APPENDIX 14**CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2023/24 to 2025/26**

Detail	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	£m	£m	£m
General Fund			
Health & Wellbeing	-	-	-
People	28.272	17.577	7.399
Place & Enterprise	76.828	78.088	35.552
Resources	1.000	-	-
Total General Fund	106.100	95.665	42.951
Housing Revenue Account	20.475	15.122	13.313
Total Approved Budget	126.575	110.787	56.264
Financing			
Self Financed Prudential Borrowing *	41.654	30.734	12.342
SALIX Loan	1.910	0.000	-
Government Grants	55.010	58.801	30.481
Other Grants	2.188	0.061	0.020
Other Contributions	7.855	5.951	2.100
Revenue Contributions to Capital	1.049	0.000	0.369
Major Repairs Allowance	4.828	4.828	5.000
Corporate Resources (expectation - Capital Receipts only)	12.080	10.412	5.952
Total Confirmed Funding	126.575	110.787	56.264

* Borrowing for which on-going revenue costs are financed by the Service, usually from revenue savings generated from the schemes.

The Corporate Resources financing line is the element of internal resources through capital receipts and corporately financed prudential borrowing required to finance the programme. Current expectation is these will all be through capital receipts. The Council continues to consider proposals for new schemes for the Council to invest in, with an emphasis on invest to save schemes and schemes that create either revenue savings or revenue generation.

APPENDIX 15**PROJECTED CAPITAL RECEIPTS POSITION**

15.1 The current capital programme is heavily reliant on the Council generating capital receipts to finance the capital programme. There is a high level of risk in these projections as they are subject to changes in property and land values, the actions of potential buyers and being granted planning permission on sites. The table below summarises the current allocated and projected capital receipt position across 2022-23 to 2025-26. A RAG analysis has been applied for capital receipts projected, based on the current likelihood of generating them by the end of each financial year. Those marked as green are highly likely to be completed by the end of the financial year, amber achievable but challenging and thus there is a risk of slippage, and red are highly unlikely to complete in year and thus there is a high risk of slippage. However, no receipts are guaranteed to complete in this financial year as there may be delays between exchanging contracts and completing.

Detail	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m
Corporate Resources Allocated in Capital Programme	7.888	12.080	11.039	6.952
Capital Receipts used to finance redundancy costs	0.944	1.044	-	-
To be allocated from Ring Fenced Receipts	-	20.835	4.000	17.932
Total Commitments	8.832	33.958	15.039	24.884
Capital Receipts in hand/projected:				
Brought Forward in hand	18.273	18.273	(9.581)	(24.620)
Generated 2020/21 YTD	8.832	-	-	-
Projected - 'Green'	-	6.104	-	0.495
Total in hand/projected	27.105	24.377	(9.581)	(24.125)
Shortfall to be financed from Prudential Borrowing / (Surplus) to carry forward	(18.273)	9.581	24.620	49.009
Further Assets Being Considered for Disposal	-	23.677	15.147	2.000

15.2 Capital receipts of £18.273m were brought forward from 2021/22 and £8.832m was generated in 2022/23. As previously reported, following the re-profiling in the capital programme and mid-year review of the programme, enough receipts have been generated to finance this year's capital programme without any corporate prudential borrowing. Of the receipts generated in year, £0.944m has been used to finance redundancy costs under the flexibilities around the use of Capital Receipts for transformation revenue purposes.

15.3 Following the underspend position for the capital programme for 2022/23 and the Council policy of applying un-ringfenced capital grants in place of capital receipts where they are not required in full due to scheme underspends, the Council has £17.465m in capital receipts in hand at 31/03/23. These will be set-aside, enabling the Council to achieve an additional MRP saving of £0.542m in 2023/24. These capital receipts are required to finance schemes they are allocated to in the future years' capital programme.

15.4 Based on the current approved position, across the life of the programme there are significant shortfalls in capital receipt projections of £9.581m, £24.620m and £49.009m in 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26 respectively based on receipts rated green in the RAG analysis to fund the required budget in the capital programme. There is, therefore, the requirement to progress the disposals rated amber and red, which over the period 2023-24 to 2026-27 total £52.092m, to

ensure they are realised, together with realising the revenue running cost savings from some of the properties. Considerable work is required to realise these receipts, with generally a lead in time of at least 12 to 18 months on larger disposals. In addition to the current expenditure commitments, the programme will also grow as new schemes are approved.

- 15.5 It is important that work progresses, to avoid funding shortfalls in 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26 and minimise any shortfall in future years. Failure to generate the required level of capital receipts will result in the need to further reduce or re-profile the capital programme, some of which will occur naturally as part of the review of the delivery of schemes; or undertake prudential borrowing, which will incur future year's revenue costs that are not budgeted in the revenue financial strategy.
- 15.6 The projected shortfall in capital receipts is purely based on the currently approved capital programme for the period 2023/24 to 2025/26. The current Capital Strategy 2023/24 to 2027/28, approved by Council in March 2023, identifies potential future priority capital schemes with estimated costs of £301.823m. It is prudent for schemes which are not anticipated to generate additional income to be funded from capital receipts. This will further increase the future pressure on capital receipts generation.

Shropshire Council - Capital Programme 2022/23 - 2025/26

Appendix 16

Capital Programme Summary Outturn 2022/23

Directorate	Revised Budget Q3 2022/23 £	Budget Virements Q4	Revised Budget Q4 2022/23 £	Actual Spend £	Spend to Budget Variance £	% Budget Spend	Outturn Projection £	2023/24 Revised Budget £	2024/25 Revised Budget £	2025/26 Revised Budget £
General Fund										
Health & Wellbeing	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0
People	25,225,543	-8,950,442	16,275,101	19,174,601	-2,899,500	117.82%	16,275,101	28,545,946	17,577,384	7,399,000
Place	71,462,173	5,038,284	76,500,457	67,289,238	9,211,219	87.96%	76,500,457	76,554,008	78,088,032	35,552,041
Resources	485,549	0	485,549	443,188	42,361	91.28%	485,549	1,000,000	0	0
Total General Fund	97,173,265	-3,912,158	93,261,107	86,907,026	6,354,081	93.19%	93,261,107	106,099,954	95,665,416	42,951,041
Housing Revenue Account	17,945,870	-95,223	17,850,647	13,457,857	4,392,790	75.39%	17,850,647	20,475,256	15,121,612	13,312,819
Total Approved Budget	115,119,135	-4,007,381	111,111,754	100,364,883	10,746,871	90.33%	111,111,754	126,575,210	110,787,028	56,263,860

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Shropshire Council - Capital Programme Portfolio Holder Summary Outturn 2022/23

Portfolio Holder	Initial Budget 2022/23 £	Budget Virements £	Revised Budget 2022/23 £	Actual Spend £	Spend to Budget Variance £	% Budget Spend	Outturn Projection £	2023/24 Revised Budget £	2024/25 Revised Budget £	2025/26 Revised Budget £
General Fund										
Portfolio Holder Adult Social Care and Public Health	6,612,500	-2,006,597	4,605,903	4,944,997	-339,094	107.36%	4,605,903	6,854,000	5,349,000	4,149,000
Portfolio Growth and Regeneration	35,350,074	5,640,899	40,990,973	31,947,630	9,043,343	77.94%	40,990,973	50,827,827	34,522,251	14,305,612
Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder Climate Change, Environment and Transport	325,000	1,700,384	2,025,384	2,025,384	0	100.00%	2,025,384	0	325,000	0
Portfolio Holder Children and Education	11,182,552	-739,006	10,443,546	13,007,581	-2,564,035	124.55%	10,443,546	14,773,996	12,228,384	3,250,000
Portfolio Holder Finance and Corporate Resources	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0
Portfolio Holder Culture and Digital	5,360,711	-3,031,547	2,329,164	1,923,464	405,700	82.58%	2,329,164	9,361,088	7,130,393	2,147,248
Portfolio Holder Highways and Regulatory Services	49,972,130	-17,105,993	32,866,137	33,057,971	-191,834	100.58%	32,866,137	24,283,043	36,110,388	19,099,181
Leader and Portfolio Holder Strategy	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0
Total General Fund	108,802,967	-15,541,860	93,261,107	86,907,026	6,354,081	93.19%	93,261,107	106,099,954	95,665,416	42,951,041
Housing Revenue Account										
Portfolio Holder Physical Infrastructure (Highways, Built Housing, Assets) (HRA)	16,510,712	1,339,935	17,850,647	13,457,857	4,392,790	75.39%	17,850,647	20,475,256	15,121,612	13,312,819
Total Approved Budget	125,313,679	-14,201,925	111,111,754	100,364,883	10,746,871	90.33%	111,111,754	126,575,210	110,787,028	56,263,860

Shropshire Council - Capital Programme Budget Outturn Report 2022/23

Directorate Service Area	Initial Budget 2022/23 £	Budget Virements £	Revised Budget 2022/23 £	Actual Spend £	Spend to Budget Variance £	% Budget Spend	Outturn Projection £	2023/24 Revised Budget £	2024/25 Revised Budget £	2025/26 Revised Budget £
General Fund										
Health & Wellbeing	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0
Public Health Capital	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0
Regulatory Services Capital	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0
People	17,795,052	-1,519,951	16,275,101	19,174,601	-2,899,500	117.82%	16,275,101	28,271,680	17,577,384	7,399,000
Adult Social Care Contracts & Provider Capital	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0
Adult Social Care Operations Capital	3,332,500	-1,812,089	1,520,411	1,601,220	-80,809	105.31%	1,520,411	2,405,000	1,200,000	0
Children's Residential Care Capital	300,000	854,828	1,154,828	827,314	327,514	71.64%	1,154,828	65,612	0	0
Housing Services Capital	3,280,000	1,031,144	4,311,144	4,565,800	-254,656	105.91%	4,311,144	11,092,684	4,149,000	4,149,000
Non Maintained Schools Capital	3,055,855	451,988	3,507,843	8,257,475	-4,749,632	235.40%	3,507,843	2,504,877	3,000,000	0
Primary School Capital	4,967,048	797,241	5,764,289	3,792,592	1,971,697	65.79%	5,764,289	2,380,038	1,000,000	0
Secondary School Capital	250,000	267,049	517,049	71,864	445,185	13.90%	517,049	46,439	0	0
Special Schools Capital	0	73,070	73,070	58,336	14,734	79.84%	73,070	30,888	0	0
Unallocated School Capital	2,609,649	-3,183,182	-573,533	0	-573,533	0.00%	-573,533	9,746,142	8,228,384	3,250,000
Place Capital - Commercial Services	14,714,402	608,064	15,322,466	11,598,429	3,724,037	75.70%	15,322,466	14,365,056	12,783,119	1,701,000
Corporate Landlord Capital	14,714,402	608,064	15,322,466	11,598,429	3,724,037	75.70%	15,322,466	14,365,056	12,783,119	1,701,000
Place Capital - Economic Growth	9,104,905	-1,517,561	7,587,344	6,558,018	1,029,326	86.43%	7,587,344	13,018,262	8,190,676	4,371,738
Broadband Capital	4,979,945	-3,984,809	995,136	884,047	111,089	88.84%	995,136	3,674,431	1,573,156	79,945
Development Management Capital	758,248	-28,493	729,755	442,196	287,559	60.60%	729,755	236,069	121,500	40,500
Economic Growth Capital	2,940,753	1,680,909	4,621,662	4,400,983	220,679	95.23%	4,621,662	8,558,803	6,496,020	4,251,293
Planning Policy Capital	425,959	814,832	1,240,791	830,791	410,000	66.96%	1,240,791	548,959	0	0
Place Capital - Homes & Communities	30,000	818,479	848,479	596,229	252,250	70.27%	848,479	4,686,657	5,557,237	2,067,303
Leisure Capital	30,000	695,663	725,663	494,331	231,332	68.12%	725,663	4,454,657	5,357,237	2,067,303
Outdoor Partnerships Capital	0	122,816	122,816	78,998	43,818	64.32%	122,816	232,000	200,000	0
Visitor Economy Capital	0	0	0	22,900	-22,900	0.00%	0	0	0	0
Place Capital - Infrastructure	66,807,842	-14,065,674	52,742,168	48,536,561	4,205,607	92.03%	52,742,168	44,758,299	51,557,000	27,412,000
Environment & Transport Capital	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0
Highways Capital	66,482,842	-15,766,058	50,716,784	46,511,178	4,205,606	91.71%	50,716,784	44,758,299	51,232,000	27,412,000
Waste Capital	325,000	1,700,384	2,025,384	2,025,384	0	100.00%	2,025,384	0	325,000	0
Resources	350,766	134,783	485,549	443,188	42,361	91.28%	485,549	1,000,000	0	0
ICT Digital Transformation - CRM Capital	0	364,179	364,179	364,178	1	100.00%	364,179	0	0	0
ICT Digital Transformation - ERP Capital	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0
ICT Digital Transformation - Infrastructure & Architecture Capital	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0
ICT Digital Transformation - Social Care Capital	0	79,010	79,010	79,010	0	100.00%	79,010	0	0	0
ICT Digital Transformation - Unallocated Capital	350,766	-308,406	42,360	0	42,360	0.00%	42,360	1,000,000	0	0
Total General Fund	108,802,967	-15,541,860	93,261,107	86,907,026	6,354,081	93.19%	93,261,107	106,099,954	95,665,416	42,951,041
Housing Revenue Account	16,510,712	1,339,935	17,850,647	13,457,857	4,392,790	75.39%	17,850,647	20,475,256	15,121,612	13,312,819
HRA Dwellings Capital	16,510,712	1,339,935	17,850,647	13,457,857	4,392,790	75.39%	17,850,647	20,475,256	15,121,612	13,312,819
Total Approved Budget	125,313,679	-14,201,925	111,111,754	100,364,883	10,746,871	90.33%	111,111,754	126,575,210	110,787,028	56,263,860

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Council 6 July 2023

Item

Public



Levelling Up Fund Award for Shrewsbury

Responsible Officer:	Mark Barrow		
email:	mark.barrow@shropshire.gov.uk	Tel:	01743 258676
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	Dean Carroll		

1. Synopsis

To recommend to Council to accept the successful bid award from DLUHC Levelling Up Fund Round 2, to accelerate enabling and infrastructure works for the Smithfield Riverside Redevelopment Programme and deliver the Transforming Movement and Public Spaces project in Shrewsbury.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. Further to recommendations approved in the report to Cabinet on 8 June 2022, titled 'Levelling up for Shropshire', officers submitted bids to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), under the UK Levelling Up Fund Round 2 (LUF2), for Shrewsbury, Oswestry and Craven Arms, as well as a county-wide transport bid.
- 2.2. The Shrewsbury bid was successful with a LUF2 award of £18.701m to support two packages of work as follows:
 - 2.2.1. Smithfield Riverside Redevelopment Programme (Project 1): demolition, site remediation and associated enabling works, necessary to facilitate the future regeneration of the former Riverside shopping centre with high quality mixed-use development, including a diverse range of commercial office, leisure, hospitality, and food and beverage uses with associated public realm alongside the River Severn.
 - 2.2.2. Transforming Movement and Public Spaces in Shrewsbury (Project 2): public realm improvements adjacent to the town's rail station and Northern Corridor improving a key gateway into the town, improving resident and visitor safety, air quality and enjoyment of these areas through improved connectivity.

- 2.3. It was agreed at Cabinet on 19 April 2023 (report title 'Levelling Up for Shrewsbury') to seek Council approval to the recommendations contained within this report.
- 2.4. The Shropshire Plan's Healthy Economy strand highlights the importance of investment in key strategic locations and assets including Smithfield Riverside to drive economic activity. Investment from the LUF2 award can be directly linked and attributed to the Shropshire Plan.

3. Recommendations

That Council agree to:

- 3.1. Approve the acceptance of the Levelling Up Fund Grant award from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), and instruct officers to progress the associated projects.
- 3.2. Approve financing of the Council's cash match funding requirement of £3.793m from borrowing with an associated annual revenue impact of £0.269m
- 3.3. Approve the inclusion of enabling and infrastructure works associated to the Levelling Up Fund Award, within the planning application(s) for the demolition of the Riverside Shopping Centre and the former Riverside medical practice, as recommendation 3.2 approved in the Council report titled 'Shrewsbury Town Centre Redevelopment Phase One' 16 February 2022.
- 3.4. Delegate to the Executive Director of Place in consultation with the Section 151 officer and the Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration and Planning to:
 - 3.4.1. proceed with compiling the full financial details and business case for the two projects summarised in item 2.2 above, for inclusion in a further report for consideration by Council.
 - 3.4.2. progress a procurement and delivery strategy for the two projects summarised in items 2.2 above.

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1. Risk management will inform the basis of any reporting, deep dives and assurance provision. The risk management processes we have in place are extremely robust against any challenge and the project teams in place are thoroughly engaged in the process.
- 4.2. As part of the bid application, a Risk Register was required for each of the projects; these are in place and will be reviewed as part of the governance arrangements for the wider Shrewsbury Town Centre Redevelopment Programme for Project 1: Smithfield Riverside, and as part of the Shrewsbury Movement and Public Realm Strategy for Project 2: Transforming Movement and Public Spaces.
- 4.3. The DLUHC have also provided an Assurance Framework which includes a risk-based approach. We follow the same risk-based approach (Three Lines of

Defence Model – Risk being Second line of defence) as they are articulating within their Assurance Framework. Any ‘deep dives’ will include provision of our risk registers. We will keep a close eye on implementation of controls and any slippages in the dates to prevent any impact on our performance levels which could instigate a ‘deep dive’ scenario.

- 4.4. Our Opportunity Risk Management Strategy may be requested as part of the DLUHC requirements, and this has been subject to a recent scheduled review and has been updated and signed off accordingly.
- 4.5. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been received from DLUHC which sets out the obligations for the Council required under the LUF2 award; The terms and conditions within this MoU have been scrutinised, as well as any project development impacts, prior to acceptance by the S151 Officer on 27 March 2023. The signed MOU has been returned to DLUHC for counter signatory.
- 4.6. The agreement to the DLUHC MOU does not predetermine or prejudice any planning decision that the Council may make in its role as the local planning authority; risks associated with the need to secure planning decisions, will be mitigated by the Opportunity Risk Management Strategy.
- 4.7. The business case and the procurement and delivery strategies for the two projects will be informed by the detailed financial appraisal and the updated economic impact assessment, all integral to the wider Shrewsbury Town Centre Redevelopment Programme.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. Members approved the submission of four LUF Round 2 bids in ‘Levelling Up Shropshire’ Cabinet report of 8 June 2022. The bids were submitted in August 2022 and the Council received notification of the success of the Smithfield Riverside Redevelopment Programme and Transforming Movement & Public Spaces in Shrewsbury projects bid in January 2023.
- 5.2. The successful bid awarded £18.701m LUF Round 2 grant funding to the projects against which the Council is required to contribute £5.043m of match funding (21% of total project costs) towards the two projects within this application, summarised as follows:
 - 5.2.1 £4.615m in relation to Smithfield Riverside Redevelopment Programme (Project 1), and
 - 5.2.2 £0.428m in relation to Transforming Movement & Public Spaces in Shrewsbury (Project 2).
- 5.3. These contributions will comprise of land and asset contributions totalling £1.250m and cash match contributions of £3.793m, totalling £5.043m. The table below analyses the match funding requirements associated with Project 1 and Project 2.

Match Funding Source	Project 1 £	Project 2 £	Total £
Land & Asset Contribution	1,250,000		1,250,000
Cash Contribution	3,364,962	427,957	3,792,919

Total	4,614,962	427,957	5,042,919
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- 5.4 £1.715m of the cash match above for Project 1 has previously been approved in the Council report titled 'Shrewsbury Redevelopment Programme Phase One' (24 February 2022).
- 5.5 This LUF funded scheme was identified in the Capital Strategy 2023-24 to 2027-28 approved by Council in February 2023 as a priority. The Strategy currently assumes that the cash match funding contribution of £3.793m will be sourced through PWLB borrowing. Assuming an asset life of 25 years and an interest rate of 5%, the associated revenue budget impact for the cost of borrowing will be £0.269m annually upon completion of the projects. This revenue impact represents the worst-case scenario for funding of the scheme. Alternative funding sources will be explored to mitigate the total borrowing required and the consequent impact on the revenue budget.
- 5.6 The financial details and business case for this successful scheme is currently being prepared and considered in further detail, in readiness for completion of full business cases for the respective projects. This will include identifying and securing alternative funding sources, other than borrowing for the match funding requirement of the scheme, as well as recognising the priority risks including the current risk of inflationary pressures and material instability within construction projects which may result in the requirement to include considerable project contingencies within the individual project costings. Once this work is completed, a subsequent paper will be presented to Council seeking gateway approval for the scheme to proceed to the next stage and inclusion in the Council's approved Capital Programme to progress the scheme and, critically, prior to contractually committing to delivery of the scheme. Further work is included to ensure that all delivery costs for the council are charged into the project, so far as this is allowed within the terms of the grant, to minimise the pressure on revenue budgets.

