

Shropshire Council
 Legal and Democratic Services
 Shirehall
 Abbey Foregate
 Shrewsbury
 SY2 6ND
 Date: Wednesday, 13 March 2024

Committee: Council

Date: Thursday, 21 March 2024
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	Robert Macey
Thomas Biggins	Paul Gill	David Minnery
Ed Bird	Rob Gittins	Dan Morris
Andy Boddington	Nat Green	Pamela Moseley
Peter Broomhall	Kate Halliday	Alan Mosley
Julia Buckley	Simon Harris	Cecilia Motley
Garry Burchett	Nigel Hartin	Peggy Mullock
Gwilym Butler	Nick Hignett	Kevin Pardy
Dean Carroll	Ruth Houghton	Vivienne Parry
Steve Charmley	Richard Huffer	Tony Parsons
Ted Clarke	Tracey Huffer	John Price

Ed Potter
Chris Schofield
Andrew Sherrington
Colin Taylor
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 - 16)

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 29 February 2024

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 5.00pm on Friday 15 March 2024

A petition, bearing over 1000 signatures has been received from Shrewsbury BID, requesting a debate under the Council's Petition Scheme. The petition requests that the Council:

Halt damaging parking charge hikes.

The petitioner will be allowed 5 minutes to outline their case, after which there may a debate of up to a maximum of 15 minutes

6 Establishment of the Children's Improvement Board (Pages 17 - 22)

Report of the Executive Director of People attached

Contact Tanya Miles Tel: 01743 255811

7 Senior Officer Employment Procedure (Pages 23 - 34)

Report of the Assistant Director Workforce & Improvement is attached

Contact: Sam Williams. Tel. 01743 252817

8 Community Governance Reviews (Pages 35 - 92)

Report of the Assistant Director – Legal and Governance is attached

Contact Tim Collard Tel: 01743 252756

9 Adoption of Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Development Plan (Pages 93 - 188)

Report of the Executive Director of Place is attached

Contact Mark Barrow Tel: 01743258919

10 Shrewsbury Town Centre Regeneration: Smithfield Riverside Phase One Development Activities (Pages 189 - 240)

Report of the Executive Director of Place is attached

Contact Mark Barrow Tel: 01743258919

11 Post-16 Transport Task and Finish Group (Pages 241 - 244)

Report of the Assistant Director of Education and Achievement and the Passenger Transport Group Manager is attached

Contact David Shaw Tel: 01743 256479 / James Willocks Tel: 01743 252474

12 Annual Report of the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Public Health (Pages 245 - 270)

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Public Health is attached

13 Annual report – Heath & Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Including Joint HOSC) (Pages 271 - 278)

Report of the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee is attached

14 Annual Report of the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, Environment & Transport (Pages 279 - 288)

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, Environment & Transport is attached

15 Annual report – Place Overview Committee

Report of the Place Overview Committee is **TO FOLLOW**

16 Appointment to Committees

Northern Planning Committee

Councillor Colin Taylor to be appointed a substitute member of the Northern Planning Committee

17 Motions

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

a **Motion received from Councillor Kirstie Hurst-Knight and supported by Councillors Duncan Kerr, Peggy Mullock and Tony Parsons**

Motion for Shropshire Council to accept a proposal that individuals with care experience are treated as if it were a Protected Characteristic

This Council notes:

To be 'care experienced' a young person or adult will have been looked after by the local authority as a child. The Independent Review of Children's Social Care headed by Josh McCallister published in May 2022 a final report and recommendations that included: "Government should make care experience a protected characteristic"

Many care experienced people face discrimination, stigma, and prejudice in their day to day lives. Hearing testimony from care experienced people sharing the discrimination they have experienced, even from a very young age, it is clear that such discrimination can be similar in nature to other groups that have a legally protected characteristic under the Equality Act (2010). Despite the resilience of many care-experienced people, society too often does not take their needs into account. Care experienced people often face discrimination and stigma across housing, health, education, relationships, employment and in the criminal justice system.

This Council understands:

Every elected member and employee of this Council - along with our partner agencies - is a corporate parent to the children in our care.

Introducing a protected characteristic for care experience will mean that some of our most vulnerable residents within the borough will be happier, healthier and safer and have the confidence and opportunities to be ambitious and strive to achieve their goals.

All corporate parents should be champions of the children in our care and challenge the negative attitudes and prejudice that exists in all aspects of society. The Public Sector Equality Duty requires public bodies, such as councils, to eliminate unlawful discrimination.

This Council therefore resolves:

- That it recognises that care experienced people are a group who are likely to face discrimination.
- That it recognises that Councils have a duty to put the needs of disadvantaged people at the heart of decision-making through co-production and collaboration.
- That future decision, services and policies made and adopted by the Council should be assessed through Equality Impact Assessments to determine the impact of changes on people with care experience, alongside those who formally share a protected characteristic.
- That in the delivery of the Public Sector Equality Duty the Council includes care experience in the publication and review of Equality Objectives and the annual publication of information relating to people who share a protected characteristic in services and employment.

- That this Council will treat care experience as if it were a Protected Characteristic.
- To formally call upon all other bodies to treat care experience as a protected characteristic until such time as it may be introduced by legislation.
- For the council to continue proactively seeking out and listening to the voices of care experienced people when developing new policies based on their views.

b **Motion received from Councillor Rachel Connolly and supported by the Labour Group**
Digital Switchover

This Council notes:

Looming over the horizon is a significant change to how telecommunications in Britain operate as the UK's landline telephone network is being decommissioned, with an upgrade to digital telephone lines by the end of 2025.

For most residents, the upgrade will be as simple as connecting their home phone handset to a router rather than the phone socket on the wall. However, there could be significant implications for many residents in Shropshire as there will be changes to how telephones, emergency alarms and other telecommunication devices are used. For the many elderly residents without broadband or a computer this change will be particularly difficult.

It is likely that many people will be surprised and inconvenienced by these changes with the possibility of many unforeseen circumstances if people are not fully prepared.

This Council Believes:

That telephone providers should be contacting all their customers to make them aware of the changes and have moved their customers onto the new digital services by November 2025.

There is a webpage on the Council's website with some information and messaging about the digital switchover is planned for the Council Tax leaflet due to be sent out in March.

This Council commits:

That Shropshire Council act to mitigate the potential problems of this move to a fully digital telecommunications system across the county.

That Shropshire Council create a support network to advise and guide residents, especially senior citizens and the most vulnerable, through this change.

That Shropshire Council works with local and wider business partners such as our local libraries to communicate, regularly and repeatedly, via social media, news stories, written leaflets and other forms of media such as websites to mitigate against potential issues for the residents of Shropshire.

18 Questions from Members (Pages 289 - 294)

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

19 Report of the Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority (Pages 295 - 298)

To receive the report of the Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority arising from its meeting held on 21 February 2024

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Committee and Date

Council

21 March 2024

COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 29 February 2024

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

10.00 am - 3.00 pm

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, Bernie Bentick, Thomas Biggins, Ed Bird, Andy Boddington, 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, Rob Gittins, Nat Green, Kate Halliday, Simon Harris, Nigel Hartin, Nick Hignett, Ruth Houghton, Richard Huffer, Kirstie Hurst-Knight, Mark Jones, Simon Jones, Duncan Kerr, Heather Kidd, Christian Lea, Hilary Luff, Nigel Lumby, Robert Macey, David Minnery, Dan Morris, Pamela Moseley, Alan Mosley, Cecilia Motley, Peggy Mullock, Kevin Pardy, Vivienne Parry, Tony Parsons, John Price, Ed Potter, Chris Schofield, Andrew Sherrington, Colin Taylor, Dan Thomas, Robert Tindall, Edward Towers, David Vasmer, Alex Wagner, Claire Wild, Mark Williams and Rob Wilson

79 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Peter Broomhall, Tracey Huffer, Mike Isherwood, Kevin Turley and Paul Wynn.

80 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.

Councillor Jeff Anderson declared an interest in agenda item 11(b) – Motion on Consultation on car parking increases as he owned a business in the town centre. He left the room for the duration of this item

Councillor Ruth Houghton declared an interest in agenda item 11(a) Motion on Social Care Costs as she was a trustee of a charity that provided care and had a contract with Shropshire Council. She left the room for the duration of this item.

81 Minutes

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2023, as circulated with the agenda papers, be approved and signed as a correct record.

82 **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 15 December 2023, which had been emailed prior to the meeting.

83 **Public Questions**

The Chairman advised that public questions had been received from Timothy Ashton, Mike Streetly, Jamie Russell, Emma Bullard, Paul Cawthorne and Karen Pearce. A copy of the questions and the responses provided are attached to the signed minutes and available from the web page for the meeting.

[Agenda for Council on Thursday, 29th February, 2024, 10.00 am — Shropshire Council](#)

84 **Financial Strategy 2024/25 - 2028/29 - Final (including Capital Strategy and Council Tax Resolution)**

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

In response to a request from Councillor Roger Evans, the Chairman confirmed that he would split the recommendations in two for the purposes of voting, taking recommendations i to iv (council tax resolution) first and the remaining recommendations second.

By way of amendment Councillor Julia Buckley made the following proposal

“That in lieu of the proposed redundancies, Council enter into consultations with the trade unions and employees, to introduce 12 days unpaid leave for all staff. This would amount to an additional day's holiday per month, and a saving of 4.6% on salaries, totalling £10.6m based on the most recent annual pay bill.

Based on the median salary, this would protect 292.68 Full Time Equivalent jobs (including on costs at an average of 27%)

All those staff below scp 39 (band 13) would still receive a net increase on their salary following a pay rise of £1800 which has been budgeted for by the Council.”

This was seconded by Councillor Alan Mosley

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Corporate Resources and Communities stated that whilst he could not currently commit to this proposal, he would investigate the matter further.

On being put to a recorded vote with 29 Members voting for, 38 against and 2 abstentions as follows:

FOR:

Councillors Bagnall, Bentick, Boddington, Buckley, Clarke, Connolly, Dartnall, Davies, Dean, J Evans, R Evans, Green, Halliday, Hartin, Houghton, R Huffer, Kerr, Kidd, Moseley, Mosley, Pardy, Parry, Parsons, Sherrington, Taylor, Vasmer, Wagner, M Williams and Wilson

AGAINST:

Councillors Aldcroft, Anderson, Bardsley, Barrow, Biggins, Bird, Burchett, Butler, Carroll, Charmley, Dakin, Davenport, Elner, D Evans, Gill, Gittins, Harris, Hignett, Hunt, Hurst- Knight, M Jones, S Jones, Lea Luff, Lumby, Macey, Morris, Motley, Mullock, Nellins, Picton, Potter, Price, Schofield, Thomas, Tindall, Wild and B Williams

ABSTAIN:

Councillors Minnery and Towers

The amendment proposed by Councillor Buckley fell.

By way of amendment Councillor Julian Dean proposed the following

“Delete all from

‘In respect of the revenue budget’ to ‘xv agree the Capital Programme as set out in Appendix 2 section 6 and Annex B to capital Strategy’.

Delete all from and including ‘In relation to the delivery partner’

Insert at the end:

1. Require the cabinet to return to full council in time to set a balanced budget with new proposals which rebalance the Capital Strategy specifically to support more investment in infrastructure that will support care for adults and children which mitigate the need for residential care.
- 1a. Specifically the £2m identified in savings from children services to be retained by the dept and used to fund the repayments on a revised capital programme designed to enable the development of in-house residential alternatives to expensive privately operated care homes.

2. To require the cabinet to bring forward an asset disposal strategy that requires the council to approach parish and town councils and community groups for assets earmarked for disposal, with a view to making arrangements for such assets to stay in public or community hands, whether for management or ownership.
3. To require the cabinet to set up cross party working groups to consider the implications and enactment of agreed budget measures within each portfolio area, with terms of reference that allow them to bring forward alternatives throughout the year.
4. To require the cabinet to produce portfolio specific equalities and community impact assessments to be considered by the working parties as part of the process at 3.”

The amendment was seconded by Councillor Duncan Kerr

The Leader stated that she would be happy to consider cross party working as suggested but could not accept the specifics of the amendment proposed.

Following a vote with 28 votes for, 39 votes against and 1 abstention Councillor Dean's amendment fell.

Following further discussion the Chairman reminded the Members that he would take recommendations i to iv first and on being put to a recorded vote with 69 Members voting for, none against and no abstentions as follows:

FOR:

Councillors Aldcroft, Anderson, Bagnall, Bardsley, Barrow, Bentick, Biggins, Bird, Boddington, Buckley, Burchett, Butler, Carroll, Charmley, Clarke, Connolly, Dakin, Dartnall, Davenport, Davies, Dean, Elnor, D Evans, J Evans, R Evans, Gill, Gittins, Green, Halliday, Harris, Hartin, Hignett, Houghton, R Huffer, Hunt, Hurst-Knight, M Jones, S Jones, Kerr, Kidd, Lea, Luff, Lumby, Macey, Minnery, Morris, Moseley, Mosley, Motley, Mullock, Nellins, Pardy, Parry, Parsons, Picton, Potter, Price, Schofield, Sherrington, Taylor, Thomas, Tindall, Towers, Vasmer, Wagner, Wild, B Williams, M Williams and Wilson.

It was **RESOLVED:**

That Council

- i. approve a 4.99% Council tax rise (a 2.99% increase to Council Tax and a 2% increase to Adult Social Care Precept) resulting in a basic amount of council tax for a Band D property of £1,720.80 in the billing authority's area, calculated in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (section 42b).

- ii. in accordance with the provisions of Section 40 (2) of the 1992 Act, approve the amount of Council Tax calculated for each category of dwelling in the billing authority's area to be as follows:

Property Band	2024/25 Charge £
A	1,147.20
B	1,338.40
C	1,529.60
D	1,720.80
E	2,103.20
F	2,485.60
G	2,868.00
H	3,441.60

- iii. approve a total precept of £205,104,165.
- iv. approve the formal council tax resolution as set out in Appendix 4 to determine the levels of Council Tax for Shropshire Council for 2024/25.

Cllr Buckley asked for an explanation as to why the reference to "Bridgnorth Town Centre Parking and Public Realm Works" which had been included in previous Capital Strategy had been removed from the Priority Capital Schemes Schedule (Appendix C to the Report). In response the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate Support gave his assurance that the scheme was in the Council's Aspirational Schemes Schedule and remained under consideration for inclusion in the Capital Programme subject to a clear specification and business case.

Recommendations v to xvii were then taken and on being put to a recorded vote with 37 Members voting for, 32 against and no abstentions as follows:

FOR:

Councillors Aldcroft, Anderson, Bardsley, Barrow, Biggins, Bird, Burchett, Butler, Carroll, Charmley, Dakin, Davenport, Elnor, D Evans, Gill, Gittins, Harris, Hignett, Hunt, Hurst- Knight, M Jones, S Jones, Lea, Luff, Lumby, Macey, Morris, Motley, Mullock, Nellins, Picton, Potter, Price, Schofield, Thomas, Wild and B Williams

AGAINST:

Councillors Bagnall, Bentick, Boddington, Buckley, Clarke, Connolly, Dartnall, Davies, Dean, J Evans, R Evans, Green, Halliday, Hartin, Houghton, R Huffer, Kerr, Kidd, Minnery, Moseley, Mosley, Parry, Parsons, Sherrington, Taylor, Tindall, Towers, Vasmer, Wagner, M Williams and Wilson

It was **RESOLVED:**

That Council

- v. approve the 2024/25 gross budget of £709.472m outlined in the Budget Book at Appendix 3.
- vi. note the key changes to the MTFS as outlined in Appendix 1 since the December update of the MTFS and the advice relating to those changes, in particular:
 - the public consultation and related findings
 - the Alternative Budget process and findings
 - the Financial Settlement and implications for the Council
 - the Collection Fund outturn and the impact on next year
 - the latest budget forecast for the current year and the resulting likely impact on reserves in this year and next (also included in the MTFS assumptions)
 - Inclusion of the Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESIHA)
- vii. note the alignment of this report with other reports on this agenda, including the Fees and Charges proposals, and the proposed Treasury Strategy.
- viii. note the revised funding gap for the years 2025/26 to 2028/29.
- ix. note the Statement of the Chief Financial Officer on the Robustness of Estimates and Adequacy of Reserves as set out in Sections 6.1 – 6.3 of the MTFS at Appendix 1.
- x. approve the recommended level of general fund balances to support the 2024/25 revenue budget of £49.682m, noting that the projected balance is presently significantly below this for 2024/25.
- xi. note the projected recommended level of general reserves for the following four years at £47.463m in 2025/26, £45.539m in 2026/27, £45.874m in 2027/28 and £46.934m in 2028/29.
- xii. note the continued use of the Policy for Flexibility around the use of Capital Receipts as detailed in section 8.1 of the MTFS at Appendix 1.
- xiii. agree the adoption of the Capital Strategy 2023/24 – 2028/29 attached as Appendix 2.
- xiv. note the prioritised capital schemes identified at Appendix 2 section 8 including the need to identify and confirm funding sources for these schemes.
- xv. agree the Capital Programme as set out in Appendix 2 section 6 and Annex B to the Capital Strategy.
- xvi. agree the Pay and Rewards Policy for all Council staff for 2024/25 as set out in Appendix 5.

- xvii. approve a delegation to the CFO in consultation with the Portfolio Holder - Finance, Corporate Resources and Communities to enable specific work to be commissioned from PwC in line with the conditions set out in paragraph 4.8.

85 Fees and Charges 2024/25

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

Councillor Andrew Sherrington suggested that a charge out rate for Social Care ICT equipment expertise could be levied. It was suggested that he contact the Portfolio Holder for Social Care/Executive Director directly regarding this so they can provide a response directly.

Councillor Heather Kidd commented that some fees were capped which meant that it was not possible to get full cost recovery and asked could the Council lobby Central Government for the removal of such caps

RESOLVED:

That Council

- i. Note the breakdown of the total income for 2023/24 and 2024/25 and in particular that the proposed 2024/25 charges for discretionary services represent £52.822m of the £98.525m of income derived from Fees and Charges.
- ii. To approve the charges for 2024/25 as detailed in Appendix 3 to be implemented from 1 April 2024.
- iii. To note that as previously agreed, any changes to fees and charges proposed by Shropshire Community Leisure Trust Ltd. in relation to the outsourced leisure facilities will only be referred to Cabinet and Council for approval if the proposed increases exceed Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the preceding November.
- iv. To note that the proposals to increase car parking fees and charges (arising from the traffic management policies and strategies of the Council) further to the recent decision of Cabinet has been called in for further scrutiny by Councillors. This report does not supersede the call-in process; rather, the outcome of the call in process will determine the eventual charges to be levied in 2024/25.

- v. To note that proposals in adult social care services for applying charges for telecare services and appointeeships are new proposals and will require further discussion and consultation. Proposed charges will be set on a 'cost recovery' basis, in line with best practice in other councils.
- vi. To revise housing rents as follows (subject to restrictions or exemptions identified in the Welfare Reform and Work Bill)
 - a) Social Housing rents for 2024/25 are increased by 7.7% from 3rd April 2024.
 - b) Affordable rents for 2024/25 are increased by 7.7% from 3rd April 2024.
 - c) Shared Ownership rents continue to be set at 2.75% of the outstanding capital value of the home at the time of sale and thereafter increased each April in accordance with the terms specified in the lease agreements.
 - d) All accommodation charges for 2024/25 are increased by 7.7% from 3rd April 2024.
 - e) Service charges continue to be set on the basis of actual cost
- vii. To review the total estimated income from different fees and charges items, to identify which items generate the most income, and to consider whether the benchmarking already undertaken for those sources of income is placing the council in the upper quartile for charges, based on comparison with similar local authorities

86 Treasury Strategy 2024/25

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

It was unanimously RESOLVED

That Full Council

- i. Approve the Treasury Strategy for 2024/25, set out in appendix 1 (parts 1-3).
- ii. Approve the Investment Strategy, set out in Appendix 1 (part 4) in accordance with the DLUHC Guidance on Local Government Investments.
- iii. Approve the Prudential Indicators, set out in Appendix 1 (part 5), in accordance with the Local Government Act 2003.
- iv. Approve the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement, set out in Appendix 1 (part 6).
- v. Authorise the Section 151 Officer to exercise the borrowing powers contained in Section 3 of the Local Government Act 2003 and to manage the Council's debt portfolio in accordance with the Treasury Strategy.

- vi. Authorise the Section 151 Officer to use other Foreign Banks which meet Link's creditworthiness policy as required.
- vii. Authorise the Section 151 Officer to progress and finalise the restatement and amendment of Cornovii Development Ltd loan agreements

87 Shrewsbury North West Relief Road – Funding Delegation

It was proposed by the Councillor Dan Morris, Portfolio Holder for Highways and seconded by Councillor Dean Carroll, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Assets that the report of the Executive Director of Place, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed

By way of amendment Councillor Andrew Sherrington proposed that funding only be agreed to bring the project to Full Business case and no other expenditure is incurred until it is agreed at a future meeting of Council.

This was seconded by Councillor Julian Dean

On being put to a recorded vote with 37 Members voting for, 32 against and no abstentions as follows:

FOR:

Councillors Bagnall, Bentick, Boddington, Buckley, Clarke, Connolly, Dartnall, Davies, Dean, J Evans, R Evans, Green, Halliday, Hartin, Houghton, R Huffer, Kerr, Kidd, Minnery, Moseley, Mosley, Pardy, Parry, Parsons, Sherrington, Taylor, Tindall, Towers, Vasmer, Wagner, M Williams and Wilson

AGAINST:

Councillors Aldcroft, Anderson, Bardsley, Barrow, Biggins, Bird, Burchett, Butler, Carroll, Charmley, Dakin, Davenport, Elnor, D Evans, Gill, Gittins, Harris, Hignett, Hunt, Hurst- Knight, M Jones, S Jones, Lea Luff, Lumby, Macey, Morris, Motley, Mullock, Nellins, Picton, Potter, Price, Schofield, Thomas, Wild and B Williams

Councillor Sherrington's amendment fell.

On being put to a recorded vote with 37 Members voting for, 32 against and no abstentions as follows:

FOR:

Councillors Aldcroft, Anderson, Bardsley, Barrow, Biggins, Bird, Burchett, Butler, Carroll, Charmley, Dakin, Davenport, Elnor, D Evans, Gill, Gittins, Harris, Hignett, Hunt, Hurst- Knight, M Jones, S Jones, Lea Luff, Lumby, Macey, Morris, Motley, Mullock, Nellins, Picton, Potter, Price, Schofield, Thomas, Wild and B Williams

AGAINST:

Councillors Bagnall, Bentick, Boddington, Buckley, Clarke, Connolly, Dartnall, Davies, Dean, J Evans, R Evans, Green, Halliday, Hartin, Houghton, R Huffer, Kerr, Kidd, Minnery, Moseley, Mosley, Pardy, Parry, Parsons, Sherrington, Taylor, Tindall, Towers, Vasmer, Wagner, M Williams and Wilson

It was **RESOLVED:**

That Council

- a) Approves the delegation of programme development responsibility for the NWRR together with authority to spend up to an additional £16.981m (as set out in more detail within the table at paragraph 5.9 below) so as to enable the completion of the Full Business Case submission, to the Executive Director of Place in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Highways and Transport, noting that £6.667m of this will be funded by the DfT Large Local Majors Grant. The breakdown of this delegation, including contingency, is £16.499m advance works costs, £181,500 to deliver the FBC, and £300,000 to cover exceedance of current delegation.
- b) Confirms, for the avoidance of doubt, that the previous total combined delegation of £27.9m was comprised of £15m (NWRR) and £12.9m (OLR).

88 **Appointment to Committees**

It was proposed by the Chairman Councillor Vince Hunt and seconded by the Vice Chairman Councillor Brian Williams that the following amendments to committee membership be agreed.

Northern Planning Committee

Councillor Ed Potter to be appointed as a substitute member of the Northern Planning Committee

Southern Planning Committee

Councillor Roy Aldcroft to be appointed as a substitute member of the Southern Planning Committee

Councillor David Vasmer to replace Councillor Mark Williams as a substitute member of the Southern Planning Committee

Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Alan Moseley to replace Councillor Ted Clarke as a substitute member of the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Heather Kidd to replace Councillor Bernie Bentick as a substitute member of the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Transformation and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Jeff Anderson to be appointed a substitute member of the Transformation and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee

RESOLVED:

That the following changes in committee membership be agreed

Northern Planning Committee

Councillor Ed Potter to be appointed as a substitute member of the Northern Planning Committee

Southern Planning Committee

Councillor Roy Aldcroft to be appointed as a substitute member of the Southern Planning Committee

Councillor David Vasmer to replace Councillor Mark Williams as a substitute member of the Southern Planning Committee

Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Alan Moseley to replace Councillor Ted Clarke as a substitute member of the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Heather Kidd to replace Councillor Bernie Bentick as a substitute member of the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Transformation and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Jeff Anderson to be appointed a substitute member of the Transformation and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee

89 **Motions**

The following motion was received from Councillor Tony Parsons and supported by the Labour Group

The original motion on Social Care as set out on the agenda was altered by Councillor Tony Parsons and presented to the council as follows:

Social Care Costs

This Council notes:

In October 2023, Skills for Care estimated that there were 1000 vacancies in the adult social care workforce in Shropshire (a vacancy rate of 8%)^[1]. However, in a survey of its care provider members the average staff turnover rate over the last 12 months reported by respondents was 19%, and nearly a quarter (23%) of respondents stated that they are employing less staff than this time last year, with nearly a third (31%) of domiciliary care providers stating that they now employ less staff than a year ago.

For much of the past 12 months our local hospitals in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin have continued to face the challenge of trying to discharge people back into the community made all the more difficult by the lack of available care. As was the case a year ago, this is not due to a lack of care providers, but their inability to recruit and retain staff as a result of the low wages they can afford to pay their staff due in part to the low fee rates payable by local authorities.

This is compounded by significant operational cost pressures over the last 12 months. Inflation as measured by CPI rose by 3.9% in the 12 months to November 2023, but for the period April-September 2023 was significantly higher, ranging from 6.7%-8.7%.

The National Living Wage (NLW) is due to increase by 9.8%, from £10.42 to £11.44 per hour, from 1 April 2024 and whilst this is a positive move for care workers will directly impact on care providers' staff costs.. Put simply, if local authority fee rates do not at least cover the increase in NLW this will represent a real terms cut in fee rates. In addition to staff costs, care providers have continued to face significant financial challenges over the last 12 months relating to staff recruitment, energy/utility costs, PPE and other operating costs including insurance, IT and staff travel.

This Council believes:

Both Shropshire Council and Telford & Wrekin Council had been awarded additional funding by central Government, through the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), under the Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund for investment in adult social care in 2023/24. Shropshire Council had been allocated an additional £2,119,773 which was used to improve fee rates together with additional investment from the Council. We await to see what funding is provided by central government in 2024/25.

Most local care providers have grave concerns regarding their financial viability and the sustainability of their business in continuing with local authority-funded care going forward without a significant increase in local authority fee rates from April 2024. Whilst Council awaits funding from the Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund for investment in adult social care for financial year 2024/25, when that funding is provided it needs to be specifically targeted to address this issue.

Only 19% of respondents to the survey of care provider members conducted by Partners in Care in October 2023 feel that current local authority fee rates cover their actual weekly operating costs. More than half (54%) of all providers who responded confirmed that they have reduced the amount of local authority funded

placements/packages they accept in the past 12 months, with 56% of all respondents also expecting to further reduce the amount of council funded care they provide in the next 12 months if fee rates remain the same in 2024/25.