6 Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.1 The Council's Climate Strategy has three main objectives as a route map to zero carbon:
- **Mitigate** the causes of climate change through carbon reduction of our services
 - **Adapt** services and their delivery to respond to changes in the climate
 - **Promote** sustainable practices via all services.
- 6.2 The LUF award will contribute towards reducing carbon impacts and mitigating increased carbon outputs through sustainable and balanced growth in existing communities, reducing the need to travel for work, providing more sustainable options for travel as well as growth opportunities for new low carbon development. Capturing and quantifying the impact of carbon activity of the bids if successful, will be explored and undertaken through future monitoring. To support greater resilience to climate-induced extreme weather, design features will be considered in designing and developing projects.
- 6.3 Notably Project 1 will minimise waste to landfill with demolition material used within the site, facilitate zero / low carbon building of the Multi-Agency Hub (MAH) and actively incorporate sustainable urban drainage (SUDS).

7 Background

- 7.1 The Cabinet report titled Levelling Up for Shropshire, dated 8 June 2022, summarised the background to the Government's objectives for Levelling Up Fund Round 2 and its relevance to Shropshire. Focusing on capital investment in local infrastructure, and building on prior programmes, such as the Local Growth Fund and Towns Fund, a Levelling Up White Paper (February 2022) was published announcing how the Government intends to spread opportunity more equally across the UK; subsequently, the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill was published in May 2022.
- 7.2 The Levelling Up Fund aims to invest in projects that have a visible impact on people and their communities. These include high value local investment priorities, such as local transport schemes, urban regeneration projects and cultural assets. The Fund is jointly managed by HM Treasury (HMT), the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and the Department for Transport (DfT). The Fund focuses on investment projects that require up to £20m of funding for each constituency area. Further information is available at:
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-prospectus>
- 7.3 Further to the approved recommendations of the Cabinet report (8 June 2022), officers were instructed to submit four bids for Shrewsbury, Oswestry and Craven Arms, and a county-wide transport bid in the second round of the Levelling Up programme. Under the delegations to the Executive Director of Place, in consultation with the Section 151 officer and the Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration and Planning, these bids were submitted on 2 August 2022.
- 7.4 The two projects within the funding bid will result in significant economic impact for the Shropshire economy. This is in addition to wage and gross value added (GVA) convergence with West Midlands and UK averages, increased pride of place of Shrewsbury residents, increased private sector confidence and investment, future phases of Shrewsbury Masterplan accelerated and an increase in resident population of working age (via in-migration).
- 7.5 On 19 January 2023 the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities notified the Council (Appendix B) that the Levelling Up Fund Round 2 bid for Shrewsbury was successful, comprising two projects, summarised as follows:

Transforming Movement and Public Spaces in Shrewsbury: Key Routes & Corridors Improvements.

- 7.6 The project includes measures to enhance the public realm and bring forward the transformation of public spaces along key routes and connections, to create an attractive urban environment stimulating greater numbers of visitors/users, higher spend and activity.
- 7.7 One of the key goals and strategic aims of the Shrewsbury Big Town Plan is to better connect communities. This project is directly linked to the emerging Movement and Public Realm strategy commissioned on behalf of the Shrewsbury Big Town Plan (SBTP) Partnership. It will be viewed as an 'early win' for this strategy by demonstrating that these kind of active travel and public realm improvements can be externally funded and are seen as high value for money. The BCR for this project is 7.77:1 and demonstrates over £28 million of active

travel impacts. Several key, linked routes are identified for improvement, with proposals for traffic management measures, including new pedestrian crossings and public spaces, enhancements to pedestrian and cycle links within and around the 'river loop' to create a connected town centre for people. These are detailed within Appendix A.

Shrewsbury Redevelopment Programme

- 7.8 Smithfield Riverside is a transformative plan for the regeneration of an important site of circa 4 hectares in freehold ownership of Shropshire Council. Many of the buildings on the site are beyond economic repair/investment resulting in high levels of vacancy, are dated and in generally poor condition. The area is subsequently unattractive, unwelcoming, and underutilised.
- 7.9 The two projects identified within the LUF Round 2 award contribute to the aspirations of the wider redevelopment programme for Shrewsbury town centre, as summarised in the Council report titled 'Shrewsbury Redevelopment Programme' dated 24 February 2022
- 7.10 The projects will accelerate the transformation of a major opportunity site in the town centre and act as a catalyst for regeneration and growth of Shrewsbury as a whole. Smithfield Riverside will capitalise on its strategic advantages, including its waterfront setting and proximity to the railway station.
- 7.11 The projects propose to address significant programme of demolition and 'abnormal' levels of ground remediation works associated with the site's adjacency to the River Severn; thereby de-risking the site and improving its viability and suitability for vibrant mixed-use development in line with the Big Town Plan aspirations and the Economic Growth Strategy and Shropshire Plan.
- 7.12 The projects will facilitate longer-term redevelopment of the wider Riverside site for permanent leisure, commercial, retail and residential uses for economic benefit, while creating excitement, investor, occupier and commercial interest. The area will become a distinctive and vibrant mixed-use neighbourhood that will become a centrepiece of Shrewsbury's economic and residential growth. This is summarised within Appendix A.
- 7.13 The LUF bid submission (August 2022), proposed to include the enabling and infrastructure works, associated to the Levelling Up Fund Award, within the planning application(s) for the demolition of the Riverside Shopping Centre and the former Riverside medical practice, as recommendation 3.2 approved in the Council report titled 'Shrewsbury Town Centre Redevelopment Phase One' 16 February 2022.
- 7.14 A redacted copy of the full application is provided on the Shropshire Council website. <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/shropshire-council/shrewsbury-levelling-up-funding-bid/>

8 Conclusions

- 8.1 Acceptance of this Levelling Up Fund Round 2 award will be a catalyst for transformation and regeneration providing significant investment in the town centre.

- 8.2 Delivery of the demolition and enablement works will bring forward significant elements of the Phase 1 Shrewsbury Town Centre Regeneration (STCR) programme and enable subsequent phases to be accelerated. The transforming movement and public realm project is an 'early win' for the emerging Movement and Public Realm Strategy. Together these two projects are significant contributors to Shropshire's Economic Growth Strategy 2022-27, and key to delivering targeted place-based investments in strategic locations.
- 8.3 The Shropshire Plan 2022-25 encourages positive lifestyle choices, supporting delivery of resilient communities, healthy people and prosperous communities. In addition, Shropshire Council's June 2022 medium term financial strategy identifies the importance of increasing investment in place-based growth. The Healthy Economy strand highlights the importance of investment in key strategic locations and assets including Smithfield Riverside to drive economic activity. Investment from the LUF2 award can be directly linked and attributed to the Shropshire Plan.

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

Cabinet report title 'Levelling Up for Shrewsbury' dated 19 April 2023

Cabinet report title 'Levelling Up for Shropshire' dated 8 June 2022

Council report titled 'Shrewsbury Redevelopment Programme' dated 24 February 2022

Bid submission Levelling Up Fund Round 2 for Shrewsbury (submission reference LUF20312) <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/shropshire-council/shrewsbury-levelling-up-funding-bid/>

Local Member: Nat Green

Appendices

Appendix A: Maps and drawings of project locations.

Appendix B: Award letter 19 January 2023

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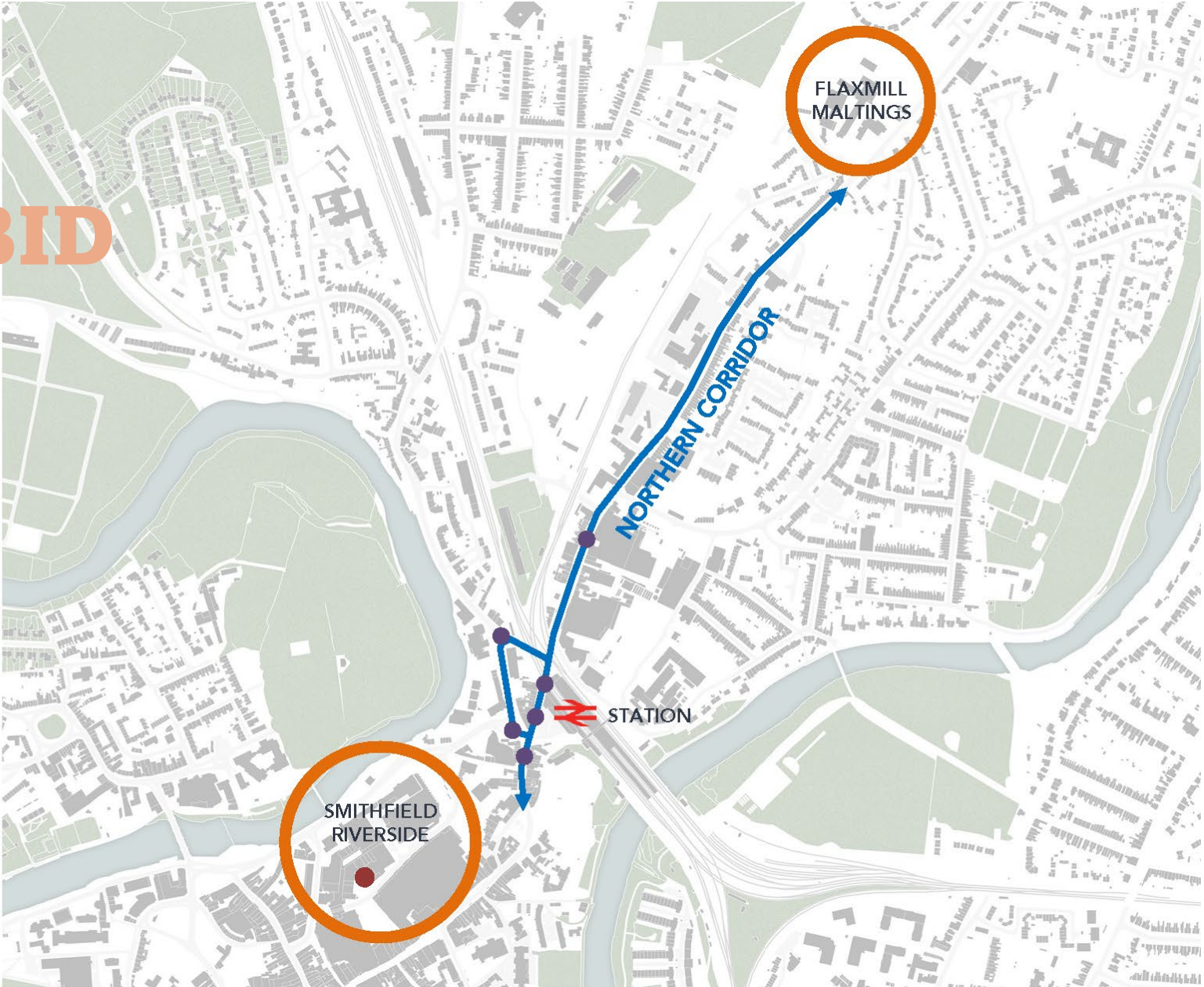


Smithfield Riverside Redevelopment Programme and Transforming Movement and Public Spaces in Shrewsbury

Appendix A MAPS & DRAWINGS

LOCATIONS OF SHREWSBURY'S LEVELLING UP BID

- ➔ Key Connection
- Project 1: Smithfield Riverside Regeneration Programme
- Project 2: Transforming Movement and Place, location of the interventions



An aerial photograph of Shrewsbury, England, showing the town's layout, the River Sever winding through it, and surrounding green spaces. The text is overlaid on the top half of the image.

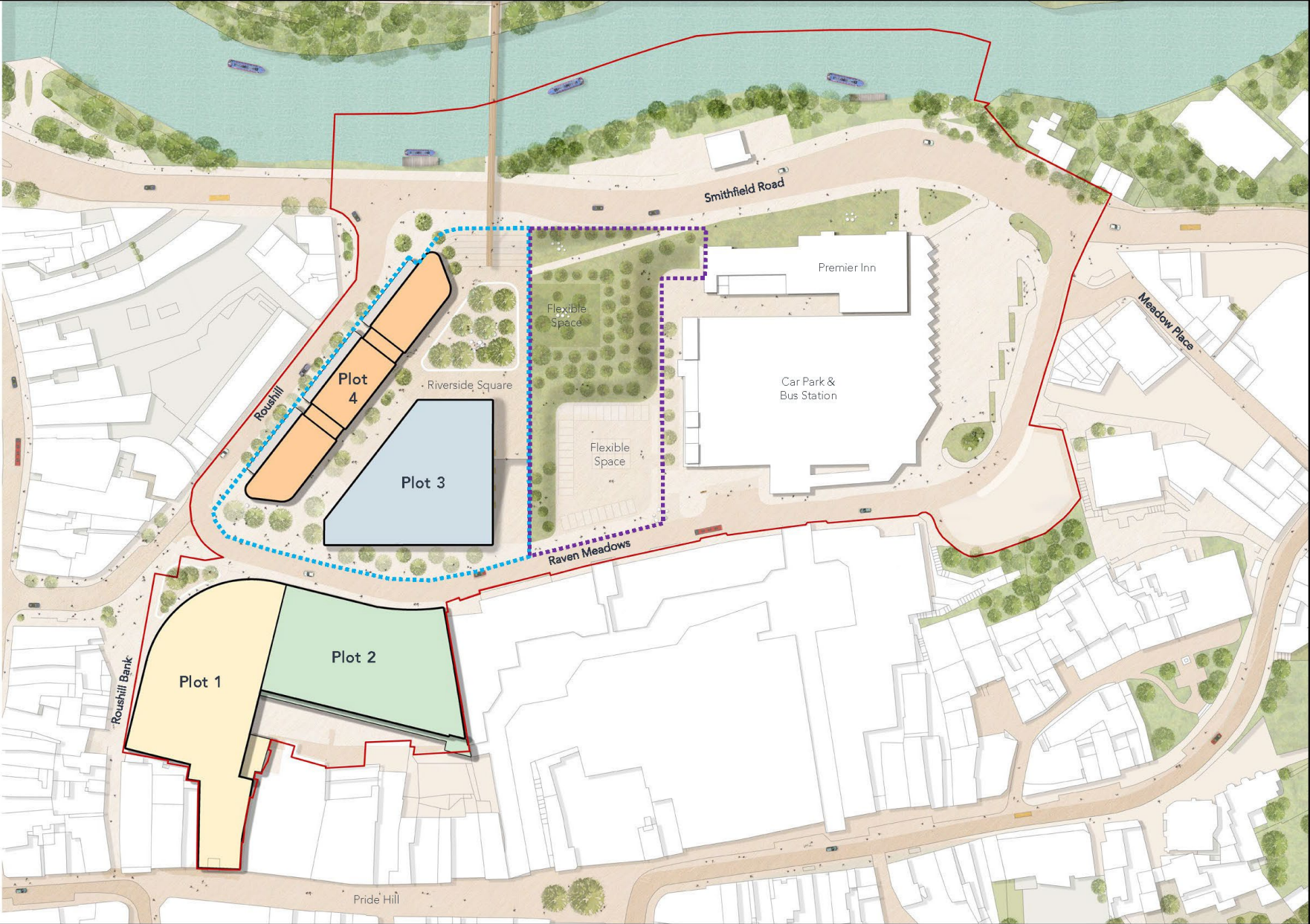
Smithfield Riverside Redevelopment Programme and Transforming Movement and Public Spaces in Shrewsbury

Project 1: Smithfield Riverside Regeneration Programme – maps and drawings

Project 1: Smithfield Riverside Redevelopment Programme

Masterplan Vision (Phase 1)

- LUF Zone A
- LUF Zone B



DELIVERY OF PROJECT 1:

- SMITHFIELD RIVERSIDE



FACILITATED BY LUF2 INVESTMENT

Current Drone Images of the Smithfield Riverside Site



Current Drone Images of the Smithfield Riverside Site showing River Severn frontage

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Current Drone Images of the Smithfield Riverside Site and proximity to Shrewsbury Railway Station and onto the Northern Corridor (Station showing on left hand side)

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Current Drone Images of the Smithfield Riverside Site

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Smithfield Riverside Redevelopment Programme and Transforming Movement and Public Spaces in Shrewsbury

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Project 2: Transforming Movement and Public Spaces – maps and drawings

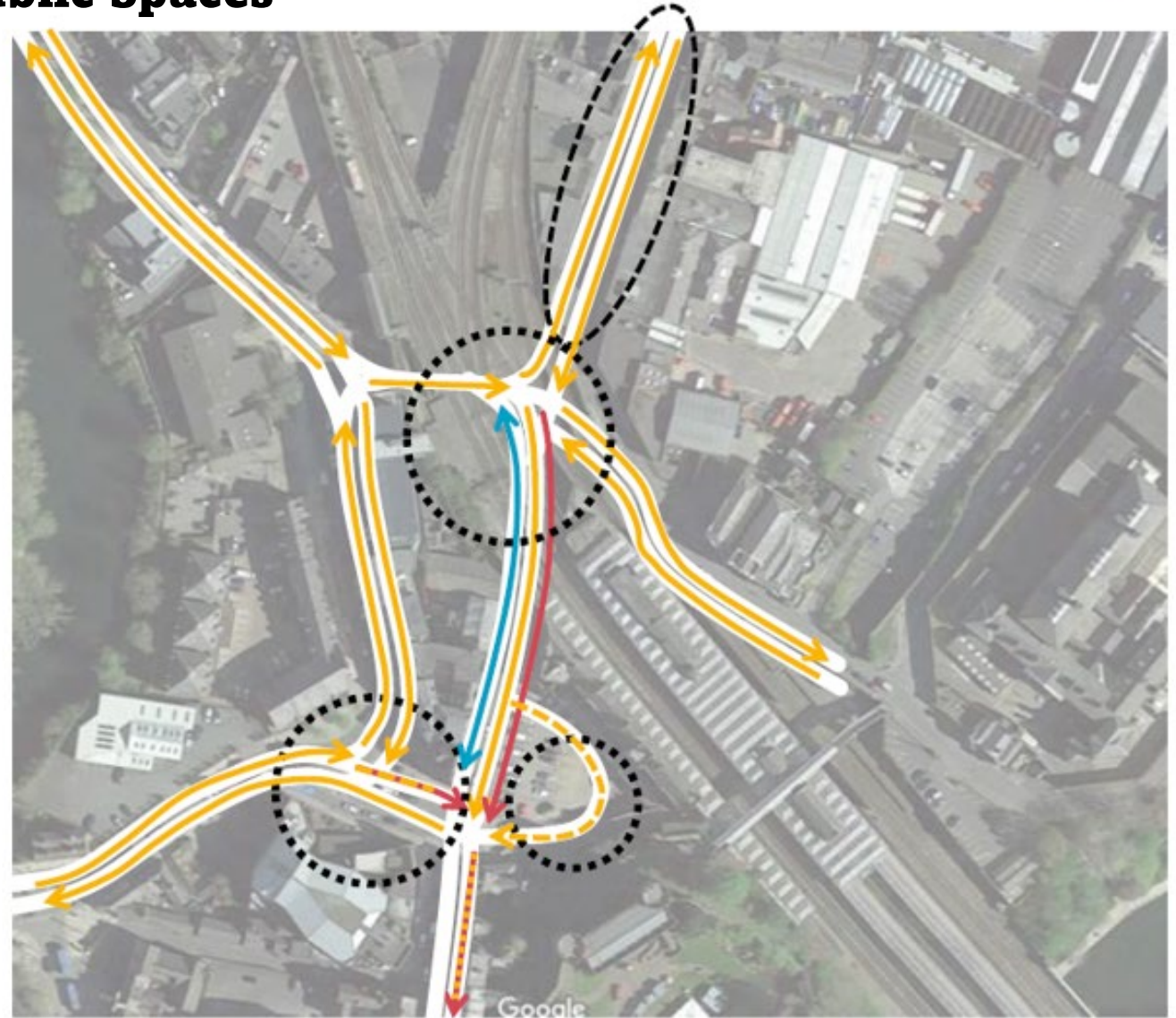
Project 2: Transforming Movement and Public Spaces

Public Realm Improvements

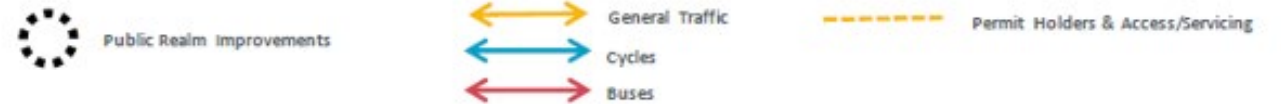
- Resurfacing footways to provide consistent material palette
- Provision of wayfinding signage
- Widening footways to facilitate improved pedestrian connections
- Lighting and public art interventions

Traffic Management

- Traffic management improvements to introduce two-way cycle infrastructure, reduced vehicle speeds, bus only provision and changes in direction of the traffic.
- 2.3 km of enhanced walking routes and cycleways across the Station and Northern Corridor areas.