This Council commits:

To use funding received from central government for investment in adult social care in 2024/25 to increase fee rates paid to adult social care providers, particularly as we continue to prepare for the implementation of charging reform.”

By way of amendment Councillor Cecilia Motley proposed

That paragraphs 2 - 6 be deleted and replaced with the following: -

This Council believes:

Both Shropshire Council and Telford & Wrekin Council had been awarded additional funding by central Government, through the Department of Health & Social Care (DHSC) under the Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund for investment in adult social care in 2023/24. Shropshire Council had been allocated an additional £2,119,773 which was used to improve fee rates together with a large investment of more than £6m provided by Shropshire Council, and increased contributions as demand and prices continued to rise.

A proportion of care providers have concerns over their financial viability but our ASC teams are not seeing large exits from the market to support this. Furthermore, despite increasing financial pressures Shropshire Council already pays the highest rates for domiciliary care across the region and the second highest care home rates. This needs to be taken into account.

Additionally, Shropshire Council should not be expected to bear the full brunt of National Living Wage and care costs in the county when it only commissions 30% of care, with the NHS also commissioning 30% and private funders the remaining 40%. Most care homes negotiate a rate with the Council depending on need so it is hard for the Council generalise costs.

This Council commits:

To use funding received from central government and aligned to grant conditions for investment in adult social care provision in 2024/25 which best meets the needs of our residents in the most cost efficient way.

Councillor Parsons indicated that he was happy to accept the amendment.

By way of further amendment Councillor Roger Evans proposed that the following be added to the end of the motion

“including paying more to care staff through improved hourly rates.”

Councillor Parsons and Councillor Motley both indicated that they were happy to accept this amendment

Following a vote it was unanimously **RESOLVED**

This Council commits:

To use funding received from central government and aligned to grant conditions for investment in adult social care provision in 2024/25 which best meets the needs of our residents in the most cost-efficient way, including paying more to care staff through improved hourly rates.

The following motion was received from Councillor Alan Mosley and supported by the Labour Group

Consultation on Car Parking Increases

This council notes:

The decision by Shropshire Council cabinet this January to raise £2m income through increasing car parking charges seeks to introduce increases of 33% at St. Julian Friars, 50% at Frankwell, 67% at Abbey Foregate and zero at Raven Meadows. This appears to penalise those who park outside of loop, whilst rewarding those who drive into the centre.

The cabinet proposals also seek to increase charges in the evening until 8pm and introduce them on Sundays and Bank Holidays

The scale of the increases has also sparked a considerable number of objections and concerns raised by the public, residents, workers, businesses and visitors.

Recent surveys and submissions by Shrewsbury BID provide evidence that there is considerable concern about the adverse impact on businesses of all types.

There has been a lack of any meaningful engagement with businesses or the wider public on the rationale and potential impact of the changes.

The proposals as they currently stand could undermine the Shropshire Plan:-

“We'll develop Shropshire as a vibrant destination that attracts people to live in, work in, learn in and visit. We'll deliver excellent connectivity and infrastructure, and increasing access to social contact, employment, education, services and leisure opportunities. We will communicate clearly and transparently about what Shropshire Council delivers, signposting to the right places for services and support, and listen to what communities say about their place and what they need.”

This council believes:

1. The proposed hikes, ranging from 29% to 67%, could have a profound and serious impact on our Town's economy and attraction without any other mitigating improvements to town centre access, for example public transport, park and ride, highways infrastructure, active travel. Hence, the new charges

pose a significant risk to the Shrewsbury town centre economy and its on-going post- Covid recovery

2. The swingeing increases for Abbey Foregate and Frankwell will have a particularly serious impact on those commuting to work, especially those on low income, where they have no affordable or convenient alternatives.
3. The changes are contrary to proposals within the movement strategy aimed at encouraging parking outside of the river loop.
4. Changes to Sunday and early evening charges could have a particularly seriously impact on the those employed in the night-time, hospitality and cultural economy and on visitors and residents in the town.
5. Many could be deterred from using designated car parks and will seek on-street parking around the town centre, much to the detriment of local residents.

This Council:

1. Recognises the need for a new Parking Strategy to be developed and for a review of the role, structure and staff in the Parking Services operation. This needs to be completed and with full public consultation, before such significant proposals are introduced.
2. So the parking increases need to be paused until such consultation has gathered feedback from those affected and demonstrated mitigation.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Julia Buckley

Following a vote the motion was not supported.

90 Questions from Members

The Chairman advised that two questions had been received in accordance with Procedure Rule 15, and that he had also allowed an urgent question from Councillor Julia Evans. A copy of the report containing the detailed questions and their formal response is attached to the signed minutes.

Received from Councillor Viv Parry in respect of road signage to help deter heavy lorries from using Ludford Bridge. By way of supplementary question Councillor Parry asked whether specific signs could be moved. The Portfolio Holder requested that she email him and he would provide a response outside the meeting.

Received from Councillor David Vasmer regarding procedures for call in meetings. By way of supplementary question Councillor Vasmer asked for assurance that Group Leaders would be consulted prior to anything being brought to Council. The Leader reminded him that the Group Leaders were part of the Scrutiny Chairs Group who would be considering any changes before they are brought to Council.

Received from Councillor Julia Evans regarding the ICB declaration of a critical emergency. By way of supplementary question Councillor Evans asked how the

recent county wide critical care emergency in the health care system impacted on the council both financially and in capacity terms, and how the burden of care shift to the council from the NHS was affecting the council year on year. The Portfolio Holder agreed to provide an answer outside of the meeting.

91 **Exclusion of Press and Public**

92 **Exempt Minutes**

RESOLVED: That the Exempt Minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2023, as circulated with the agenda papers, be approved and signed as a correct record.

Signed (Chairman)

Date:



Committee and Date

Council

21 March 2024

Item

Public



Children's Improvement Board

Responsible Officer:	Tanya Miles		
email:	Tanya.miles@shropshire.gov.uk	Tel:	01743 255811
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	Kirstie Hurst-Knight		

1. Synopsis

To regularise and insert into Part 3 of the Constitution the recently formed Children's Improvement Board.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. As all Members will appreciate decisive action was required to address the concerns raised during the Ofsted Focused Visit in November 2023. Though their formal letter was not published until 12 January 2024, immediate steps were taken to establish a provisional Children's Improvement Board to develop the Improvement Plan required by Ofsted.
- 2.2. Given the embargoed nature of the Ofsted letter it was not possible to establish a fully formed Board until January and we are now seeking formal Council approval to include the Board within Part 3 of the Constitution (Statutory and Advisory Bodies). The Board includes the Chief Executive (chair), Portfolio Holder for Children and Education, Opposition Members who sit on the Corporate Parenting Panel, the Chair of the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Executive Director of People, Assistant Director Childrens Social Care & Safeguarding as well as a representative from the LGA. The full Terms of Reference are included as Appendix 1
- 2.3. A Children's Improvement Board is a common feature where Council's have experienced critical Ofsted visits/inspections. Sometimes they are directed to introduce them by the Department for Education but in Shropshire's case, it was a proactive decision to set the Board up voluntarily.

3. Recommendations

That Council approve the formal establishment of a Children's Improvement Board with the Terms of Reference set out at Appendix 1

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1 The Report is concerned with formal establishment of the Board rather than the risks that it seeks to address. It is important to ensure that the Board is appropriately referenced within the Constitution so that all members and the public are aware of what it does.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. There are no financial implications of formally including the Board within Part 3 of the Constitution.

6. Background

- 6.1. Members will be aware that during the Ofsted Focused Visit in November 2023, certain weaknesses in child protection practice were identified including the quality of management oversight and decision-making, staff supervision, and appropriate challenge by child protection chairs.
- 6.2. As an immediate action, the informal establishment of the Children's Improvement Board, chaired by the Chief Executive was agreed with both Ofsted and the Department for Education ("DfE").
- 6.3. Careful consideration was given to the set-up of this Board and its membership. It is correct to say that a number of other such Improvement Boards set up over the past few years by various local authorities across the country have external agency members (such as from the NHS and Police). However, that approach was not considered necessary in Shropshire because we are largely already aware of the issues of concern (having identified them within our pre-visit self-assessment) which are mainly inward looking rather than involving external partners. This point was raised at a recent Safeguarding Partnership meeting and it was accepted that the issues need to be predominantly addressed by the Council itself.
- 6.4. A number of the other Improvement Boards have engaged independent chairs for the meetings. Often that has been because their establishment has been directed by the DfE and there is a requirement for a level of independent oversight. That is not currently considered to be a necessity in Shropshire's situation as the priority was to prepare and recommend to Cabinet the Children's Services Improvement Action Plan. The key role of the Board moving forward is to ensure that the Council delivers on the Improvement Plan actions.

- 6.5. Given that the Board includes both Members and Officers it cannot be a formal Council committee and so it can only be advisory in nature. Formal decisions will be taken on the recommendations of the Board by either the Executive Director of People and/or the Chief Executive or in the case of significant policy proposals by Cabinet. Oversight of the Board's operation is undertaken by the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee as appropriate.
- 6.6. As set out in its Terms of Reference (Appendix 1) the role of the Improvement Board is to oversee the implementation of the Improvement Plan.

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

Local Member: All

Consultation with Local Member – Please consider the Local Member Protocol (see page E60 onwards of part 5 of the Constitution) and determine whether it is necessary to consult with the local member over the proposal set out in this report. This may not always be applicable (eg where the proposal affects all of Shropshire) but it should always be a consideration and in some cases a necessity so as to comply with the spirit of the Protocol.

Appendices [Please list the titles of Appendices]

Appendix 1 – Children's Improvement Board Terms of Reference

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Terms of Reference (ToR) | [Children's Improvement Board]

These reporting and working arrangements will be reviewed every three months to ensure that they are fulfilling their purpose. If the Exec Review Board (ERB) decides that these need to be updated, then these Terms of Reference will be updated.

Frequency:	Chair:	Overall purpose:
<p>Monthly for 1.5 hours <i>Ideally on the same day and time each week</i></p>	<p>Andy Begley, Chief Executive</p>	<p>Manage the delivery of a plan of Improvement for Childrens Services – ensuring a cycle of continuous improvement and outcomes for children, delivering on the Shropshire Plan for Children.</p>
Role and remit:		Core attendees:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall purpose is to seek assurance about progress in identified areas and ensure interdependent projects are progressing through the transformation programme. Ensure the delivery of the Children's Improvement Plan is progressing in line with the agreed scope and delivery timelines Scrutinise areas of practice and monitor delivery against targets Provide effective oversight and challenge of reports evidencing progress Ensure Children's Services are in a position to demonstrate substantial change by the Ofsted Annual Conversation in June 2024 through effective decision making across the Council Evidence evidence of impact of leaders in achieving excellent outcomes for children Act as a decision making forum on key actions required to impact change Mitigate key risks The Board will make recommendations in relation to resources, it is not a decision making forum for resources. Provide challenge and direction to the Improvement Plan Consider all papers Attendance is mandatory. Links to other governance arrangements that have oversight and scrutiny of Childrens Social Care. Eg Corporate Parenting Board, People's Overview Committee. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CEO Andy Begley - chair Claire Burgess LGA - Independent Person to provide critical challenge Kirstie Hurst-Knight - Portfolio Holder Cllr Ruth Houghton - Councillor Cllr David Minnery - Councillor Cllr Duncan Kerr -Councillor Cllr Tony Parsons - Councillor James Walton – Executive director resources Tanya Miles – ED People Sonya Miller – AD Childrens Billy Webster – AD Transformation OCE Member to Lead on the Board – to confirm PWC will support where required.
Inputs:	Outputs:	Standing agenda items:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement Plan Highlight reports Project Highlight Reports Performance Power BI report Agenda – <i>to be circulated at the latest 24 hours in advance of the meeting</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key notes from meetings Evidence of deliverables and impact on outcomes for children to be clearly evidenced. Updated RAID Log (Risks, Issues, Actions and Decisions) Highlight Report – RAG updates, forthcoming milestones, escalations from ERB discussion/decision Key messages/communications 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement Plan Review and Updates on activity Scrutinise Performance Reports including Caseload data, QA monthly reports, Exiting Service, Transformation project Updates as required Any Other Business

Terms of Reference (ToR) | Governance | Decision making hierarchy





Committee and Date

Council
21st March 2024

Item

Public



Senior Officer Employment Procedure

Responsible Officer:	Sam Williams – Assistant Director Workforce & Improvement		
email:	sam.williams@shropshire.gov.uk	Tel:	01743 252817
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	Cllr Gwilym Butler, Finance, Corporate Resources and Communities		

1. Synopsis

Council is requested to approve an updated procedure for the appointment, dismissal and disciplinary action, in respect of Senior Officers.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The Council's Constitution already contains Standing Orders within Part 4 dealing with the appointment, dismissal and disciplinary action in respect of the officers described at paragraph 7.3 below.
- 2.2. Following a review of the procedures under-pinned by these Standing Orders it is recommended that an updated procedure, to be referred to as the "Senior Officer Employment Procedure" (as set out at Appendix 1) is approved.
- 2.3. In summary, this procedure covers the following:
 - A. Clarity on the definitions of Chief Officers, Statutory Chief Officers, Non-Statutory Chief Officers and Deputy Chief Officers in line with the Localism Act 2011.
 - B. Recruitment and appointment of the above officers.
 - C. Grievances relating to the above officers.

- D. Disciplinary Action and Dismissal relating to the above officers, taking account of the specific requirements in relation to the Head of Paid Service (HoPS), Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer, as set out in the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001 (the Regulations) (as amended by the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015, the Chief Executive Employment Procedure Rules 2008.
- E. They also provide for the establishment of a Chief Officer Employment Panel. The constitution and terms of reference for this Panel is set out at Section 4 of Appendix 1 and the advantage of having a standing arrangement is that the Panel can be convened at short notice without the need to seek separate Council approval.

2.4. The adoption of such procedure will be in accordance with the Shropshire Plan priority of having a Healthy Organisation where senior staff understand the precise process by which they are to be appointed, disciplined and, in certain circumstances, dismissed. The current procedures cover these eventualities but needed to be updated to provide clarity and in line with best practice.

3. Recommendations

That Council:

- 3.1. adopt the proposed procedure attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.2. establish the Chief Officer Employment Panel.
- 3.3. delegate to the Assistant Director for Workforce and Improvement the power to make minor amendments to the procedure at 3.1 in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate Resources.

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1. It is important that the Council has in place robust procedures to deal with employment related matters for senior officers. The failure to do so could lead to challenges from senior members of staff etc. There might even be a situation where it is suggested that such staff have been appointed or disciplined/dismissed other than in accordance with the correct legal requirements.
- 4.2. Having robust and clear procedures for the recruitment, discipline and dismissal of senior staff provides confidence in the organisation's reputation as an employer of choice and the recruitment and retention of high-quality staff.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. There are no financial implications of adopting these procedures. Robust and clear procedures for senior staff are likely to save costs in seeking external advice and/or dealing with any employment related claims.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.1. There are no Climate implications arising from the adoption of these procedures.

7. Background

- 7.1. The functions of appointing staff, determining their terms and conditions of service (including remuneration) and procedures for their dismissal¹ cannot be executive functions. They are therefore Council functions which can be delegated as appropriate. It is recommended that Council approve the Senior Officer Employment Procedure and establishment of the Chief Officer Employment Panel as it provides a robust approach that is flexible enough to allow political considerations to be part of the process, while enabling the Council to respond promptly to urgent issues.
- 7.2. The function of appointment, dismissal and the taking of disciplinary action against a member of Council staff, must be discharged by the Head of Paid Service (HoPS) or by an officer nominated by them. In practice this is dealt with through the responsibilities set out within an officer's job description.
- 7.3. However, the general principle set out in paragraph 7.2 does not apply to the appointment or dismissal of, or disciplinary action against: Head of Paid Service (HoPS); a statutory chief officer within the meaning of section 2(6) of the 1989 Act (politically restricted posts); a non-statutory chief officer within the meaning of section 2(7) of the 1989 Act; a deputy chief officer within the meaning of section 2(8) of the 1989 Act (for more details please see Annex 1 to the Senior Officer Employment Procedure);
- 7.4. The Council's current Standing Orders within Part 4 of the Constitution provide that the Council's Head of Paid Service (HoPS), Chief Finance Officer (S151) or Monitoring Officer (referred to here as "statutory officers") may not be dismissed unless the procedure set out within the Standing Order is complied with. The Senior Officer Employment Procedure addresses these requirements.
- 7.5. Where the Council proposes to take disciplinary action against a Statutory Officer, it is required to form an independent panel comprising not less than two independent persons which must meet at least 20 working days before the Full Council meets to decide whether to approve a proposal to dismiss. Before taking a vote on whether to approve such a dismissal, the Council must take into account any advice, views or recommendations of the Panel.

8. Conclusions

- 8.1. The proposed procedure, as set out in Appendix 1, provides clarity on the definitions of Chief Officers, Statutory Chief Officers, Non-Statutory Chief Officers, and Deputy Chief Officers, and covers recruitment, grievances, disciplinary action, and dismissal.
- 8.2. It is recommended that the Council adopt the proposed procedure, establish the Chief Officer Employment Panel, and delegate the power to make minor amendments to the Assistant Director for Workforce and Improvement in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate Resources.
- 8.3. The adoption of this procedure will align with the Shropshire Plan priority of having a Healthy Organisation and will provide confidence in the organisation's reputation as an employer of choice.

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

Local Member:	All
Appendices	
Appendix 1 - Senior Officer Employment Procedure	

Appendix 1 – Senior Officer Employment Procedure

1.0 General

- 1.1 Staff within the organisation are employed on behalf of the whole Council and not by parts of the organisation or individuals.
- 1.2 The employment or engagement of all staff will be in compliance with the law and the policies and practices of the Council.
- 1.3 Persons employed or engaged by contractors under specific agreements or contracts are not staff of the Council but are employees engaged by the Contractor.
- 1.4 The Council, as outlined in the Constitution will approve the overall management structure and provide the necessary resources to support it.
- 1.5 Generally (except for certain senior staff appointments and dismissals) the function of appointment and dismissal of and taking disciplinary action against a member of staff of the Council must be discharged on behalf of the Authority by the Chief Executive - Head of the Paid Service or, in most cases, by an officer nominated by him/her.
- 1.6 In relation to staff employed in Community, Voluntary Controlled, Community Special and Maintained Schools and Nursery schools, the responsibility for appointment, discipline and dismissal rests with the governing body and the Local Authority.
- 1.7 In Shropshire Council Chief Officer means employees whose contract of employment is subject to Joint Negotiating Committee (JNC) for Chief Officers terms and conditions. However, for specific purposes there are statutory definitions of Chief Officer in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and as set out in more detail within the Annex A.

2.0 Definitions

- 2.1 This section sets out the definition of terms used for the purposes of these Rules in respect of particular posts.
- 2.2 “Chief Officer” means each of the following:
 - 2.2.1 Chief Executive - Head of Paid service designated under section 4(1) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
 - 2.2.2 Assistant Director of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) designated under section 5(1) of that Act.
 - 2.2.3 Executive Director of Resources (S.151 Officer) having responsibility for the purposes of section 151 of Local Government Act 1972
 - 2.2.4 “Statutory Chief Officer” has the meaning as set out in section 2 (6) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and for this Council will be the

Executive Director of People, Executive Director of Place, Executive Director of Health Wellbeing and Prevention (also known as “Executive Directors”).

2.2.5 “Non - Statutory Chief Officer” means a person who reports to the Chief Executive - Head of the Paid Service or who is directly accountable to the local authority or any committee or subcommittee of the authority as set out in Section 2 (7) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and for this Council will be any other Director appointed by the Council who are not Statutory Chief Officers.

2.2.6 “Deputy Chief Officer” means a person who for most or all of his/her duties is required to report direct, or is directly accountable, to a statutory or non-statutory Chief Officer as set out in section 2 (8) of the 1989 Act (excluding persons whose duties are solely secretarial, clerical or in the nature of support services). See Annex A.

2.3 “Independent Panel” means a panel consisting of at least two Independent Persons. The Independent Persons must already be acting in that capacity either within the Council or at another local authority, and be invited in accordance with the following priority order:

1. a relevant Independent Person who has been appointed by the authority and who is a local government elector;
2. any other relevant Independent Person who has been appointed by the authority;
3. a relevant Independent Person who has been appointed by another authority or authorities

The Panel should comprise solely independent persons, rather than incorporating elected members.

2.4 “Independent Person” means someone appointed under section 28(7) of the Localism Act 2011.

2.5 “Dismissal” means when an employment contract is terminated by the employer for the reasons of misconduct, capability, or a legal reason for ‘some other substantial reason’, otherwise than by mutual agreement. For the avoidance of doubt this does not include a dismissal on the grounds of redundancy or ill health retirement.

3.0 Recruitment and Appointment of Staff

3.1 All recruitment and appointment of staff will be conducted in accordance with the law, the Council’s policies and procedures and the Council’s Finance Procedure Rules.

4.0 Responsibility of the Chief Officer Employment Panel

- 4.1 The Chief Officer Employment Panel supports, amongst other things as set out below, the recruitment of the Chief Executive – Head of Paid Service. Membership of the Panel shall comprise the Leaders of the three main political parties (or their nominees), and two other members subject to the proportionality rules and the Assistant Director of Workforce and Improvement or their nominated deputy. The Chair of the Panel will be the Leader of the Council or his/her nominated deputy. Where the appointment isn't relating to the Chief Executive – Head of Paid Service, he/she will form part of the panel membership.
- 4.2 The quorum for each meeting of the Committee/Panel is three, including a member of the Administration and main opposition party.
- 4.3 For the purposes of this procedure, the Proper Officer shall be the Chief Executive - Head of Paid Service, except where the appointment/ dismissal relates to the Chief Executive - Head of Paid Service in which case the Proper Officer shall be the Assistant Director of Workforce & Improvement.
- 4.4 The Panel is also responsible for hearing and determining any appeals from Chief Officers as appropriate under the Council's discipline, grievance, performance management and grading policies, the suspension of sick pay and the review and determination of matters relating to contracts of employment. In determining these matters, the Panel will have regard to the appropriate provisions of these Rules. The Panel may agree to discharge some of these functions through a Sub- Committee.

5.0 Appointment of Head of the Paid Service.

- 5.1 The appointment is subject to specific requirements as set out below.
- 5.2 The Chief Officer Employment Panel shall:
- a) agree a statement specifying the duties and any qualifications or qualities to be sought in the person to be appointed.
 - b) agree for the post to be advertised in such a way as is likely to bring it to the attention of persons who are qualified to apply for it.
 - c) agree for a copy of the statement mentioned above to be sent to any person on request.
 - d) where a post has been advertised as required above, the panel will select from the applications a short list of qualified candidates and will then interview those included in the short list.
 - e) Panel to agree interview arrangements e.g. stakeholder panels
 - f) Following the interview of candidates, the panel will come to a view as to the most suitable person for the position.

g) Where following the interviews the panel is of the view that there is no suitable candidate, it will re-advertise the post.

5.3 The Assistant Director of Workforce & Improvement has, within the period specified in the notice under paragraph 5.4 notified the Leader that each member of the Cabinet has stated that they do not have any objection to the making of the offer; or the Assistant Director of Workforce & Improvement has notified the Leader that no objection was received from any member of the Cabinet within the specified period; or The Leader is satisfied that any objection which has been received from any member of the Cabinet within the specified period is not material and/or is not well-founded or does not outweigh the other factors taken into consideration by the panel

5.4 The period within which any objection to the making of the offer is to be notified to the Assistant Director of Workforce & Improvement. The standard period will be three working days but may be shortened by the Chair of the Panel/Leader where necessary for the proper discharge of the Council's functions, subject to a minimum period of 24 hours.

5.5 Where following the above procedure there are no objections to the proposed appointment or any objections are not upheld, the panel will recommend that person for appointment at the next meeting of the Full Council or at a specially convened meeting of the Council. If the full Council approves the recommendation, then a formal offer of appointment can be made.

5.6 Where full Council does not approve the recommendation of the panel, they shall indicate how they wish to proceed.

6.0 Appointment of Statutory Chief Officers, Assistant Director of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) designated under section 5(1) of that Act and Executive Director of Resources (S.151 Officer) having responsibility for the purposes of section 151 of Local Government Act 1972

6.1 Where the Council is appointing the officers to which this section applies the Chief Officer Employment Panel, or their nominated deputies shall be convened and:

- a) agree a statement specifying the duties and any qualifications or qualities to be sought in the person to be appointed.
- b) agree for the post to be advertised in such a way as is likely to bring it to the attention of persons who are qualified to apply for it.
- c) agree for a copy of the statement mentioned above to be sent to any person on request.
- d) where a post has been advertised as required above, the panel will select from the applications a short list of qualified candidates and will then interview those included in the short list.

- e) Panel to agree interview arrangements e.g., stakeholder panels
 - f) Following the interview of candidates, the panel will come to a view as to the most suitable person for the position. Cabinet will be notified of the selected candidate.
 - g) Where following the interviews the panel is of the view that there is no suitable candidate, it will re-advertise the post.
- 6.2 The period within which any objection to the making of the offer is to be notified to The Assistant Director of Workforce & Improvement. The standard period will be three working days but may be shortened by the Chair of the Panel/Leader where necessary for the proper discharge of the Council's functions, subject to a minimum period of 24 hours.
- 6.3 The Assistant Director of Workforce & Improvement has, within the period specified in the notice under paragraph 6.2 notified the Leader that each member of the Cabinet has stated that they do not have any objection to the making of the offer; or the Assistant Director of Workforce & Improvement has notified the Leader that no objection was received from any member of the Cabinet within the specified period; or The Leader is satisfied that any objection which has been received from any member of the Cabinet within the specified period is not material and/or is not well-founded or does not outweigh the other factors taken into consideration by the panel
- 6.4 Where following the above procedure there are no objections to the proposed appointment or any objections are not upheld, the panel will recommend that person for appointment.

7.0 Employment responsibility of Chief Officers (Non-Statutory), Deputy Chief Officers and below to Chief Officer Service Manager Level.

- 7.1 Employment responsibilities under the Council's Human Resources policies in respect of posts below Statutory Chief Officer to Service Manager levels will be the responsibility of the Chief Executive - Head of the Paid Service or nominated officer and will be exercised in accordance with the scheme of delegation and relevant personnel policies.
- 7.2 Appointments may not be made by Councillors.
- 7.3 A Committee (the Appeals Committee) will be appointed to hear an appeal by an Officer employed by the Council as provided in the Human Resource Policies of the Council from time to time.

8.0 Disciplinary Action Relating to the Head of the Paid Service, Monitoring Officer or S151 Officer in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001 (the Regulations) (as amended by the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015, the Chief Executive Employment Procedure Rules 2008.

- 8.1 No disciplinary action in respect of the above Chief Officers may be taken by or on behalf of the Authority) other than in accordance with the provisions set out in Schedule 3 (or provisions to the like effect) of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001, as amended by the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015.
- 8.2 The Chief Executive - Head of Paid Service, Assistant Director Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer) and Executive Director of Resources (S151) Officer may be suspended (in accordance with paragraph 8.3 below) while an investigation takes place into alleged misconduct or incapability. Suspension does not itself constitute disciplinary action and does not imply guilt. Any such suspension must be on full pay and terminate no later than the expiry of two months beginning on the day on which the suspension takes effect.
- 8.3 The responsibility for implementing the suspension of the Chief Executive – Head of Paid Service will be the Assistant Director of Workforce & Improvement in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the responsibility for implementing the suspension of the Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer will be the Chief Executive – Head of Paid Service and the Assistant Director of Workforce & Improvement.
- 8.4 Where an allegation is made relating to the conduct of these officers the matter will be considered by the Chief Officer Employment Panel.
- 8.5 Where the Chief Officer Employment Panel determines that a matter requires more detailed investigation, this will be undertaken by an independent investigator.
- 8.6 The Chief Officer Employment Panel will determine from the investigation report whether further action is required. Where the decision is any action short of dismissal, the decision will be taken by the Panel itself.
- 8.7 Where the recommendation is for dismissal, an Independent Panel, as defined at paragraph 2.4 above, must be approved, and full Council approval is required.

9.0 Dismissal of Head of the Paid Service, Monitoring Officer or S151 Officer.

- 9.1 An Independent Panel must be convened in accordance with Schedule 3 the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001 (as amended) having considered and recommend the dismissal of an Officer to whom this section applies. The panel must be appointed at least 20 working days before a meeting of Council is held to consider any dismissal.
- 9.2 Assistant Director of Workforce and Improvement on behalf of the Independent Panel will submit a report to Council on the recommended action.

9.3 Notice of dismissal must not be given until approval of the Full Council.

10. Disciplinary Action relating to Statutory Chief Officers

- 10.1 The Chief Officers Employment Panel has power to decide whether to investigate any allegation of misconduct by a Statutory Chief Officer and all matters relating to the conduct of the investigation and/or any subsequent disciplinary process.
- 10.2 Officers may be suspended whilst an investigation takes place into alleged misconduct. The decision to suspend on full pay shall be made by the Chief Executive - Head of Paid Service or their designated nominee in consultation with the Leader of the Council and/ Deputy Leader and the Assistant Director of Workforce & Improvement.
- 10.3 The Chief Officer Employment Panel may decide to dismiss or take disciplinary action short of dismissal. This can only take effect where no well-founded objection has been made by any member of the Cabinet. Any objection needs to relate to the Council's disciplinary, capability and related procedures and policies.
- 10.4 Assistant Director of Workforce and Improvement on behalf of the Chief Officer Employment Panel will submit a report to Cabinet on the recommended action.
- 10.5. The period within which any objection to the proposed action is to be notified to The Assistant Director of Workforce & Improvement. The standard period will be three working days but may be shortened by the Chair of the Panel/Leader where necessary for the proper discharge of the Council's functions, subject to a minimum period of 24 hours.
- 10.6 The Assistant Director of Workforce & Improvement has, within the period specified in the notice under paragraph 10.5 notified the Leader that each member of the Cabinet has stated that they do not have any objection to the proposed action; or the Assistant Director of Workforce & Improvement has notified the Leader that no objection was received from any member of the Cabinet within the specified period; or The Leader is satisfied that any objection which has been received from any member of the Cabinet within the specified period is not material and/or is not well-founded or does not outweigh the other factors taken into consideration by the panel
- 10.7 In the event that a reasoned objection is received, the Assistant Director of Workforce & Improvement shall refer the matter to a specially convened meeting of the Chief Officers Employment Panel (the members of the specially convened Panel must be the same members who recommended the dismissal/disciplinary action) and the decision of this specially convened Panel will be final.

11. Grievances

11.1 Grievances made by all Chief Officers and Deputy Chief Officers including the Chief Executive - Head of Paid Service, Executive Director of Resources (S151) and Assistant Director Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) will be dealt with in accordance with the Council's relevant procedures at the relevant time or as set out in the Chief Officer Handbook Joint Negotiation Committee in force at the relevant time.

Annex A

Statutory and non-statutory chief officer and deputy chief officer posts are defined in the Localism Act 2011:

The Localism Act 2011, chapter 8, section 43(2) states:

In this Chapter "chief officer", in relation to a relevant authority, means each of the following:

1. the head of its paid service designated under section 4(1) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989;
2. its monitoring officer designated under section 5(1) of that Act;
3. a statutory chief officer mentioned in section 2(6) of that Act;
 - a. Executive Director of People
 - b. Executive Director of Health Wellbeing and Prevention.
 - c. Executive Director of Place
 - d. The officer having responsibility for the purposes of section 151 of Local Government Act 1972 - Executive Director of Resources
4. a non-statutory chief officer mentioned in section 2(7) of that Act;
 - a. Person whom the Head of Paid Service is directly responsible for*.
 - b. Person who, as respects all or most of his post, is required to report directly or is directly accountable to the head of paid service*.
 - c. Any person, who all or most of duties of the post is required to report directly or is directly accountable to the local authority themselves or any committee or sub-committee of the local authority.
(*excluding anyone who duties are secretarial/clerical/in the nature of support services).
5. a deputy chief officer mentioned in section 2(8) of that Act.
 - a. person who, as respects all or most of the duties of their post, is required to report directly or is directly accountable to one or more of the statutory or non-statutory chief officers:
 - i) All of Executive Director of People direct reports
 - ii) All of Executive Director of Health Wellbeing and Prevention direct reports
 - iii) All of Executive Director of Resources direct reports
 - iv) All of Executive Director of Place direct reports
 - v) All of Assistant Director of Transformation and Efficiency direct reports



Council

21 March 2024

Item

Public



Community Governance Review

Responsible Officer:	Tim Collard		
email:	tim.collard@shropshire.gov.uk	Tel:	(01743) 252756
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	Councillor Gwilym Butler		

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 To seek Council approval for consultation on the community governance reviews recommended by the Community Governance Review Working Group

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 provides authority for Shropshire Council to undertake community governance reviews and to decide whether to give effect to recommendations made in those reviews. In making those decisions, it is necessary to take account of the views of local people.
- 2.2 Following the completion of the review undertaken by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE), a number of the new division boundaries dissect an existing Parish. The LGBCE does not have the power to change Parish Boundaries but must create a Parish Ward where a division boundary cuts across a parish.

2.3 Shropshire Council, at its meeting held on 14 December 2023, agreed to commence a Community Governance Review to ensure that the community governance for the area continues to be effective and convenient and that it reflects the identities and interests of the community.

2.3 Consultation commenced on 15 December 2023 and concluded on 26 January 2024. The Community Governance Review Working Group (consisting of Councillors Nick Bardsley, Gwilym Butler (Chair), Ted Clarke, Nick Hignett, Simon Jones, Duncan Kerr, Heather Kidd, David Minnery, Cecilia Motley, Alex Wagner and Claire Wild) met, on 07 February 2024, to discuss the responses received during the consultation and prepare recommendations for draft proposals to be considered by the Council.

3. Recommendations

3.1 That the draft proposals for the following Community Governance reviews set out in appendices 1 to 5 be approved for consultation:

- (a) Albrighton/Donington
- (b) Baschurch/Pimhill (Bomere Heath and District)
- (c) Ludlow/Ludford
- (d) Market Drayton/Adderley
- (e) Shrewsbury

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

4. Shropshire Council is required to keep the electoral arrangements of Parishes in its area under review. The recommendations in this report do not have an adverse impact on human rights or equalities. When conducting a review, the Council is required to have regard to the identities and interests of the community in the area and is required to consult with local government electors in the area under review and any other person or body which, in the opinion of the Council, might have an interest in the review.

5. Financial Implications

5. This report is simply seeking approval to consult on the draft proposals which will not involve some costs in terms of publicity and postage in addition to officer time.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

6. The Community Governance Review will have no obvious impact in terms of climate change.

7. Background

7.1 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 provides authority for Shropshire Council to undertake community governance reviews and to decide whether

to give effect to recommendations made in those reviews. In making those decisions, it is necessary to take account of the views of local people.

- 7.2 The first period of consultation closed on 26 January. The Community Governance Review Working Group considered the responses received during the consultation set out in the draft proposals documents (Appendices 1 to 5) and agreed to make recommendations as follows:
- 7.3 Albrighton/Donington/Boscobel
That the Parishes of Albrighton, Donington and Boscobel be abolished, a new parish of Albrighton and Donington, split into three wards and represented by a Parish Council be created.
- 7.4 Baschurch/Pimhill
That the Walford Heath Parish Ward of Pimhill Parish be moved into the Parish of Baschurch and a new ward for the Parish of Baschurch be created for Walford and Walford Heath It is further proposed that the parish of Pimhill be renamed “Bomere Heath and District.”
- 7.5 Ludlow/Ludford
That no changes are made to the current arrangements at this time.
- 7.6 Market Drayton/ Adderley
That the Weston Way Parish Ward of Adderley Parish be moved into the Market Drayton East Ward of the Parish of Market Drayton
- 7.7 Shrewsbury
- a. That the Bicton Urban ward of Bicton Parish be moved into the Bowbrook ward of the Shrewsbury Parish
 - b. That the Upper Edgebold ward of Great Hanwood Parish be moved into the Radbrook ward of the Shrewsbury Parish
 - c. That the Hendrick Crescent ward of Atcham Parish be moved into the Sutton and Reabrook ward of the Shrewsbury Parish
 - d. That the area of land north of the A5 currently in the Berrington Parish be moved into the Sutton and Reabrook ward of the Shrewsbury Parish
 - e. the Pimley Manor ward of Uffington Parish be moved into the Sundorne ward of the Shrewsbury Parish;
 - f. That the Bowbrook ward be renamed Bicton Heath
 - g. That the Sutton and Reabrook ward be renamed Oteley and Reabrook
 - h. That the Sundorne ward be renamed Sundorne and Old Heath
- 7.8 In order to complete each review, a further period of consultation is required to be undertaken.

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

Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and Regulations made thereunder.

Local Member: All

Appendices

Draft Proposals

Appendix 1 - Albrighton/Donington

Appendix 2 - Baschurch/Pimhill(Bomere Heath and District)

Appendix 3 - Ludlow/Ludford

Appendix 4 - Market Drayton/Adderley

Appendix 5 - Shrewsbury

SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL
COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF THE PARISHES OF ALBRIGHTON,
DONINGTON AND BOSCOBEL
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH ACT 2007
DRAFT PROPOSALS

1. **Introduction**

- 1.1 Shropshire Council has resolved to undertake a Community Governance Review of the Parishes of Albrighton, Donington and Boscobel. The area to be included in the review is the whole of the Parishes of Albrighton, Donington and Boscobel.
- 1.2 The Council gave public notice of a Community Governance Review and published the Terms of Reference for the review of the Parishes of Albrighton and Donington and in December 2023. Copies of the Terms of Reference were sent by e-mail to the Parish Councils and to other stakeholders in the area. Information on the effect of the review was also available for inspection at the Councils offices at Shirehall, Shrewsbury and on the Council's website.
- 1.3 The Terms of Reference were intended to prompt local consideration and initiate discussion in order that the Council could take account of local feeling when preparing its Draft Proposal Document. All concerned were invited to submit their comments in writing by 26 January 2024.
- 1.4 Following the consultation, it was agreed to extend the area under review to include the Parish of Boscobel, which jointly forms the Parish Council of Donington with Boscobel.
- 1.4 A resident of Donington with Boscobel who is also a Parish Councillor indicated her support for the retention of two Parish Councils with a slight increase to the size of Albrighton. They suggested that one large parish risks benefitting the residents of Albrighton to the detriment of the residents of Donington with Boscobel.
- 1.5 Another resident of Donington recognised the need to change and presented arguments for both one council and for a smaller adjustment to the Parish Boundaries.

- 1.6 A resident of Albrighton who is also a Parish Councillor suggested that the Parish of Albrighton should be extended to include not only Donington with Boscobel, but also Boningale, and Cosford. She suggested that the facilities of Albrighton were relied upon by residents of all these areas and that they would be better served by one Parish Council.
- 1.6 Albrighton Parish Council indicated that a joint meeting had been facilitated with Donington with Boscobel Parish Council and preferred an amalgamation of the Parishes into one with no wards.
- 1.7 Nigel Lumby, Shropshire Councillor for Albrighton, indicated support for the views expressed by the Parish Councils.

2.0 **BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Parish of Albrighton is currently represented by 15 Councillors, split over two wards. The Donington with Boscobel Parish Council is comprised of 10 Councillors representing 3 parishes/parish wards.
- 2.2 The current and projected electorate figures for the Parishes of Albrighton, Donington and Boscobel are set out in the tables below:

Parish	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors (October 2023)	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
Albrighton	15	3,421	3,778	1: 252
Donington	9	1,073	1,084	1: 120
Boscobel	1	21	31	1:31

- 2.3 The current Shropshire Council division boundaries were made by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England during its recent review and necessitated the boundaries crossing several Parishes. Unless they are amended by order following a Community Governance Review, the new boundaries may not

provide for effective and convenient local governance or reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area.

- 2.4 To avoid this situation arising at the next ordinary elections due to be held in May 2025, Shropshire Council is undertaking a review of the electoral arrangements for the Parishes of Albrighton, Donington and Boscobel under the provisions of Section 82 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, as well as the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued in accordance with Section 100(4) of the Act by the Department of Communities and Local Government and the Electoral Commission (Revised March 2010).
- 2.6 The review also provides an opportunity to consider whether the historic electoral boundaries for Albrighton, Donington and Boscobel remain appropriate, after taking account of recent residential development as well as that proposed by 2029 and beyond. The provision of more obvious and appropriate external boundaries for the parishes have been considered in the interests of community identity and community cohesion. In accordance with statutory guidance the review is seeking to establish boundaries which follow the line of permanent or established physical features, rather than the ancient field boundaries which mean little to today's residents, where possible
- 2.7 The Terms of Reference document published in December 2023 set out the objective of the review to consider whether there should be any changes to the boundaries between the parishes of Albrighton and Donington, Following the conclusion of the consultation, it was decided to extend the area under review to include also the Parish of Boscobel.
- 2.8 During the preparation of these draft recommendations, the Council has taken account of the comments received from the Parish Councils, residents and the Shropshire Councillor for the area.

3.0 PROPOSED BOUNDARY CHANGES

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Parishes of Albrighton, Donington and Boscobel be abolished and a new single Parish created, known as the Parish of Albrighton and Donington with a new Parish Council.
- 3.2 It is proposed that the Parish of Albrighton and Donington have three wards – the Donington and Boscobel Ward, coloured green on Plan A, attached; the Albrighton Village East ward, coloured blue on Plan A, attached; and the Albrighton Village West ward, coloured red on Plan A attached.
- 3.4 The current and projected electorate figures for the proposed wards in the Parish of Albrighton and Donington are set out in the table below:

Proposed Parish	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors (October 2023)	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
Albrighton, Donington and Boscobel	16	4,515	4,893	1: 306

Proposed Parish Wards	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors (October 2023)	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
Albrighton Village East	6	1,457	1,789	1:298
Albrighton Village West	7	2,173	2,195	1:313
Donington and Boscobel	3	885	909	1:303

4.0 PARISH COUNCIL SIZE:

- 4.1 The law requires that when considering whether to establish a pattern of wards for the purposes for elections, the Council must first consider whether it is desirable for any part of the parish to be separately represented on the Parish/Town Council. Secondly, it is necessary to consider whether the number or distribution of electors within the parish/town would make a single election of councillors impracticable.
- 4.2 There is little guidance on the appropriate number of councillors required to represent a parish, other than there not being any less than five councillors. Where there is no

maximum number and no rules on the allocation of councillors, in recent years the Council has used the National Association of Local Councils' formula as a guide

4.3 The Aston Business School has also published research on the appropriate levels of representation.

4.4 In large parishes such as Albrighton and Donington there is a very strong case for dividing the parish into electoral wards, as community identity and community interests tend to focus on a locality or neighbourhood. This can be an existing housing estate, a shopping centre or some community facility. Where there is evidence that different parts of a town have had their own sense of identity historically this supports the establishment or retention of electoral wards.

4.5 It is proposed that the Parish of Albrighton comprises of 16 Councillors Split over 3 wards:

Donington and Boscobel	3
Albrighton East	6
Albrighton West	7

5.0 **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?**

5.1 An initial timetable for this review was outlined in the Terms of Reference document published in December 2023 but has been extended to allow for a longer period of consultation as follows:-

Stage	What happens?	Timescales
Commencement	Terms of Reference are published	14 December 2023
Stage one	Initial Submissions are invited	15 December 2023 to 26 January 2024
Stage two	Consideration of submissions received – Draft Recommendations are prepared	27 January 2024 to 20 March 2024

Stage three	Draft Recommendations are published – consultations on them	21 March 2024 to 10 May 2024
Stage four	Considerations of submissions received – final recommendations are prepared	11 May 2024 to 31 May 2024
	Final recommendations are published – concluding review	End June 2024
	Council resolves to make a Reorganisation Order	July 2024

5.2 These draft proposals set out Shropshire Councils initial recommendations for the future of Community Governance for Albrighton, Donington and Boscobel. The Council will now allow a further period, in accordance with the above timetable for public consultation.

5.3 Final Proposals will be made in response to the outcome of these consultations and they may wholly change the Draft Proposals to encompass the broadly held views of the residents of the affected areas, insofar as they are compatible with the legal tests and principles referred to throughout this document.

5.4 There will then be a short period after the final proposals are published before the Shropshire Council approves the recommendations and then seeks the consent of the LGBCE to make the formal Order. This period will allow further time for any final submissions and arguments to be made covering matters which did not arise during earlier stages of the review.

5.5 A period for comments on the draft proposals has now opened and this lasts until 10 May 2024.

6.0 HOW TO CONTACT US

6.1 Comments should be submitted to the Democratic Services Section of Shropshire Council by e-mail at communitygovernance@shropshire.gov.uk. Alternatively, you can contact us at the following address:

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

Should you require any further information or need clarification on the review process, please use the above contact details.

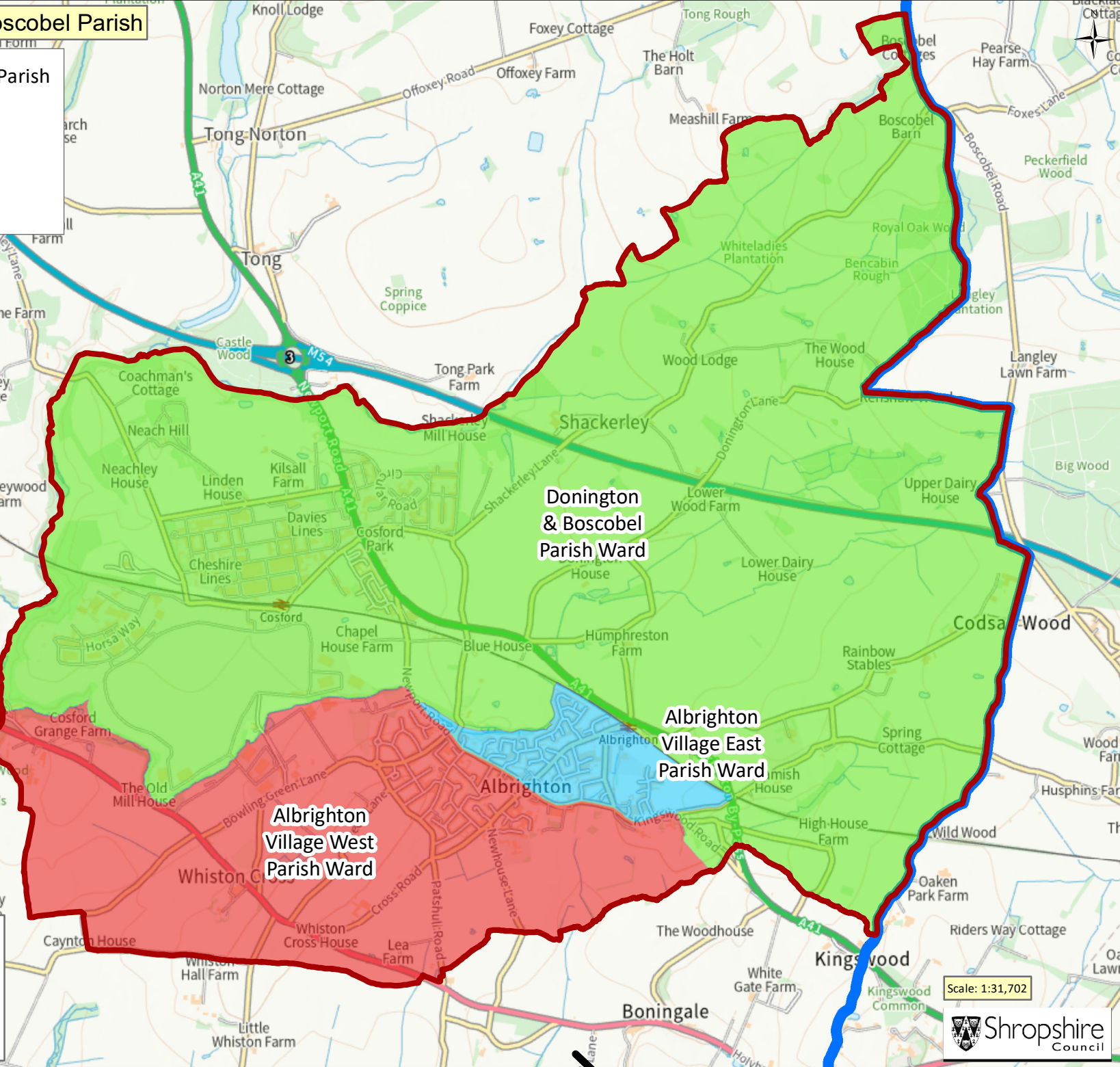
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Plan A: Albrighton, Donington and Boscobel Parish

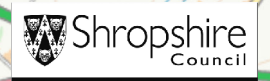
- Albrighton, Donington and Boscobel Parish
- Albrighton East Parish Ward
- Albrighton West Parish Ward
- Donington and Boscobel Parish Ward
- County

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SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF THE PARISHES OF BASCHURCH AND

PIMHILL (KNOWN LOCALLY AS BOMERE HEATH AND DISTRICT

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH ACT 2007

DRAFT PROPOSALS

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Shropshire Council has resolved to undertake a Community Governance Review of the Parishes of Baschurch and Pimhill. The area to be included in the review is the whole of the Parishes of Baschurch and Pimhill.
- 1.2 The Council gave public notice of a Community Governance Review and published the Terms of Reference for the review of the Parishes of Baschurch and Pimhill in December 2023. Copies of the Terms of Reference were sent by e-mail to the Parish Councils and to other stakeholders in the area. Information on the effect of the review was also available for inspection at the Councils offices at Shirehall, Shrewsbury and on the Council's website.
- 1.3 The Terms of Reference were intended to prompt local consideration and initiate discussion in order that the Council could take account of local feeling when preparing its Draft Proposal Document. All concerned were invited to submit their comments in writing by 26 January 2024.
- 1.4 Baschurch Parish Council proposed moving the Walford Heath ward of Pimhill Parish into the parish of Baschurch and creating of a new ward of the parish council consisting of both Walford village and the Walford Heath ward, with one councillor elected to represent that ward.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Parish of Baschurch is currently represented by 12 Councillors, split over two wards. The Parish of Pimhill is represented by 13 Councillors split over 5 wards.

2.2 The current and projected electorate figures for the wards in the Parishes of Baschurch and Pimhill are set out in the tables below:

Baschurch

Parish	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors (October 2023)	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
Baschurch	12	2,325	2,649	1: 218

Parish Wards	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors (October 2023)	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
Weston Lullingfields	3	463	508	1: 169
Baschurch	9	1,862	2,141	1: 238

Pimhill

Parish	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors (October 2023)	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
Pimhill (Bomere Heath)	13	1,880	1,969	1: 90

Parish Wards	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors (October 2023)	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
Bomere Heath	8	1,129	1,165	1: 146
Fitz	2	275	309	1: 155
Leaton	1	162	162	1: 162
Preston Gubbals	1	209	223	1: 223
Walford Heath	1	105	110	1: 110

2.3 The current Shropshire Council division boundaries were made by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England during its recent review and necessitated the boundaries crossing several Parishes. Unless they are amended by order following a Community Governance Review, the new boundaries may not provide for effective and convenient local governance or reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area.

- 2.4 To avoid this situation arising at the next ordinary elections due to be held in May 2025, Shropshire Council is undertaking a review of the electoral arrangements for the Parishes of Baschurch and Pimhill under the provisions of Section 82 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, as well as the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued in accordance with Section 100(4) of the Act by the Department of Communities and Local Government and the Electoral Commission (Revised March 2010).
- 2.6 The review also provides an opportunity to consider whether the historic electoral boundaries for Baschurch and Pimhill remain appropriate, after taking account of recent residential development as well as that proposed by 2029 and beyond. The provision of more obvious and appropriate external boundaries for the parishes have been considered in the interests of community identity and community cohesion. In accordance with statutory guidance the review is seeking to establish boundaries which follow the line of permanent or established physical features, rather than the ancient field boundaries which mean little to today's residents, where possible
- 2.7 The Terms of Reference document published in December 2023 set out the objective of the review to consider whether there should be any changes to the boundaries between the parishes of Baschurch and Pimhill.
- 2.8 During the preparing of these draft recommendations, the Council has taken account of the comments received from Baschurch Parish Council and Pimhill Parish Council.
- 2.9 Public comment at the end of the first stage of this process has been limited.

3.0 PROPOSED BOUNDARY CHANGES

- 3.1 It is proposed that the boundary between the Parishes of Baschurch and Pimhill be amended to move the Walford Heath ward (hatched on Plan A, attached) of Pimhill Parish into the Baschurch Parish.
- 3.2 It is proposed that the Parish of Baschurch have three wards – the existing Weston Lullingfield Ward coloured green on Plan A, attached; a reduced Baschurch ward,

coloured yellow on the Plan A, attached; and a new Walford and Walford Heath ward, coloured red on Plan A attached.

3.3 It is proposed that the Parish of Pimhill have 4 wards – Bomere Heath, coloured yellow on Plan B attached; Fitz, coloured green on Plan B attached; Leaton, coloured blue on Plan B attached; and Preston Gubbals, coloured red on Plan B attached.

3.3 The current and projected electorate figures for the proposed wards in the Parishes of Baschurch and Pimhill are set out in the tables below:

Baschurch

Parish and Parish Wards	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors (October 2023)	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
Baschurch Parish	12	2,432	2,755	1: 230
Walford and Walford Heath	1	271	294	1: 294
Baschurch	9	1,698	1,953	1: 217
Weston Lullingfields	2	463	508	1: 254

Pimhill

Parish and Parish Wards	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors (October 2023)	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
Pimhill (Bomere Heath and District) Parish	13	1,775	1,859	1:143
Bomere Heath	8	1,129	1,165	1: 146
Fitz	2	275	309	1: 155
Leaton	1	162	162	1: 162
Preston Gubbals	2	209	223	1: 112

3.4 It is further proposed that the name of the Parish of Pimhill be amended to Bomere Heath and District.

4.0 PARISH COUNCIL SIZE:

- 4.1 The law requires that when considering whether to establish a pattern of wards for the purposes for elections, the Council must first consider whether it is desirable for any part of the parish to be separately represented on the Parish/Town Council. Secondly, it is necessary to consider whether the number or distribution of electors within the parish/town would make a single election of councillors impracticable.
- 4.2 There is little guidance on the appropriate number of councillors required to represent a parish, other than there not being any less than five councillors. Where there is no maximum number and no rules on the allocation of councillors, in recent years the Council has used the National Association of Local Councils' formula as a guide
- 4.3 The Aston Business School has also published research on the appropriate levels of representation.
- 4.4 In large parishes such as Baschurch and Pimhill there is a very strong case for dividing the parish into electoral wards, as community identity and community interests tend to focus on a locality or neighbourhood. This can be an existing housing estate, a shopping centre or some community facility. Where there is evidence that different parts of a town have had their own sense of identity historically this supports the establishment or retention of electoral wards.