Imagery (C) 2011 Google, Imagery (C) 2022 Bluesky, Infoterra Ltd & COWI A/A, CNES/Airbus, Getmapping plc, Infoterra Ltd & Bluesky, Maxar Technologies, Map Data (C) 2022



Current Drone Images of the Station area and out towards the Northern Corridor



Current Drone Images of the Station area showing gyratory area, Railway Bridges (Project 2) and along Smithfield Road and the Former Riverside Shopping Centre (Project 1) – illustrating proximity of the two projects along ‘The Big Connection’



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Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Dehenna Davison MP
Minister for Levelling Up
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Email: levellingupfund@levellingup.gov.uk

Lezley Picton
lezley.picton@shropshire.gov.uk

19th January 2023

Dear Lezley Picton,

Levelling Up Fund: Round Two outcome

Thank you for submitting an application to the Levelling Up Fund. I know how much time and effort is spent in drawing up local bids, and am incredibly grateful to you for taking part and applying for the second round.

I am delighted to inform you that you have been successful in your Levelling Up Fund application for 'Smithfield Riverside Redevelopment Programme and Transforming Movement and Public Spaces in Shrewsbury' (LUF20312) and will be awarded £18,701,269. This funding is subject to satisfactory compliance with the appropriate subsidy control regime requirements.

You submitted a strong application, which performed well against our assessment criteria, and I was pleased to hear about the projects that you plan to deliver with this investment. I appreciate the hard work that went into the application and am very keen, as I am sure you are, to get delivery and spend underway quickly. Officials will be in contact shortly with your officers to discuss the next steps in the process.

Congratulations once again, and I look forward to working closely with you over the coming months, to make sure that your Levelling Up Fund investment is a success.

With every good wish,

DEHENNA DAVISON MP

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Committee and Date

Item

Council 6 July 2023

Public



Local Authority Housing Fund Round 2

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

1. Synopsis

This report sets out a proposed programme to acquire homes for Afghan refugees and temporary accommodation using capital funding allocated by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) under the recently launched Local Authority Housing Fund round 2.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. A key priority of the Healthy People priority of the Shropshire Plan is tackling inequality. The most extreme form of housing inequality is homelessness; therefore, it is vital that the Council seeks to prevent homelessness and where households become homeless the Council ensures that they are able to access an affordable dwelling which meets their needs.
- 2.2. Shropshire Council has been allocated £1.20m under the Local Authority Housing Fund round 2 (LAHF R2) to acquire nine dwellings to be initially allocated to Afghan refugee households; and one dwelling to be used for temporary accommodation for homeless households where the Council owes the interim duty

to accommodate¹. Once the immediate need is met, the dwellings can be used to alleviate the Council's wider housing and homelessness pressures.

- 2.3. The grant funding is to be paid in 2023-24 under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003. In order to receive the first tranche of funding the Council is required to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and return this to DLUHC either by 14 July 2023 to receive a payment by the end of July or by 14 August 2023 at the very latest. A template of the MoU is contained at Appendix I.
- 2.4. Although by signing the MoU the Council agrees to make best endeavours to deliver the target of ten homes by 29 March 2024, if the Council is unable to meet this target (and DLUHC chooses not to extend the long-stop date) the Council will be required to return any unspent grant, but will not be subject to any penalties.
- 2.5. This report proposes a programme of up to £2.62m comprising the allocated grant, the use of Section 106 commuted sums and borrowing on rental income to acquire suitable homes to provide affordable housing to meet the needs of Afghan refugees and homeless households to whom the Council owes the interim duty to accommodate. The homes will be held in the Housing Revenue Account² (HRA) and will be managed by the Council's Arms' Length Management Organisation (ALMO) Shropshire Towns and Rural (STAR) Housing.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. Agree to enter into the MoU with DLUHC, on the basis that the Council will use its best endeavours to acquire the full target of dwellings to which the allocation of grant funding relates and delegates authority to the Executive Director of Resources to agree, sign and return the MoU by the deadline of 14 July 2023.
- 3.2. Approve that capital investment of up to £0.45m of Section 106 commuted sums and prudential borrowing on rental income of up to £0.97m is used to match fund the DLUHC grant funding of £1.20m to acquire up to ten dwellings into the HRA.
- 3.3. Delegate to the Executive Director of Resources, in consultation with the Assistant Director of Homes and Communities and the Head of Property and Development the authority to approve a final business case and financial appraisals setting out the financial arrangements to support the acquisitions of dwellings into the HRA.
- 3.4. Delegate to the Head of Property and Development, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Growth, Regeneration and Housing, the authority to agree and complete appropriate freehold acquisitions.

¹ Households are accommodated by the Council under the interim duty when the Council has reason to believe that the household is eligible for assistance, homeless and in priority need; and where the main duty is owed, the Council has determined that the household is unintentionally homeless, eligible for assistance and in priority need.

² The HRA is the Council's landlord account; it is a ring-fenced account within the General Fund.

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

4.1. The Council has three options:

- Option A: To agree to accept the funding allocation to deliver the target number of homes.
- Option B: To agree to accept a proportion of the funding allocation, across both elements of the programme, to deliver a reduced number of homes.
- Option C: Decline the funding allocation.

4.2. The risks associated with each option are set out below:

- Option A: The availability of sufficient dwellings for the Council to be able to acquire by the end of March 2024.
- Options B and C: Given the pressures on the Council in relation to temporary accommodation and the difficulties in being able to discharge its homeless duties, it would seem unpragmatic not to accept the full allocation of central government to provide additional affordable housing.

4.3. The above risks can be mitigated as below

- Option A: The Council is currently acquiring dwellings under LAHF round 1, therefore, has already has the resources in place to identify and acquire dwellings. LAHF round 2 would be a continuation of this activity. If sufficient dwellings cannot be sourced then the Council is able to evidence it has used best endeavours to deliver the project and will be able to return any unspent grant funding to DLUHC.
- Options B and C: The Council is seeking to both deliver and access additional affordable housing through attracting Homes England grant, use of usable Right to Buy receipts and the introduction of a revised allocations policy and scheme. However, it should be noted that LAHF round 2 provides a core grant rate of 40% of total scheme cost, plus £20k per dwelling.

4.4. The opportunities associated with each option are set out below

- Option A: Once the initial need of providing Afghan refugees a home, subsequent lettings to the dwellings can be used to meet the Council's wider housing and homelessness pressures.
- Option B: Once the initial need of providing Afghan refugees a home, subsequent lettings to the dwellings can be used to meet the Council's wider housing and homelessness pressures.
- Option C: None.

4.5. Given the risks and opportunities associated with each option, it is recommended to pursue Option A.

- 4.6. An Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA) initial screening record has been completed; this is at Appendix II. This indicates a likely positive impact across the nine Protected Characteristic groupings as set out in the Equality Act 2010, particularly with regard to Age, Disability, Race, Religion or Belief, and Sex. Refugees and asylum seekers are identified as vulnerable individuals and households within the Council's tenth category of consideration, around social inclusion. Whilst this category is not a Protected Characteristic under the Equality Act, it is used by the Council to seek to ensure that due regard is given to individuals and households who are vulnerable by virtue of their circumstances.
- 4.7. The equality, social inclusion and health impacts of the programme will be monitored as part of the funding process and by officers who are working with refugees. The authority will also seek to share approaches with comparator authorities, particularly other rural unitary authorities and other authorities in the West Midlands, in order to promote good practice. The authority will also need to consider additional needs of families with regard to access to places of worship and other communal support mechanisms.
- 4.8. The most extreme form of housing inequality is homelessness, therefore, it is vital that the Council seeks to prevent homelessness and where households become homeless the Council ensures that they are able to access affordable dwelling which meets their needs. People experiencing homelessness face significant health inequalities and poorer health outcomes as compared to the rest of the population. Therefore, being able to access a settled, affordable home which meets a household's needs is essential to health and well-being, especially those families who have fled conflict.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. The proposed programme will seek to deliver up to 10 two- three- and four-bedroom dwellings, through the acquisition of suitable homes. All accommodation will be held in the HRA and will be managed by the Council's ALMO, STAR Housing.
- 5.2. The grant allocation for each part of the programme is set out in Figure 1 below, providing an overall grant allocation of £1.20m. This allocation comprises a core grant of £1m for ten dwellings, plus £20k per dwelling. The maximum average core grant rate per unit (for the portfolio of dwellings acquired, not individual purchases) is calculated as 40% of the total scheme costs, plus £20k per dwelling.

Figure 1

	Tranche 1 allocation	Tranche 2 allocation	Total allocation
Properties for households that meet the resettlement scheme element eligibility criteria for this Programme	£324,000	£756,000	£1,080,000
Properties for households that meet the TA element eligibility criteria for this Programme	£36,000	£84,000	£120,000

Total funding	£360,000	£840,000	£1,200,000
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- 5.3. In order to receive the first tranche of funding the Council is required to sign and return the MoU contained at Appendix I to DLUHC either by 14 July 2023 or by 14 August 2023. Although by signing the MoU the Council agrees to use its best endeavours to deliver the target of ten homes by 29 March 2024, if the Council is unable to meet this target (and DLUHC chooses not to extend the long-stop date) the Council will be required to return any unspent grant, but will not be subject to any penalties.
- 5.4. As can be seen from Figure 2 below it is anticipated that the proposed programme of up to ten units will have an indicative total scheme cost of approximately £2.62m, however this will be subject to market costs at the time of acquisition. It is proposed that eligible grant funding is match funded using a combination of up to £0.45m section 106 commuted sums and up to £0.97m of prudential borrowing on rental income.
- 5.5. Cost projections are based on the following assumptions, however, these are based on figures available today and will be subject to future variation, for example, the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) prevailing interest rates:
- The acquisition and works cost is based on potential suitable dwellings which will be subject to availability at the time of acquisition;
 - Majority of main programme acquisitions to be three-bedroom houses;
 - Depreciation is based on 2023-24 average rate;
 - The PWLB interest rate for borrowing minus 40 basis points (in line with the Spring Budget 2023);
 - Allowances based on existing average for general needs dwellings;
 - Rental income has been set at the three-bedroom Shropshire Broad Rental Market Area (BRMA) Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates; to compensate for the LHA not being subject to an annual increase the model assumes a 1% annual rental increase; and
 - The Stamp Duty Land Tax exception (as per the Spring Budget 2023).

Figure 2

Capital – HRA

Acquisition and works cost	£2,600,000
Estimated on costs	£20,000
Total scheme cost	£2,620,000

Total scheme grant	£1,200,000
S106 Commuted Sums	£450,000
Borrowing on rental income	£970,000
Total scheme cost	£2,620,000

Revenue - HRA

	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Depreciation (sinking fund)	£11,000	£11,000	£11,000	£11,000	£11,000
Interest on borrowing	£49,664	£49,664	£49,664	£49,664	£49,664
Management and maintenance	£8,500	£8,755	£9,018	£9,288	£9,567
Void allowance	£748	£770	£794	£817	£842
Bad debt	£748	£770	£794	£817	£842

Rental income	(£74,797)	(£75,545)	(£76,300)	(£77,063)	(£77,834)
Deficit / (Income)	(£4,137)	(£4,585)	(£5,032)	(£5,476)	(£5,919)

6. Climate Change Appraisal

6.1. Energy and fuel consumption:

- The sustainability and energy performance of accommodation will be considered as part of each business case to acquire individual dwellings or a scheme of dwellings. All acquisitions will either have a minimum SAP rating of Band C or will be improved to this rating.

6.2. Renewable energy generation:

- Each individual dwelling or scheme of dwellings will be considered for opportunities for renewable energy generation.

6.3. Carbon offsetting or mitigation:

- Given the nature and type of accommodation to be delivered under this programme, it is unlikely that there will be opportunities for carbon offsetting or mitigation.

6.4. Climate change adaptation:

- The identification of dwellings will take into account the potential need for climate change adaptation to manage the effects of more extreme weather.

7. Background

7.1. Launched in December 2022, the Local Authority Housing Fund round 1 is a £500m capital grant fund in financial years 2022-23 and 2023-24 to support selected local authorities in England to acquire dwellings in order to provide sustainable housing for those unable to secure their own accommodation who are in the Country under the following schemes:

- Afghan Citizen Resettlement Scheme (ACRS);
- Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP);
- Ukraine Family Scheme;
- Homes for Ukraine; and
- Ukraine Extension Scheme

7.2. As well as helping to fulfil the United Kingdom's humanitarian duties to assist those fleeing war, the Fund seeks to reduce the impact of new arrivals on existing housing pressures and create an additional supply of affordable housing for local authorities to help address local housing and homelessness pressures in the longer-term. Shropshire Council is currently acquiring dwellings to seek to deliver its allocation of funding to deliver up to 30 dwellings for Ukrainian and Afghan refugees.

7.3. On 7 June 2023 the Government launched the Local Authority Housing Fund round 2 (LAHF R2), this being a £250m capital grant fund to run over the financial year 2023-24. The majority of the funding is to be used by local authorities to

acquire dwellings to house families on Afghan resettlement schemes (ARAP/ACRS) currently in bridging accommodation and the rest used to acquire dwellings for use as temporary accommodation to ease wider homelessness pressures.

7.4. The objectives of LAHF R2 are to:

- Provide sustainable housing to those on Afghan resettlement schemes at risk of homelessness so that they can build new lives in the UK, find employment and integrate into communities;
- Reduce local housing pressures beyond those on Afghan resettlement schemes by providing better quality temporary accommodation to those owed homelessness duties by local authorities;
- Reduce emergency, temporary and bridging accommodation costs; and
- Reduce impact on the existing housing and homelessness systems and those waiting for social housing.

7.5. When determining the size, type and location of properties to acquire, local authorities are to work with their Strategic Migration Partnership, government staff based in bridging hotels and the Home Office to identify needs and match families to suitable properties. The prospectus anticipates that, given the average family size of those on the Afghan resettlement schemes, the vast majority of properties acquired will be family sized homes.

7.6. Given the objectives of the fund, those eligible for the ACRS and ARAP resettlement scheme element housing are those who are on:

- Afghan Citizen Resettlement Scheme (ACRS – including eligible British Nationals under this scheme) or
- those assisted under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP)

7.7. This includes households who are currently in bridging accommodation or who have left bridging hotels and are homeless, at risk of homelessness, or living in unsuitable temporary accommodation.

7.8. Those eligible for the accommodation provided by the temporary accommodation element of the fund are those owed a homelessness duty by the local authority. Given the purpose of this funding, it is expected that families will be the primary recipients.

7.9. Flexible funding of £7,100 per person is also available on application to the Home Office to help local authorities move Afghan families into settled accommodation. These monies can potentially be used as match funding LAHF properties for Afghan families. However, the local authority can only claim this where it is providing the family with support in accessing this accommodation, and the family has confirmed as moving into settled accommodation from bridging or temporary accommodation.

7.10. In cases where the local authority has accepted a homelessness duty (relief or main) for an Afghan refugee household, the local authority would be eligible to claim the £9,150 per household homelessness funding, as well as the wider wrap

around funding, from the Home until a LAHF property became ready for the household to move-in.

- 7.11. The first tranche of LAHF R2 (30% of the funding) provided by DLUHC will be paid in July/August and the second tranche of funding (70%) will be paid in October/December (the second tranche of funding is paid once the local authority has spent 60% of their first tranche of funding).
- 7.12. Shropshire Council has been allocated capital grant funding of £1.20m to acquire a target of ten dwellings by the end of March 2024. A requirement of the funding is that initial lettings to nine dwellings will be to households on Afghan resettlement schemes (ARAP/ACRS) currently in bridging accommodation, with one dwelling being used as temporary accommodation. This requires the use of a local lettings policy. Once the immediate need is met, then the dwellings can be used to help alleviate the Council's wider housing and homelessness pressures.
- 7.13. Although Shropshire does not contain any bridging hotels for Afghan households, families are accommodated in the West Midlands and it is important for the Council to assist where possible in providing settled accommodation.

8. Conclusions

- 8.1. Given the pressures on the Council surrounding its homelessness duties, and that when the initial need of providing Afghan refugees a home, subsequent lettings can be used to help meet the Council's wider housing and homelessness pressures, it would seem pragmatic to accept the full allocation of capital funding to acquire the target number of homes and use best endeavours to deliver.

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

DLUHC (June 2023) Local Authority Housing Fund Prospectus and Guidance
Council Report of 2 March 2023, "Local Authority Housing Fund"

Local Member: All

Appendices

Appendix I: Memorandum of Understanding

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

Appendix I

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

-and-

XXXXXXXXXXXXX

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This Memorandum of Understanding ('MOU') sets out the agreed working relationship between the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities ('DLUHC') and xxxxxx ('the Council') regarding the administration and delivery of the Local Authority Housing Fund – second funding round ('LAHF R2').
- 1.2. This MOU will be for the period Q1-Q4 2023/24. It will be reviewed and updated only where either of the signatories deem it necessary, in which case it will require joint agreement. Further detail on changing the MOU is set out in Paragraph 5.4.
- 1.3. This MOU is not intended to create legal or binding obligations. It describes the understanding between both parties for the use of funding specified in Section 3 of this agreement.

2. Background

- 2.1. LAHF R2 was launched on 7 June 2023. The details of the fund were shared on that date with the Council in the document 'Local Authority Housing Fund – second funding round Prospectus and Guidance' ('the Prospectus').
- 2.2. LAHF R2 is a £250m capital grant fund to:
 - provide sustainable housing for those on Afghan resettlement schemes (ARAP/ACRS) who currently reside or formerly resided in bridging accommodation
 - ease wider homelessness pressures.
- 2.3. The objectives of LAHF R2 are to:
 - Provide sustainable housing to those on Afghan resettlement schemes at risk of homelessness so they can build new lives in the UK, find employment and integrate into communities.
 - Reduce local housing pressures beyond those on Afghan resettlement schemes by providing better quality temporary accommodation to families owed homelessness duties by LAs.
 - Reduce emergency, temporary and bridging accommodation costs.
 - Reduce impacts on the existing housing and homelessness systems and those waiting for social housing.

- 2.4. DLUHC has accepted the Council's plan to provide xx homes ('the delivery target') under LAHF R2, and DLUHC will provide a grant of £xxxxx ('the total allocation'). The Council agrees the following targets to deliver at least:
- xx properties for households that meet the **resettlement scheme element** eligibility criteria outlined in section 3.2 of the Prospectus;
 - xx properties to be allocated to households that meet the TA element eligibility criteria outlined in section 3.2 of the Prospectus.
- 2.5. This MOU covers the funding commitments from DLUHC and the delivery, financial expenditure, agreed milestones, reporting and evaluation, and communications between the Parties. It also sets out the steps DLUHC could take in the event of underperformance if required.

3. Purpose of the Funding

- 3.1. LAHF R2 funding has been provided specifically for spending on LAHF R2 priorities and the Council agrees to spend LAHF R2 funding on activity set out in this MOU as agreed by DLUHC or subsequently agreed by DLUHC as per Paragraph 4.4.
- 3.2. DLUHC will part fund the cost of the Council obtaining properties for use by households that meet the eligibility criteria. The Council will use its best endeavours to meet the delivery target and to achieve value for money. DLUHC's contributory share of funding ('the average grant rate per unit') should not exceed the maximum described below but the grant per unit for individual properties can be higher.
- 3.3. The maximum average grant rate per unit (for the portfolio of properties, not individual purchases) is calculated as 40% of the costs of acquisition or refurbishment that the council charges to its capital budget plus £20,000 per property. Eligible costs funded by the 40% and the £20,000 per property could include the purchase price, stamp duty, surveying, legal and other fees, refurbishments, energy efficiency measures, decoration, furnishings, or otherwise preparing the property for rent and potentially irrecoverable VAT incurred on these items. The Council should ensure it complies with the Code of Practice for Local Authority Accounting.
- 3.4. The Council can determine how it uses the £20,000 per property and can choose how much of the grant is to be spent on each individual property.
- 3.5. The Council or its delivery partner(s) will fund the outstanding share for each property.
- 3.6. The funding will be provided by DLUHC in two tranches. The 'Tranche 1 allocation' is 30% of the total allocation. The 'Tranche 2 allocation' is 70% of the total allocation. Both are set out in Table 1.

Table 1 – Funding allocation

	Tranche 1 allocation	Tranche 2 allocation	Total allocation
Properties for households that meet the resettlement scheme element eligibility criteria for this Programme			
Properties for households that meet the TA element eligibility criteria for this Programme			
Total funding			

4. Delivery Profile

- 4.1. Delivery of the fund will be measured on the basis of exchange of contracts, or equivalent milestone where exchange of contract will not occur, and number of resettlement scheme households housed. Any variations to this, and necessary changes to the MOU, will need to be agreed by the parties and an amendment to this MOU made.
- 4.2. Funding outlined in Table 1 above is provided to deliver the delivery target. The Council agrees to make best endeavours to deliver the delivery target by 29 March 2024.
- 4.3. This MOU is for the full term of the total allocation unless signatories agree to change as per Paragraph 4.4. A further Grant Determination Letter (GDL) will be provided following confirmation of each tranche payment.
- 4.4. DLUHC and the Council both have the right to request a change to the MOU. With regards to changing the target number of units, the Council may ask for either a higher or lower target. Any proposed change will impact the amount of funding received (as set out in the Prospectus) unless the Council is seeking to deliver more units for the same amount of money. Requests will be considered based on the progress of the reallocations process as outlined in Section 5.2 of the Prospectus and confirmed in writing.

5. Financial Arrangements

- 5.1. The agreed funds will be issued to the Council as grant payments under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003. The Council may pass on the funding to a third party (e.g. Registered Providers) as appropriate to deliver the delivery target, complying with the Subsidy Control Act 2022.
- 5.2. Table 2 sets out the timetable for payments to be made to the Council. Payment for Tranche 1 allocation will be made in July 2023 or August 2023. The Tranche 2 allocation will be paid once the Council has demonstrated that at least 60% of the Tranche 1 allocation has been committed ('the spend requirement') via a Section 151 officer Statement of Grant Usage. This will be paid in line with timings outlined in Table 2.

5.3. Should the Council not meet the spend requirement for Tranche 2 payments by the dates set out in Table 2 below, DLUHC will consider putting in place further payment dates.

5.4. The Council may wish to return unspent monies to the Department.

Table 2 – Payments timetable

Payment milestones	Requirement for payment milestone	Payment by
Tranche 1 payment (30% of total allocation)	EITHER Signing of this MOU by 14 July 2023	Last working day of July 2023
	OR Signing of this MOU by 14 August 2023	Last working day of August 2023
Tranche 2 Payment (70% of total allocation)	EITHER Submission of Statement of Grant Usage (demonstrating 60% of the first tranche has been committed) by 9 October 2023. Relevant monitoring information as outlined in section 8 submitted by 9 October 2023	Last working day of October 2023
	OR Submission of Statement of Grant Usage (demonstrating 60% of the first tranche has been committed) by 24 November 2023. Relevant monitoring information as outlined in section 8 submitted by 24 November 2023	Mid-December 2023

6. Charging Affordable Rents for LAHF funded homes

- 6.1. The LAHF Prospectus specified “It is up to local authorities to determine the precise rent level and tenure of homes in line with the fund objectives. This could include...Affordable Rent.”
- 6.2. The Rent Standard <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rent-standard/rent-standard-april-2023-accessible-version> provides that Affordable Rents may be charged only in limited circumstances.
- 6.3. This MOU records the agreement between the Secretary of State and the Council that relevant accommodation, provided by the Council or a partner Registered Provider pursuant to LAHF grant funding, is permitted to be let at an Affordable Rent, and that accordingly that an Affordable Rent may be charged for such accommodation in accordance with paragraph 3.8b of the Rent Standard - April 2023.
- 6.4. In Paragraph 6.3, “relevant accommodation” means accommodation:
- in the Council area;
 - which is being used to further the LAHF objectives set out at paragraph 2.3 of the MOU;
 - which has never been let at a social rent; and
 - where the accommodation is provided by a partner Registered Provider, for which the Council has agreed that the partner Registered Provider may charge affordable rent.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

DLUHC Responsibilities

- 7.1. DLUHC is responsible for setting national housing policy, providing grant(s) to the Council and monitoring the delivery of homes.

Council Responsibilities

- 7.2. The Council will make housing investment decisions, review existing housing policies and products, maximise leverage of this public sector investment and ensure that funds provide value for money and are deliverable within the timescale of the fund. The Council may work in partnership with private Registered Providers, local authority housing companies or other bodies to deliver homes. The Council will also report on the fund by providing Management Information (MI) as set out in **Annex A** of this MOU and will work with DLUHC to ensure they have the capability to deliver the fund and provide MI within the set timescales.
- 7.3. The Council is expected to have the necessary governance and assurance arrangements in place and that all legal and other statutory obligations and consents will be adhered to, which may include, but not solely:
- **subsidy control**, at all levels e.g. the funding the Council allocates to project deliverers and subsidies that project deliverers provide to third parties.

- **equalities duties**, the Council must ensure that all LAHF funded activity is delivered in accordance with its obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED).
- **procurement**, the Council must ensure that the allocation of funding to project deliverers that constitutes a procurement is managed in compliance with the public contract regulations
- **fraud**, the Council must ensure that robust arrangements are in place to manage fraud risk, including ensuring that project deliverers have robust fraud risk management process and paying particular attention to projects that involve the payment of grants to beneficiaries e.g. businesses.

7.4. The Council's Section 151 Officer is expected to ensure that these legal duties and all other relevant duties are considered and that delivery of LAHF investment is carried out with propriety, regularity and value for money.

Council Responsibilities (Affordable Rents – where required by LAs)

- 7.5. The Council should note (and remind partner Registered Providers) that conversion of social rent properties to affordable rent is not permitted pursuant to paragraph 3.15 of the Rent Standard other than in the circumstances set out in chapter 2 of the Rent Policy Statement.
- 7.6. Where the Council has agreed that a partner Registered Provider may charge affordable rent, the Council will confirm to the Registered Provider that the Registered Provider may charge affordable rent in accordance with Paragraph 6.3 of this MOU.
- 7.7. The Council will require partner Registered Providers to provide details to the Council of any accommodation provided pursuant to LAHF grant funding for which Affordable Rent is charged.
- 7.8. The Council will maintain a register of any accommodation provided pursuant to LAHF grant funding for which it or a partner Registered Provider is charging Affordable Rent. This register should be available for inspection upon request by either DLUHC or the Regulator for Social 9 Housing. The fields of information required in register are specified in **Annex C**.

8. Monitoring Arrangements and Accountability

- 8.1. The Council will put in place appropriate governance and oversight arrangements to ensure that delivery of housing is on track and that plans remain ambitious and provide value for money.

Reporting Arrangements

- 8.2. The Council has agreed to provide reporting information to DLUHC on fund allocations and delivery. The Council will be asked to provide a mix of

quantitative and qualitative summary updates to DLUHC; a full list of MI can be found in **Annex A**.

- 8.3. The first report will be due in October 2023 and then every two months thereafter, until the Council's programme has completed. The schedule for monitoring reports is outlined in **Annex B**.
- 8.4. Spend outturn and forecast should be signed off by the S151 officer or deputy S151 officer.
- 8.5. A Statement of Grant Usage Section 151 officer or deputy Section 151 officer should be submitted when at least 60% of the Tranche 1 allocation has been committed.
- 8.6. The Council also agrees to work with the department to provide any reasonable additional MI as and when requested by the DLUHC Senior Reporting Officer (SRO). DLUHC will provide an appropriate amount of time to return any additional MI requests.
- 8.7. The Council agrees to work collaboratively with any requests from DLUHC to support any retrospective assessment or evaluation as to the impact or value for money of LAHF. As a minimum, the Council is expected to monitor spend, outputs and outcomes against agreed indicators and keep this information for at least 5 years.

9. Governance & Assurance

- 9.1. The Council is expected to ensure that all legal and other statutory obligations and consents will be adhered to, which may include, but not solely, state aid / subsidy control, equalities duties, procurement, health and safety, and fraud prevention. The Council has prerogative to establish internal governance and assurance arrangements as they see fit to achieve this.
- 9.2. The Council will ensure data can be shared for the prevention and detection of fraud by including the following clause in all agreements with companies or external entities in relation to LAHF – including, but not limited to, property contracts, professional services contracts, construction contracts and lease agreements:

“Data may be shared with other enforcement agencies for the prevention and detection of crime.”

Signed for and on behalf of DLUHC

Signature:

Name:

Position:

Date:

Signed for and on behalf of xxxxxxxx

Signature:

Name:

Position:

Date:

Annex A – Reporting and Monitoring Arrangements

Scope and Purpose

1. This annex sets out the agreed reporting and monitoring arrangements for LAHF, including the expected frequency and content of the regular reports that the Council will provide to DLUHC.

DLUHC Role

2. DLUHC will support the running of the fund and maintain a national picture of delivery by putting in place a proportionate monitoring and governance framework. This will include a fund governance board(s) attended by the DLUHC Senior Reporting Officer (SRO) and other relevant stakeholders. Wherever possible DLUHC will avoid duplication of requests towards the Council.

Council Role

3. Day-to-day project monitoring and delivery responsibilities will be delegated to the Council. The Council will submit reports to DLUHC in accordance with the agreed timescales and frequency set out in the MoU. The Council will also work with DLUHC to provide any reasonable additional MI required as and when requested by the DLUHC Senior Reporting Officer. DLUHC will provide an appropriate amount of time to return any additional MI requests.

Management Information (MI)

4. The list of MI is split between operational data – required for monitoring the ongoing fund delivery (Table 3) and evaluation data (Table 4) required to assess the strategy-level success of the fund and inform future policy development. Tables 4 and 5 present the required routine MI and is subject to change, with agreement by DLUHC and the Council. For MI purposes, “committed spend” is considered funding which has been allocated to a property where there has been an exchange of contracts or equivalent milestone where exchange of contract will not occur.

Table 3 – Monitoring Data

Item	Frequency
Number of properties where contracts exchanged, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bedroom size • whether located in another borough area • who will own the dwellings • how properties obtained 	Every 2 months
Number of properties occupied / ready to let, including bedroom size	Every 2 months
Number of resettlement scheme households housed	Every 2 months
Number of pending resettlement scheme properties pre-matched to current / former bridging hotel households	Every 2 months
Total expenditure (incl grant and other funding)	Every 2 months
Total committed spend (incl grant and other funding)	Every 2 months
DLUHC grant used	Every 2 months
Overall assessment (RAG rated) of whether delivery is on track as determined by the responsible Council officer	Every 2 months

Table 4 – Evaluation Data

Item	Frequency
How properties have been sourced (e.g. through stock acquisition or another delivery route)	In April 2024 and thereafter upon request to aid with evaluation of the fund
How the Council has funded its contributory share	
Breakdown of resettlement scheme households housed by previous housing situation, e.g. in bridging hotel, in LA emergency accommodation/temporary accommodation	
Tenancy duration	
Rent levels	
Number of properties obtained outside the local authority's area, if applicable, and where these are located.	

5. In addition, to enable the assessment of relative value for money and to assist with future spending reviews, we may occasionally ask for additional information including details of how the fund is delivered and housing market conditions. This will provide important data to support future policy developments and will also support engagement with HM Treasury. This information will be provided to agreed timeframes when requested by DLUHC.
6. Should the Council wish to amend and/or not collect any of these proposed data points, they should submit a proposal to DLUHC for agreement.

Frequency of Reporting

7. The Council will be asked to provide reports every two months. The schedule for monitoring reports is outlined in Annex B.

Data Consistency

8. DLUHC and the Council have a shared commitment to ensure that, for clarity and transparency purposes, consistent methods of recording outputs are maintained. It is expected that the provided reporting will be robust, accurate and quality assured to a high standard. As such minimal revisions would be expected – although, where these are required, DLUHC should be advised as soon as practical.

Use of Material Provided

9. DLUHC will use the provided material to monitor delivery nationally.

Annex B – Monitoring Milestones

1. The Council is requested to submit the monitoring information summarised in **Annex A** via a Microsoft Form every two months by 5pm on the dates outlined below. DLUHC will provide the link to the form directly to the Council well in advance of each touchpoint date.
2. In order to demonstrate that the spend requirement has been met to enable a Year 2 payment, the Council will also need to submit a Section 151 Officer Statement of Grant Usage to LAHF@levellingup.gov.uk *in addition* to submitting the form by 5pm on the dates outlined below.
3. The Section 151 Officer Statement of Grant Usage only needs to be submitted when the Council wishes to demonstrate the spend requirement has been met, and also at the end of the programme. It does not need to be submitted at every monitoring touchpoint.
4. The Microsoft Form needs to be submitted at every monitoring touchpoint. DLUHC will provide full guidance for submitting the form directly well in advance of each touchpoint date

Table 5 – Monitoring Touchpoint Dates

Monitoring touchpoint	Microsoft Form to be submitted by 5pm on the following dates	Section 151 Officer Statement of Grant Usage required?
Touchpoint 1	9 October 2023	Yes, if LA wishes to enable Tranche 2 payment in October 2023
Touchpoint 2*	24 November 2023	Yes, if LA wishes to enable Tranche 2 payment in December 2023
Touchpoint 3	8 February 2023	N/A
Touchpoint 4	8 April 2023	N/A
Evaluation	April 2024 onwards	N/A

*this touchpoint has been brought forward slightly earlier than the 2-month mark to account for the holiday period in December.

Annex C – Register of LAHF accommodation for which an Affordable Rent is charged

This annex sets out the agreed information which will be contained in the Council's Register of LAHF accommodation for which an Affordable Rent is charged.

This register should be available for inspection upon request by either DLUHC or the Regulator for Social Housing.

Property address			
Completion date			
Name of Registered Provider			
Registration Code			

(Note: The Council is not required to submit this information as part of regular delivery monitoring submissions).

Appendix II: Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA)**Initial Screening Record****A. Summary Sheet on Accountability and Actions**

Name of proposed service change
<i>Local Authority Housing Fund round 2</i>

Name of lead officer carrying out the screening
Melanie Holland

Decision, review, and monitoring

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

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

Actions to mitigate negative impact or enhance positive impact of the service change in terms of equality, social inclusion, and health considerations
<p>The funding is to for the Council to acquire nine homes to be allocated to households on Afghan resettlement schemes (ARAP/ACRS) currently in bridging accommodation and to acquire one dwelling to be used as temporary accommodation for homeless households whom the Council owes the interim duty to accommodate. Homelessness is not only the most acute form of housing inequality it also results in social inclusion and poor health outcomes. Therefore, by the Council agreeing to accept the full allocation of funding to deliver homes to tackle and prevent homelessness and using best endeavours to meet the target of ten homes then it will help enhance the positive impact of the funding.</p> <p>There is a likely positive impact across the nine Protected Characteristic groupings as set out in the Equality Act 2010, particularly with regard to Age, Disability, Race, Religion or Belief, and Sex. Refugees are identified as vulnerable individuals and households within the Council's tenth category of consideration, around social inclusion. Whilst this category is not a Protected Characteristic under the Equality Act, it is used by the Council to seek to ensure that due regard is given to individuals and households who are vulnerable, into which grouping refugees assuredly fall as well as intersectionality across Protected Characteristic groupings.</p>

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

The equality, social inclusion and health impacts of the programme will be monitored as part of the funding process and by officers who are working with refugees.

The authority will also seek to share approaches with comparator authorities, particularly other rural unitary authorities and other authorities in the West Midlands, in order to promote good practice

The authority will also need to consider additional needs of families with regard to access to places of worship and other communal support mechanisms.

Associated ESHIAs

ESHIAs have been carried out in relation to the Council's overall housing policy approaches and in relation to the Council's overall strategic approach, ie the Shropshire Plan.

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

Climate change

Energy and fuel consumption: The sustainability and energy performance of accommodation will be considered as part of each business case to acquire individual dwellings or a scheme of dwellings. All acquisitions will either have a minimum SAP rating of Band C or will be improved to this rating.

Renewable energy generation: Each individual dwelling or scheme of dwellings will be considered for opportunities for renewable energy generation.

Carbon offsetting or mitigation: Given the nature and type of accommodation to be delivered under this programme, it is unlikely that there will be opportunities for carbon offsetting or mitigation.

Climate change adaptation: The identification of dwellings will take into account the potential need for climate change adaptation to manage the effects of more extreme weather.


Health and well being

The most extreme form of housing inequality is homelessness, therefore, it vital that the Council seeks to prevent homelessness and where households become homeless the Council ensures that they are able to access affordable dwelling which meets their needs. People experiencing homelessness face significant health inequalities and poorer health outcomes as compared to the rest of the population. Therefore, being able to access a settled, affordable home which meets a household's needs is essential to health and well-being, especially those families who have fled conflict.

Economic and societal/wider community

By preventing homelessness and where households become homeless the Council ensures that they are able to access affordable dwelling which meets their needs, the benefits are not limited to improving the individual health and wellbeing of those allocated housing but can be much wider. For example, the provision of settled, affordable housing can result in households being able to escape the “benefits trap”.

Scrutiny at Part One screening stage

People involved	Signatures	Date
<i>Lead officer carrying out the screening</i>		18 June 2023
<i>Any internal service area support*</i>		
<i>Any external support**</i>		

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

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

Sign off at Part One screening stage

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

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

B. Detailed Screening Assessment

Aims of the service change and description

Shropshire Council has been allocated £1.2m under the Local Authority Housing Fund round 2 to acquire ten dwellings, nine of which to be initially allocated to Afghan refugees on resettlement schemes currently accommodated in bridging hotels and one dwelling can be used as temporary accommodation. Once the immediate need is met, the dwellings can be used to meet the Council's wider housing and homelessness pressures.

The grant funding is to be paid in 2023-24 under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003. In order to receive the first tranche of funding the Council is required to sign and return the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) contained at Appendix I to DLUHC by 14 August 2023 at the latest.

Although by signing the MoU the Council agrees to make best endeavours to deliver the target of ten homes by 29 March 2024, if the Council is unable to meet this target (and DLUHC chooses not to extend the long-stop date) the Council will be required to return any unspent grant, but will not be subject to any penalties.

This report proposes a programme of up to £2.62m comprising the allocated grant, the use of Section 106 commuted sums and borrowing on rental income to acquire suitable homes to provide affordable housing to meet the needs of Ukraine and Afghan refugees who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The homes will be held in the Housing Revenue Account³ (HRA) and will be managed by the Council's Arms' Length Management Organisation (ALMO) Shropshire Towns and Rural (STAR) Housing.

Intended audiences and target groups for the service change

Afghan refugee households who are on resettlement programmes currently in bridging hotels and homeless homelessness whom the Council owes the interim duty to accommodate.

Evidence used for screening of the service change

N/A

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

N/A

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.

³ The HRA is the Council's landlord account; it is a ring-fenced account within the General Fund.

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)			Positive impact	
<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)			Positive impact	
<u>Gender re-assignment</u> (please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				Neutral impact
<u>Marriage and Civil Partnership</u> (please include associated aspects: caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				Neutral impact
<u>Pregnancy and Maternity</u> (please include associated aspects: safety, caring				Neutral impact

responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				
<u>Race</u> (please include ethnicity, nationality, culture, language, Gypsy, Traveller)			Positive impact	
<u>Religion and belief</u> (please include Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism, Nonconformists; Rastafarianism; Shinto, Sikhism, Taoism, Zoroastrianism, and any others)			Positive impact	
<u>Sex</u> (this can also be viewed as relating to gender. Please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)			Positive impact	
<u>Sexual Orientation</u> (please include associated aspects: safety; caring responsibility; potential for bullying and harassment)				Neutral impact
<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			Positive impact	

communities; veterans and serving members of the armed forces and their families)				
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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)
<p>Will the proposal have a <i>direct impact</i> on an individual's health, mental health and wellbeing?</p> <p>For example, would it cause ill health, affecting social inclusion, independence and participation?</p> <p>.</p>			Positive impact	
<p>Will the proposal <i>indirectly impact</i> an individual's ability to improve their own health and wellbeing?</p> <p>For example, will it affect their ability to be physically active, choose healthy food, reduce drinking and smoking?</p> <p>.</p>			Positive impact	
<p>Will the policy have a <i>direct impact</i> on the community - social, economic and environmental living</p>				Neutral to low positive

<p>conditions that would impact health?</p> <p>For example, would it affect housing, transport, child development, education, employment opportunities, availability of green space or climate change mitigation?</p> <p>.</p>				
<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>.</p>			<p>Positive impact</p>	

Identification of likely impact of the service change in terms of other considerations including climate change and economic or societal impacts

This will be kept under review as the project progresses.

	Committee and Date Council 6 th July 2023	Item
		Public



Report of the Portfolio Holder Finance & Corporate Resources

email: gwilym.butler@shropshire.gov.uk

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder): Gwilym Butler

1. Synopsis

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate Resources has responsibility for many functions delivered by the Resources Directorate including Legal Services, Finance, Workforce and Member Development. This report provides an update on key work undertaken since January 2022.

2. Executive Summary

2.1. The Finance and Corporate Resources Portfolio is closely aligned to The Shropshire Plan, with the most obvious direct links being to the Healthy Organisation priority, with support provided to all priorities and strategic objectives. The Portfolio covers most functions delivered by the Resources Directorate, as listed below. This report provides an update to Council, setting out the crucial work undertaken since the last Portfolio Holder report presented to Council on 13 January 2022. By operating under the ethos of a Single Organisation, all staff working to the Finance and Corporate Support Portfolio can align closely behind the Council's key priorities.