4.5 **Baschurch**

It is proposed that the Parish of Baschurch comprise of 12 Councillors Split over 3 wards:

Baschurch	9
Walford and Walford Heath	1
Weston Lullingfields	2

4.5 **Pimhill**

It is proposed that the Parish of Pimhill should comprise of 13 Councillors over 4 wards:

Bomere Heath	8
Fitz	2
Leaton	1
Preston Gubbals	2

5.0 **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?**

5.1 An initial timetable for this review was outlined in the Terms of Reference document published in December 2023 but has been extended to allow for a longer period of consultation as follows:-

Stage	What happens?	Timescales
Commencement	Terms of Reference are published	14 December 2023
Stage one	Initial Submissions are invited	15 December 2023 to 26 January 2024
Stage two	Consideration of submissions received – Draft Recommendations are prepared	27 January 2024 to 20 March 2024
Stage three	Draft Recommendations are published – consultations on them	21 March 2024 to 10 May 2024
Stage four	Considerations of submissions received – final recommendations are prepared	11 May 2024 to 31 May 2024
	Final recommendations are published – concluding review	End June 2024
	Council resolves to make a Reorganisation Order	July 2024

5.2 These draft proposals set out Shropshire Councils initial recommendations for the future of Community Governance for Baschurch and Pimhill. The Council will now allow a further period, in accordance with the above timetable for public consultation.

5.3 Final Proposals will be made in response to the outcome of these consultations and they may wholly change the Draft Proposals to encompass the broadly held views of

the residents of the affected areas, insofar as they are compatible with the legal tests and principles referred to throughout this document.

5.4 There will then be a short period after the final proposals are published before the Shropshire Council approves the recommendations and then seeks the consent of the LGBCE to make the formal Order. This period will allow further time for any final submissions and arguments to be made covering matters which did not arise during earlier stages of the review.

5.5 A period for comments on the draft proposals has now opened and this lasts until 10 May 2024.

6.0 HOW TO CONTACT US

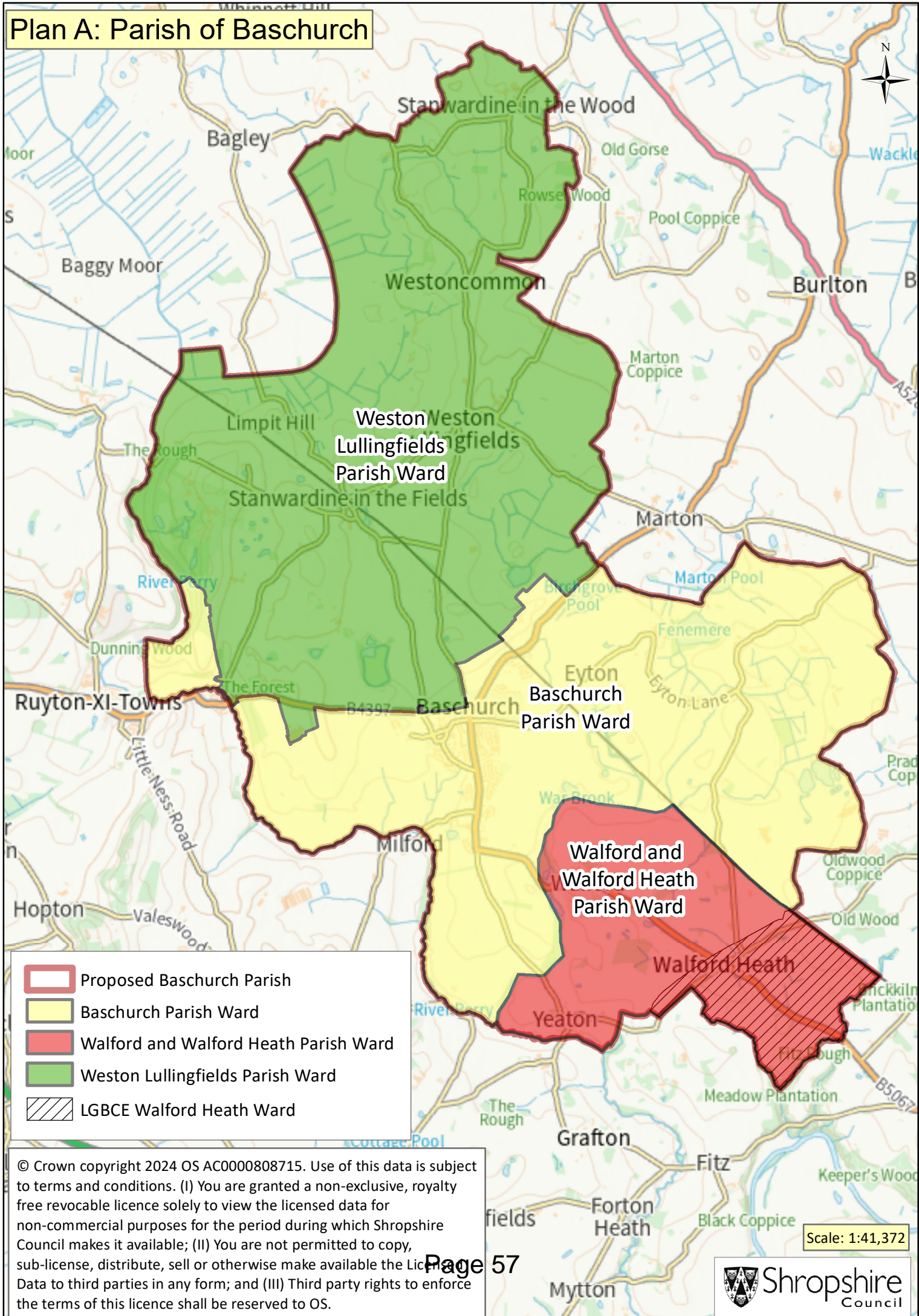
6.1 Comments should be submitted to the Democratic Services Section of Shropshire Council by e-mail at communitygovernance@shropshire.gov.uk. Alternatively, you can contact us at the following address:

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

Should you require any further information or need clarification on the review process, please use the above contact details.

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Plan A: Parish of Baschurch



- Proposed Baschurch Parish
- Baschurch Parish Ward
- Walford and Walford Heath Parish Ward
- Weston Lullingfields Parish Ward
- LGBCE Walford Heath Ward

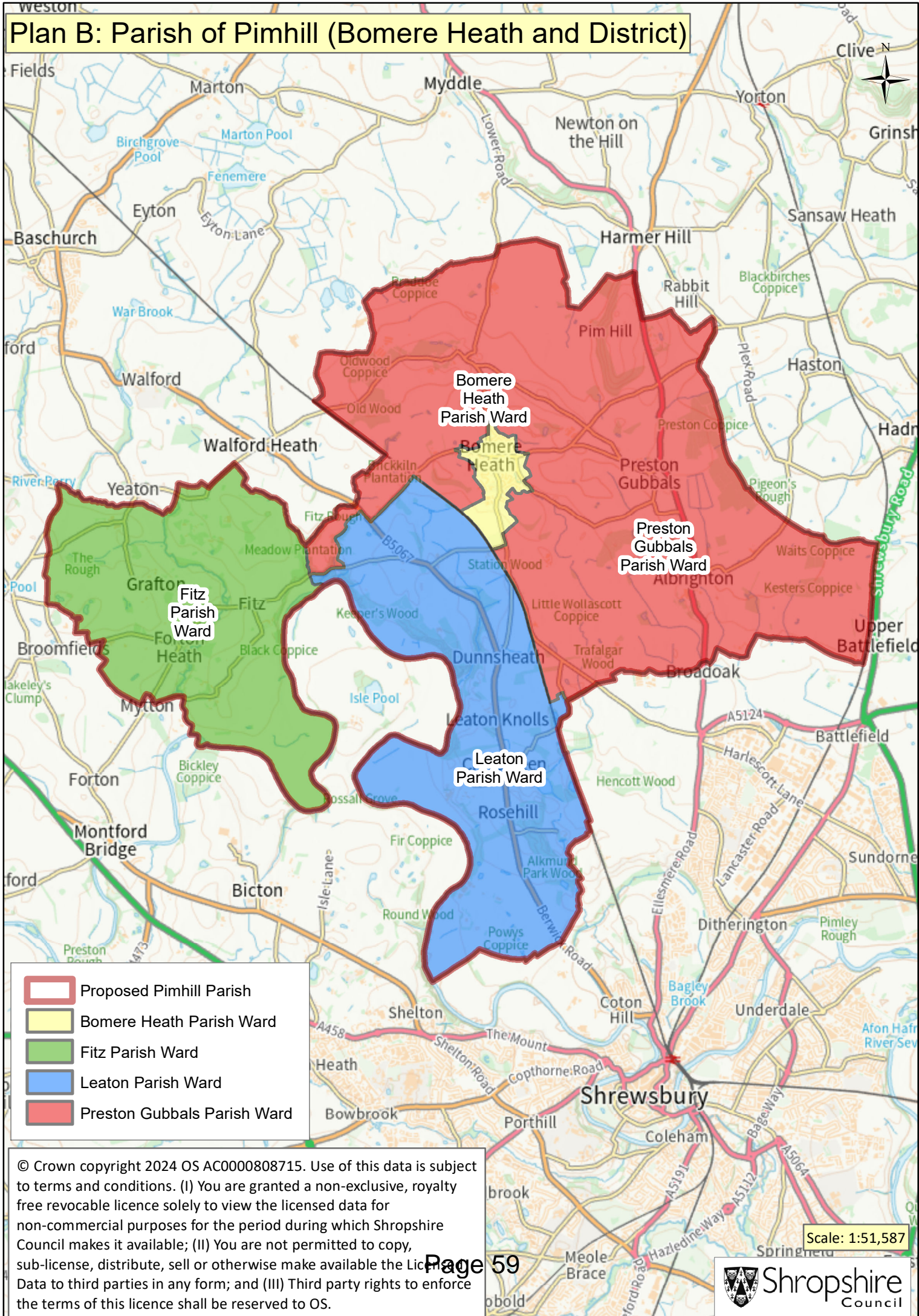
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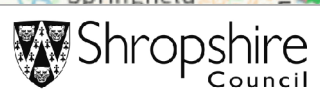
Plan B: Parish of Pimhill (Bomere Heath and District)



- Proposed Pimhill Parish
- Bomere Heath Parish Ward
- Fitz Parish Ward
- Leaton Parish Ward
- Preston Gubbals Parish Ward

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**SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF THE PARISHES OF
LUDLOW AND LUDFORD**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH ACT 2007

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PARISH AND PARISH COUNCILS) (ENGLAND)
REGULATIONS 2008**

DRAFT PROPOSALS

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Shropshire Council has resolved to undertake a Community Governance Review of the Parishes of Ludlow and Ludford. The area to be included in the review is the whole of the Parishes of Ludlow and Ludford.
- 1.2 The Council gave public notice of a Community Governance Review and published the Terms of Reference for the review of the Parishes of Ludlow and Ludford in December 2023. Copies of the Terms of Reference were sent by e-mail to the Town and Parish Councils and to other stakeholders in the area. Information on the effect of the review was also available for inspection at the Councils offices at Shirehall, Shrewsbury and on the Council's website.
- 1.3 The Terms of Reference were intended to prompt local consideration and initiate discussion in order that the Council could take account of local feeling when preparing its Draft Proposal Document. All concerned were invited to submit their comments in writing by 26 January 2024.
- 1.4 Ludlow Town Council has suggested that the Rockgreen Ward of Ludford Parish should transfer into the Parish of Ludlow together with a large part of the Ludford Rural Ward. The Rockgreen ward would be amalgamated into the current Hayton Ward and a new "Sheet Ward" of the Town Council would be created. This would retain a small Ludford Parish centred around the village of Ludford. The growth of Ludlow outside of its boundaries into Ludford is referred to as is the existence of the Town's Park and Ride service operating from a site within the Parish of Ludford.
- 1.5 Two of the Shropshire Councillors for the Ludlow area have expressed their support for the proposal of Ludlow Town Council, noting that the communities within Ludford do not have a single identity and no direct road link exists between the three main distinct settlements.

1.6 A former Ludlow Town Councillor has suggested that the two Parishes should be amalgamated to ensure that the residents of the Ludford Parish contribute equally to the services that they use which are currently funded solely by the residents within the Parish of Ludlow.

1.7 Ludford Parish Council has indicated support for the retention of the current Parish Boundaries. They rely on the historic nature of the Parish and the particular community identity of the village of Ludford and surrounding Parish with its close links to the Ludford Manor Estate. With particular regard to the Rock Green Parish Ward, the Parish Council note the lack of a bridge to provide a safe pedestrian route across the busy A49 road and a renewed sense of community with new housing developments and the opening of a large supermarket.

1.8 Two residents of the Rock Green ward of the Parish have expressed their satisfaction that the current arrangements provide effective and convenient governance for the hamlet of Rock Green, situated on the outskirts of Ludlow.

2. What Happens Next

2.1 An initial timetable for this review was outlined in the Terms of Reference document published in December 2023 but has been extended to allow for a longer period of consultation as follows:-

Stage	What happens?	Timescales
Commencement	Terms of Reference are published	14 December 2023
Stage one	Initial Submissions are invited	15 December 2023 to 26 January 2024
Stage two	Consideration of submissions received – Draft Recommendations are prepared	27 January 2024 to 20 March 2024
Stage three	Draft Recommendations are published – consultations on them	21 March 2024 to 10 May 2024
Stage four	Considerations of submissions received – final recommendations are prepared	11 May 2024 to 31 May 2024
	Final recommendations are published – concluding review	End June 2024

	Council resolves to make a Reorganisation Order	July 2024

3.0 **Draft Recommendations**

3.1 Having regard to the provisions of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, associated Guidance on Community Reviews produced jointly by the department for Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England and to the responses that have been received during the initial consultation period, it is recommended that there should be no change to the current community governance arrangements:

Ludlow

	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors (October 2023)	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
Ludlow	15	7,970	8,378	1: 559

Parish Wards	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors (October 2023)	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
Bringewood	2	978	1,286	1: 643
Clee View	2	1,295	1,303	1: 652
Corve	2	949	1,021	1: 511
Gallows Bank	3	1,814	1,812	1: 604
Hayton	2	947	949	1: 475
Rockspring	2	976	979	1: 490
Whitcliffe	2	1,011	1,028	1: 514

Ludford

	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors (October 2023)	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
Ludford	7	744	1,106	1: 158

Parish Wards	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors (October 2023)	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
Rockgreen	2	132	132	1: 66
Ludford Rural	5	612	1,106	1: 221

- 3.2 At this stage of the review, it is not considered to have been established that the changes proposed by Ludlow Town Council and supported by two of the Shropshire Councillors for Ludlow would better reflect the identities of local communities.
- 3.4 There is no evidence to suggest that the proposed changes would improve the ability of individuals and organisations to participate and influence matters in the area in which they are situated. Both Ludlow Town Council and Ludford Parish Council are fully functioning and appear to have little difficulty in attracting candidates or engaging with residents.
- 3.5 Consultees, other stakeholders and the public now have until 10 May 2024, in accordance with the above timetable, in which to submit further comments and formal representations.
- 3.7 Shropshire Councils final proposals will be made in response to the outcome of these further consultations and they may wholly change the draft proposals to encompass the broadly held views of the residents of the affected area, insofar as these are compatible with the appropriate legal tests and principles.
- 3.8 There will then be a short period after the final proposals are published before the Council approves the recommendations. This will allow further time for any final submissions and/or arguments to be made covering matters which did not arise during earlier stages of the review.

4. **How to contact us**

- 4.1 Comments should be submitted to the Democratic Services Section of Shropshire Council by e-mail at communitygovernance@shropshire.gov.uk. Alternatively, you can contact us at the following address:

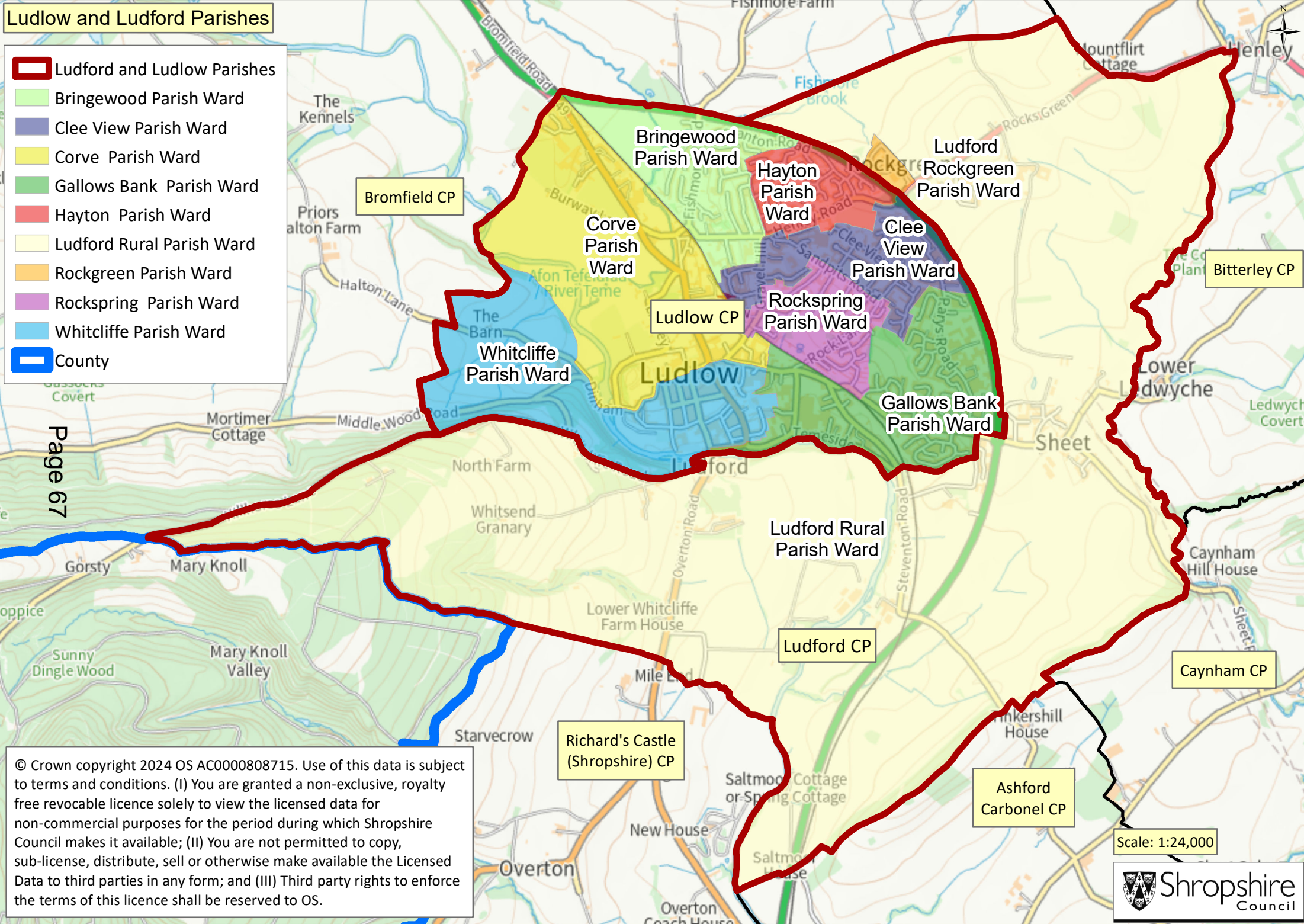
Democratic and Electoral Services
Shropshire Council
The Shirehall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
SY2 6ND

Should you require any further information or need clarification on the review process, please the above contact details.

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Ludlow and Ludford Parishes

-  Ludford and Ludlow Parishes
-  Bringewood Parish Ward
-  Clee View Parish Ward
-  Corve Parish Ward
-  Gallows Bank Parish Ward
-  Hayton Parish Ward
-  Ludford Rural Parish Ward
-  Rockgreen Parish Ward
-  Rocksring Parish Ward
-  Whitcliffe Parish Ward
-  County



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SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL
COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF THE PARISHES OF MARKET DRAYTON
AND ADDERLEY
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH ACT 2007
DRAFT PROPOSALS

1. **Introduction**

- 1.1 Shropshire Council has resolved to undertake a Community Governance Review of the Parishes of Market Drayton and Adderley. The area to be included in the review is the whole of the Parishes of Market Drayton and Adderley.
- 1.2 The Council gave public notice of a Community Governance Review and published the Terms of Reference for the review of the Parishes of Market Drayton and Adderley in December 2023. Copies of the Terms of Reference were sent by e-mail to the Town and Parish Councils and to other stakeholders in the area. Information on the effect of the review was also available for inspection at the Councils offices at Shirehall, Shrewsbury and on the Council's website.
- 1.3 The Terms of Reference were intended to prompt local consideration and initiate discussion in order that the Council could take account of local feeling when preparing its Draft Proposal Document. All concerned were invited to submit their comments in writing by 26 January 2024.
- 1.4 Adderley Parish Council expressed their preference to retain the current Parish boundaries seeing no justification to change the current arrangement.
- 1.5 Market Drayton Town Council has asked that the boundaries of the Parish of Market Drayton are extended into the Adderley Parish to bring the Western Way Ward of Adderley Parish into the Market Drayton East Ward of Market Drayton Parish. Given the small number of electors affected, the Town Council considered that the amendment to the boundaries would not require any further change to the number of Councillors for the Parish. It was argued that the change to the boundaries was

justified as the main business site of Market Drayton falls within the Western Way Ward and provides employment for the town.

2.0 **BACKGROUND**

2.1 The Parish of Market Drayton is currently represented by 12 Councillors, split over three wards. The wards are largely coterminous with the Shropshire Council Division Boundaries with the exception of the division of Market Drayton East and Rural, which takes in part of the Parish of Adderley and the Parishes of Norton in Hales and Woore. The boundaries of Parishes of Norton in Hales and Woore are not affected by this review.

2.2 The current and projected electorate figures for the wards in the Parishes of Market Drayton and Adderley are set out in the tables below:

Market Drayton

Parish	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors (October 2023)	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
Market Drayton Parish	12	9,233	9,864	1: 822

Parish Wards	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors (October 2023)	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
Market Drayton East	2	1,844	1,856	1: 464
Market Drayton South	5	3,728	3,891	1: 156
Market Drayton North	5	3,661	4,117	1: 165

Adderley

Parish	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors (October 2023)	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
Adderley Parish	7	352	474	1: 68

Parish Wards	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
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		(October 2023)		
Western Way	2	12	118	1: 59
Adderley Rural	5	340	356	1: 71

- 2.3 The current Shropshire Council division boundaries were made by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England during its recent review and necessitated the boundaries crossing several Parishes. Unless they are amended by order following a Community Governance Review, the new boundaries may not provide for effective and convenient local governance or reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area.
- 2.4 To avoid this situation arising at the next ordinary elections due to be held in May 2025, Shropshire Council is undertaking a review of the electoral arrangements for the Parishes of Market Drayton and Adderley under the provisions of Section 82 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, as well as the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued in accordance with Section 100(4) of the Act by the Department of Communities and Local Government and the Electoral Commission (Revised March 2010).
- 2.6 The review also provides an opportunity to consider whether the historic electoral boundaries for Market Drayton and Adderley remain appropriate, after taking account of recent residential development in the town, as well as that proposed by 2029 and beyond. The provision of more obvious and appropriate external boundaries for the town and the adjacent parish, have been considered in the interests of community identity and community cohesion. In accordance with statutory guidance the review is seeking to establish boundaries which follow the line of permanent or established physical features, rather than the ancient field boundaries which mean little to today's residents, where possible

2.7 The Terms of Reference document published in December 2023 set out the objective of the review to consider whether there should be any changes to the boundaries between the parishes of Market Drayton and Adderley.

2.8 During the preparing of these draft recommendations, the Council has taken account of the comments received from Market Drayton Town Council and Adderley Parish Council.

2.9 Public comment at the end of the first stage of this process has been limited.

3.0 PROPOSED BOUNDARY CHANGES

3.1 It is proposed that the boundary between the Parishes of Market Drayton and Adderley be amended to move the Western Way ward (marked in yellow on the plan attached) of Adderley Parish into the Market Drayton East ward of the Market Drayton Parish.

3.2 The current and projected electorate figures for the proposed wards in the Parish of Market Drayton and the unwarded revised Parish of Adderley are set out in the tables below:

Market Drayton

Parish	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors (October 2023)	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
Market Drayton Parish	12	9,245	9,983	1: 832

Proposed Parish Wards	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors (October 2023)	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
Market Drayton East	2	1,856	1,975	1: 988
Market Drayton South	5	3,728	3,891	1: 778
Market Drayton North	5	3,661	4,117	1: 823

Adderley

Parish	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors (October 2023)	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
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Adderley Parish	7	340	356	1: 50
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4.0 PARISH COUNCIL SIZE:

4.1 The law requires that when considering whether to establish a pattern of wards for the purposes for elections, the Council must first consider whether it is desirable for any part of the parish to be separately represented on the Parish/Town Council. Secondly, it is necessary to consider whether the number or distribution of electors within the parish/town would make a single election of councillors impracticable.

4.2 There is little guidance on the appropriate number of councillors required to represent a parish, other than there not being any less than five councillors. Where there is no maximum number and no rules on the allocation of councillors, in recent years the Council has used the National Association of Local Councils' formula as a guide

4.3 The Aston Business School has also published research on the appropriate levels of representation.

4.4 Market Drayton

In urban settlements such as Market Drayton, there is a very strong case for dividing the parish into electoral wards, as community identity and community interests tend to focus on a locality or neighbourhood. This can be an existing housing estate, a shopping centre or some community facility. Where there is evidence that different parts of a town have had their own sense of identity historically this supports the establishment or retention of electoral wards. There is no proposal to amend the boundaries of the internal wards or numbers of Councillors for each of the wards of the Parish of Market Drayton.

4.5 Adderley

It is proposed that the Parish of Adderley should be unwarded and represented by 7 Councillors, as at present.

5.0 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

5.1 An initial timetable for this review was outlined in the Terms of Reference document published in December 2023 but has been extended to allow for a longer period of consultation as follows:-

Stage	What happens?	Timescales
Commencement	Terms of Reference are published	14 December 2023
Stage one	Initial Submissions are invited	15 December 2023 to 26 January 2024
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Stage three	Draft Recommendations are published – consultations on them	21 March 2024 to 10 May 2024
Stage four	Considerations of submissions received – final recommendations are prepared	11 May 2024 to 31 May 2024
	Final recommendations are published – concluding review	End June 2024
	Council resolves to make a Reorganisation Order	July 2024

5.2 These draft proposals set out Shropshire Councils initial recommendations for the future of Community Governance for Market Drayton and Adderley. The Council will now allow a further period, in accordance with the above timetable for public consultation.

- 5.3 Final Proposals will be made in response to the outcome of these consultations and they may wholly change the Draft Proposals to encompass the broadly held views of the residents of the affected areas, insofar as they are compatible with the legal tests and principles referred to throughout this document.
- 5.4 There will then be a short period after the final proposals are published before the Shropshire Council approves the recommendations and then seeks the consent of the LGBCE to make the formal Order. This period will allow further time for any final submissions and arguments to be made covering matters which did not arise during earlier stages of the review.
- 5.5 A period for comments on the draft proposals has now opened and this lasts until 10 May 2024.