The focus for the directorate is multifaceted; to help improve staff wellbeing and support, improve governance and processes, reduce costs and increase organisational efficiency and effectiveness.

The Resources Directorate teams have led on the delivery of several key initiatives across the council in the last year, including: -

- Leading the delivery of The Shropshire Plan through to Council approval in May 2022.
- Driving a coordinated overview of the organisation, resulting in the appointment of a strategic transformation partner and creation of a wider transformation programme across the Council for 2023 and beyond.
- Developing a repositioned Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFS) aligning our resources to support The Shropshire Plan, within the available budget for 2023/24
- Delivering Human Resources policy updates and development of the approved workforce strategy
- Developing a range of leadership tools in support of the 'Getting Leadership Right' programme, including service delivery planning and Personal Development Planning for staff.
- Reconfiguring the Legal team to better support the wider organisation and strengthen governance
- Supporting several peer reviews, including the Finance Peer Challenge, the Scrutiny review, and a peer review of Communications
- Updating the training offer for staff and Councillors, making it more accessible including expanding the on-line/digital training opportunities and supporting service teams to access and complete training

Some of the key work undertaken within the Finance and Corporate Resources Portfolio and details of the aims and objectives for the future are provided in the pages below.

Service areas included within the Resources Portfolio:

- Finance
- Revenues and Benefits
- Commissioning Development and Procurement
- Treasury management
- Corporate Policy
- Legal Services
- Democratic Services
- Elections
- Scrutiny
- Member Development
- Occupational Health and Safety
- HR Admin and Payroll
- HR Advice and Organisational Development
- Risk, Resilience and Insurance
- Programme Management
- Shropshire HR – Commercial Activity

3. Strategic Finance

3.1. Finance

- The Finance team delivered four quarterly updates of the financial strategy, significantly repositioning the MTFS outlook. This was supported by inputs from the review team from the LGA Finance Peer Challenge (June 2022).
- The MTFS provided the framework within which budget proposals were worked out and a more open and inclusive approach was taken, through which all service areas had close engagement in the setting of the budget and the necessary spending reductions it includes.
- Members of opposition groups were invited by the Administration to engage in the most open and transparent alternative budget process the Council had ever agreed to undertake, supported by staff across Resources and the wider authority.
- The budget for 2023/24 was presented to Council and agreed in March 2023, and set out the technical and legal details required for budget setting. The finance team provided the leadership and co-ordination of the budget process through the autumn period, developing on the work started in April 2022 as the impact of inflation across the global economy became apparent.
- The team also led the process of developing new reporting approaches and budget management tools to ensure that the council stands the best chance of success in delivering The Shropshire Plan through a balanced budget for 2023/24.

Aims & objectives for the future

- Despite the internal budget pressures being faced, the finance team had prepared and submitted the pre-audit accounts for 2022/23 by the national deadline of 31 May. This is 4 weeks ahead of last year, and a reduction in the available time to prepare the accounts of one third. (many councils did not achieve this deadline, so the team have performed exceptionally well.)
- The team will also continue to develop tools and reports to enable budget managers to gain insights into financial performance more easily and support the good financial management and monitoring of the council's budgets. The support to revenue services is subject to ongoing review to align available finance support to the priority areas of activity.

3.2. Revenues & Benefits

- Revenues and Benefits teams have secured further improvement in the collection rate for Council Tax, increasing it to 98.2% and hitting the stretch target for the year. Overall collection averaged £1m per day during the year, covering Council Tax (both for Shropshire Council, and for Parish and Town Councils and the Fire and Police authorities), and also business rates. This income forms the basis of more than 75% of council day to day funding, without which we could not function.

- Discretionary housing payments were made in excess of the published value of the grant – which is permissible, and the additional cost is passed to government to fund, and so maximises local benefit.
- The team have also supported the rapid disbursement to local residents of the energy costs grants provided by government, helping to mitigate the cost of living crisis.
- Plans for the coming year include delivery of similar household support payments and targeting a rapid approach to payment of these claims by using a greater level of automation in processing them. These schemes are a vital part of tackling rural inequalities

Aims & objectives for the future

- Several developments are in hand for the new year, including
 - Progressively stretching Council Tax collection rates from the current 98.2% towards 98.5%, and business rates collection from the current 98.7% towards 98.9%,
 - Reducing the time taken to process benefit claims
 - A new business rating list which will need to be included in the billing processes
 - Several new (national) schemes around transitional reliefs and business rates reliefs, to be implemented.
 - Local management of the Household Support Fund
 - Increasing the number of accounts where e-billing and payments are used
 - Increasing take up of direct debit payments for council tax
 - Changing the document imaging system, bringing software up to date and improving the experience and productivity of staff working remotely
 - Promoting customer self-service where appropriate and possible and enabling more contact to be digital
 - Maximisation of the billable taxbase (e.g. empty property reviews)

3.3. Treasury Management

- Treasury management includes the oversight of the Council's day-to-day cashflows, as well as its long term borrowing and investments.
- The Council currently has overall borrowing just under £400m, although £135m of this is 'internal' (ie through available cash balances). Reducing cash balances in recent years (e.g. exhaustion of COVID grants) mean that this it is likely that the council will soon need to take out borrowing externally. Current external borrowing is well within prudent limits and stands at c£250m (a combination of PWLB and market loans).
- The council currently has £73m invested, with a maturity structure of between 0 and 9 months, at average rates of 3.84% (weighted average).

Aims & objectives for the future

- Considering the ongoing volatility in the economic outlook, the treasury management team will continue to ensure that the council's banking and financial arrangements deliver the best value for money, taking account of the priorities of security before liquidity, and liquidity before yield.
- In terms of management, the team will transfer to the finance team, where its will be more closely aligned to day-to-day exchequer activity and capital programme estimation and funding.

4. Corporate Policy

- The Shropshire Plan was approved by Council in May 2022 and provides the golden thread for the organisation, linked to the MTFs, Workforce Strategy and Personal Development Planning process mentioned elsewhere in this report.

Aims & objectives for the future

- The Shropshire Plan will be kept under regular review with linkages made to policy development in the newly formed Office of the Chief Executive (OCE).

5. Legal and Governance

5.1. Legal Services

- Following appointment of a new Head of Legal and Democratic Services, a review and re-structure has been undertaken to ensure sufficient leadership capacity and to align support around delivery of The Shropshire Plan particularly in light of significant recent turnover within the service.
- Supporting the corporate governance of the Council and specific legal requirements of service areas, for the high-profile projects and extremely challenging planning applications.
- Responded to extremely high levels of demand for the child-care team in advising on safeguarding cases. The continuing high numbers and complexity of cases are not abating leading to significant budgetary pressures. A revised structure is now in place with some recruitment success for more junior staff who are already proving valuable in supporting experienced staff to manage their caseloads.

Aims & objectives for the future

- Consolidate the new structure and support and develop new staff to support service areas.
- Deliver a pilot with other local authorities in the West Midlands to create cost saving collaborative approaches.
- Review engagement of external lawyers with a view to seeking efficiencies and savings.

5.2. **Democratic Services**

- Recruited and developed new Members' Assistant.
- Played a very significant role in the delivery of the Council's responsibilities under London Bridge following death of HM Queen Elizabeth.
- Supported Scrutiny peer review.
- Delivering annual admission appeals process in the face of significant extra demand this year.
- Ensured effective participation of the public and Councillors by the live streaming of events.

Aims & objectives for the future

- Further develop the member training offer to include a mid-term programme
- Develop an effective member handbook

5.3. **Elections**

- Ongoing preparation to deliver reforms under the Elections Act 2022 e.g. voter ID including development of communications strategy.
- Staff trained and using new online portal to authorise voter authority certificates
- Supported several neighbouring authorities with local elections in May 2023 giving valuable opportunities to work on new reforms in action.
- Increased canvass rate of return for 2022.

Aims & objectives for the future

- Successfully implement communications strategy for voter id and other reforms.
- Train and support staff to complete the necessary work to implement parliamentary and local boundary changes when confirmed.
- Maintain and aim to further improve canvass return rate.

5.4. **Commissioning Development & Procurement**

- Undertaking exploration of different options for Agency Staff procurement.
- Developed further the Council's Social Value approach and offer linked.
- Led on the drafting and publication of the Council's Annual Anti Modern Slavery Statement and plan and the mandatory training of staff.
- Promoted the wider use of an electronic signature solution removing the reliance on paper and 'wet' signatures for contracts and associated documents.
- Initial development of Commissioning & Procurement approaches to Carbon reduction and contractors.

Aims and Objectives for the future

- Review of commissioning and procurement strategies considering The Shropshire Plan and Carbon reduction aims
- Complete the re-commissioning of Agency staff service provision.
- Review and updating of Annual Modern Slavery Statement and Serious & Organised crime action plans.
- Develop and implement Carbon Reduction outcomes within our Commissioning & Procurement processes.
- Prepare our processes to meet the new Procurement Regulations to be implemented in 2024.
- Enable the completion of a Social Value statement for the Council and develop further other SV initiatives

6. Workforce & Improvement

6.1. Occupational Health & Safety

6.1.1. Wellbeing update:

- In April 2022, the Communication and Wellbeing Teams joined Andy for his daily walk. In the [short film](#), Andy talks about his reasons for building a walk into his daily schedule and the physical and mental health benefits he has experienced as a result of doing this. He also encourages employees to do the same; get out in the fresh air, blow off the cobwebs and enjoy the outdoors.
- As part of our directive from the Chief Executive to promote local charity Share's Virtual two-day alcohol conference in May (19th and 20th), we ran an alcohol awareness session at the end of April with the organiser of the conference and one of its guest speakers.
- This session was recorded and will be put on our Wellbeing Pages for those that were not able to attend. During the session we also signposted to support (local and national) and resources including podcasts, books, and websites.
- We teamed up with HSBC to offer a free digital financial wellbeing package available to employees, which includes a rolling monthly programme of webinars and the opportunity to have a free half hour financial health check.
- A Cost-of-Living virtual hub was created for staff detailing information around travel, pensions, credit unions, unions, our employee benefits platform to support and signpost. The Money and Pensions Service ran a webinar in December 2022 on our behalf called 'Managing your Money in Uncertain Times' which explored the Money Helper website. This webinar was recorded.
- Healthy Lives Social Prescribing initiative launched in June 2022, along with a dedicated page on the Wellbeing Pages. Employees now have a

dedicated Healthy Lives Advisor. The initiative offers social, emotional, and practical support for a range of issues to help resolve wellbeing concerns such as weight management, social isolation or loneliness, low level mental health issues, smoking cessation, or community engagement.

- Line Manager Mental Health Awareness and Resilience training was delivered virtually and face to face.
- Physio Clinics have run for low level aches and pains to support employees. Two clinics ran in June and December 2022 and a further 4 clinics ran between January – March 2023 (6 in total – across the various office hubs in the county).
- An article and presentation were delivered to the West Midlands Employers to share the progress and initiatives with Shropshire around health and wellbeing.
- Wellbeing lunchtime drop-in sessions began in February 2023 in the various office hubs. The drop-in sessions comprise a Mental Health First Aider (MHFA), a Wellbeing Champion, and our employee Healthy Lives Advisor (Social Prescribing) - as a means of promoting our wellbeing offer and also giving employees the chance to speak in confidence to these three sources of support/resources. (Each session is attended by a different MHFA and Wellbeing Champion.)

6.1.2. Occupational Health Update:

- Flu vouchers-372 issued to staff. Distribution undertaken earlier to facilitate maximum length of protection for staff.
- Occupational Health undertook 771 management referrals for internal and external customers at the request of management to support employees who were experiencing ill health or were absent from work.
- 1270 pre-placement questionnaires undertaken under the Equality Act 2010.
- 21 Ill Health Retirement requests were progressed with the Independent Registered Medical Practitioners in line with the Shropshire Pension Scheme.
- The Occupational Health Team has also started to work with five new external clients

6.1.3. Health and Safety Update

- Crime Prevention advice and support around rough sleepers, antisocial behaviour and discarded drug paraphernalia within Shrewsbury and surrounding areas.
- Work to support council response and events relating to death of the Queen.
- Annual monitoring in the summer of health & safety standards on school construction projects.

- Asbestos programme of online training for schools rolled out – HSE are monitoring this autumn.
- Work on Cardinus system for training and risk assessment of Display Screen Equipment Users
- Health and Safety Policies and Arrangements were reviewed and updated.
- Progress on developing a system of collating and sharing data from several systems on Potentially Violent Persons and premises. A new System is to launch in 2023. Branded as Staff Protection register.

Jan - Dec 2022		
Health and Safety Training		
First Aid Training Courses delivered	No. of courses	50
First Aid Training Courses delivered	No. of delegates	366
Face to Face Training Courses Delivered	No. of courses	155
Face to Face Training Courses Delivered	N.o. of Delegates	898
On Line H&S courses accessed	N.o. of Delegates	2339
Advice and Intervention		
Site/Premise Visits	642	
Audits/Inspections	77	
Investigations	31	

Aims & objectives for the future

We will enable a safe and healthy and resilient workforce through:

- Providing professional and effective advice, guidance, training and monitoring on safe working practices and environments to all service areas considers new ways of working, changes in guidance and accident data.
- Working with the Intergrated Care System to develop a system wide employee wellbeing initiative for our health and social care workforce.
- We will continue to provide supportive health, wellbeing, and resilience interventions to our employees through our Wellbeing Plan.
- Develop our Shropshire HR/OHS brand to be flexible to meet customer's needs, reasonably priced, etc
- Health and safety premises inspections/interventions
- Roll out of mandatory Display Screen Equipment Workstation Assessment training for office, home and hybrid workers.
- We will provide access to occupational health support

6.2. HR Admin & Payroll

- Continued resource provided to support the Council, Maintained Schools, Academies and external customers with all aspects of HR Admin and Payroll associated queries, tasks and development.

- Many internal processes were reviewed, to support the ongoing changing state of the Council, and its requirements to ensure that efficiencies are identified for the end-user. Work allocations are constantly being reviewed, as a direct consequence of “Getting it Right” (GIR) and “Getting Leadership Right” (GLR).
- Recruitment activity remained high throughout the year, with the Council experiencing the same national issues all employers are facing with difficulty in recruiting. Many service areas have continued to require additional support with recruitment activity, which the team have taken steps to streamline, and provide greater visibility, and real time updates to managers.
- Internal demand, and ERP system issues highlighted in the Payroll Audit have required substantial support from the team to support corporate and Schools staff in using ERP system to ensure staff are paid correctly. Many system processes remain under review alongside the identification of any possible system improvements. Significant time and resource have been invested in resolving several processes and areas of the system that weren't accurate or working as expected, with focus being made on end-user experience. This work remains ongoing as part of the wider ERP review.
- Recruitment undertaken to vacant roles, and to ensure team staffing levels were based on customer (internal and external) needs. Internal decisions made surrounding the pay structure and salary sacrifice schemes generated significant additional work for the team and will need to be factored into future staffing reviews.
- Commercial activity has been limited due to the internal pressures the team faced. During this time, service offerings have been reviewed and costed accordingly. Opportunity for future commercial activity will need to be prioritised.

Aims & objectives for the future

- Develop commercial offering and work alongside suppliers.
- Continue with process reviews and support the wider organisation with GIR and GLR at the forefront of all activity.
- Recruitment and retention (links with HR Advice & Organisation Development), attract, hire and retain individuals – development of ‘Shop Window’ to increase our Employer brand as an attractive employer to work for via our recruitment website, onboarding, development and for those wishing to leave have a positive off-boarding (exit) process.

6.3. HR Advice & Organisation Development

- Getting Leadership Right (GLR) Programme – 252 senior managers have commenced phase 1 (October 2022 – July 2023) of our new GLR Programme to develop and address our managers in delivering the

aspirations of The Shropshire Plan. Further cohorts planned from Autumn 2023

- New Ways of Working – removal of the home worker allowance (temporary until 31 March 2023); creation of Hybrid Strategy, Hybrid Policy and new staff categories (office based, Hybrid or permanent home workers)
- Policy Development – Apprenticeship, Disciplinary, Notice Periods, Code of Conduct, Recruitment, Probation, Domestic Abuse, Adverse Weather, Grievance, Flexible working and Hybrid Policies all revised or newly created to support our workforce and future ways of working.
- Introduction of Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVC Wise) Salary Sacrifice Scheme for staff.
- Changes to the Pay and Grading structure (schools and corporate) from April 2023 in line with national employer and TU agreement. This also included increasing annual leave entitlement.
- Reorganisation and Recruitment – Supported in the region of 20 organisational changes in the last 12 months. Supported and advised 10 schools on the process of recruiting a new Headteacher during the current academic year
- Worked collaboratively with colleagues from the Education Improvement Team to provide the senior leadership team (Chair of Governors and Assistant Head Teacher) with dedicated HR support across a variety of complex HR casework challenges. This included coaching the newly appointed Assistant Head Teacher, prior to, during and since a Section 8 Ofsted inspection.
- Developed and delivered ‘Line Manager Essentials’ training to Schools and Academies
- Upskill – total of 59 apprentices undertaken in the last financial year. 41 Corporate and 18 in Maintained schools. Three levy transfers = 1 x Hospitality, 2 x Residential Care

Starts by directorate:

Directorate	Starts – Professional Development	Starts New Recruits	Total No. of Starts
People	16	1	17
Place	8	0	8
Health, Wellbeing and Prevention	2	0	2
Resources	6	8	14
Schools	11	7	18
Total	43	16	59

Aims & objectives for the future

- Continue with the development and embedding of GLR across our managers and workforce within the organisation. GLR will equip our staff to tackle the challenges they face within their service / team and organisationally.
- Support our customer base both internally and externally (including Schools) with their HR Advice and Organisational Development needs.
- Increasing employee engagement and productivity by providing opportunities for skills development and career growth via our Apprenticeship-First approach and Talent Academy.
- Increase employee engagement by enhancing and communicating our pay and rewards offer i.e. staff awards, terms and conditions and policy development – staff foster carers leave policy.
- Recruitment and retention (links with HR Admin & Payroll), attract, hire and retain individuals – development of ‘Shop Window’ to increase our Employer brand as an attractive employer to work for via our recruitment website, onboarding, development and for those wishing to leave have a positive off-boarding (exit) process.

6.4. Risk, Resilience & Insurance

- Reviewed and modified the Opportunity Risk Management Strategy to reflect organisational changes. [january-2023-orm-strategy.pdf \(shropshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/january-2023-orm-strategy.pdf) (All priorities).
- Completed the move of all operational, project and strategic risks into SharePoint together with the development of PowerBI reporting to provide live data and status of our entire risk environment. This enables risk owners to be accountable for their risks and the ability to review, monitor and amend risks when required (All priorities):
 - 15 strategic risks – reviewed and reported on bi-annually (June and December).
 - 126 operational risk registers containing a total of 1,339 operational Risks – reviewed and reported on bi-annually (May and November).
 - 1056 project risks across 73 project/programme risk registers – reviewed and reported on for project board meetings.
- Enhanced our business continuity management arrangements with tactical plans for HR (Human Resources), Finance, Assets & Estates, Adult Social Care and Children’s Services (All priorities).
- Maintained and enhanced the Business Continuity Group comprising senior managers to consider business continuity impacts and the management of these to sustain business and service provision (All priorities).
- The team continue to be involved in the activities of ALARM, Embrace Risk (national risk management organisation) both nationally and regionally, which puts the authority at the forefront of risk management for developing

best practice. Jane Cooper is current Chair of the Midlands ALARM Steering Committee and sits on the board of ALARM (All priorities).

- At the ALARM National Conference, the team were shortlisted for four of the eight national awards winning three of these. [Risk Awards | ALARM \(alarmrisk.com\)](#)
 - Resilience Planning Award (response to concurrent events and managing business continuity)
 - Team of the Year Award (recognition of outstanding contribution to risk, insurance, and business continuity)
 - Risk Professional of the Year (Jane Cooper). As a result of winning Professional of the Year, Jane Cooper is sponsored to represent the United Kingdom, Shropshire Council and ALARM at the PRIMA (risk management) conference in California in June 2023.

Aims & objectives for the future

- We will review our Business Continuity Programme and all relevant plans (overarching Strategic Business Continuity Plan, Tactical Plans and Business Impact Analysis/Service Recovery Plans) taking into account lessons learnt from Covid-19 and considering cyber preparedness.
- We will assess how our strategic risk exposure aligns with the Shropshire Plan to ensure we deliver against the priorities and mitigate associated risks.
- We will demonstrate our credentials in relation to the ESG agenda (Environmental, Social & Governance).
- We will articulate and implement our Risk Appetite Model.
- We will articulate and implement our Risk Maturity Model.
- We will assess the appetite to deliver a Shropshire Resilience Conference in 2024 which will be open to all local businesses and include speakers and exhibitors to support resilience and recovery arrangements for local businesses.