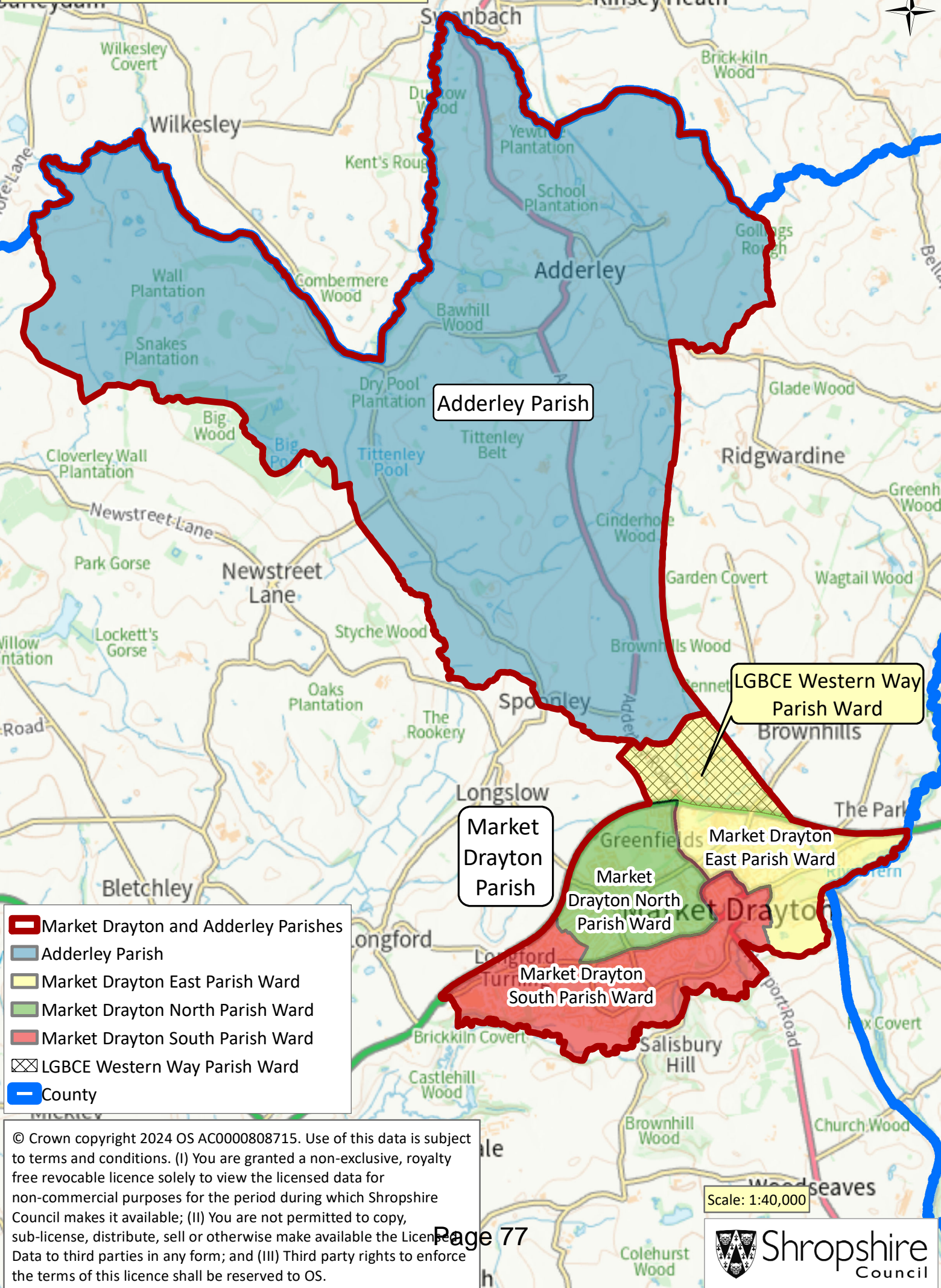
6.0 HOW TO CONTACT US

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

Should you require any further information or need clarification on the review process, please the above contact details.

Plan A: Market Drayton and Adderley Parishes



- Market Drayton and Adderley Parishes
- Adderley Parish
- Market Drayton East Parish Ward
- Market Drayton North Parish Ward
- Market Drayton South Parish Ward
- LGBCE Western Way Parish Ward
- County

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SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL
COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF THE PARISH OF SHREWSBURY AND
ADJOINING PARISHES
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH ACT 2007
DRAFT PROPOSALS

1. **Introduction**

- 1.1 Shropshire Council has resolved to undertake a Community Governance Review of the Parish of Shrewsbury and adjoining parishes. The area to be included in the review is the whole of the Parish of Shrewsbury and adjoining parishes.
- 1.2 The Council gave public notice of a Community Governance Review and published the Terms of Reference for the review of the Parish of Shrewsbury and adjoining parishes in December 2023. Copies of the Terms of Reference were sent by e-mail to the Town and Parish Councils and to other stakeholders in the area. Information on the effect of the review was also available for inspection at the Councils offices at Shirehall, Shrewsbury and on the Council's website.
- 1.3 The Terms of Reference were intended to prompt local consideration and initiate discussion in order that the Council could take account of local feeling when preparing its Draft Proposal Document. All concerned were invited to submit their comments in writing by 26 January 2024.
- 1.4 Great Hanwood Parish Council has asked that the boundaries of the Parish are extended into the Pontesbury Parish to bring the school and adjacent residential properties along with the settlements of Cruckton and Cruckmeole into the Parish. The Parish Council requests that the number of Parish Councillors for the Parish should remain at 9, due the expanding nature of the village.

2.0 **BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Parish of Shrewsbury is currently represented by 17 Councillors, each representing one ward. The wards are largely coterminous with the Shropshire Council

Division Boundaries with the exception of the divisions of Bicton Heath, which takes in part of the Parish of Bicton; Radbrook, which takes in part of the Parish of Great Hanwood; Oteley and Reabrook, which takes in part of the Parish of Atcham; and Sundorne, which takes in part of the Parish of Uffington.

2.2 In addition, a small part of the Parish of Berrington, north of the A5 road and adjacent to the Oteley and Reabrook Division, might benefit from moving to the Parish of Shrewsbury with an associated move from the Shropshire Council division of Severn Valley to Oteley and Reabrook.

2.3 The current and projected electorate figures for the wards in the Parish of Shrewsbury, and the Parishes of Bicton, Great Hanwood, Atcham, Sundorne and Berrington are set out in the tables below:

Shrewsbury

Parish	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors (October 2023)	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
Shrewsbury	17	58,928	62,204	1:3659

Parish Wards	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors (October 2023)	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
Abbey	1	4,252	4,762	1: 4,762
Bagley	1	3,816	4,290	1: 4,290
Battlefield	1	3,123	3,361	1: 3,361
Belle Vue	1	3,465	3,541	1: 3,541
Bowbrook	1	3,483	3,725	1: 3,725
Castlefields & Ditherington	1	3,400	3,584	1: 3,584
Column	1	3,135	3,357	1: 3,357
Copthorne	1	3,942	3,945	1: 3,945
Harlescott	1	3,300	3,349	1: 3,349
Meole	1	3,394	3,675	1: 3,675
Monkmoor	1	3,366	3,377	1: 3,377
Porthill	1	3,691	3,834	1: 3,834
Quarry & Coton Hill	1	3,304	3,362	1: 3,362
Radbrook	1	3,508	4,030	1: 4,030
Sundorne	1	3,477	3,480	1: 3,480
Sutton & Reabrook	1	2,858	3,082	1: 3,082

Underdale	1	3,414	3,449	1: 3,449
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Atcham

Parish Wards	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors (October 2023)	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
Atcham Parish	7	442	513	1:73
Atcham Rural	3	198	208	1: 69
Hendrick Crescent	4	244	305	1: 76

Berrington

Parish	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors (October 2023)	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
Berrington Parish	9	1067	1082	1:120

Bicton

Parish Wards	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors (October 2023)	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
Bicton Parish	9	995	1347	1:150
Bicton Rural	6	859	873	1: 146
Bicton Urban	3	136	474	1: 158

Great Hanwood

Parish Wards	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors (October 2023)	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
Great Hanwood Parish	9	962	968	1:108
Hanwood Bank & Hanwood	8	959	965	1: 121
Upper Edgebold	1	3	3	1: 3

Uffington

Parish Wards	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
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		(October 2023)		
Uffington Parish	5	141	275	1:55
Pimley Manor	2	46	75	1: 38
Uffington Rural	3	195	200	1: 67

- 2.4 The current Shropshire Council division boundaries were made by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England during its recent review and necessitated the boundaries crossing several Parishes. Unless they are amended by order following a Community Governance Review, the new boundaries may not provide for effective and convenient local governance or reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area.
- 2.5 To avoid this situation arising at the next ordinary elections due to be held in May 2025, Shropshire Council is undertaking a review of the electoral arrangements for the Parish of Shrewsbury and the adjoining Parishes under the provisions of Section 82 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, as well as the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued in accordance with Section 100(4) of the Act by the Department of Communities and Local Government and the Electoral Commission (Revised March 2010).
- 2.6 The review also provides an opportunity to consider whether the historic electoral boundaries for Shrewsbury and the adjoining parishes remain appropriate, after taking account of recent residential development in the town, as well as that proposed by 2029 and beyond. The provision of more obvious and appropriate external boundaries for the town and the surrounding parishes, such as using the A5/A49 have been considered in the interests of community identity and community cohesion. In accordance with statutory guidance the review is seeking to establish boundaries which follow the line of permanent or established physical features, rather than the ancient field boundaries which mean little to today's residents, where possible

- 2.7 The Terms of Reference document published in December 2023 set out the objective of the review to consider whether there should be any changes to the boundaries of Shrewsbury and the adjoining parishes,
- 2.8 During the preparing of these draft recommendations, the Council has taken account of the comments received from Great Hanwood Parish Council.
- 2.9 Public comment at the end of the first stage of this process has been limited.

3.0 PROPOSED BOUNDARY CHANGES

- 3.1 It is proposed that the boundary of the Parish of Shrewsbury be amended as follows:
- 3.1.1 the Bicton Urban ward (hatched and coloured yellow on the plan attached) of Bicton Parish be moved into the Bowbrook ward of the Shrewsbury Parish;
- 3.1.2 the Upper Edgebold ward (hatched and marked in green on the plan attached) of Great Hanwood Parish be moved into the Radbrook ward of the Shrewsbury Parish;
- 3.1.3 the Hendrick Crescent ward (hatched and marked in red on the plan attached) of Atcham Parish be moved into the Sutton and Reabrook ward of the Shrewsbury Parish ;
- 3.1.4 the area of land north of the A5 (Hatched blue and marked in red on the plan attached) currently in the Berrington Parish be moved into the Sutton and Reabrook ward of the Shrewsbury Parish;
- 3.1.5 the Pimley Manor ward (hatched and marked in blue on the plan attached) of Uffington Parish be moved into the Sundorne ward of the Shrewsbury Parish;
- 3.2 It is further proposed that the names of the following wards of the Parish of Shrewsbury be amended to match the Shropshire Council electoral divisions:
- 3.2.1 the Bowbrook ward be renamed Bicton Heath
- 3.2.2 the Sutton and Reabrook ward be renamed Oteley and Reabrook
- 3.2.3 the Sundorne ward be renamed Sundorne and Old Heath

3.3 The current and projected electorate figures for the proposed wards in the Parish of Shrewsbury, and the unwarded revised Parishes of Bicton, Great Hanwood, Atcham, Uffington and Berrington are set out in the tables below:

Shrewsbury

Parish Wards	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors (October 2023)	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
Abbey	1	4,252	4,762	1: 4,762
Bagley	1	3,816	4,290	1: 4,290
Battlefield	1	3,123	3,361	1: 3,361
Belle Vue	1	3,465	3,541	1: 3,541
Bowbrook	1	3,619	4,200	1: 4,200
Castlefields & Ditherington	1	3,400	3,584	1: 3,584
Column	1	3,135	3,357	1: 3,357
Copthorne	1	3,942	3,945	1: 3,945
Harlescott	1	3,300	3,349	1: 3,349
Meole	1	3,394	3,675	1: 3,675
Monkmoor	1	3,366	3,377	1: 3,377
Porthill	1	3,691	3,834	1: 3,834
Quarry & Coton Hill	1	3,304	3,362	1: 3,362
Radbrook	1	3,511	4,033	1: 4,033
Sundorne	1	3,523	3,555	1: 3,555
Sutton & Reabrook	1	3,199	3,484	1: 3,484
Underdale	1	3,414	3,449	1: 3,449

Atcham

Parish	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors (October 2023)	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
Atcham Parish	5	198	208	1:42

Berrington

Parish	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors (October 2023)	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
Berrington Parish	9	970	985	1:109

Bicton

Parish	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors (October 2023)	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
Bicton Parish	9	859	873	1:97

Great Hanwood

Parish	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors (October 2023)	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
Great Hanwood Parish	9	959	965	1:107

Uffington

Parish	Number of Councillors	Number of Electors (October 2023)	No of Electors (April 2028)	Ratio of Electors per Councillor
Uffington Parish	5	195	200	1:40

3.4 The draft recommendation will move some electors from the division of Severn Valley into Oteley and Reabrook. The table above shows that the overall number of electors for Oteley and Reabrook will remain within 10% of the average. Severn Valley will reduce by 97 electors to XX and also remain within 10%.

4.0 PARISH COUNCIL SIZE:

4.1 The law requires that when considering whether to establish a pattern of wards for the purposes for elections, the Council must first consider whether it is desirable for any part of the parish to be separately represented on the Parish/Town Council. Secondly,

it is necessary to consider whether the number or distribution of electors within the parish/town would make a single election of councillors impracticable.

4.2 There is little guidance on the appropriate number of councillors required to represent a parish, other than there not being any less than five councillors. Where there is no maximum number and no rules on the allocation of councillors, in recent years the Council has used the National Association of Local Councils' formula as a guide

4.3 The Aston Business School has also published research on the appropriate levels of representation.

4.4 **Shrewsbury**

In urban settlements such as Shrewsbury, there is a very strong case for dividing the parish into electoral wards, as community identity and community interests tend to focus on a locality or neighbourhood. This can be an existing housing estate, a shopping centre or some community facility. Where there is evidence that different parts of a town have had their own sense of identity historically this supports the establishment or retention of electoral wards. There is no proposal to amend the boundaries of the internal wards or numbers of Councillors for the Parish of Shrewsbury.

4.5 **Bicton**

It is proposed that the Parish of Bicton should be unwarded and represented by 9 Councillors, as at present.

4.6 **Great Hanwood**

It is proposed that the Parish of Great Hanwood should be unwarded and represented by 9 Councillors, as at present.

4.7 **Atcham**

It is proposed that the Parish of Atcham should be unwarded and represented by 5 Councillors, a reduction from 7 Councillors.

4.8 **Uffington**

It is proposed that the Parish of Uffington should be unwarded and represented by 5 Councillors, as at present.

4.9 **Berrington**

It is proposed that the Parish of Berrington should be unwarded and represented by 9 Councillors, as at present.

5.0 **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?**

5.1 An initial timetable for this review was outlined in the Terms of Reference document published in December 2023 but has been extended to allow for a longer period of consultation as follows:-

Stage	What happens?	Timescales
Commencement	Terms of Reference are published	14 December 2023
Stage one	Initial Submissions are invited	15 December 2023 to 26 January 2024
Stage two	Consideration of submissions received – Draft Recommendations are prepared	27 January 2024 to 20 March 2024
Stage three	Draft Recommendations are published – consultations on them	21 March 2024 to 10 May 2024
Stage four	Considerations of submissions received – final recommendations are prepared	11 May 2024 to 31 May 2024
	Final recommendations are published – concluding review	End June 2024

	Council resolves to make a Reorganisation Order	July 2024

5.2 These draft proposals set out Shropshire Councils initial recommendations for the future of Community Governance for Shrewsbury and the surrounding parishes. The Council will now allow a further period, in accordance with the above timetable for public consultation.

5.3 Final Proposals will be made in response to the outcome of these consultations and they may wholly change the Draft Proposals to encompass the broadly held views of the residents of the affected areas, insofar as they are compatible with the legal tests and principles referred to throughout this document.

5.4 There will then be a short period after the final proposals are published before the Shropshire Council approves the recommendations and then seeks the consent of the LGBCE to make the formal Order. This period will allow further time for any final submissions and arguments to be made covering matters which did not arise during earlier stages of the review.

5.5 A period for comments on the draft proposals has now opened and this lasts until 10 May 2024.

6.0 HOW TO CONTACT US

6.1 Comments should be submitted to the Democratic Services Section of Shropshire Council by e-mail at communitygovernance@shropshire.gov.uk. Alternatively, you can contact us at the following address:

Democratic and Electoral Services
 Shropshire Council
 The Shirehall
 Abbey Foregate

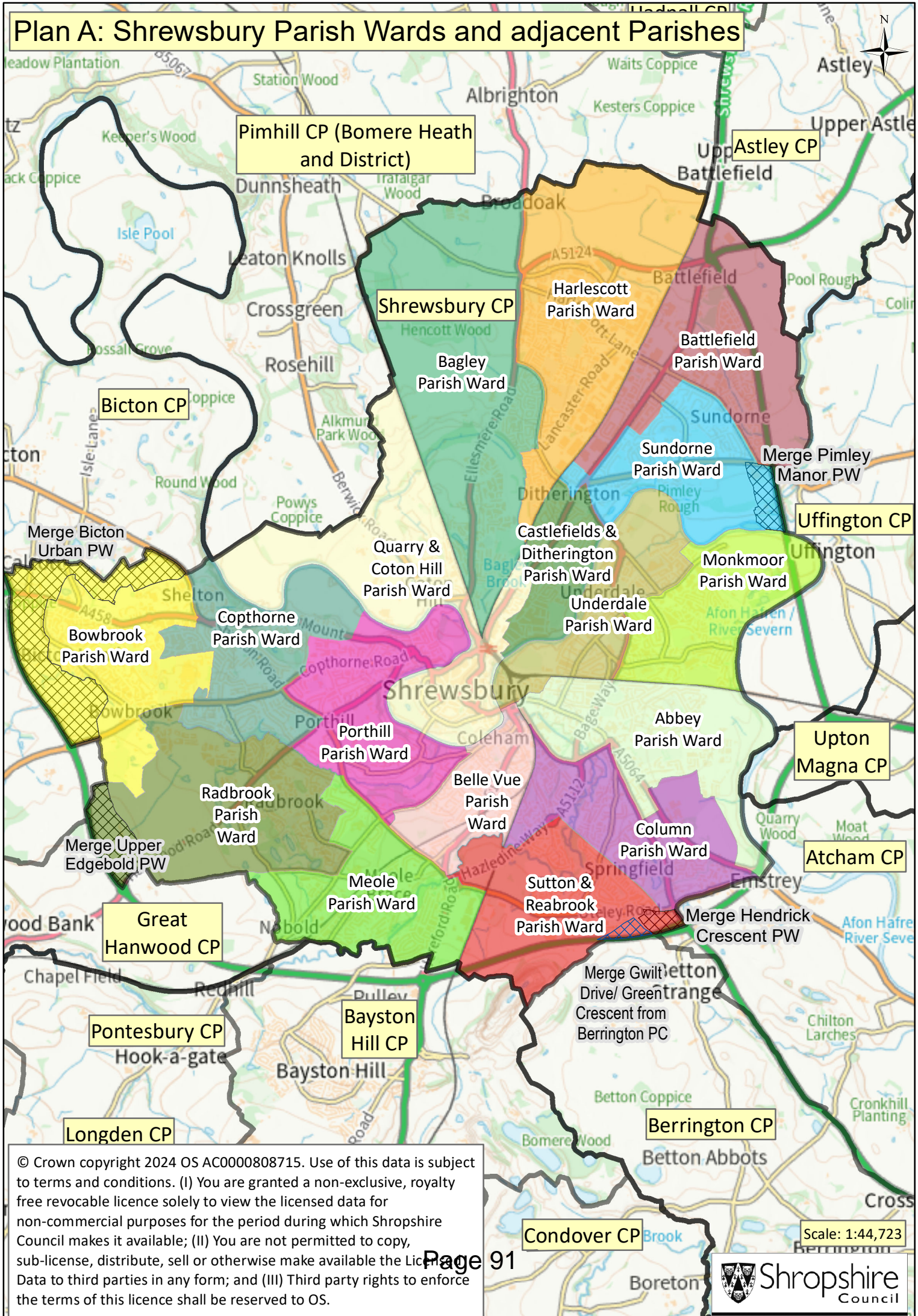
Shrewsbury

SY2 6ND

Should you require any further information or need clarification on the review process, please use the above contact details.

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Plan A: Shrewsbury Parish Wards and adjacent Parishes



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Committee and Date

Item

Public



Adoption of Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Development Plan

Responsible Officer:	Mark Barrow, Executive Director Place		
email:	Mark.barrow@shropshire.gov.uk	Tel:	01743 258 916
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	Cllr Chris Schofield – Planning and Regulatory Services		

1. Synopsis

1.1 This report provides the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Plan referendum results bringing the Plan into force by ‘making’ (adopting) it as part of the statutory development plan under the provision of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

2. Executive Summary

2.1. The Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Development Plan has been produced by the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, with Cleobury Mortimer Town Council as the ‘Qualifying Body’. Work on the Neighbourhood Plan began in 2017 and has been produced in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) (referred to in this report as ‘the Regulations’). The final draft Plan was submitted to an Independent Examiner in June 2023. Following the Examination, the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Development plan was brought to local referendum on 07th December 2023. The result was, of those who voted, 84.21% were in favour of Shropshire Council using the Neighbourhood Plan for Cleobury Mortimer to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area.

- 2.2. The Shropshire Plan recognises the importance of creating a Healthy Environment with a strategy objective to '*maintain, protect and enhance our outstanding natural and historic environment, promoting positive behaviours and greater biodiversity and environmental sustainability.*' The Cleobury Neighbourhood Development Plan contains policies which strive to encourage development to achieve these objectives alongside those contained within the wider Development Plan for Shropshire.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. That Shropshire Council, as the Local Planning Authority 'makes' i.e. adopts the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Development Plan (as set out in Appendix 1) and brings it into force with immediate effect as part of the Development Plan for Shropshire.

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1. The Localism Act and regulations covering Neighbourhood Development Plans provides the framework for their production and adoption. Whilst the preparation of Neighbourhood Development Plans (referred to in this report as Neighbourhood Plans) are led locally by a qualifying body, usually the relevant town or parish council, Shropshire Council has key involvement at various stages of the process. Most notably this includes: formally agreeing the Neighbourhood Area to be covered by the Plan; administrating public consultation on a submission version of the Plan; appointing an independent assessor to examine the submission version of the Plan; agreeing any changes required to ensure the Plan meets a set of basic conditions; administrating and reporting back of the referendum; and 'making' (adopting) the Plan.
- 4.2. Both Cleobury Mortimer Town Council and Shropshire Council have followed a set of clearly defined national regulations set out in the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 in the preparation and consultation of the Neighbourhood Plan. This regulatory process is covered in more detail in Section 7 of this Report. The risk of a legal challenge to the 'making' of the Neighbourhood Plan has been significantly reduced by both Cleobury Mortimer Town Council and Shropshire Council following these regulations closely.
- 4.3. The Plan was prepared by a steering group which included representatives from the Town Council along with other local volunteers. Shropshire Council acted as a statutory consultee during the preparation phase of the Plan, which allowed input at key stages. It is considered this collaborative process has helped to ensure the final version of the Neighbourhood Plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies of Shropshire's adopted Development Plan and the emerging Draft Local Plan.
- 4.4. The steering group undertook community consultation which culminated in a consultation of a draft version of the Plan during Summer 2021. Due to a need for

a fresh call of sites which resulted in a revision to the draft version a fresh consultation was held in Summer of 2022. The Plan was then submitted to Shropshire Council in January 2023 who undertook the statutory consultation into the submission version of the Plan and appointed an independent assessor to examine the Plan.

- 4.5. The purpose of the independent examination process is to ensure Neighbourhood Development Plans meet the following set of nationally prescribed 'Basic Conditions':

Having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issues by the Secretary of State it is appropriate to make the Neighbourhood Plan;

- The making of the Neighbourhood Plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development;
- The making of the Neighbourhood Plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area);
- The making of the Neighbourhood Plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible, with retained EU obligations;
- Prescribed conditions are met (in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan) and prescribed matters have been completed with in connection with the proposal for the neighbourhood plan.

- 4.6. The Examiner reported back in June 2023 concluding that the Plan could proceed to referendum, subject to a number of modifications to the Plan. The Examiners Report is included as Appendix 2 of this report. The Examiners conclusions are not binding on the authority, however in this case all of the recommendations were incorporated into the Plan and agreed by Cabinet on 18th October 2023.

- 4.7. The referendum into the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Plan took place on 07th December 2023 within the area defined as the Neighbourhood Area (Cleobury Mortimer parish), where the following question was asked *"Do you want Shropshire Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Cleobury Mortimer to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area."* Paragraph 38A(4)(a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 as amended requires that the Council must 'make' (adopt) the Neighbourhood Plan if more than half of those voting have voted in favour of the plan. In this case out of 456 people who voted, 84.21% were in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan being used to help decide planning applications. The turnout was 17.86%. Appendix 3 to this report provides the referendums full 'Declaration of Result of Poll'. All necessary requirements relating to the administration of the referendum were carried out. Given this robust process it is considered there is minimal risk to the Council.

- 4.8. Subject to the Council's decision, the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Plan will become part of the statutory planning framework applied in Shropshire. The Neighbourhood Plan contains a range of locally produced policies which the community have expressly asked to be brought into play to help guide the decision-making process. Statute provides that planning applications should be determined in accordance with the provision of the Neighbourhood Plan policies unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

4.9. The Plan has been prepared positively and in its final format is considered to meet the basic conditions. Following the successful referendum result it is considered there is also clear public support for the Neighbourhood Plan. It is therefore considered that there would be a very significant risk of challenge if the Plan were not to be 'made' by the Council.

4.10. Shropshire Council has assessed that the Plan, including its preparation, does not breach, and would not otherwise be incompatible with, any retained EU obligation or any of the Convention rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998).

4.11. Risk table

<i>Risk</i>	<i>Mitigation</i>
Legal challenge to the process of 'making' (adoption) of the Neighbourhood Plan	This risk is significantly reduced by both Cleobury Mortimer Town Council and Shropshire Council following the regulations set out within Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended)
Legal challenge if the Plan were not 'made' (adopted) by the Council	The referendum result of 84.21% of those who voted were in favour of the use of the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Plan as a decision-making tool for planning applications. This is clear and overwhelming public support for the Neighbourhood Plan and it is recommended that the Council as the Local Planning Authority 'make' (adopt) this Plan.

5. Financial Implications

5.1. The costs of undertaking the Examination and Referendum are met by Government Funding. The robustness of the Neighbourhood Plan Policies will be tested over time by independent Planning Inspectors on appeal. Members are advised that the liability for future appeal costs rests with Shropshire Council as Local Planning Authority and as such the usability of the plan and its impact on local decision making needs to be carefully monitored.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

6.1. The Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Plan includes positively prepared policies seeking to achieve sustainable development and respond to climate change. Specifically, the Plans 'Good Residential Design Principles' through policy CM6 (Housing Design) encourages the provision of energy efficient homes with zero-carbon impact and the use of renewable energy. Whilst no specific climate change adaption policies are put forward, the Plan is in general conformity with the current adopted local plan and the emerging local plan review, which includes a positive policy framework for mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

7. Background

7.1. Shropshire Council supports Neighbourhood Plans being brought forward under the Localism Act and the 2012 Neighbourhood Planning Regulations, indeed the

Council is legally obliged to do so. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) also explicitly supports the principle of Neighbourhood Plans and their status as part of the Development Plan, stating “Neighbourhood plans should support the delivery of strategic policies contained in local plans or spatial development strategies; and should shape and direct development that is outside of these strategic policies”. It is also made clear that Neighbourhood Plans should not promote less development than set out in the strategic policies for the area, or undermine those strategic policies.

7.2. Neighbourhood Plans must follow a defined regulatory process in both their preparation and adoption. The Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Development Plan has completed the following regulatory stages of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012:

- The formal designation of the Neighbourhood Area (Regulation 6), May 2018.
- Consultation on a draft version of the Plan (Regulation 14), carried out by Cleobury Mortimer Town Council between 12th July 2021 – 27th August 2021.
- Second Consultation on draft version of Plan (Regulation 14), due to amendments to site allocations locations, carried out by Cleobury Mortimer Town Council between 27th May 2022 – 11th July 2022.
- Submission of the draft Neighbourhood Plan by Cleobury Mortimer Town Council to the Local Planning Authority (Regulation 15), November 2022.
- Consultation on final draft version of the Neighbourhood Plan (Regulation 16), carried out by Shropshire Council between 16th January 2023 – 10th March 2023
- Examination on the Final Draft Version of the Neighbourhood Plan (Regulation 17), May 2023 – August 2023.
- Publication of the Examiner’s Report (August 2023) and decision to progress to referendum (Regulation 18), (October 2023)

Following the successful referendum in December 2023, the Council is now being asked to ‘make’ (adopt) the Neighbourhood Plan to form part of the Development Plan for the area.

- 7.3. In accordance with the Regulations, once adopted, planning applications in the area covered by the plan must be considered against the Neighbourhood Plan, as well as existing Local Plan policies in the adopted Core Strategy and SAMDev plans as well as other material planning considerations, such as the National Planning Policy Framework.
- 7.4. It is considered the final version of the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Development Plan, which covers the whole parish of Cleobury Mortimer, provides an effective and positive planning framework for taking decisions on planning applications.
- 7.5. The Plan provides a range of local objectives and policies to supplement the strategic policies of Shropshire’s Local Plan, which largely reflect the priorities of the area and the outcomes of the plan preparation process, which included local community consultation. Alongside policies relating to the housing design in Cleobury Mortimer, protection of the environment and provision of adequate water infrastructure, the Plan also includes a housing allocation for delivery of 120 homes, a 1.3ha employment allocation through the extension of the existing

Tenbury Road employment area and an extension to Cleobury Mortimers existing cemetery. The final version of the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Plan is attached to this report Appendix 1.

8. Additional Information

- 8.1. Whilst Shropshire Council has helped to support the Neighbourhood Plan through its statutory role as consultee and administrator, the Plans inception and preparation has been led by Cleobury Mortimer Town Council with support of their Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. These bodies are to be commended for their dedication and skill in bringing this Plan through to fruition.
- 8.2. The appendices to this report provide a copy of the final version of the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Plan which went to referendum, the Examiners report and results of the referendum.

9. Conclusions

- 9.1. Following a positive referendum result, this report seeks to 'make' (adopt) the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Development Plan.

List of Background Papers

Cabinet Paper 18th October 2023: Recommendation for Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Development Plan to Proceed to Referendum

Local Member: Cllr Gwilym Butler and Cllr Simon Harris

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Development Plan

Appendix 2 – Examiners Report (June 2023)

Appendix 3 – Declaration of Referendum Results (December 2023)

CLEOBURY MORTIMER NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2020-2038

For Referendum 2023



**Cleobury
Mortimer**
Town Council



FORWARD BY CHAIRPERSON

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

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

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

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

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

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

Peter Blackburn

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



Andrea Pellegram Ltd.

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Introduction

Introduction and Background

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

Purpose

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

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

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

¹ National Planning Policy Framework 2021, para. 29.

² Ibid., footnote 18.

³ Ibid., para. 30.

⁴ Ibid., para. 34.

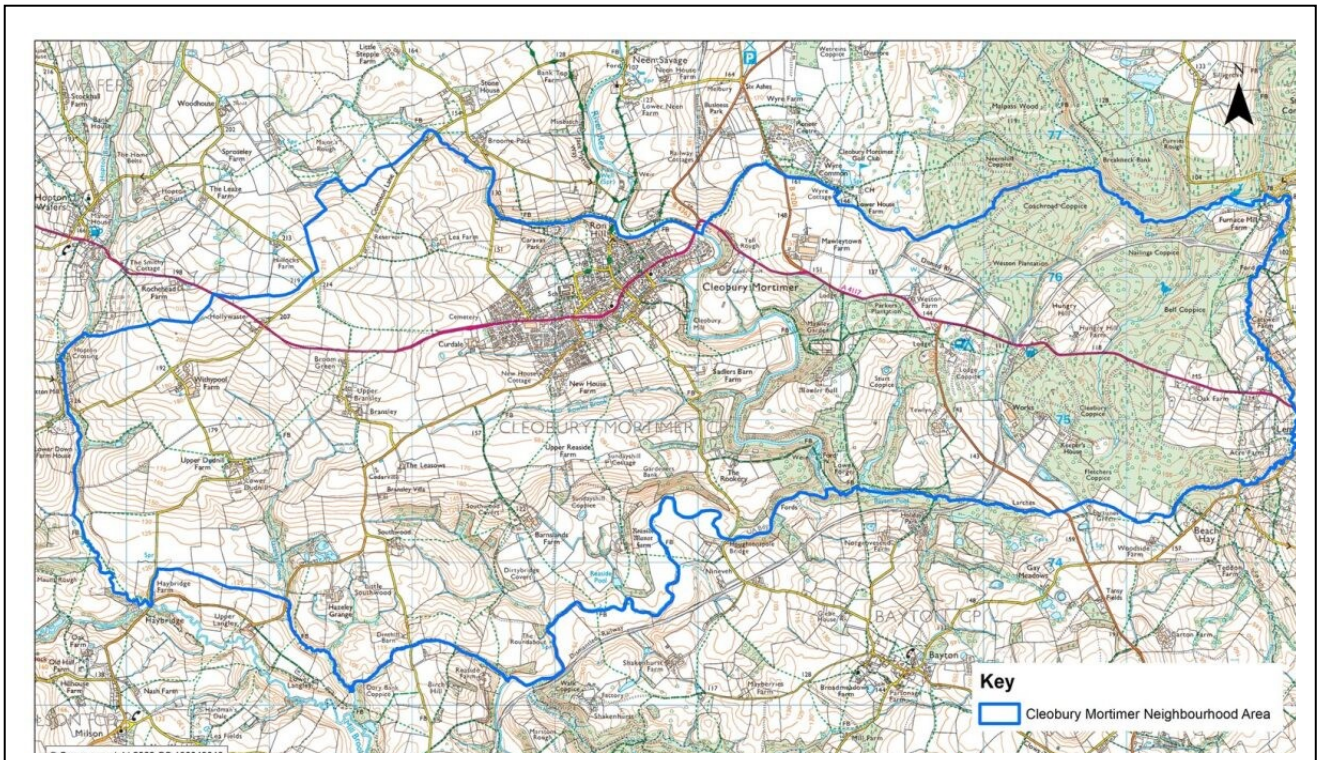
Submitting Body

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

Neighbourhood Area

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

Figure 1: Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Area



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

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

Community Infrastructure Levy

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

Sustainable Development

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

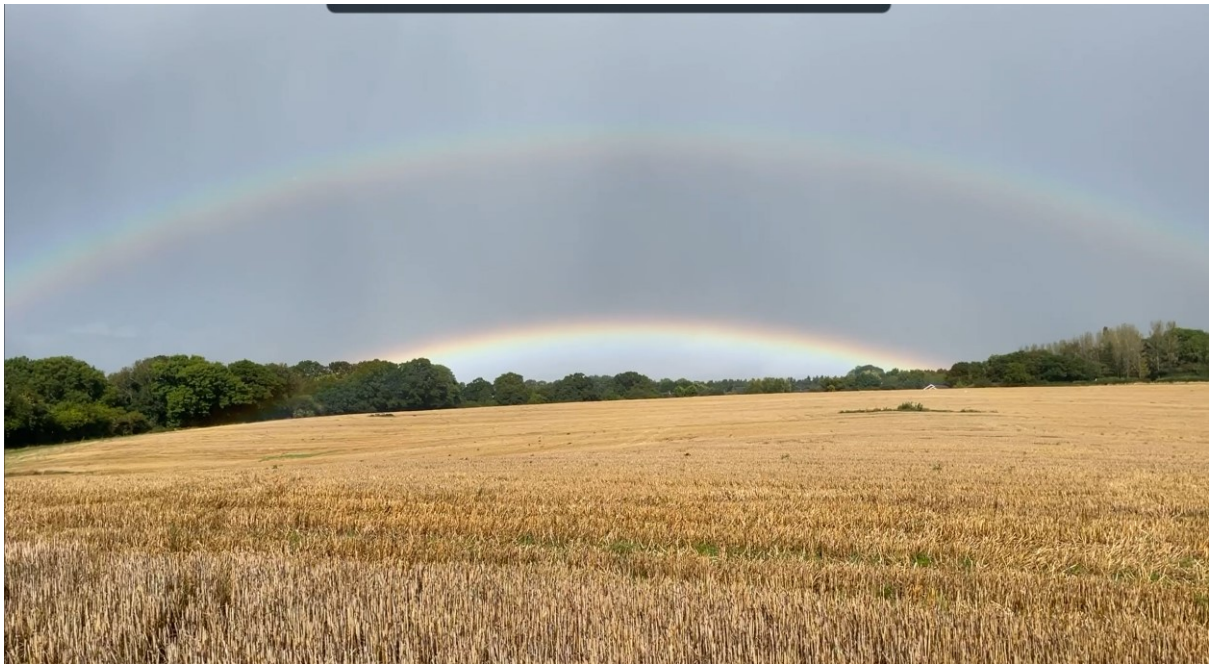
The policies in the CMNDP together meet the objectives of sustainable development which is summarised in Table 1.

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

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

The Context

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



⁶ Shropshire Core Strategy, 4.52.

Vision for the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Plan

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

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

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

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

Methodology

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

16. Our original aim was to:

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

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

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

Community Engagement

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

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

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

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

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

Evidence Base Overview

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

Strategic Environmental Assessment

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

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

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

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

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

NDP Objectives

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



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

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

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



About Cleobury Mortimer

Clebury Mortimer - Our Town

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

The Town

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

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

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

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



Figure 2: Cleobury Mortimer Conservation Area

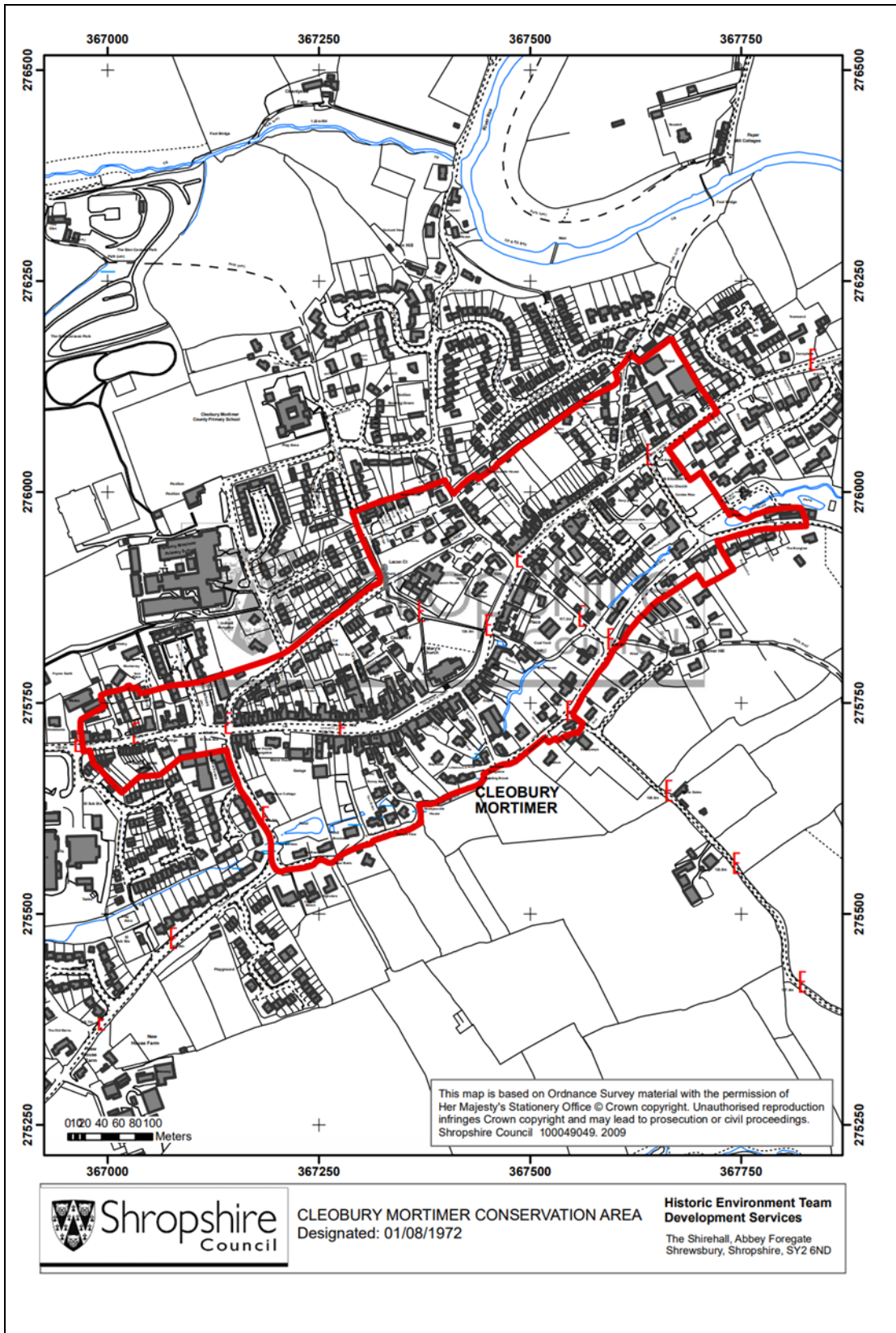


Figure 3: Listed Buildings



Source: Historic England crown Copyright: Ordnance Survey 100024900

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

⁷ Perhaps originally “put-in-brook”.

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

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

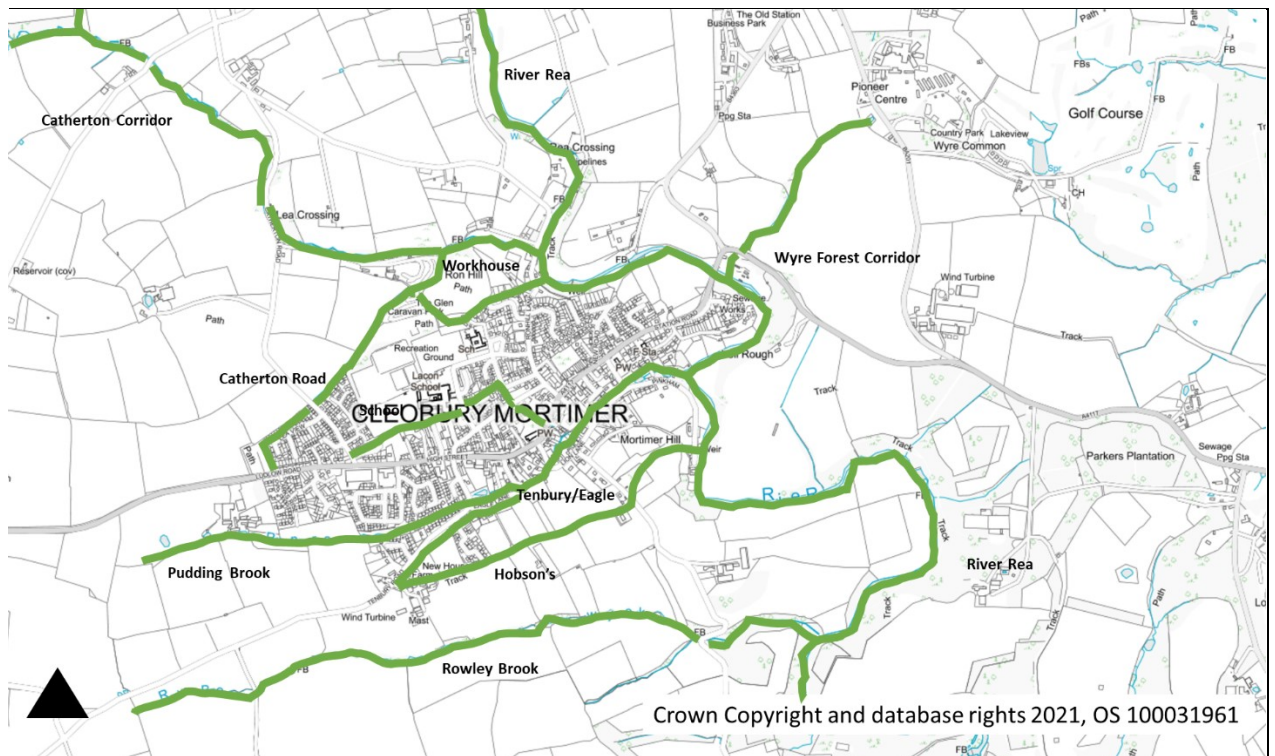


Existing wildlife corridors

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

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

Figure 4: Existing wildlife corridors



Trees

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

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

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

Community and Recreational Facilities

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

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

⁹ Shropshire Council 2015.

Figure 5: Diagram of existing community groups in Cleobury Mortimer



Source: Big Cleobury Survey

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Provision of a Community Hub and Recreation Space

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

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

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

Health and Health Care

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Mobile and Broadband Services

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

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

Town Services

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

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

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



Education

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

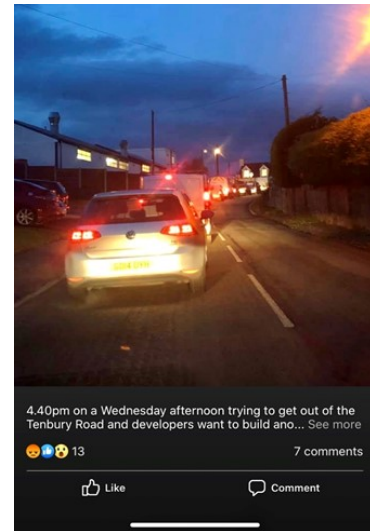
reflects the lack of provision elsewhere in South Shropshire and pockets of poverty in the town.

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

Traffic

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

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



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

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

Figure 7: Tenbury Road junction illustrating lack of pedestrian footways

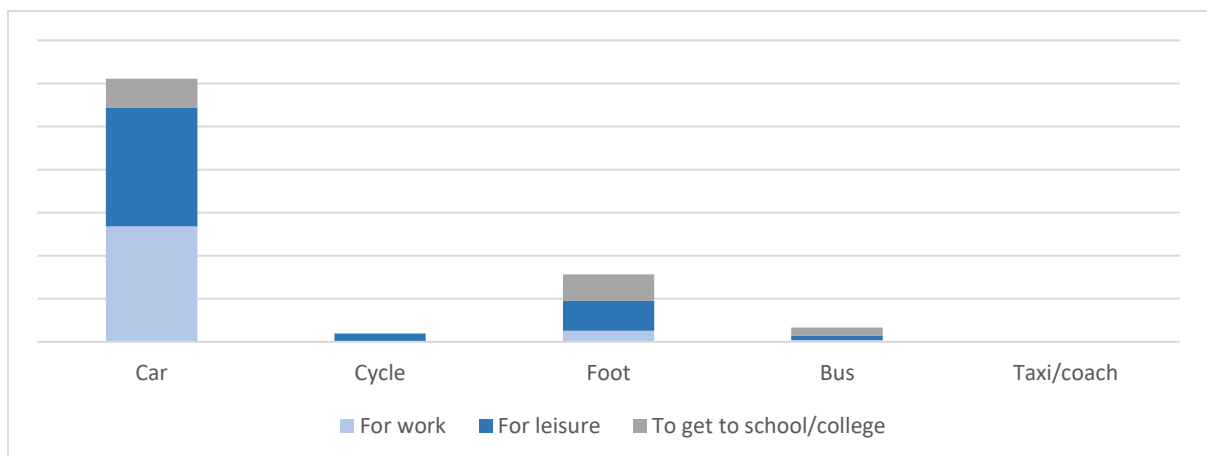


Local Travel

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

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

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



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

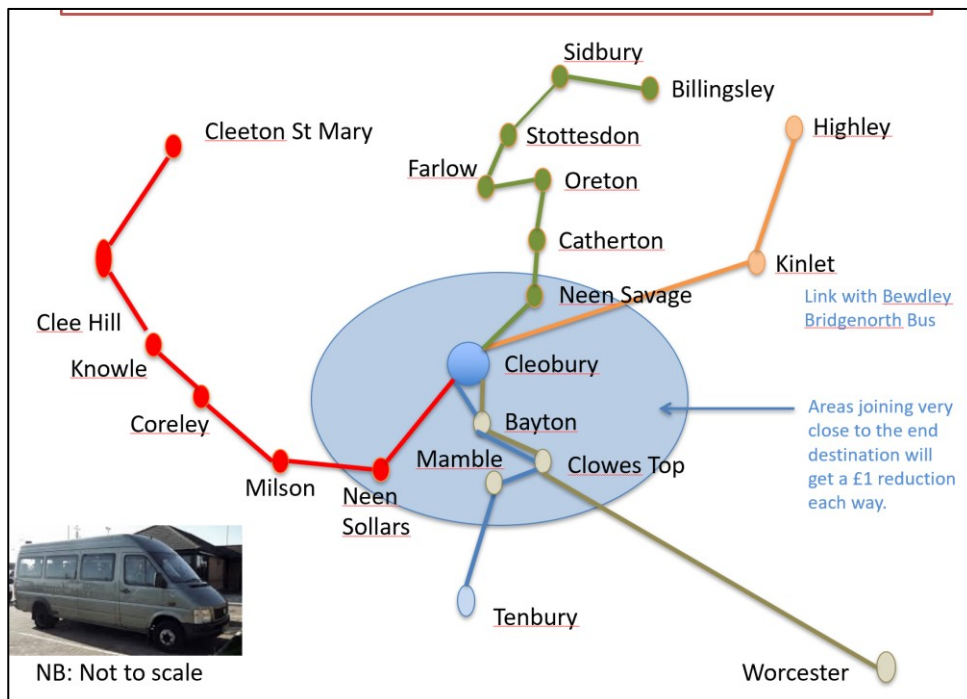
92. The aims and objectives of the community bus service would have been:

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

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

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

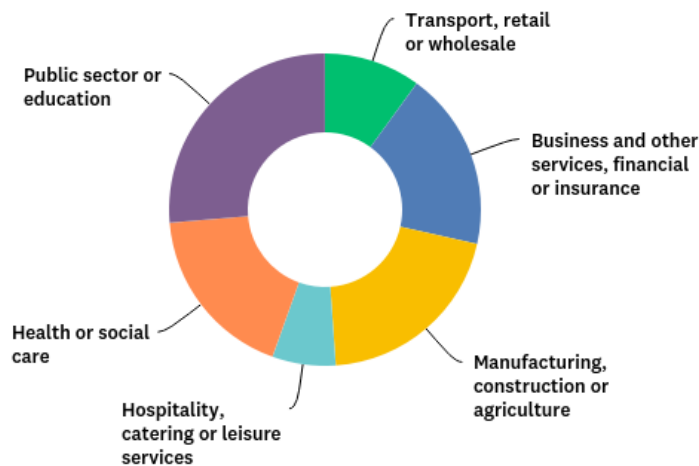
Figure 9: Potential route map for community bus service



Employment

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

Figure 10: Distribution of economic sectors in Shropshire, 2018



Source: Shropshire Council Business Strategy 2018.)

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

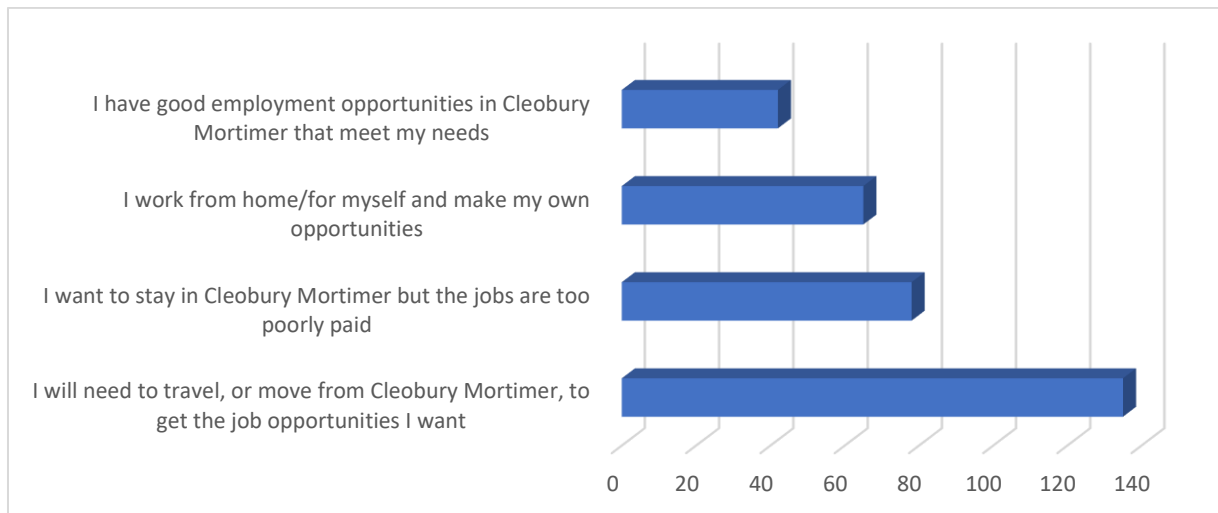
100. Slightly more people work outside Cleobury Mortimer (54%) than inside. This is a consequence of an increase in new housing and limited employment opportunities of a higher value. The Town Council and many of the BCS respondents want to make sure that we work for a more vibrant and integrated community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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Policies

Development Plan policies

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

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

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

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

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

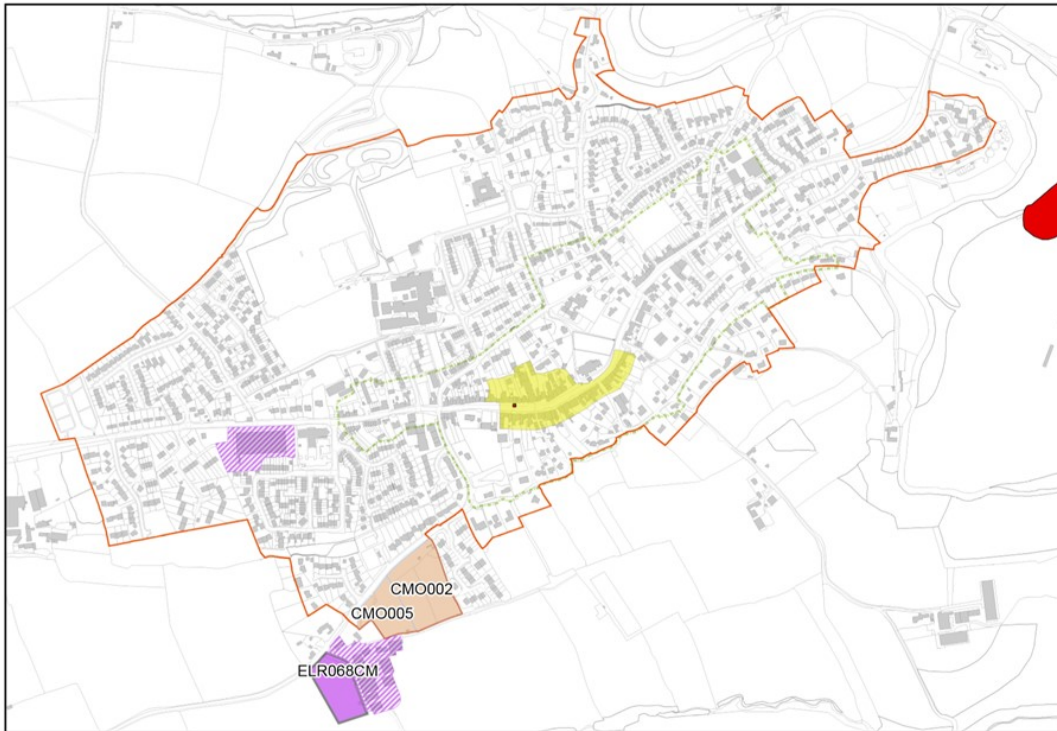
¹¹ Core Strategy, 4.30.