6.5. Programme Management

- Following the adoption of The Shropshire Plan in May 2022, significant work was undertaken to commence the Council's transformation journey.
- An initial Target Operating Model Programme of 60 projects was developed, categorised into five cross Directorate themes, each Sponsored by a member of the Executive Management Team.
- A Strategic Transformation Partner (STP) was appointed in February 2023, to support us to:
 - Address the immediate financial challenges
 - Think, plan for, lead and deliver the vision and outcomes set out in The Shropshire Plan.
 - Maximise our capabilities and technology investments.

Aims & objectives for the future

- Service Plans, detailing how teams will deliver the Shropshire Plan (and how outcomes will be measured) are being developed in 2023/24. This then supports creation of Personal Development Plans for each member of staff.
- Office of the Chief Executive (OCE) to be set up in early 2023/24 to act as the 'engine room' of the Council. The OCE will be staffed by a combination of Council and STP resources working on a matrix basis. The OCE will be led by the new Assistant Director for Efficiency and Transformation from mid-June 2023.

6.6. Shropshire HR – Commercial Activity

- Leadership Conference in November 2022 was attended by over 200 delegates from education, health, charity, industrial sectors. Next event is scheduled for 16th April 2024.
- Generated commercial income of over £160,000 from our external customers relating to either PAYG or annual contracts of services, bespoke HR OD programmes and training events. This figure includes the income generated from the Leadership Conference.
- New contracts for health surveillance established with SME's in Shropshire.

Aims & objectives for the future

- Continue to improve the service offer to external customers as well as developing new business opportunities.

6.7. Scrutiny

- The past year has been of openness to challenge and learning. The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) were invited to carry out a Scrutiny Improvement Review in response to concerns shared by some Members. They carried out the review in the Autumn 2022, with the final report received in January 2023.
- During 2022/23 investment was made into Overview and Scrutiny at the council with the appointment of an experience Scrutiny Manager (also the Statutory Scrutiny Officer) and recruitment in to a second Overview and Scrutiny Officer post.
- Since the CfGS report was received a range of actions have been developed collaboratively across all groups, with a clear emphasis on enabling Overview and Scrutiny to operate differently and to engage and involve Members:

- New committees have been agreed that reflect the priorities in the Shropshire plan
- The Constitution has been reviewed to bring it in line with the new committees and to ensure that it is up to date to enable the committees to move forwards.
- Work programming by each committee has got underway, with a strong emphasis on Overview and Scrutiny adding value to Shropshire communities and the council through their work, informing decision making as well as holding decision makers to account.
- Overview and Scrutiny working has been looked at to identify opportunities for Members to be supported to do the work, including through a clear focus on fewer more strategic topics that are investigated between committee meetings e.g. by Task and Finish Groups

Aims & objectives for the future

- The continuous Improvement of Overview and Scrutiny will be owned by the Members and supported by officers. The new working arrangements will be reviewed after 6 months of operation, in December 2023. The findings of the review will be used to inform changes and improvements for the coming year, and this will mark the start of an annual process of review, which will include a survey of Members and officers to get their feedback and ideas.

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

Local Member: Gwilym Butler

Appendices

None

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Committee and Date

Council
6th July 2023

Item

Public



Report of the Portfolio Holder Culture & Digital

email: rob.gittins@shropshire.gov.uk
robert.macey@shropshire.gov.uk

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):

Rob Gittins (until 30/04/23)
Robert Macey (from 01/05/23)

1. Synopsis

The Portfolio Holder for Culture & Digital has responsibility for many functions delivered by the Resources and Place Directorates. This report provides an update on key work undertaken since July 2022.

2. Executive Summary

2.1. The Culture & Digital Support Portfolio covers functions delivered by the Resources and Place Directorate, as listed below. This report provides an update to Council, setting out the crucial work undertaken since the last Portfolio Holder report presented to Council on 7th July 2022 as the Annual Report of the Portfolio Holder for Digital, Data & Insight and Built Housing. During this period this Portfolio has passed from Councillor Rob Gittins to Councillor Rob Macey, and now joins together the functions of Culture and Digital Support for the first time. By operating under the ethos of a Single Organisation, all staff covered by the Culture & Digital Portfolio can align behind the Council's key priorities.

2.2 Some of the key work undertaken within the Culture & Digital Support Portfolio and details of the aims and objectives for the future are provided in the pages below.

2.3 Service areas included within the Portfolio:

- IT and technology
- Data and Business Intelligence
- Digital First
- Infrastructure: Connecting Shropshire, Broadband, 5G
- Smart Shropshire: Digital Strategy, Digital County
- Information Governance, Performance management, Customer Services
- Culture, Leisure and Tourism services

3. IT and Technology

Within IT and Technology, work has been focused in two areas – supporting enhanced levels of cyber-security (to ensure that the council is defended from increasing levels of cyber attacks) and developing existing and new IT tools to facilitate the accessibility and efficiency of the Council and its many systems and services. Further details are set out below.

Key achievements since July 2022:

- An important part of our work is to keep the Council working, since July 2022 we have dealt with 24,594 incidents and 42,353 service requests.
- A further 10 schools have been moved onto our managed service offering.
- We have successfully applied for a grant with the Local Digital Cyber Fund and have been allocated a grant of £100,000 to deliver our Cyber Treatment Plan and reduce the risk created by legacy operating systems.
- Soft launch of new council website <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/>. The next version of our website builds on a user-first approach and our research on best practice examples across local and central government. Council Tax and Joint Training are the first services to be rebuilt and are currently running alongside their 'current' versions as beta versions to gather user feedback.
- Phishing exercise run in Feb to investigate how staff respond to phishing emails.
- New backup system procured and implemented.
- We have implemented the first StarLink (satellite broadband) connection at a site that has been experiencing connection issues for several years, they now have a more robust and significantly quicker internet connection.
- A managed Security Operations Centre (SOC) has been implemented providing increased cyber security resilience on a 24/7 basis, and is working well. This was implemented on a trial basis and a more permanent solution will be considered this year.

4. Data & Business Intelligence

4.1. Performance Management

- Performance management reports have been submitted to the Overview Scrutiny committee on a quarterly basis with the measurements set against key performance indicators. The online Inphase portal has also been utilised to communicate the KPI's against The Shropshire Plan.

- With the launch of the Shropshire Plan in 2022 the performance management framework has also been relaunched with a stronger focus on the becoming a performance managed council with clear KPI's linked to the Shropshire vision and The Shropshire Plan with the golden thread through service delivery plans and personal development plans. The performance management framework also supports setting targets to enable direction of travel to be measured with actions and decisions to take corrective action if performance is going off course.

4.2 **Data and Business Intelligence**

- The team has been restructured bringing together the data and insight team and the infrastructure and architecture team creating a performance and research and a data and reporting team within Improvement.
- Significant progress has been throughout the year developing and delivering dashboards across a variety of service areas.
- There has been a noticeable change in the appetite and understanding of the importance for data and business intelligence across the authority.
- Work has continued with the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) delivering not only a regional data hub for West Midlands ADASS but a national version which has been well received.
- Access to data sources and sharing of data has also been achieved for the core services.

5. Digital First

Background

- Technology is continually changing the way people go about their daily lives how they interact, learn, play, and work, offering new and exciting opportunities for the way Shropshire Council connects and interacts with citizens and staff.
- This technical progress is predicted to continue for years to come, and it allows Shropshire Council to help ensure that both local residents and visitors to the county enjoy the benefits of the digital age, while working to ensure that those in 'digital poverty' are not left behind.
- Digital technology helps to remove some of the challenges of covering a large geographical area, remotely connecting residents to services in a more cost-effective and efficient manner. Accessing services digitally also reduces both time and travel costs and the associated impact on the environment, placing us on an even footing with urban authorities in terms of service delivery. The challenge with digital services is differing levels of digital infrastructure and digital skills, not understanding or appreciating the benefits of digital technology, not being able to afford devices or connections and trusting online services.
- In order to address these digital exclusions, there is a bid to expand the Digital Skills Programme, supporting a further 3,000 digitally excluded Shropshire residents aged 55 or over to interact with the Council digitally. Our Shropshire Local customer service points offer a place for our citizens to talk to friendly council staff

face to face and get support with a range of services, if citizens don't have a computer at home, they can use our public access computers.

6. Digital Infrastructure: Connecting Shropshire

Summary of key headlines/achievements:

- Completion of final superfast broadband (30 megabits per second) contract (third of 3). Contract 3 delivered connectivity to 12,500 premises;
- European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development contract now complete, having delivered gigabit-capable connectivity to over 800 premises;
- ERDF Marches Business Broadband Grant Scheme is now complete, having delivered improved connectivity to over 75 businesses;
- £2.5m capital funding allocated for reinvestment to top-up the national Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme;
- Project Gigabit Lot 25 launched with first procurement outcome announced in May for North Shropshire (12,000 premises);
- Market engagement process ongoing to procure mobile phone coverage information across Shropshire Council area.

6.1. Superfast Broadband Contract

- The second and final BT Openreach contract closed in 2020.
- Contract 3 was awarded to Airband Community Internet Ltd. The build phase of the contract was completed at the end of March 2023.
- By the end of the contract, Airband had provided over 12,500 contracted premises with access to a superfast broadband connection (of which about 1,900 premises have access to a 'fibre to the premises' broadband connection). Additional premises in the vicinity of contracted premises have also benefitted from Airband's own commercial deployment.
- Contract 3 brings an end to the superfast programme managed by Shropshire Council. Since 2013, over 70,000 premises have directly benefitted from the three superfast broadband contracts that Shropshire Council has managed.
- When added to commercial deployment, the Council contracts have increased superfast broadband coverage in the Shropshire Council area from 24% in 2014, to 98.5% in 2023 (Source: [Thinkbroadband](#)).
- Connecting Shropshire are currently overseeing the contractual closure process for Contract 3, which is expected to result in contract savings. When the contract is formally closed down later this year, this money will be available for reinvestment in additional broadband coverage or to contribute to the Council's 2023/24 savings targets.

6.2. European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) Marches & Gloucestershire Viable Clusters Broadband Project

- Shropshire Council secured funds in 2017 from DEFRA through the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).

- Around 800 Shropshire Council premises have been given access to a 'fibre to the premises' broadband connection from the project in some of our most challenging rural areas around Ellesmere and Oswestry.
- This contract was managed directly by Herefordshire Council who were the accountable body.

6.3. **ERDF Marches Business Broadband Grant Scheme**

In 2017 Shropshire Council secured funds from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to support a project which was managed by Herefordshire Council. This project completed in March 2023, with 75 ERDF-eligible Shropshire Council businesses directly benefitting.

6.4. **Project Gigabit – Lot 25**

- Project Gigabit is a £5 billion government infrastructure project to enable and deliver fast, reliable digital connectivity for the UK. The prime objective of the programme is to deliver gigabit broadband to those areas of the country that are commercially unviable for broadband infrastructure suppliers to build to without public funding. Across the UK, 75% (ThinkBroadband, May 2023) of premises can now access gigabit-capable broadband, and the government's target is at least 85% gigabit-capable coverage by March 2026. In Shropshire only 37% of premises currently have a gigabit-capable coverage.
- Shropshire Council's role in this next phase of the national broadband programme has now changed. Whilst Shropshire Council remains a key stakeholder in the new Project Gigabit delivery model, it has no direct influence on the deployment strategy, management, or delivery of the new programme. Building Digital UK (BDUK) will be solely responsible for procurements, contracts and supplier management. BDUK is an executive agency, sponsored by the UK government's Department for Science, Innovation & Technology).
- In July 2022 BDUK issued an Invitation To Tender for two procurement Lots (25.01 and 25.02) in the Shropshire Council area:

Lot 25.01 Mid West Shropshire

- 7,359 premises (all in the Shropshire Council area)
- Subsidy available £10,805,000

Lot 25.02 North Shropshire

- 12,277 premises (10,752 in the Shropshire Council area)
 - Subsidy available £24,042,000
- In May, BDUK awarded the contract for Lot 25.02 to Freedom Fibre who will provide around 12,000 premises with gigabit-capable broadband across North Shropshire and surrounding areas. Under this contract, the first premises are expected to gain access to the new gigabit-capable broadband network in 2024.
 - Work is progressing on the contract concerning mid West Shropshire (25.01), and the approach for the rest of the county is still to be confirmed by BDUK.

- More information about Project Gigabit can be found here:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/project-gigabit-delivery-plan-winter-update-2022-to-2023/project-gigabit-winter-update-2022-to-2023>

6.5. **Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme and Shropshire Council top-up**

- To provide additional support to premises without access to good broadband, Shropshire Council has made up to £2.5m funding available to ‘top-up’ the Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme in partnership with DSIT (Department for Science, Innovation & Technology). This funding has come from earlier contract savings and contract clawback mechanisms.
- The national Gigabit Vouchers are worth up to £4,500 per eligible premise. The Council has topped up the value of vouchers to £7,000 for any premises that cannot get superfast broadband.
- This strategic investment supports those premises not included in current/planned gigabit-capable broadband network deployment and particularly those in our most rural areas that do not have superfast broadband.
- Using the last BDUK reporting data from January 2023, 1,043 vouchers have been issued with a total value of £3,285,904 (of which £1,503,880 is from Shropshire capital top-up funding).
- To date 449 premises have been connected with vouchers paid out to suppliers. There are around twenty community schemes currently in the remaining pipeline.
- Projects with at least twenty paid vouchers include the following rural areas:
 - Boraston
 - Buildwas
 - Plealey
 - Stiperstones
 - Wistanswick

6.6. **Mobile Phone Coverage**

- Mobile phone services continue to play an ever more important role in people’s lives, from on-the-go calls and internet access to wireless connectivity for smart meters. Smartphones have become commonplace since the late 2000s, with 92% of UK mobile users now owning a smartphone that enables internet web browsing (Uswitch Statistics - 2023).
- Indoor 4G mobile phone coverage from all four providers in Shropshire is currently 64% v 84% nationally (Ofcom Connected Nations 2022) with Shropshire currently ranked 57th out of 96 areas in the UK (Signalchecker.co.uk).
- The Mobile Network Operator (MNO) ecosystem remains a wholly commercial marketplace dominated by four national providers, EE, O2, Three and Vodafone. Like broadband it has been the rural areas of Shropshire that have been the most challenging for these providers to address commercially. In 2020, the government and the MNOs agreed to invest over £1 billion in the Shared Rural Network (SRN) programme. The objective is to eliminate the majority of UK 4G ‘not’ spots and ‘partial not-spots’ areas by 2026.
- New SRN mast applications have started to come forward as part of this programme, with more expected over the next few years. It will be important that

the need for digital connectivity is carefully considered against the ongoing challenges of visible impacts when considering planning approvals.

- To understand the full extent of mobile phone coverage, Shropshire Council is working with neighbouring Local Authorities (Staffordshire CC & Worcestershire CC) to look at ways of jointly procuring detailed mobile phone network coverage data. Accurate data will enable the Council to work with the key stakeholders to address mobile phone coverage failures, at the same time as helping our residents and businesses to understand which MNO provides the best coverage for their needs.

7. Information Governance & Customer Services

7.1. Information Governance

- Information Governance plays a vital role in advising the Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO), Executive Management Team and senior management in the establishment and maintenance of the Information Governance Framework and compliance with legislation including the efficiency and effectiveness of these arrangements. It is about the way an organisation's information is 'processed' or handled. On one hand it promotes openness and transparency – through legislation such as the Freedom of Information Act (FOI), Environmental Information Regulations and the Publication Scheme. On the other hand, it ensures personal, sensitive and confidential information is handled legally, securely and effectively in line with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018.
- The Information Governance team at Shropshire Council provides advice and guidance across the Council. The aim is to ensure that the council's information assets are used to their fullest potential in meeting corporate objectives while complying with relevant legislation.
- Information Governance also plays a vital role in the establishment and maintenance of the Information Governance Framework and compliance with legislation including the efficiency and effectiveness of these arrangements.
-

7.2. Customer Service

Background:

Customer Services is made up of several different teams that between them handle customer contact for a wide range of Council services.

The Customer Service Centre (CSC) itself consists of the First Point of Contact Team who triage the front end of Adult Social Work contact, and both adult and child concerns calls.

The Generalist Team within CSC handle service requests and transactions for over 50 services and have access to a range of line of business computer systems through which to fulfil customer requests.

CSC have also been making outbound calls to Shropshire residents identified as potentially requiring more support, initially this was during the Covid 19 pandemic to help those shielding, alongside other specific groups, to access the support they

needed and later, to proactively arrange vaccination appointments. More recently, these calls have been made to residents we identify as potentially needing help to cope with cost of living pressures.

The CSC works seamlessly with the Out of Hours/CCTV team who, as a team that works fully 24 hours every day of the year, have a dual role, providing both the

Council's emergency out of hours contacts for Social Care, Highways and Homelessness, alongside real time monitoring of Shrewsbury's CCTV network.

Also within Customer Services is the Welfare Support Team who take calls for the Housing options Service (homelessness) as well as administering the Local Support Fund which helps people in crisis. Having this team in CSC allows us to collaborate over identifying and awarding help to people presenting in need, including those who are homeless and residents that CSC identify as needing support.

The Face to Face Team is presently still part of Customer Services. These advisors handle customer enquiries for literally any Council service and are currently providing the Shropshire Local Service via both fixed venues and a regular mobile service.

Also within Customer Services is the Digital Skills project which identifies people wanting support to be able to do things online and provides a free, structured, outcomes based learning programme, commissioned via community providers and our own Libraries Service, that upskills people to perform online tasks confidently and safely.

The outcomes from the initial pilot scheme that was aimed at people aged 65 or over were very successful, and, as feedback from learners clearly showed, changed many lives very positively.

The project has now been extended to run until 2026 and widened to include people of all ages who meet specific criteria.

Key achievements from July 2022:

CSC Since October 2022, customer service advisers have made almost 13,000 outbound phone calls to check how residents are managing the cost of living and to make them aware of support that is available, from discounts and benefits to resources and support in the community.

- First Point of Contact continue to support Adult's and Children's social care. Handling over 13,000 calls and over 6000 e-mails for adult and over 5000 calls for Children's services- including Compass, Early Help and Family Information Services (Jan-May 2023).
- Since July 2022 our Welfare Support Team has awarded cash grants worth over £440,000 to over 3000 vulnerable Shropshire households struggling to manage financially, effectively spending all of their allocation of the Government's Household Support Fund
- Our Out of Hours/CCTV team have successfully handled emergency contacts for the Council's own services as well as providing the same under contract to Herefordshire Council's Adult Social Work Team to a highly satisfactory level. CCTV have also been instrumental in a number of

- Our Face to Face team has assisted over 13,000 residents to make service requests online, and at the same time conducted proactive conversations with them especially around cost of living pressures and digital upskilling.
- Our Digital Skills programme delivered bespoke upskilling to over 300 learners over the age of 65

8. Culture, Leisure and Tourism

This year the Culture, Leisure and Tourism department has showcased the immense value and impact of its services within local communities and in contributing to the strategic objectives outlined in the Shropshire Plan. The department's commitment to fostering a vibrant cultural scene, promoting leisure opportunities, and stimulating tourism development has delivered throughout the county, enhancing quality of life, supporting economic growth, and reinforcing the area's unique identity.

The first step is the departmental restructure currently being implemented. Whilst making savings, this has reorganised staffing to create three new teams focusing on commercial development, project development and external funding, and increasing compliance, whilst reducing duplication of back-office functions.

8.1. Culture, Leisure and Tourism Development

Key achievements:

- A new partnership called **Vibrant Shropshire Cultural Compact** has been developed, with the backing of DCMS and Arts Council England. The Cultural Compact forms part of a national network and will be the independent voice for culture in Shropshire, supporting the delivery of the Vibrant Shropshire Cultural Strategy and underpinning health and wellbeing, the local economy, and the environment from a cultural perspective.

The Cultural Compact Board has been recruited, chaired by Paul Johnson, Head of University Centre Shrewsbury, and with senior representation from business, health and wellbeing, education, and the cultural sectors.

- £14,800 external funding has been secured to support the development of the Cultural Compact
 - Recruitment for a new Cultural Compact Officer (funded by Arts Council England) will be complete by June 2023
 - An application for £130,000 has been made to the UKSPF to fund a grants scheme that will support grass roots cultural organisations
- The **Holiday Activities and Food Programme** has supported families with children in receipt of benefits-related free school meals across the county. The programme provides nutritious meals, increases understanding of nutrition and allows young people to join in a wealth of fun activities during school holidays.