¹³ SAMDev page 17.

¹² SAMDev page 15.

Figure 12: SAMDev designations and allocations in Cleobury Mortimer

S6 Inset 1 Cleobury Mortimer



Shropshire Council
Adopted Policies Map 2015



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

Key

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

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Source: SAMDev policies map for Cleobury Mortimer

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

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

Development boundary

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

Cleobury Mortimer Development Strategy

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

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

Housing Land Allocations

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

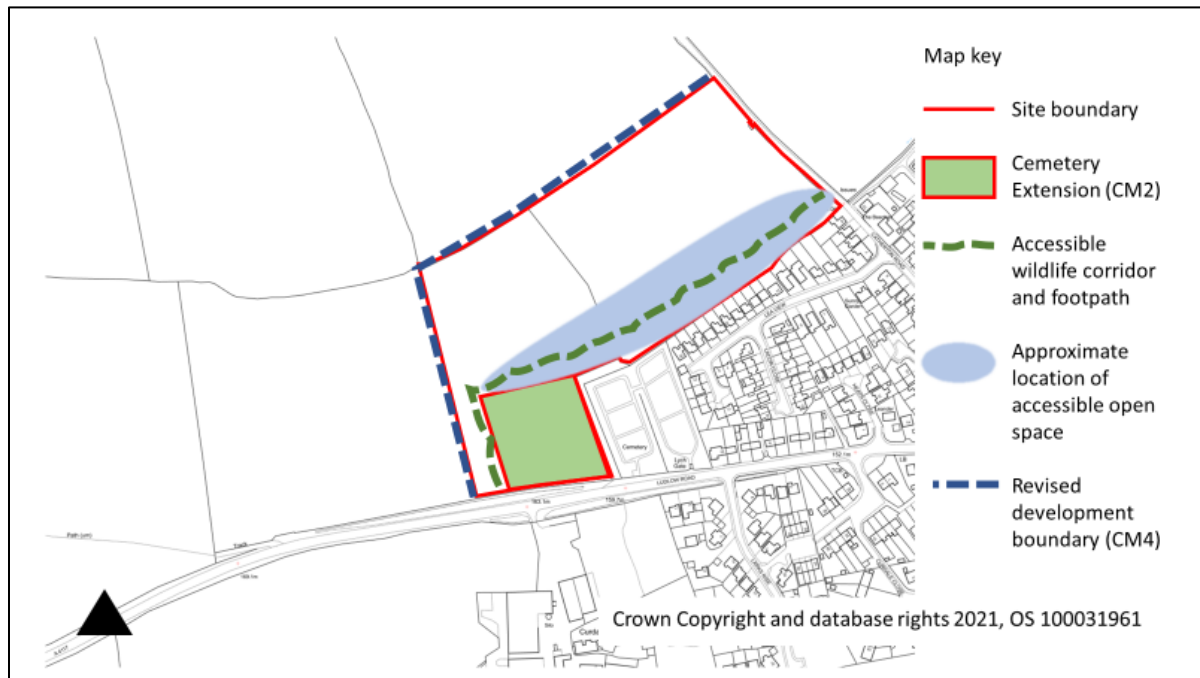
130.The CMNDP undertook extensive consultations since 2018. The full background to this is set out in the accompanying document "Residential Site Allocations".

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

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

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

Figure 13: Land allocation at Ludlow Road



CM1: Ludlow Road residential allocation

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

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

Cleobury Mortimer Cemetery Extension

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

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

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

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

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

CM2: Cleobury Mortimer cemetery extension

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

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

¹⁶

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

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

Employment Land

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

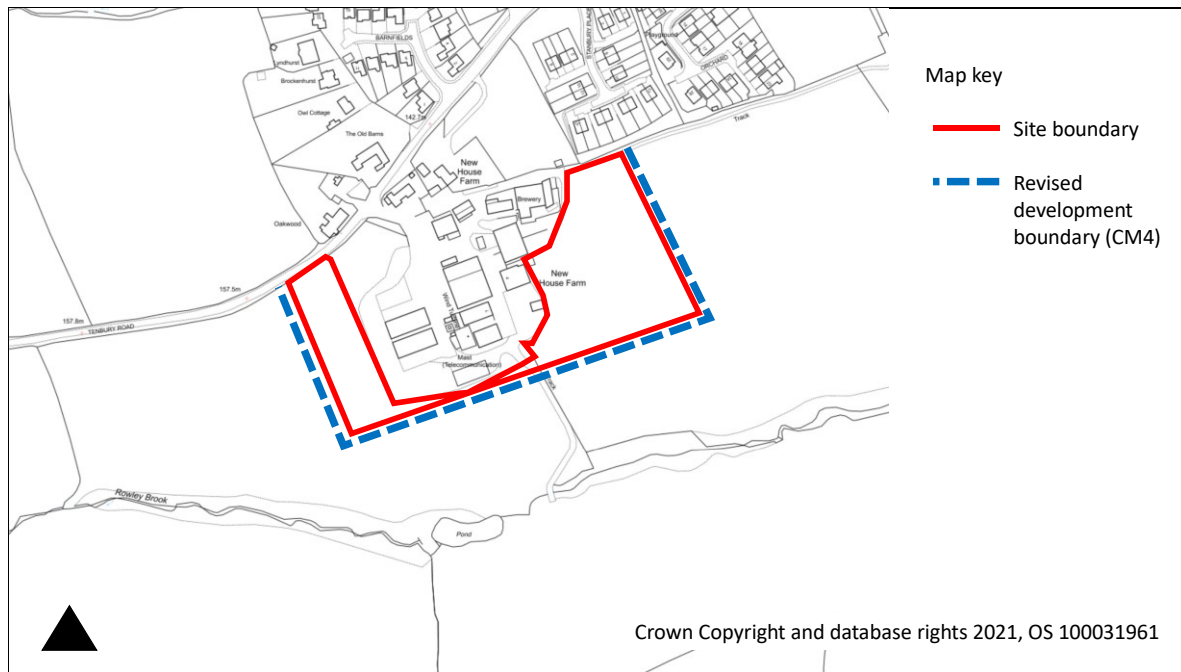
137. There was a very strong consensus in the community that the best location for additional employment land would be the extension of the existing employment site with the provision of necessary improvements to the highways infrastructure including footways along Tenbury Road and a requirement that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

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

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

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

Figure 14: Extension of Tenbury Road employment area



CM3: Extension of Tenbury Road employment area

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

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

Development Boundary

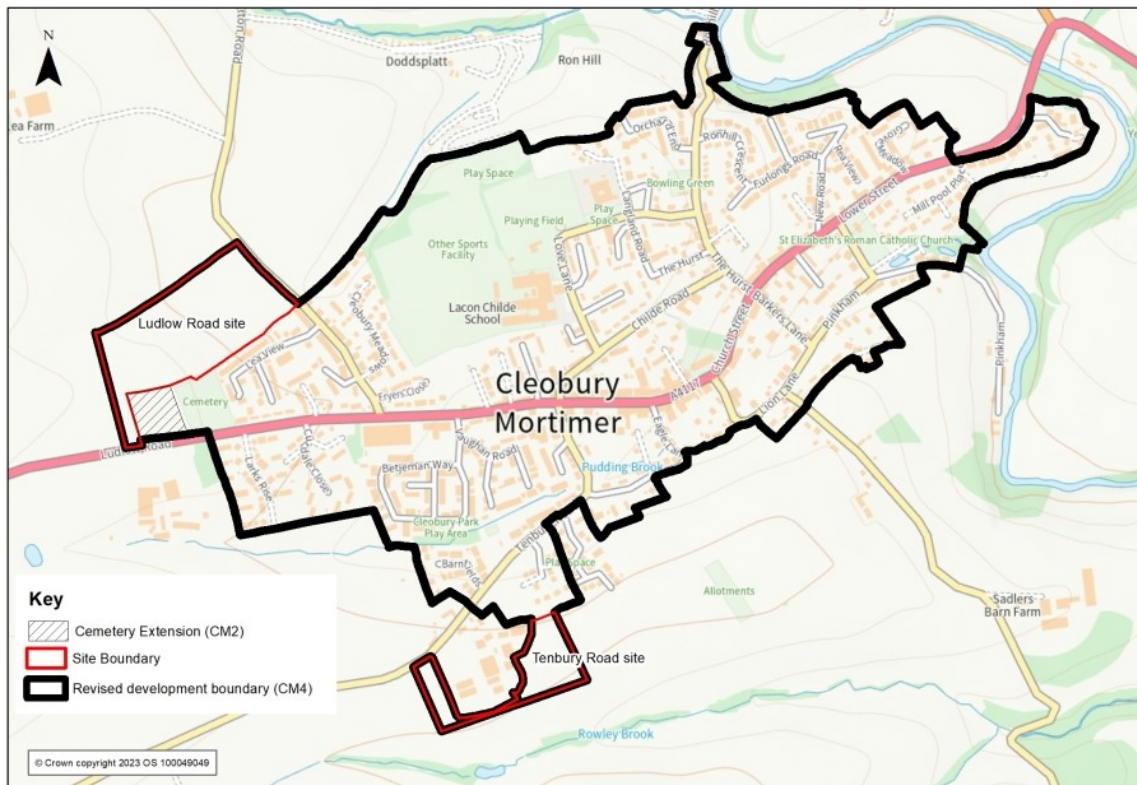
138. Land at Tenbury Road (both housing and employment allocations) and Ludlow Road is currently outside the development boundary. The Development Boundary must therefore be modified to regularise future development decisions.

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

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

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

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



Housing Mix

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CM5: Housing mix

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

Design of housing

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

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

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

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

Cleobury Mortimer Good Residential Design Principles

Good residential design will:

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

CM6: Housing design

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

Environment

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

Cleobury Mortimer Environmental Principles

Protection of the environment and biodiversity net gain will include:

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

CM7: Environment and Biodiversity

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

Water infrastructure

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

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

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

CM8: Water infrastructure

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

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

CLEOBURY MORTIMER NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Report to Shropshire Council of the Independent Examination

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1. Executive Summary

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. Compliance with matters other than the Basic Conditions

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

Qualifying body

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

Neighbourhood Area

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

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

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

Land use issues

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

Plan period

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

Excluded development

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

4. Consultation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5. General comments on the Plan's presentation

Community Vision and Objectives

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

Other issues

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

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

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

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

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

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

6. Compliance with the Basic Conditions

National planning policy

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

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

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

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

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

Sustainable development

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

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

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

Development plan

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

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

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

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

Strategic Environmental Assessment

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

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

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

Habitats Regulations Assessment

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

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

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

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

Other European obligations

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

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

7. Detailed comments on the Plan policies

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

76. Policy CM1 does not meet the Basic Conditions

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

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

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

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

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

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

81. Policy CM2 does not meet the Basic Conditions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

91. Policy CM3 does not meet the Basic Conditions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

97. Policy CM4 does not meet the Basic Conditions

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

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

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

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

101. Policy CM5 does not meet the Basic Conditions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

110. Policy CM6 does not meet the Basic Conditions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

116. Policy CM7 does not meet the Basic Conditions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

121. Policy CM8 meets the Basic Conditions.

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

8. Recommendation and Referendum Area

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

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DECLARATION OF RESULT OF POLL

Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Planning Referendum

I, Paula Watson, being the Deputy Counting Officer at the above referendum held on Thursday 7 December 2023, do hereby give notice that the results of the votes cast is as follows:

Question		
Do you want Shropshire Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Cleobury Mortimer to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area.		
	Votes Recorded	Percentage
Number cast in favour of a Yes	384	84.21%
Number cast in favour of a No	71	15.57%

The number of ballot papers rejected was as follows:	Number of ballot papers
A want of an official mark	0
B voting for more answers than required	0
C writing or mark by which voter could be identified	1
D being unmarked or wholly void for uncertainty	0
Total	1

Electorate: 2553

Ballot Papers Issued: 456

Turnout: 17.86%

I do hereby declare that more than half of those voting have voted in favour of using the Neighbourhood Plan for Cleobury Mortimer to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area.

Dated Thursday 7 December 2023

Paula Watson
Deputy Counting Officer

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Council
21 March 2024

Item

Public



Shrewsbury Town Centre Regeneration: Smithfield Riverside Phase One Development Activities

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

1. Synopsis

To seek approval to the proposed development activities for the Smithfield Riverside Phase One regeneration programme, including approval to progress capital projects, to meet the obligations of the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) Round 2 grant for Shrewsbury, awarded January 2023.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The Shrewsbury Town Centre Redevelopment (STCR) Programme continues to be an ambitious regeneration initiative, supporting many of the strategic objectives of the Shropshire Plan. Notably, it supports a Healthy Economy, promoting the County town ‘as a safe, strong and vibrant destination to visit and invest’; Healthy Environment and Organisation through the potential for low carbon development, mitigating climate change, increasing flood resilience, whilst reducing the Council’s operational carbon footprint and providing greenspace in our public realm. These objectives are reinforced by the Economic Growth Strategy, Shrewsbury Place Plan and Big Town Plan Vision and informed by the emerging Movement and Public Realm Strategy.
- 2.2. The initial phase of the STCR programme continues to proceed at pace and the Cabinet report of 18 October 2023, titled *Shrewsbury Town Centre Regeneration: Smithfield Riverside Phase One*, secured approval to ‘consult on the emerging masterplan and submit an initial planning application to demolish the former Riverside shopping centre

and construct parkland and meanwhile greenspace, amended to align to the LUF2 Grant award'.

- 2.3. The outcomes of this consultation, including those informed by focussed engagement with key stakeholders such as the Environment Agency and Historic England, have supported the submission of the planning application referenced above. This application was submitted on 20 December 2023, and at Northern Planning committee on 5 March 2024 there was a resolution to grant planning permission, subject to conditions.
- 2.4. The Cabinet report of 18 March 2023 included delegated responsibility to the Executive Director of Place, in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and the Portfolio Holders for Climate Change, Environment and Transport, Economic Growth and Regeneration and Housing and Assets, to:
 - 2.4.1. finalise the masterplan for the wider Smithfield Riverside redevelopment area following the outcomes of the stakeholder engagement and public consultation programme, and for inclusion in a further report for final approval by Council.
 - 2.4.2. finalise planning strategy for future phases of development for the Shrewsbury Town Centre Redevelopment Programme: Smithfield Riverside Phase One, following the outcomes of the stakeholder engagement and public consultation programme, and for inclusion in a further report for final approval by Council.
- 2.5. The Cabinet report of the 18 October 2023 recommended to Council to progress the works associated with the LUF2 grant award for *Smithfield Riverside* (Project 1) as a capital project; this report fulfils that recommendation.
- 2.6. This report also seeks approval to progress the works associated with the LUF2 grant award for Transforming Movement and Public Spaces in Shrewsbury (Project 2) as a capital project.
- 2.7. The masterplanning review and the proposed planning strategy referred to above, have also identified the need to progress potential opportunities and assess the requirements and demands for a new cinema in the Smithfield Riverside area (complementary to existing provision in/around the town) and to undertake soft market testing with hotel operators/ developers. This report seeks approval to progress the associated negotiations and engagement activities, necessary to assess these needs. It is proposed these will be led by Development Manager, Rivington Hark, already commissioned to support the Smithfield Riverside project.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. With reference to the recommendations of the Cabinet report of 18 October 2023 titled Shrewsbury Town Centre Regeneration: Smithfield Riverside Phase One and subsequently informed by the outcomes of the stakeholder engagement and public consultation programme October - November 2023 (as summarised appendix A):
 - 3.1.1. Approve the masterplan for the wider Smithfield Riverside redevelopment area (appendix B), as explained in more detail at paragraph 2.4.1 above.
 - 3.1.2. Approve the planning strategy for future phases of development for the Shrewsbury Town Centre Redevelopment Programme: Smithfield Riverside Phase One (appendix C), as explained in more detail at paragraph 2.4.2 above.
 - 3.1.3. Progress the demolition of the former Riverside shopping centre and enabling works and the construction of the linear park to Roushill and associated temporary greenspace, as a capital project to completion, within the Levelling Up Fund grant award titled Smithfield Riverside Redevelopment Programme (Project 1) of £14.85m, (appendix D) as explained in more detail at paragraph 2.5 above.

- 3.1.4. Approve the reprofiling of currently approved funding streams, as summarised in section 5 of this report.

With reference to the recommendations of the Cabinet report of 19 April 2023 titled *Levelling Up Fund Award for Shrewsbury*, subsequently informed by the outcomes of the public consultation exercise (8 February – 5 March 2024, appendix E):

- 3.1.5. Progress the construction of the highway improvements to the gyratory adjacent to Shrewsbury rail station, and the active travel improvements, as a capital project, all within the Levelling Up Fund grant award titled *Transforming Movement and Public Spaces in Shrewsbury* (Project 2) of £3.852m, as explained in more detail at paragraph 7.12 below.
- 3.2. Delegate responsibility to the Executive Director of Place, in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and the Portfolio Holders for Climate Change, Environment and Transport, Economic Growth and Regeneration and Housing and Assets, to:
- 3.2.1. progress the capital projects (items 3.1.3 and 3.2.1 above), to include, but not limited to, completion of contract documentation, receipt/ acceptance of tenders and contract management to completion on-site.
- 3.2.2. enter negotiations with cinema operators, hospitality, food and beverage providers and potential commercial tenants, relevant to opportunities within the development sites of the former Pride Hill and Riverside shopping centres. Such negotiations to include receipt of offers, agree Heads of Terms and prepare lease arrangements, undertaking all due diligence as required. All as potential opportunities identified in the masterplanning process (item 3.1.1 above). The outcomes of the negotiations will be included in a further report for approval by Cabinet and Council.

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1. The Opportunity Risk Management Strategy sets out the methodology for identifying opportunities/benefits and assessing these against the associated risks. As part of the risk assessment and opportunities appraisal, a further detailed review has been undertaken with key officers to identify the key opportunities/benefits, the associated risks and possible mitigation, each appraised against all potential options.
- 4.2. Strategic opportunities and benefits have been identified and continue to be appraised and updated in the context of the masterplan and planning strategy (recommended for approval in this report), for the Phase 1 of the Redevelopment Programme. The significant opportunity to produce an exemplar regeneration scheme, which is both sympathetic and of an appropriate mix and density of uses to drive transformation in the town centre, remains a key driver, aspiration and rationale for the Smithfield Riverside redevelopment. As part of the opportunity/risk analysis key Council/stakeholder representatives have been identified to enable the opportunities to be realised, together with the management of associated risks.
- 4.3. The detailed risk register (aligned to RIBA¹ workstages) continues to be updated monthly, both by Shropshire Council officers (client-side) and by the external consultancy delivery team, coordinated by the appointed development managers, Rivington Hark. The key risks with mitigations associated with activities relating to this report are as the Cabinet report of the 18 October 2023, updated as follows:

¹ Royal Institute of British Architects Plan of Work

<i>Risk</i>	<i>Mitigation</i>
The proposed masterplan fails to remain relevant and accommodate changes in market conditions/ appetite.	The masterplanning process continues to test scenarios for development, necessary to ensure it remains flexible to respond to changes in the market conditions and therefore the mix, sequencing and phasing of development. This also ensures early phases of development are appropriate and resilient to potential changes, and do not prejudice later phases. Similarly, the planning strategy reflects/ manages this flexibility using outline planning applications ahead of more detailed applications and completion of due diligence. Furthermore, the masterplanning process will be informed by the Economic Impact Assessment (EIA) and other appraisals.
The planning strategy is delayed and/or fails to secure planning permissions to proposed sequence/ timescales	Dedicated and highly experienced external advisors continue engagement with the Local Planning Authority (LPA) via Planning Performance Agreement (PPA), Local Highway Authority (LHA), as well as directly with statutory/non-statutory consultees (i.e., Environment Agency, Historic England). Continue extensive stakeholder programme ahead of planning applications compiled/ submitted. Smithfield Riverside also subject to Design Review Panel assessment at key milestones.
Failure to secure approval to proceed with LUF funded capital projects and risk to grant award; requirement to spend by March 2025.	Negotiations underway with DLUHC Case Officer regarding timescales and commitment. Project Adjustment Request (PAR) to be submitted to request extension of time to deliver elements beyond March 2025 deadline. This report seeks approval to proceed with LUF2 initiatives as Capital Projects to achieve proposed delivery milestones.
Negotiations with cinema operators is delayed/ fails to secure market interest, undermining future business cases for the development.	The Council's appointed Development Manager has received indication of demand from the market, and for facilities complementary to those already available in Shrewsbury. Should the market appraisal be delayed or shown not to secure an appropriate operator/tenant, the masterplan plan allows for alternative approaches/options within the wider development programme.
Soft market testing fails to identify interest in delivering hotels/ hospitality within the development area.	Low risk due to current interest in place. Data suggests an under-provision of hotels (quantity and mix) in the locality.
Cost of capital projects exceed approved budget estimates/grants	Dedicated, independent cost consultants and Development Managers are appointed on all projects to ensure benchmarking/value for money assurance. Cost and revenues are under constant review.
Public opposition to the scheme	Dedicated communications and engagement agency appointed to ensure the proposed development programme is clearly presented to all stakeholders and the public, and available via media channels, as well as in person displays/meetings. The associated activities will take place prior to planning applications being determined.

- 4.4. An initial Stage One Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA) has been carried out, drawing upon related ESHIAs including the screening carried out for the draft Shrewsbury Movement and Public Space Strategy. Positive impacts would be intended for a variety of intersecting Protected Characteristic groupings as defined by the Equality Act 2010 (Age, Disability, Pregnancy and Maternity, Sex) as the development provides a unique opportunity to repair/ stitch together and transform this part of the town centre and positively change perceptions of the area.
- 4.5. Given the recognised intersectionality across the nine Protected Characteristic groupings as set out in the Equality Act 2010 above, there will be a predicted positive impact for individuals and households across groupings, particularly in the groupings of Age and Disability. For example, young people who have been engaged with the consultation activity to date have contributed to the design of Roushill Park and the overall masterplan to ensure it incorporates interventions that can positively impact their lives.
- 4.6. The involvement of Accessibility Groups has ensured that consideration has been given to residents and visitors to the town who may have a range of disabilities, whether physical, sensory or in terms of neurodiverse conditions. Specifically, the entry point from Frankwell Bridge into the site will be fully compliant with legislation to address disability discrimination, empowering individuals to feel confident walking through and utilising this area creating a much more pleasant environment for all to enjoy. It is also important that any wayfinding implemented across the town is multi-sensory, enabling neurodiverse individuals to be able to experience the town in a safe and accessible manner. Similarly, older people who may be frailer due to associated physical disability have been considered through involvement with Age UK and may also feel more confident venturing out, therefore mitigating against loneliness as well as improved physical wellbeing.
- 4.7. There will be ongoing efforts, in this and future related projects, to engage with people in the Protected Characteristic groupings, particularly where low levels of responses to public consultation have been received to date and where responses are limited to demographics. Overall, there will therefore be positive equality impacts anticipated across local communities and groupings within, as the Masterplan sets out to support creation of a vibrant, safe and inclusive town centre. Key elements of the design of Smithfield Riverside have evolved to maximise health and wellbeing considerations, and as such will have a positive impact.
- 4.8. Additionally, the social value outputs of the phase 1 development activities will be tracked and monitored. For instance, there will be on-going engagement with Shrewsbury Colleges Group (SCG) to potentially offer young people work placements and enable age-specific engagement with this hard-to-reach group. Considerable efforts have been put into establishing and developing the relationship between Smithfield Riverside and SCG to ensure positive impacts are made for this Protected Characteristic grouping, and relationships with Age UK and Shropshire Accessibility Groups will remain in place.
- 4.9. Further engagement work will include efforts to strengthen engagement with people in Protected Characteristic groupings and people at risk of social exclusion, to maximise positive health impact benefits for individuals and for the wider community, and to define and deliver actions accordingly to mitigate any negative impact and enhance positive impact of the proposals as they progress.
- 4.10. The Park will be an exciting new space for the town centre, a symbol of urban regeneration and demonstration of the importance of greenspace as a crucial part of making towns more resilient to climate change and improving health outcome.
- 4.11. Further details relating to the ESHIA are contained within appendix F.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. A report to Council on 21st September 2023 titled *Capital Investment Programme and Mid-Year Review of the Capital Strategy (2022/23 - 2027/28)* included total development funding of £5.523m for the Smithfield Riverside Redevelopment Programme Phase One. Specifically, for the proposed demolition of the former Riverside shopping centre and construction of a multi-agency hub/ commercial office development with public open space/park (at £3.146m) and for the partial demolition of the former Pride Hill shopping centre and leisure-led redevelopment (at £2.377m). This development funding is comprised of cash match funding financed from borrowing.
- 5.2. Development appraisals, undertaken by the Council's appointed Development Manager, Rivington Hark, in consultation with Council officers and the subject of a Project Adjustment Request (PAR) submitted to DLUHC, has identified two distinct sub-projects within the scope of works to be funded by the LUF Round 2 grant award. These are:
- demolition of the former Riverside shopping centre (at £3.357m capital works cost); and,
 - construction of the linear park to Roushill and enabling works to the remainder of the site, necessary to facilitate future developments, including the proposed multi-agency hub/ commercial office (£16.108m capital works cost).
- 5.3. As a consequence of the above, it is recommended to reprofile the current funding allocations whilst remaining within existing budget approvals. Previous allocations included £1.431m to specifically progress the multi-agency hub scheme to detailed design/full planning (RIBA 3); it is now proposed to utilise this allocation to secure outline planning consent for the wider site of the former Riverside shopping centre, incorporating the proposed multi-agency hub/ commercial office development, and the design and construction of Roushill Park. Furthermore, it is now possible to fund the £0.428m match funding requirement for the LUF Round 2 Project 2 (Transforming Movement & Public Spaces in Shrewsbury) with uncommitted Government grant. Utilisation of Government grant has been realised through the day-to-day management of constraints and risks associated with the design and delivery of schemes within the Integrated Transport Programme (ITP) and eligibility of the grant for use against wider Council priorities.
- 5.4. A summary of the proposed funding allocations is as follows:

Assumed Funding Source	Current Council Approved Funding			Smithfield Riverside Redevelopment Programme		Transforming Movement & Public Spaces	Total Levelling Up Fund Round 2 Schemes	Pride Hill	Total Council Approved Funding
	Pride Hill	Riverside Multi Agency Hub	Total	Riverside Demolition	Roushill Park & Riverside Enabling Works				
	£ '000s	£ '000s	£ '000s	£ '000s	£ '000s				
Borrowing	1,580	1,715	3,295		1,715		1,715	1,580	3,295
Asset Contribution (Council Owned Land)					1,250		1,250		1,250
Levelling Up Fund (LUF) Round 2 Grant				3,021	11,829	3,851	18,701		18,701
Borrowing	797	1,431	2,228	336	1,095		1,431	797	2,228
Borrowing					219		219		219
Government Grant						428	428		428
Total Funding	2,377	3,146	5,523	3,357	16,108	4,279	23,744	2,377	26,121

5.5. This proposed repurposing of the approved funding allocations will facilitate delivery of the LUF Round 2 projects and provide an outline planning consent for the site of the former Riverside shopping centre including the multi-agency hub and further development plots designated within the masterplan.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

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

7. Background

- 7.1. The Cabinet report of 18 October 2023 sought approval to consult on the emerging masterplan for phase one of the Smithfield Riverside redevelopment, and to concurrently submit an initial planning application to demolish the former Riverside shopping centre and to construct parkland, necessary to meet the Council's obligations under the LUF grant award.
- 7.2. As context to these approvals, the report summarised revisions to the masterplan, following a detailed review by the appointed specialist delivery team, led by development managers, Rivington Hark. These revisions included, but not exclusively, the following:
- inclusion of the linear park to Roushill linking the Riverside to Pride Hill and the River Severn, whilst contributing to flood adaptation;
 - raising of the development site to ensure flood resilience, potentially create undercroft parking, and improve connectivity of the site to both Pride Hill and Frankwell; and,
 - to assess the retention/improvement of parking at the site of the Raven Meadows multi-story car park to sustain/improve footfall to the Darwin Centre.
- 7.3. The masterplan review was also informed by a sequencing and phasing strategy, necessary to ensure an efficient programme of delivery that also meets the grant obligations and timescales required of the Getting Building Fund (GBF) for Pride Hill and the LUF grant award for Riverside. In summary, the sequence and phasing for the Phase One developments include:
- Phase 1a – demolition of the former Riverside shopping centre, ground remediation, enabling works and the creation of the park to Roushill.
 - Phase 1b – Partial demolition of the former Pride Hill shopping centre and construction of leisure led mixed-use redevelopment, including cinema and food and beverage.
 - Phase 1C – Construction of commercial office (including multi-agency hub) to the site of the former Riverside shopping centre site.
 - Phase 1d – refurbishment/reconstruction of the Raven Meadows multi-storey car park (subject to further detailed technical assessments).
- 7.4. The finalised masterplan, summarised in appendix B, reflects the outcomes of the initial stage of public consultation, which commenced on 18 October 2023, concluding 15 November 2023; an overview of its approach and outcomes is summarised in appendix A. Whilst the masterplan [and planning strategy summarised below] provides a robust framework within which to bring forward development, it does allow for flexibility (for example in the mix of uses, sequencing and phasing), to ensure it can respond to, and be resilient to changes in market conditions and appetite. This report seeks approval to this masterplan as a vehicle to bring forward the proposed development; this approval is sought in the context of the Council as developer/landowner and not as planning policy.