	HAF Summer 2022	Winter 2022	Easter 2023
Number of programmes run across Shropshire	56 HAF Holiday Programmes	39 HAF Holiday Programmes	58 HAF Holiday Programmes
Number of children and young people taking part- HAF funded attendees	3509	953	1238

- A new **Armed Forces Community Outreach Project** - Sarah Kerr, Shropshire Council's veteran's hub co-ordinator, has been recognised with the High Sheriff's Award for her commitment to developing support for the Armed Forces community in Shropshire. An Administrator has joined the project to increase the level of one-to-one support for veterans, recruit more project volunteers and run more events. Veterans volunteer Sandy Beattie has been recognised by the Mayor of Shrewsbury for his work with Shropshire Council's Armed Forces Covenant Outreach project.
- Over 60 members of the Culture, Leisure and Tourism team have attended training course to increase their confidence and skills in working with members of the **Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) community**.
 - In partnership with Ignition, a programme of activities designed especially for young members of the SEND Community has been delivered at libraries, Shrewsbury Museum and Art Gallery, Theatre Severn and Severn Valley County Park.
- The lease for **Acton Scott Historic Working Farm** was surrendered back to the Acton Scott Estate in April 2023, following twelve months of community engagement and negotiations with the Acton Scott Estate. The Estate intend to set up a not-for-profit body to operate a historic farm attraction that will open spring 2024.
- A new partnership has been built with a large local company to develop a **corporate volunteering** scheme. 15 volunteers spent two days in Ellesmere restoring Tricia's Pavilion at The Mere and over 20 volunteers have been helping to deliver digital training in libraries for members of the community aged 65 and over.

8.2 Culture and Tourism

Culture, Leisure and Tourism (CLT) has a core objective to drive its commercial impact and financial resilience through income generation and monetisation of its services. This is against a backdrop of significant financial pressures for Shropshire Council and a potential funding deficit of £51m in 23/24.

Now more than ever, CLT will needs to actively drive through our commercial plans and make an increased contribution to help with the challenges that lie ahead for Shropshire

Council. The service is responsible for an outstanding portfolio of venues and services and has a strong talented team with the skills and experience to help make the difference.

This work will be coordinated through the Culture and Tourism team which is responsible for:

- Theatre Services (Theatre Severn and Old Market Hall)
- Museums and Archives Services
- Shropshire visitor economy support and development
- CLT venue and service income generation and commercial development
- Marketing of CLT venues and services

8.2.1 Income Generation

A small team will be led by the Culture and Tourism Manager to create a programme of commercial initiatives for CLT services and sites and to continue to support growth for Shropshire's tourism sector.

8.2.2 Theatre Services (Theatre Severn and Old Market Hall cinema)

Key achievements:

- **Christmas 2022 Pantomime** (Beauty and the Beast) broke previous Box Office records.
- Theatre Severn and the Old Market Hall achieved **combined annual attendance** of 240,206 during 2022/23. This represents 90% of pre-pandemic level.
- 2,885 people attended open-air theatre events at Shrewsbury Castle in July/August 2022. 87% of tickets were sold across the season. Another season is planned for summer 2023.
- Annual bar sales increased by 21%, and kiosk sales by 50% in latest financial year.
- Theatre Severn hosted its first **Relaxed Performance** in December 2022, and first **Dementia-friendly performance** in May 2023. It also partnered with Ignition to deliver a series of **Sensory Drama** sessions in Spring 2022, with a second series due across the summer, for children/young people with complex/sensory needs and their families.

8.2.3 Museums and Archive Service

Key achievements:

- The discovery of a rare Bronze Age Sun Pendant in Shropshire was the catalyst for a partnership between the British Museum (BM) and Shropshire Museums & Archives Service that is intended to help create the **nation's first BM Partnership Gallery exploring the Prehistoric past**. National Portfolio funding has enabled us to take the development of the partnership to the next phase. A tender for a £50k commission to reimagine Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery has been developed and will be procured in 2023.
- In 2021 Shropshire Museums were successful in achieving ACE Project funding for Phase 1 of a long-term partnership between a regional rural museum and an

internationally renowned institution, representing a demonstrable commitment from ACE to the aims of the partnership. In 2022 further investment was secured from ACE in the form of three-year, **National Portfolio Organisation** funding.

Shropshire Museums are delighted to join the ACE National portfolio which recognises the importance of Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery as a cultural hub.

- In 2022 Shropshire Museums & Archives were successful in an application for funding from the Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund; a fund supporting new, ambitious, creative collections engagement that has a social impact. A new, public access **Archaeology Lab** has been established at Shropshire Museums Resource Centre (Ludlow Library) and offers placements for socially prescribed volunteers.
- **Visitor numbers** to Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery continue to increase from 132,735 in 2021/22 to 159,628 in 2022/23 representing a 20% increase in visitor figures year on year and a **64% increase on pre pandemic figures** of 97,144 (2019/20). In the first quarter of 2023 Shrewsbury Museum visitor figures are up 26% comparing Jan-March 2023 (39,238) to Jan-March 2022 (31,232).
- As the Council transitions to a cashless organisation, two newly installed **contactless donation points** successfully offer a convenient way for visitors to contribute, ensuring a crucial source of income for the service's future endeavours.
- In March 2023 Shropshire Archives successfully renewed their status as an **Accredited Archive Service**. Achieving accredited status demonstrates that Shropshire Archives has met clearly defined national standards relating to management and resourcing; the care of its unique collections and what the service offers to its entire range of users. The Archives and Records Management services joined a local government consortium of archives services in 2022 to develop a Digital Archive Repository, enabling Shropshire Council to remain compliant in the storage and retrieval of digital archives.
- A Conservation Management Plan has been completed for **Shropshire Castle**, clarifying the heritage importance of the site, restoration needed and starting to consider possible future uses.

8.2.4 Visitor Economy and Tourism

Key achievements:

Destination Management Plan (DMP)

The DMP is a blueprint for managing Shropshire's visitor economy. It lays down a tourism strategy for the next three years with aspirations that by 2026:

- Public, private and third sectors across Shropshire will be working together – **One Shropshire** - to deliver a **coherent, quality visitor and resident experience**
- GVA growth will be a minimum of 5% per annum achieved by adopting a sustainable model of tourism development **including longer stays, value over volume, attract and disperse model**
- Shropshire will be a destination that can leverage resources and is **worthy of consideration for any future tourism funding initiatives** because it is well organised and connected

The DMP has identified eight key priorities to deliver growth and sustainable development of Shropshire's visitor economy:

- Develop a strong evidence base to support future decision making
- Improve digital infrastructure for tourism businesses
- Increase the appeal of the county for visiting families

- Adjust the ratio between day and staying visitors from 90:10 to 80:20
- Become an exemplar destination for sustainable practices
- Adopt an attract and disperse approach to regional and national marketing
- Increase Shropshire's reputation for quality experiences through product development
- Grow Shropshire's reputation for high service standards and a warm visitor welcome by investing in people

Shropshire Destination Brand

Post COVID, a project was started to create a destination brand for Shropshire as an aspirational place for people to visit, work and live, in order to drive tourism, support growth in the wider economy, create jobs, help recruit skilled workers and attract inward investment. This work will also support delivery of the:

- Shropshire Plan 2022-25
- Economic Growth Strategy 2022-27
- Vibrant Shropshire, Cultural Strategy for Shropshire 2021-2031
- Project Objective: To co-create and launch a compelling destination brand strategy and place narrative for Shropshire that will support immediate visitor economy recovery from COVID-19, facilitate longer term positioning of the county as a visitor destination and promote Shropshire as an aspirational place to live and work.
- Desired Outcome: A well-defined market positioning, customer proposition and brand identity are crucial to the future success of Shropshire as a tourism destination and a county capable of delivering economic growth and attracting inward investment and people skills.

To date, research and insight studies have been completed, brand positionings tested with consumers and a final brand strategy formulated. Creative development for the visual identity and narrative has begun and work will be complete summer 2023.

8.3 Culture and Communities

8.3.1 Libraries

Key achievements:

- Publishing the new [Library Strategy](#) for Shropshire.
- The Library Service was awarded £236,950 from Arts Council England as part of the Libraries Improvement Fund. This funding will enable the **Live Well With Your Library** project which will see the installation of 1-to-1 interview pods and flexible shelving units in 6 of the market town libraries.
- Shropshire Libraries worked in partnership with the **Human Library** Organisation to pilot a series of Human Library events in Stoke Heath Prison. This brings people together to investigate and challenge prejudices. They focused on the topics of health, sexuality, grief, and abuse, which were well received by the prisoners and led to further frank and open discussions to discuss prejudice.
- The Shropshire Council funded **Digital Skills Programme** was rolled out to 16 libraries across the county to support people aged 65 and over to become digitally active. Over 147 people have completed their one to one ten-week course to date. Over 40 volunteers were recruited to support this project and are working closely with Community Resource and Capgemini, to help with further recruitment of digital

volunteers. With 25% of people 65 and over not digitally active, this project provides much needed support to gain confidence and explore the benefits of being online.

- Shropshire Libraries had a very successful **Summer Reading Challenge** in 2022. Across the library authorities in the West Midlands Region, Shropshire had the highest proportion of boys take part and our percentage reach was joint highest in the region. We also worked with the Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF) around Shropshire, enabling us to engage with more children than ever, particularly increasing engagement of children who do not normally take part. In 2022, we had a total of 3302 children take part in the Summer Reading Challenge, of whom over 500 were new members of Shropshire Libraries.
- 2022/23 saw significance increases in **library events and activities**, with a total of 3,767 events attended by 53,868 people. These are increases of over 140% compared to the previous year. Events programmes include Rhyme Times and Story Times for children, events with authors and poets, drop-in advice sessions led by community partners, creative activities such as knitting, crafting, lego building, and learning sessions on subjects such as creative writing, local and family history, and careers and business advice.
- Shropshire Libraries were amongst over 80 organisations and Shropshire Council buildings offering a **Warm Welcome to Shropshire** residents last autumn and winter, where people could go for free to socialise, meet friends and take part in activities while also keeping warm. People concerned about the rising cost of living, were also signposted to support with energy, food, money, mental health and more useful information and resources.

8.3.2 Shropshire's Great Outdoors- Country Parks, Heritage Sites and Rights of Way

Country Parks and Heritage Sites

Key achievements:

- An £80K Invest to Save Loan from Shropshire Council has enabled us to halt the decline of the play area at The Mere and install **new play equipment**.
- **Nesscliffe Hillfort archaeological dig** coordinated by Oxford and Southampton Universities revealed a monument of national significance and the project went viral around the world. Utilisation of latest virtual imagery technology is allowing virtual access to these digs for the first time enabling the public to delve into the archaeology as the project evolves.
- **25 countryside sites remain open and safe** for public use alongside improvements to biodiversity.
- Funding of £40k has been secured via **Section 106** over the next 20 years to protect wildlife on our more sensitive sites from the detrimental effects of excess visitors.
- **Shining Light on Stanmore Country Park** is a £70k grant funded by Severn Trent Community Fund. Delivery includes path improvements, renovating ponds and creating a family discovery trail
- Initial meetings held and working group set up to explore the potential for a landscape-scale conservation project along the **Middle Severn Valley**, working closely with the National Trust.
- **Successful schools and events programme** delivered at Severn Valley Country Park including delivery of Severn Valley Trail Run in September 2022.

- **Strengthening ties with town and parish councils** to help fund large-scale conservation and land management at country parks and heritage sites

Rights of Way

Key achievements:

- 1,032 Individual **maintenance improvements** on the Rights of Way network delivered in year 2022-23 (previous best 938 2018/19), including **135 stiles replaced with gates** on the rights of way network to improve accessibility for all.
- **Income generated through commercial activity**, was just short of £250k in year 2022-23 (up nearly £50k from 2021/22). This was reinvested in service delivery and equipment.
- Successfully secured the hosting of the system used to manage the rights of way network (CAMs), this will ensure **improved management of the network**.
- 2283 Searches completed, 50 private searches, 100 Planning Applications responded to, 11 Formal Applications added to register, and 6 new Landowner Statements deposited during 2022-2023.
- Legal Orders prioritised and ongoing. Team planning for the implications of the Rights of Way Reforms due to be enacted under the **Deregulation Act 2015**.
- **Income targets achieved** despite challenges of hybrid working.
- Mapping & Enforcement Team successfully recruited staff following business case, this together with investment in the Maintenance Team means the overall the team is more able to deal with issues reported on the rights of way network. This is already showing results.

8.3.3 Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership

Key achievements:

- Farming in Protected Landscapes programme extended to a 4th year 2024-25, a further £1.5 million allocated to the Shropshire Hills. £1.12 million allocated for 2023-24 and £746,000 paid so far in grants to 61 farm-based projects over two years 2021-23.
- Young Rangers and Green Leaders programmes achieved 432 attendances at 47 events during 2022-23.
- £75k of funding secured from Natural England under Protected Site Strategy for peatland mapping in the upper Clun catchment.
- Completion of £52k of Defra-funded 'Access for All' capital works at the Bog Centre, Carding Mill Valley and Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, and completion of an inclusion study into improving provision for under-served groups in the Shropshire Hills AONB.
- Climate Change Action Plan completed.
- Revised Shropshire Hills Shuttle Bus route launched 27th May.
- Continued successful support to farmer cluster groups including participation in Defra Environmental Land Management Tests & Trials.
- Ancient woodland restoration project under way.

8.3.4 Southern Shropshire LEADER Programme

The Southern Shropshire LEADER Local Action Group secured £2.032 million through the LEADER Programme, part of the Rural Development Programme for England, funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

The Southern Shropshire LEADER Programme implemented the six national LEADER priorities:

- Increasing farm productivity in ways which enhance natural capital.
- Developing sustainable micro and small enterprises and farm diversification.
- Building rural tourism making the most of Shropshire's assets.
- Improving rural services to support business growth and development.
- Enhancing the natural, cultural and heritage attractions of the area.
- Increasing woodland and forest productivity in ways which enhance natural capital.

This programme has now been completed.

Key Achievements:

- The programme developed and supported 73 projects totalling £3,875,882 worth of project spend. The grant intervention of £1,739,610 was administered by the Local Action Group and the LEADER support team.
- The programme created 63 local jobs.

8.4 CLT Infrastructure, Compliance and Contracts

The Infrastructure, Compliance and Contracts team has been set up through the restructure. This team will focus on making CLT a better internal customer for back-office services, resulting in better compliance, speedier responses and less time being spent by services on back-office tasks, better compliance, and improved contracts.

Contracts are involved in over £500k income to CLT and over £3.5m of payments per year. Many of these need renegotiating, reviewing and improving, with a view to realising savings or increasing income through profit share etc.

The team will work closely with the ICT Business Partner to address issues with current IT systems and help ensure effective booking systems and other customer facing interfaces, helping to drive income and efficiencies.

The team will help manage systems and procedures to ensure consistency across services and reduce duplication, helping to reduce the Council's overall risk. There are significant shortcomings identified that could impact public safety and result in compensation or court proceedings. The team will facilitate compliance issues, H&S and other procedural priorities.

Short-term priorities:

- Digital review
- Fire Safety Management Review
- Software updates
- Venue improvements, including glazing in of sections of OMH undercroft, Coleham Pumping Station and reconfiguring parts of Theatre Severn.

- Low carbon projects in leisure centres
- Contracts register
- H&S Management
- Leisure Management Options
- Development of new facilities; Whitchurch Swimming and Fitness Centre and Swimming in Shrewsbury
- Leisure Centre audits

8.4.1 Sports and Leisure

Key achievements:

- Negotiated **contract extension with Shropshire Community Leisure Trust** to continue to manage 4 facilities on behalf of the Council until 2025; included £365k investment in updated fitness equipment and innovative installations (Box12).
- Obtained approval to proceed with major capital project to replace **Whitchurch Swimming Centre**.
- Continued work on the development of **Swimming in Shrewsbury**.
- The **Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy** was reviewed and updated, continuing support for development/replacement of essential facilities; for example, a replacement all-weather turf pitch at Meole Brace School in 2022.
- Purchase and installation of **new Technogym fitness equipment** at SpArC, Bishop's Castle – funding raised by the local community through the SpArC Trust.

- Since last year, a host of improvements have been made at the **Shropshire Community Leisure Trust managed centres**, including a new BOX12 fitness studio at the Sports Village and upgrades to the gym equipment at both Oswestry and Market Drayton. The Sports Village has also seen a Soft Play centre added to its mix of attractions. A new Community Outreach post has been secured.
- The first **open day at SpArC** on 1st April was a successful community event.
- **Visits** to Church Stretton Leisure Centre in 2022/23 exceeded pre-pandemic visitor numbers (2018/19 – 41,674; 2022/23 – 47,140). Visits to SpArC increased by 40% in 2022/23 compared with 2021/22, representing a 97% recovery rate following the pandemic.

Aims and objectives in the future

- All services will continue to align closely with the overarching strategy set out within the adopted Shropshire Plan
- There will be a continued focus on maximising the potential benefits digital services offer to the council and users of our services
- We will continue looking at innovative ways to deliver services and projects and grasp those opportunities that can benefit our county

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

Local Member: Robert Macey

Appendices None

MEMBER QUESTIONS

Question from Councillor Alex Wagner

Shropshire Director of Public Health stated recently that our county has the 3rd lowest budget in England for mental health services, something evident for anyone who has interacted with the system.

What is the current strategy for improving Shropshire's Mental Health Services and lobbying for better funding?

Response from Councillor Cecilia Motley, Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Communities

Thank you for your question. The information the Director of Public Health was referring to was specifically 3rd lowest "NHS" budget in England and was based on the evidence from on work by the Midlands Strategy Unit in 2019. It was based on Shropshire CCG at that time.

Shropshire Council have continued to raise the underfunding of NHS mental Health services directly through the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, with the then CCG and STW ICS and to Government offices in response to new sources of funding not being made available to Shropshire, despite the high levels of need.

Mental Health has been identified as both an Integrated Care System and Shropshire Health and Wellbeing Board Priority. The current strategy and work to improve NHS spend and outcomes for mental health in the County is detailed in the Clinical Strategy for Shropshire (which includes mental health) and The Five Year Forward Plan. Priorities are delivered through several Boards including the Mental Health and Learning Disability and Autism Children and Young People Board and an Adult Community Mental Health Transformation Board

The NHS Long Term Plan aims to deliver the fastest expansion in mental health services in the NHS's history, with thousands more adults being able to access talking therapies for common disorders and better support being offered to children and young people. Some of core initiatives underpinning this ambition are:

1. Increase funding via the mental health investment standard to transform mental health care so more people can access treatment by increasing funding at a faster rate than the overall NHS budget
2. Make it easier and quicker for people of all ages to receive mental health crisis care, around the clock, 365 days a year, including through NHS 111
3. Expand specialist mental health care for mothers during and following pregnancy, with mental health assessments offered to partners so they can be signposted to services for support if they need it
4. Continue to develop services in the community and hospitals, including talking therapies and mental health liaison teams, to provide the right level of care for hundreds of thousands more people with common or severe mental illnesses.

Mental Health Planned Expenditure increased from £95m in 21/22 to £102m in 22/23 and the system met the mental health investment standard of 12% of the base allocation being invested in mental health services.

Across Shropshire Telford and Wrekin, data reported at the ICB Board details that NHS Talking Therapies access numbers in April 2023 have reduced slightly from the last few months, but the service remains on plan to achieve the year-end target for 2023/24. Implementation of the new combined service is on track and the waiting list for more complex patients, continues to reduce. Recovery rates are often below the 50% target due to incorrect referrals to the Talking Therapies service subsequently discharged without treatment. Those patients who did complete core treatment generally have a good recovery.

Dementia diagnosis rates to April are 58.3% and show a continuation of modest improvements in line with the trajectory but remain below the national target of 66.7% and the England average of 63.2%. The procurement of an assessment service led by Midlands Partnership University Foundation Trust (MPUFT) to reduce the number of people currently waiting was unsuccessful, and other options are being explored.

The ICB in conjunction with the regional leads for Dementia has undertaken best practice learning workshops. Currently there is work focussed on care homes and over-85s. Waiting times for people on the pathway are reducing which is a positive step. A refreshed project plan for the implementation of the Dementia Vision and work programme to increase diagnosis rates is currently being developed in collaboration with MPUFT. Data around access rates and conversion rates remains an issue, however the provider has a plan of action underway to address this.

Children's access is below the long-term plan target, with some data and recording issues identified. Further MH Support Teams (MHST) are being implemented to extend services to more schools and increase access. MPUFT have been requested to review the data reporting issues to ensure that all contacts are recorded appropriately to enable ICB to have confidence in the accuracy of reporting. The number of children waiting more than 18 weeks is at the end of May 2023 is 781 with 364 patients waiting over 30 weeks. Waiting list initiatives are in place to provide additional support and reduce the number and length of time that children and young people (CYP) are waiting for core MH, and Neuro-developmental (ASD) services.

CYP Eating Disorders compliance for Urgent cases remains below plan at only 33% in quarter 4 and there are currently 5 patients who have been waiting above the 4-week standard. Local reporting from the provider indicates that this has reduced to 1 individual waiting between 5-8 weeks as of 13/06/23.

Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) and Acute Out of Area placements demand is volatile but occupied bed days for inappropriate placements have been reducing over recent months. The high demand is a national issue and is continually under review. At the end of May there was 1 inappropriate acute placement, and 3 inappropriate PICU placements.

The number of adults waiting for an ADHD assessment continues to increase which exceeds current service capacity. Of the 2149 waiting at the end of April 1473 (69%)

are waiting over 18 weeks. Individuals are entitled to exercise choice of provider if the Choice framework guidance criteria are met, however it is noted that the rise in demand is a national not a local issue and providers nationally have increasing lists. There will be implications for commissioned services in relation to ongoing treatments for appropriate individuals following diagnosis.

Mental Health inpatient stays for adults with a Learning Disability (LD) are 18 inpatients (45.8 per million population) against a plan for quarter 1 of 19 i.e., the trajectory has been exceeded in a positive direction. The ICB are refocusing in this area and working with regional colleagues via supportive performance reviews to ensure that the end of year target is met.

There are 3 children (30 per million population) with LD in inpatient beds against a target of 15 per million population plans are in place to discharge 2 children.

STW ICS priorities include an ambition to prevent mental disorders in young people (and by default adults) through effective mental health promotion and prevention as well as transforming current services to ensure they are accessible, integrated and reflect the best available evidence.

A detailed table of actions can be found at the end of the document. These are taken from the system 5-year operational plan. This plan has been developed in partnership between the local health system, local authorities, providers and members of the public engaging in the big conversation.

Provider Collaboratives are partnerships that bring together two or more NHS trusts (public providers of NHS services including hospitals and mental health services) to work together at scale to benefit their populations. STW ICS will continue the development of a local Provider Collaborative for Mental Health across Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin for all mental health transformation, developing effective partnerships and working collaboratively to provide seamless, well integrated services whilst bringing the design and provision of care closer together for the benefit of our communities. Increasingly over the 5 years covered by this plan they will seek to ensure that the provider collaborative works across statutory and non-statutory organisations alongside co-production with the wider communities involved with upon by service delivery.

In terms of work outside of NHS specific funds to improve Shropshire's residents' mental health and wellbeing the list below provides some areas of additional investment and activity:

- Public Health, Shropshire Council have invested into a co-ordinated bereavement support offer to for anyone living in Shropshire struggling with bereavement, grief and loss. This includes an outreach offer for children and young people.
- In addition, Shropshire Council have invested into the online emotional wellbeing, peer support offers Together All as a universal prevention model and mental health literacy enabler.
- To signpost residents to support, the Public Health team have created a dedicated public facing mental health and wellbeing resources page via the

Council website which outlines recommended first point of contact for differing level of emotional wellbeing need as well as an ICS wide Suicide Prevention resources page

- Co-ordination of a school mental health leads network to connect education and health to strengthen the CYP mental health offers and pathways (via Anna Freud network and resources)
- Promotion and investment into the Future in Mind CPD subscription programme for mental health leads in Shropshire schools has taken place. Run by the Severn Training and Schools' Alliance, in partnership with Shropshire Public Health and the Mental Health Support Teams
- Some Shropshire schools will already have access to the national Mental Health Support Teams (MHST) offer which is being rolled out across England where local Education Mental Health Practitioners (EMHPS) provide early intervention and prevention of common mental health problems. The roll out is being carried out in phases over the next few years.

In addition to the above, the various mental health partnership groups do seek opportunities to bid for funding programmes to take forward projects to improve outcomes for people with mental health issues/prevent mental ill health as well as address wider determinant risk. However, these programmes usually have defined, and time limited finances associated and often by the time impact is observed, funding ends – sustainability of many programmes aimed at improving resilience, reducing mental health inequalities is often a challenge.

Detailed actions

Action	Owner	Timescale
Adult Mental Health		
Complete Adult Services Transformation Programme	Programme Director and SRO MPUFT	April 24
Develop and implement a programme of work to enable local repatriation of individuals receiving community rehabilitation who are being supported away from their family and home area.	Director of Mental Health, CYP and LD&A and System SRO Mental Health	Complete by April 25
Complete review of Talking Service (previously IAPT) model and implement new service model. Deliver service improvements to achieve national access targets	Director of Mental Health, CYP and LD&A and System SRO Mental Health	April 24 March 24- March 29
Develop our Talking Service model to link into the mental health elements of pathways for the clinical priorities and respiratory services, including cancer pathways.	Director of Mental Health, CYP and LD&A and Clinical Strategy Lead	April 23 – March 25
Crisis Support		
Undertake a demand and capacity review to determine our local needs		2023 TBC
Implement 111 Option 2 for all urgent calls being directed to our local 24/7 access professionals		September 2023
Develop the support to reduce suicide and a pathway for bereavement support.		Ongoing

Increase support to individual prior to reaching a crisis-early intervention	Director of Mental Health, CYP and LD&A and System SRO Mental Health	TBC
Develop pathways with VCSE support with a focus on Twilight 6pm-2am shift including closer working with ambulance service and police.		TBC
Develop non-hospital crisis beds with the third sector to reduce hospital admissions		
Develop services for the homeless community and review pathways into substance misuse and secondary mental health services.		TBC
To continue to work with West Midlands ambulance service to develop mental health support within their offer	Clinical Lead and Commissioning and Contracting Lead	Ongoing
Develop an all age HBPOS offer with staff skilled in both adult and Children's mental health.	Director of MH CYP LD&A and System SRO Mental Health	March 25
Children and Young People's (CYP) Mental Health		
Develop and engage on an up-dated Children and Young People's (CYP) Local Transformation Plan (LTP) Strategy.	Director of MH CYP LD&A and Clinical Strategy Lead	2023-24
Undertake a review of the existing BEE U services and service redesign/ procurement based on CYP plan above	Director of MH CYP LD&A and Clinical Strategy Lead	TBC
Develop the offer for prevention and early intervention to support CYP and their families as part of review above		2025
Develop and offer training to all staff across the system to understand the negative impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) in later life.	Clinical Strategy Lead and System SRO MH	TBC
Develop the mental health support offer for family, parent and carer support for children with complex needs	LA Leads, Director of MH CYP LD&A and Clinical Strategy Lead	TBC
Ensure transitional planning is a part of all CYP to adult pathways	Clinical Strategy Lead	Ongoing
Older People's Mental Health Services		
Undertake demand and capacity modelling for future service demand relating to Dementia	Director of Mental Health, CYP and LD&A and System SRO Mental Health	March 2025
Fully implement the revised model of service delivery necessary across the system to achieve the principles of the Dementia Vision including VSCE and Primary Care		
Achieve the Dementia Diagnosis rate of 66.7 % for 23/24	Director of Mental Health, CYP and LD&A and System SRO Mental Health	March 2024
Continue to deliver the national target rates 24 onwards		
Maximise opportunities to join up thinking and service delivery with SaTH to ensure high quality, timely discharges for older adults experiencing mental health problems.	Director of Mental Health CYP and LD&A and Clinical Strategy Lead	Ongoing
Maximise opportunities to join up thinking and service delivery with Primary Care to ensure high quality, integrated care for older adults experiencing mental health problems.	Director of Mental Health CYP and LD&A and Clinical Strategy Lead	Ongoing

Learning Disabilities and Autism		
Develop an integrated offer around the reduction of inappropriate prescribing for adults and children (STOMP/STAMP) and bring organisations together.	Director of Mental Health CYP and LD&A, Clinical Strategy Lead	Dec 2023
Raise the awareness of autism and what issues people may have as well as continue to expand the use of the Autism passport.		March 24
Develop services for individuals with ASD who don't meet current criteria for secondary mental health services.		Ongoing
Achieve adult national trajectory of no more than 30 per million individuals who are inpatients		August 25
Achieve CYP national target of no more than 11 per million individuals who are inpatients		March 24
Develop and implement a diagnostic Learning Disability Pathway	Clinical Strategy Lead	March 24
Specialist Mental Health Services		
Perinatal Support		
Develop services to enable the longest wait for Tokophobia and bereavement and loss does not exceed 4 weeks from referral to assess and treat.	Director of Mental Health CYP and LD&A, Clinical Strategy Lead	March 24
Maximise opportunities to work with West Mercia police and partners in Local Authority to consider what support can be offered to individuals and families affected by Operation Lincoln.		Ongoing
Eating Disorder Services		
Develop and implement eating disorder services including specialist services for more complex longer-term individuals.	Director of Mental Health, CYP and LD&A and Clinical Strategy Lead	April 25
Neurodevelopment Disorders		
ADHD and ASD		
Develop a robust assessment, diagnosis and treatment pathway and reduce the waiting list to 18 weeks for ADHD/ ASD	Director of Mental Health, CYP and LD&A and Clinical Strategy Lead	March 27
Ensure there are clear shared care agreements in place and that there are processes for reviewing prescribing for ADHD	Clinical Strategy Lead	2023-2025
Mainstream services will be trained to ensure reasonable adjustments are made for those with ADHD /ASD	Clinical Strategy Lead	March 25
Learning Disabilities		
Mainstream services will be trained to ensure reasonable adjustments are made for those with ADHD /ASD	Clinical Strategy Lead	March 25
Provider Collaborative		
Scope Potential to implement a Mental Health Provider Collaborative across MH Providers and Local Authorities and ICB	Programme Director Provider Collaborative Scoping Programme	March 24

Question from Councillor Bernie Bentick

What are the total budgets for 2022/23 and 2023/24 for Women's Health in the following categories: Community, Primary Care, Secondary Care, Obstetrics and separately Sexual Health, Contraception, Menopause and non-urgent gynaecology? What is Shropshire's progress in implementing the most recent strategy publication for Women's Health?

What are the current waiting times for these services?

Will Shropshire Council formally request Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Integrated Care System to formally establish a Women's Health Hub to provide comprehensive services for the women of Shropshire as published by DHSC and the Secretary of State for Health in March 2023?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/womens-health-strategy-for-england/womens-health-strategy-for-england>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/25-million-for-womens-health-hub-expansion>

Response from Councillor Cecilia Motley, Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Communities

Thank you for highlighting this important issue and the need to ensure we have comprehensive health services for the women of Shropshire.

In response to the question around budgets and waiting times, these are specific questions for the Shropshire, Telford, and Wrekin Integrated Care Board. In future, we would suggest that requests in relation to NHS or ICS System services be directed to the Integrated Care Board in the first instance, to ensure a direct and more complete response or alternatively the issues could be raised through the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. However, we have asked for a response from the ICB on this occasion as we accept that they are questions in respect of which the Council has an interest.

STW ICS have responded that the budgets for these services are included within block contracts for the Community and Secondary Care Trusts. Primary Care do not have a specific commissioned service for women's health. It is therefore difficult to establish direct budgets for the services you list or aggregate total budgets for these services across Shropshire.

We have not been given specific details on waiting times at this point but will provide this or signpost when made available to us.

In terms of sexual health services and those contraception services commissioned through Public Health, Shropshire Council. The total outturn budget for sexual health in 2022/23 was £1,268,768; it is not possible to split this into that spent on women's as opposed to men's health.

Contraception services are available from a range of providers, including the Integrated Sexual Health Service, GP Practices and Pharmacies from which residents can access a range of contraception services (e.g. Intrauterine Devices,

Long -Acting Reversible Contraception, Contraceptive Pill & Emergency Hormonal Contraception). In addition to contraception services provided as part of a block contract for the Integrated Sexual health Service, £309k was spent on GP and Pharmacy contraception services during 2022/23. Due to the complexity of contraception provision available, it is not possible for Public Health to monitor waiting times for all contraception services, but we do monitor contraception access times for the Integrated Sexual Health service. For example, during 2021/22, IUS (Intrauterine Systems) access within 6 weeks was 98% and IUD (Intrauterine Devices) Access within 7 days was 74%.

What is Shropshire's progress in implementing the most recent strategy publication for Women's Health?

STW ICS have confirmed they have not received any further details from Government on the women's health hubs and funding at this time, however, suggest a discussion on women's health at the Health and Wellbeing Board would be a helpful first step to take this forward to capture future plan; it is not a clinical priority for 2023/24.

Will Shropshire Council formally request Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Integrated Care System to formally establish a Women's Health Hub to provide comprehensive services for the women of Shropshire as published by DHSC and the Secretary of State for Health in March 2023?

Shropshire Council will formally request that further details be shared, at a time when they are made available from Government, of any funding being given to Shropshire to establish a Women's Health Hub and advocate that this would be comprehensive to meet local need within the resources available. The Council proposes that these discussions would be led through the Health and Wellbeing Board and Shropshire Integrated Place Partnership in the first instance.

Question from Councillor Roger Evans

I note the recent press report concerning Blue Badge applications.

Can I be assured that the problems are short term, and the backlog will all be cleared within the next few days?

When residents who need a Blue Badge for parking whilst away from home and especially when on holiday it is important they can legally park near their chosen destination.

In answer to this question can the number of applications outstanding be circulated and separated out to show the longest, average, and the re-applications compared with new ones.

Response from Councillor Richard Marshall, Portfolio Holder for Highways and Regulatory Services

The Blue Badge Scheme is designed to help people with severe mobility problems caused by visible and non-visible disabilities to access goods and services, by allowing them to park close to their destination. The Department for Transport (DfT) and the Council do not consider it to be any less or more important if a person is away from home, on holiday or at home. The basic premise that we operate under is that if an individual applies for a Blue Badge (new or renewal), it is about the application being processed in a timely manner in accordance with the eligibility criteria set down by the Department of Transport (DfT). We have a significant responsibility to ensure that not only is the assessment of each application fair and robust for each applicant, we must also ensure we avoid issuing Blue Badges to anyone who is not eligible, which reduces the risk of fraud and protects the public purse. This process inevitably takes time as we are wholly reliant on the evidence provided by applicants and independent medical assessors, who we have no direct control over.

Nevertheless, currently, we accept that the processing of some Blue Badge applications is taking longer than we would like and for those who are waiting for their Blue Badge, we understand their concerns and recognise the impact that the processing time is having on both our existing badge-holders and new applicants. It is unrealistic to confirm that the backlog will be resolved within the next few days as there is a significant number of applications and a small team dealing with them. However, we absolutely want to make the application process as efficient as possible. For this reason, we have recently redesigned the team that has responsibility for assessing Blue Badge applications and have invested in new staff who are currently being trained to undertake the required assessments. It will take time to fully train the staff and to increase the resilience within the team, but we recognise that this is key to reducing the time it takes to make decisions and to further streamline the Blue Badge process to help improve delivery of the service going forward. This is a medium-term project.

We currently receive in the region of 6,000 Blue Badge applications each year and there has been a gradual and continuing increase over recent years from around 5,000 following the inclusion of the non-visible disabilities within the eligibility criteria. The pace at which applications are determined is impacted by a variety of factors, including some that are out with the Council's control, e.g., insufficient evidence of eligibility received from the applicant, referral to an independent medical assessor, non-payment. Overall, since the beginning of 2023, from the date applications are received, we are processing those that are wholly in our control within 6 weeks and for those with factors out with our control within 12 weeks. This remains in line with our stated commitment, which is made clear on the Council's website, and is also consistent with the expectations of the DfT. We do also prioritise cases where it is clear that the applicant meets certain special rules relating to terminal illness.

Whilst we locally refer to new and renewal applications, the law makes no distinction between applicants who have / have not previously held a Blue Badge. In each case, it is a wholly new application; hence, the process is exactly the same with an assessment of eligibility being undertaken in all cases. The assessment process ranges from something that can take a few minutes where there is automatic entitlement and the evidence is clearly available, through to much more complex and time consuming assessments that require specific input, evidence and opinion from multiple independent medical experts.

If any Member receives an inquiry from a resident about a Blue Badge application that cannot be resolved directly with the resident, further advice can be sought by contacting 0345 678 9014 or BlueBadge@shropshire.gov.uk.

Current processing data for 2023 (up to 22/06/2023)

	New	Renewal
Number of outstanding active applications within our control	1004	755
Average process time (working days)	15	30
Oldest outstanding application	21/03/23	22/03/23
Number of outstanding active applications out with our control	107	59
Average process time (working days)	41	59
Oldest outstanding application	01/01/23	02/01/23

Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority Chair's Report of the Annual Meeting held on 14 June 2023

Election of Chair and Appointment of Vice-Chair

The Fire Authority has elected Councillor David Minnery as its Chair and appointed Councillor Richard Overton as its Vice-Chair until June 2023.

Vote of Thanks and Welcome

The Fire Authority gave a formal vote of thanks to Councillors Eric Carter and Amrik Jhawar who left the Authority in May.

The Fire Authority welcomed Councillors Karen Blundell and Graham Cook, from Telford & Wrekin Council, who joined the Authority in May.

Committee Composition and Allocation of Seats to Political Groups

The Fire Authority has agreed the number of seats on its Committees and the allocations of those seats to political groups.

Committee Membership and Appointments

The Fire Authority has confirmed appointments to its committees and appointed its Chair, Councillor David Minnery, to the Local Government Association Fire Services Commission.

Councillor Kevin Pardy has been appointed as the Fire Authority's Equality and Diversity Member Champion and Councillor Roger Evans as its Risk Management and Audit Member Champion.

Fire Authority Terms of reference and Committee Constitutions

The Fire Authority agreed its Terms of Reference and agreed the constitutions of its Committees.

Review of Member Role Descriptions

The Fire Authority has agreed the Member Role Descriptions listed below:

- Member
- Chair of the Authority
- Vice-Chair of the Authority
- Leaders of the Main Opposition Groups
- Chair of Strategic Advisory Group
- Equality and Diversity Champion

Review of Standing Orders and Scheme of Delegation to Officers

The Fire Authority has reviewed and agreed its Standing Orders for the Regulation of Proceedings and Business, Standing Orders relating to Contracts, Financial Regulations and the Scheme of Delegation to Officers.

Statement of Accounts 2022/23

The Fire Authority received a report, setting out the key revenue issues, which have arisen from work on the Statement of Accounts 2022/23 and has approved the use of the General Fund balance in 2023/24.

His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Service (HMICFRS) Values and Culture Update

The Fire Authority received a report detailing progress against recommendations made to the sector in the HMICFRS Values and Culture in the Fire and Rescue Services Report, which was published on 30 March 2023.

Of the 35 recommendations set out in the report, 20 required action by Chief Fire Officers with action against the remaining 15 recommendations being the responsibility of other agencies and services. The Service undertook a gap analysis on receipt of the HMICFRS report and used this to inform a Service Action Plan to ensure the recommendations are met within the given timescales.

The Fire Authority was advised that the Service is making substantial progress towards meeting the recommendations set out in the report with all timescales predicted to be met.

Annual Report on Collaborative and Partnership Working

Partnership working is a key element in the Fire Authority's strategy to meet its vision of "Putting Shropshire's Safety First". It is also a key theme of the Fire Service National Framework. The Fire Authority and the Service are actively involved in a number of partnerships, which are risk assessed for liability and reputation and scrutinised by the Service's Risk Management Group. This Group maintains a partnership register and monitors the outcome and productivity of each of the partnerships.

The Fire Authority received the annual report on collaborative and partnership working which gave an overview of the partnership working that the Service is currently engaged in together with a summary of collaborative work that has been undertaken in the past 12 months.

Corporate Risk Management Annual Report 2022/23

The Fire Authority has received an annual report on corporate risk management work during the last 12 months.

Ongoing monitoring of the Service's corporate risk management work is a responsibility of the Service Management Team and the Risk Management Group (RMG) with the Audit and Performance Management Committee receiving regular corporate risk management reports.

The RMG's primary function is to ensure that the Authority has an effective and efficient risk management process in place. The Group does this through reviewing the Corporate Risk Register, Departmental Statements of Assurance, Departmental Risk Registers and Internal Audit findings, highlighting, where necessary, issues or areas of concern through to the Service Management Team and/or the appropriate committee.

There are currently fourteen open risks on the Service's Corporate Risk Register, including four new risks which have been added during this reporting year.



David Minnery
Chair, Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority
June 2023

Background Papers

Agenda and Papers for the Annual Meeting of Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority held on 14 June 2023

The agendas and reports (apart from exempt or confidential items) for all Fire Authority and Committee meetings are on the Service's website:

<http://www.shropshirefire.gov.uk>

To access reports go to the Fire Service's website and follow the steps below.

- Click on 'About Us' in the red bar at the top of the page
- Click on 'Fire and Rescue Authority'
- Click on 'Meetings' in the list on the right hand side of the screen
- Click on '14 June 2023' and the various reports and appendices will be listed

If you have any difficulty with the website, please contact Lynn Ince, Executive Support Officer, on 01743 260225.

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