Planning Strategy, Stakeholder Engagement and Public Consultation

- 7.5. The Cabinet report of the 18 October also sets out a planning strategy that will continue to be informed and supported by the outcomes of the wider focussed programme of engagement and consultation events at four key stage milestones (appendix C). This strategy aligns to the masterplan and proposes a series of planning applications for the various plots within the Phase One development area.
- 7.6. The initial stage of consultation (as section 7.4 above) has informed the final scope of the full planning application to demolish the former Riverside shopping centre and associated

works as Phase 1a above. This application is referenced within the proposed planning strategy, and following approval at the above Cabinet, it was submitted 20 December 2023 and has subsequently been approved (resolution to grant) on 5 March 2024.

- 7.7. This report seeks approval to the continued development of the planning strategy as referenced above, within which it is proposed to submit the second, outline planning application for the construction of developments on the site of the former Riverside shopping centre. As an outline application it will set out an indicative mix of uses (currently commercial office, hotel/hospitality, residential) with physical, volumetric parameters/ requirements (building heights, massing, orientation, etc.) within which future buildings must 'fit'. This application will be informed by the ongoing stakeholder engagement and public consultation, specifically the formal public events and activities between 15 February and 5 March 2024. Online consultation is available at www.smithfieldriverside.com

Capital Projects: Levelling Up Fund Award for Shrewsbury (LUF Round 2)

- 7.8. The Cabinet report of 19 April 2023 approved the acceptance of the grant award from the Department for Levelling Up, Homes and Communities (DLUHC) Levelling Up Fund Round 2 (LUF2) for Shrewsbury. The total grant award of £18.7m, is supporting the following projects:

- Smithfield Riverside Redevelopment Programme (Project 1 - £14.85m)
- Transforming Movement and Public Spaces in Shrewsbury (Project 2 - £3.852m).

- 7.9. Subsequently, the Cabinet report of 18 October 2023 agreed to recommend to Council the progressing of Project 1 above, as a capital project, and all as recommendation 3.1.3 of this report. The rationale for the scope of works submitted in the bid to DLUHC clearly demonstrated how the grant will advance demolition, enabling and environmental works, ahead of the construction of new developments within the Smithfield Riverside Phase One Development, as now articulated in the finalised masterplan.

- 7.10. In summary, LUF Project 1 above (as appendix D) will:

- Secure planning consent and associated statutory approvals for the demolition of the former Riverside shopping centre and delivery of the park, including physical enabling works (ground remediation, services and utilities, etc.).
- Procure specialist contractor to demolish the former Riverside shopping centre, undertake enabling works and remediate the site, in readiness for bringing forward future development plots.
- Procure a contractor to construct the linear park to Roushill with temporary landscape treatments/ open space to the remainder of the cleared site, pending future developments.

- 7.11. These LUF Project 1 activities can facilitate, and be supplemented by:

- Securing of a subsequent outline planning consent, with indicative mix of uses, for three development plots (accommodating 3-5 buildings) on the demolished site above, including office, residential and hotel uses, totalling approx. c28 580 m² (gross internal area -GIA) of new accommodation (planning strategy application 2)
- Progress design activities necessary secure planning consent for multi-agency hub/ commercial office development (planning strategy application 4).

- Full business case (FBC) for the multi-agency hub/ commercial office development, including all development/ construction costs including professional fees and statutory charges associated with all the above.

7.12. Further to recommendation 3.4 of the Cabinet report 19 April 2023, this report also seeks approval to progress Project 2 (Transforming Movement and Public Spaces in Shrewsbury) as a capital project, all as recommendation 3.2.1 of this report, following the completion of design development and preparation activities. The scope of these works has also been informed by the focussed public consultation in the town centre and online at <https://shrewsburystationgyratory.commonplace.is>, from 8 February till 5 March 2024 (extracts in appendix E).

7.13. In summary, LUF Project 2 above (as appendix E) will deliver: highway and associated public realm improvements to the gyratory adjacent Shrewsbury rail station, and implement active travel (e.g., walking and cycling routes) to Castle Street and within the vicinity of the New Park Road. Specifically, these works will provide:

- 2.3km improved walking/cycle routes
- 20% increase in active travel trips.
- Improved air quality leading to 21% reduction in NO².

Market Appraisals

7.14. The Smithfield Riverside programme continues to proceed at pace and is attracting interest from regional and national developers and investors. The masterplanning process has identified potential development plots that could accommodate various uses, including cinema operators and hotels.

7.15. The Council's appointed Development Manager, Rivington Hark, has been approached by cinema operators who are interested in providing a facility in the Smithfield Riverside Phase One development, as proposed in the masterplan and complementary to existing provision in and around the town centre. This report seeks approval, with the appropriate delegations, to formally engage with the cinema market to assess market appetite, identify and procure potential operator(s), scope their needs and requirements and undertake the due diligence, necessary to make recommendations for inclusion in a future report to Cabinet/Council.

7.16. Subject to the above engagement demonstrating a strong and appropriate need for a cinema within the Smithfield Riverside Phase One development, this approach will directly inform the detailed design of such a facility, currently indicated on the site of the former Pride Hill shopping centre. It is envisaged that the cinema engagement exercise will be completed in Spring 2024, at which point the design of the facility, and the wider Pride Hill site, can proceed to application of detailed planning consent as the revised planning strategy (appendix C).

7.17. The costs relating to this activity are estimated at c£47k and are forecast within the development funding allocated to this project, as summarised in section 5 of this report above.

7.18. Similarly, there has been strong interest and approaches to Rivington Hark from hotel operators/ developers looking for opportunities on Smithfield Riverside, again as articulated in the masterplan. This report acknowledges that this associated soft market engagement is to commence and the outcomes subject to a future report to Cabinet/Council.

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

Cabinet report Shrewsbury Town Centre Regeneration: Smithfield Riverside Phase One – 18 October 2023.

Council report Levelling Up Fund Award for Shrewsbury – 19 April 2023.

Council report Shrewsbury Town Centre Redevelopment Programme Phase One – 24 February 2022.

Local Member: Cllr Nat Green

Consultation with Local Member – Please consider the Local Member Protocol (see page E60 onwards of part 5 of the Constitution) and determine whether it is necessary to consult with the local member over the proposal set out in this report. This may not always be applicable (e.g., where the proposal affects all of Shropshire) but it should always be a consideration and in some cases a necessity so as to comply with the spirit of the Protocol.

Appendices

Appendix A: Smithfield Riverside Consultation Overview October – November 2023

Appendix B: Smithfield Riverside Masterplan Summary

Appendix C: Smithfield Riverside Phase One: Planning Strategy

Appendix D: Levelling Up Fund Grant Award, Project 1 - Smithfield Riverside Redevelopment Programme: Capital Project Scope and Summary of Works

Appendix E: Levelling Up Fund Grant Award, Project 2 – Transforming Movement and Public Spaces in Shrewsbury: Capital Project Scope and Summary of Works

Appendix F: Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA) Stage One Screening Record 2024 (appended report)

Appendix A: Smithfield Riverside Consultation Overview October – November 2023

(Further information available at www.smithfieldriverside.com).

CONSULTATION OVERVIEW

Between 18 October and 15 November 2023, Shropshire Council and the Smithfield Riverside project team consulted with residents, businesses, and organisations across the county to gather feedback on our plans for Smithfield Riverside, including a new park on Roushill.



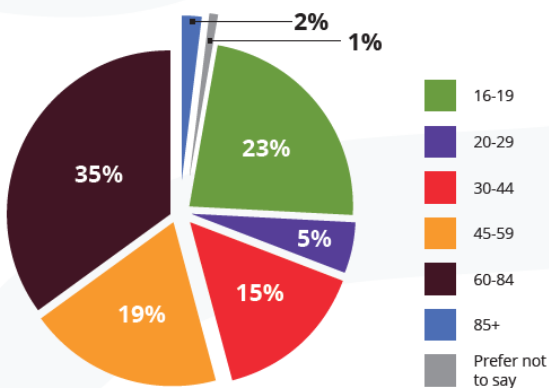
Over the course of the consultation we:

- Spoke to over **500** people from all across Shropshire
- Hosted **8** events
- Received **429** written responses
- Had more than **14,000** visitors to the Smithfield Riverside website

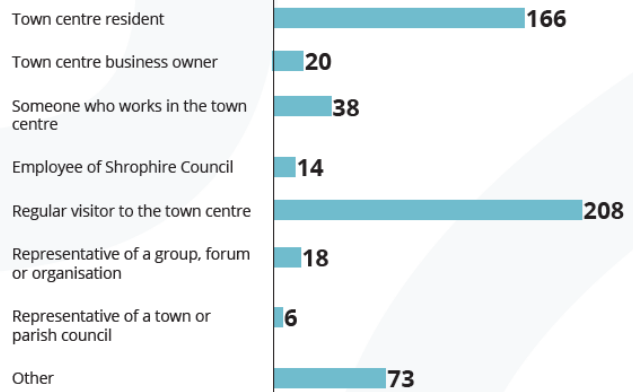
Who did we speak to?

Most people we spoke to either lived in Shrewsbury or were regular visitors to the town. We heard from people across different age groups, genders, and ethnicities to gather a sample that represents the different demographics in Shropshire.

What age group are you?*



How are you responding to this questionnaire

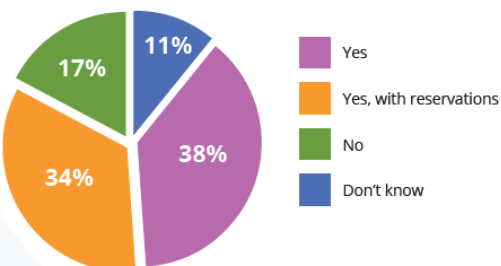


* of 387 people who answered this question

What did people think of the plans?

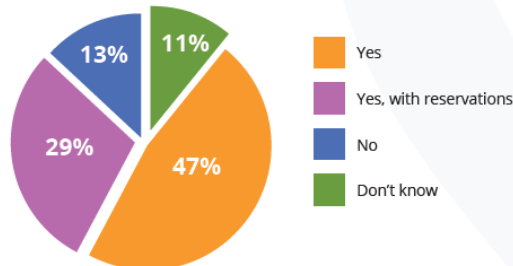
Most people we heard from were supportive of our plans, particularly for a new park on Roushill. Lots of people also had suggestions on how we could improve the scheme.

Based on what you've seen so far, do you support our vision for Smithfield Riverside?*



* of 389 people who answered this question

Based on what you've seen so far, do you support our plans for Roushill Park?***



*** of 378 people who answered this question

How have we responded to your feedback?

The feedback we received helped us to develop the plans for Roushill Park further, and ensure it meets the needs of Shropshire residents. Some specific changes we've made to the park's design, based on your feedback, are:

- + Many people had concerns about damage to the park from flooding, so we're using solid sculptural play features rather than traditional children's play equipment, with a design that will tie-in closely with the geology and archaeology of the site. This will also make the play equipment sturdier, and easier to clean up after flooding.
- + Climbing boulders have been incorporated into the park design, in response to feedback around the need to provide outdoor play and activity elements for a range of ages, including adults.
- + Additional rain gardens have been introduced to the park to enhance its role in the Sustainable Urban Drainage and Flood Management Strategy for the area. The additional rain gardens will also improve biodiversity and wildlife on the site, which was highlighted as a priority for many people.
- + In response to concerns around safety, we have carefully considered the use of lighting and CCTV to improve security.



Illustrative view – looking southeast towards the proposed Wall and Amphitheatre from the north of Roushill Park (looking away from the river).

We also received lots of helpful suggestions about other important issues in Shrewsbury, such as the Movement Strategy. These will be considered alongside other public consultations in the near future.

Shropshire Council would like to thank everyone who took part in the consultation for your feedback, which has been valuable in the evolution of our plans for Smithfield Riverside. We look forward to sharing our progress with you in early 2024.



Illustrative view – looking northeast towards the proposed Wall, Event Lawn and Amphitheatre from Roushill (looking towards the river).



Appendix B: Smithfield Riverside Masterplan Summary

(Further information available at www.smithfieldriverside.com).

OUR MASTERPLAN VISION

The masterplan has been divided into four clear zones, to be delivered in separate phases, each with its own challenges and opportunities. Below, you can see some of our initial ideas about which uses would be most appropriate for each phase, and how they will relate to one another and to the wider regeneration of Shrewsbury.



Phasing Strategy: 4 urban projects

1. The key opportunity for this zone is to improve the link from the town centre to the riverside area through the creation of a new park at Roushill, which will be the first part of the first phase of development to be delivered. Alongside the park, we also intend to replace the currently empty buildings in this zone with new offices, homes, restaurants and a cinema.

- A Footbridge connection to Frankwell
- B New public park along Roushill
- C New social destination

2. A central priority for the masterplan is to ensure that the operational needs of The Darwin Shopping Centre and Premier Inn are safeguarded. The emphasis will be on both protecting servicing, and ensuring the critical footfall from the Raven Meadows car park and the bus station is retained. We are also considering options to refurbish the car park to bring it up to modern standards. A new road linking Raven Meadows to Smithfield Road is also proposed, to provide an alternative route for buses and help to reduce traffic on Roushill.

- D Proposed new avenue

3. Earlier masterplans, including the Big Town Plan and the Strategic Development Framework, suggested that new buildings could be delivered on the site of the bus station. While this is still possible, the masterplan will also consider alternative options for the bus station based on the outcomes of the Shrewsbury Moves consultation.

4. We envisage that the masterplan will look to deliver staged improvements to Smithfield Road so that we are able to keep in step with wider initiatives from the Big Town Plan. This will be informed by the Shrewsbury Moves consultation.



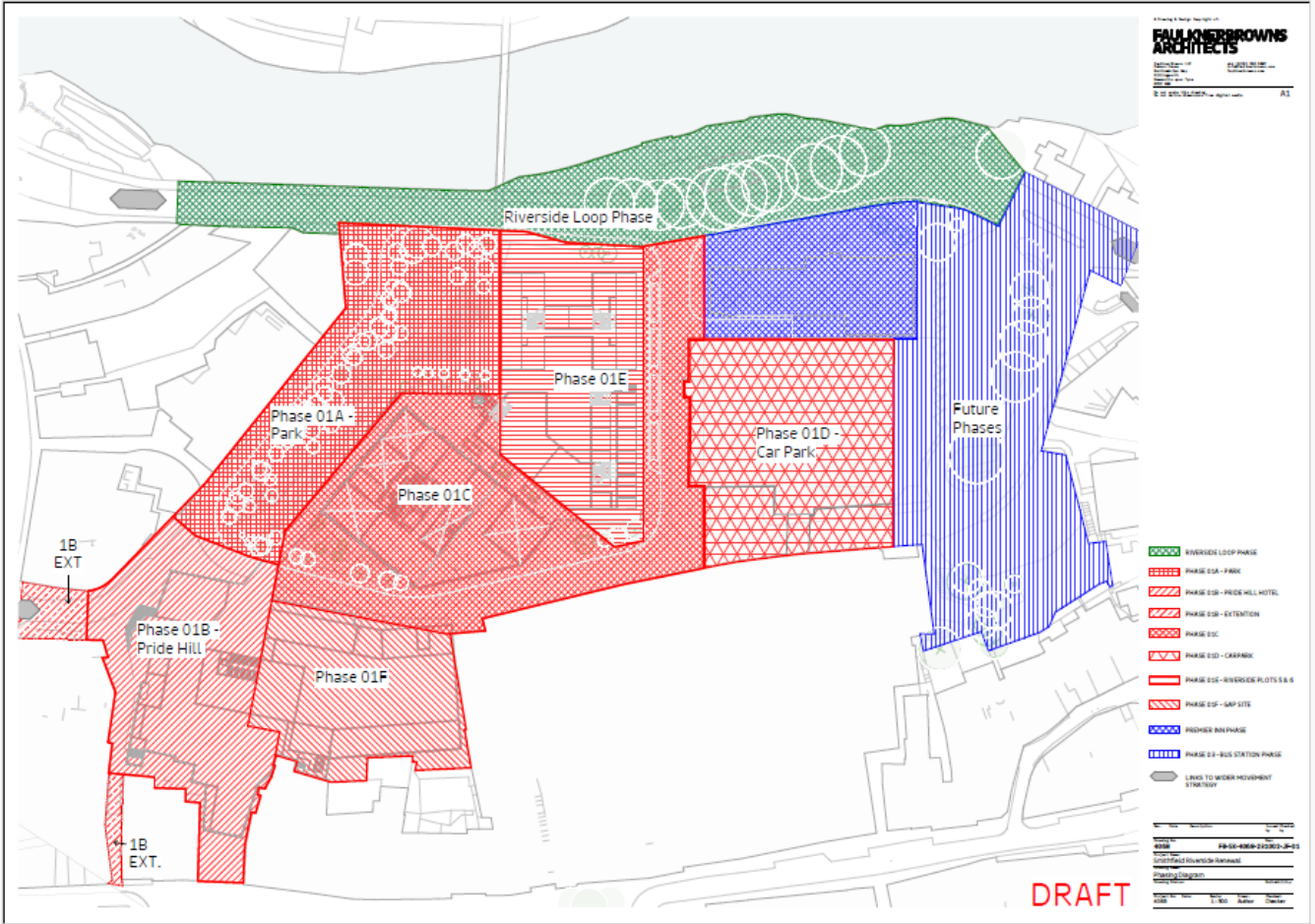
Important access routes through Zone 1 of the emerging Smithfield Riverside masterplan



Appendix C: Smithfield Riverside Phase One: Planning Strategy

	<i>Planning Permission</i>	<i>Submission/ determination</i> <i>(excl. 6 week judicial review period)</i>	<i>Consultation Strategy</i>
1	<p>Full application for the former Riverside shopping centre and environs relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demolition of former Riverside shopping centre. • construction of public realm/park on Roushill. • meanwhile use to the remainder of site (meeting obligations of the LUF 2 grant award). • application to be supported by the illustrative wider masterplan 	<p>November 2023 – April 2024</p> <p>Update: submitted December 2023, Resolution to Grant approved at Northern Area Planning Committee 5th March 2024</p>	<p>Stage 1: public consultation preceding planning application (October – November 2023).</p> <p>Commencing with workshop with Council members to finalise scope and content ahead of public events.</p> <p>Update: completed.</p>
2	<p>Outline application with parameters for the former Riverside shopping centre site relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • multi-agency hub buildings on plot 3. • future development plots 5 and 6 to the meanwhile use sites created by the application 1 above. • Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) relating to the indicative mix of commercial office (including the multi-agency hub), hotel/hospitality, residential and undercroft parking. 	<p>January 2024 – May 2024</p> <p>Update: Target date for submission April 2024 – Determination September 2024</p>	<p>Stage 2: public consultation preceding planning application (December 2023 – January 2024).</p> <p>Update: consultation period commenced 15 February – 5 March 2024. Completed</p>
3	<p>Full application for the partial demolition and redevelopment of the former Pride Hill shopping centre to include cinema, food and beverage, retail and public realm.</p>	<p>March 2024 – July 2024</p> <p>Update: August 2024 – Jan 2025, subject to securing lease with cinema operator</p>	<p>Stage 3: public consultation preceding application 3 (March 2024)</p> <p>Update: brought forward within Stage 2 consultation above.</p>
4	<p>Reserved matters application for plot 3 multi-agency hub plus adjacent surface car park (the 'gap' site) and plots 5/6 subject to full business case/market demand</p>	<p>August 2024 – September 2024</p> <p>Update: January 2025 – March 2025</p>	<p>Stage 4: public consultation preceding any reserved matters application(s) (May/June 2024)</p>

Indicative Sequence and Phasing



WHAT'S COMING UP?



On this board you can see our current progress towards a connected town quarter with a mix of uses. This inviting new hive of activity will be delivered in several phases, starting with the park beside Roushill.

This plan illustrates the first phase of development which we have split into four separate planning applications. This allows us to seek your feedback at multiple stages, on different aspects of the plans.

1. The first application which includes demolition of the Riverside Shopping Centre and the new park on Roushill was made in December 2023, and includes area within the red boundary.
2. The second application will be an outline application, covering the construction of a podium area on the site of the Riverside Shopping Centre, and outline scale and massing of any future buildings within the blue boundary.
3. A third, fully detailed, application for redevelopment of Pride Hill within the orange boundary will follow.

Phase 1

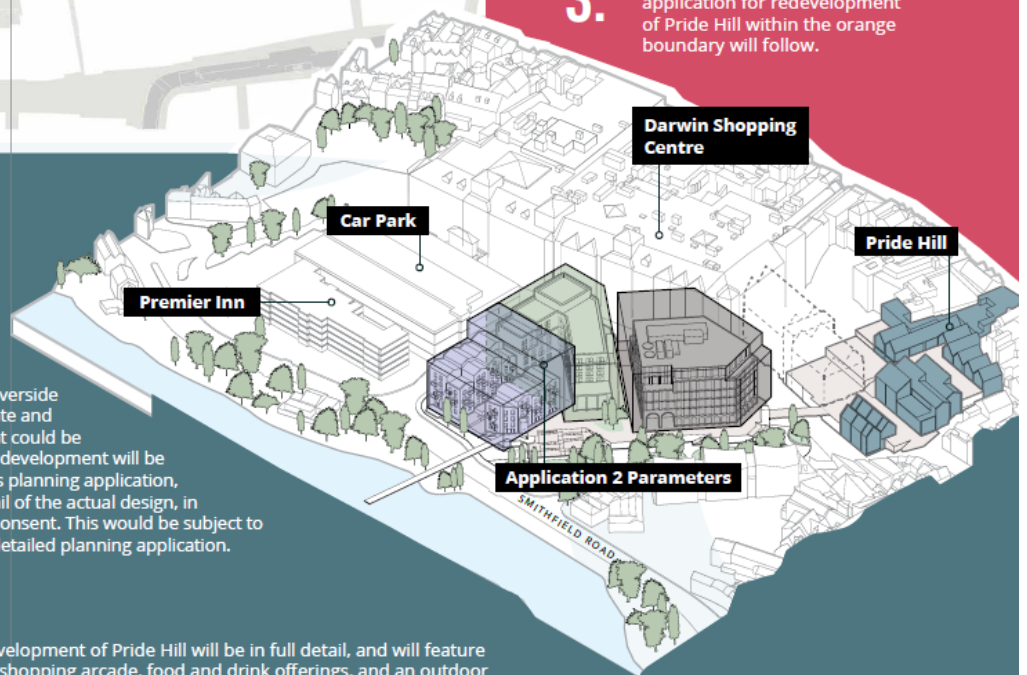
THIS CONSULTATION

Application Two

The outline application for Riverside will consist of rules that dictate and control how the development could be brought forward. Any future development will be subject to a reserved matters planning application, which would set out the detail of the actual design, in adherence with any outline consent. This would be subject to consultation, like any other detailed planning application.

Application Three

The application for the redevelopment of Pride Hill will be in full detail, and will feature plans for a cinema, covered shopping arcade, food and drink offerings, and an outdoor meanwhile use space. This application will be submitted in Late Spring 2024.

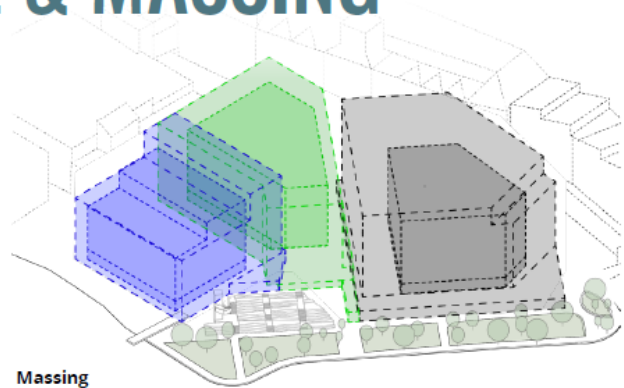
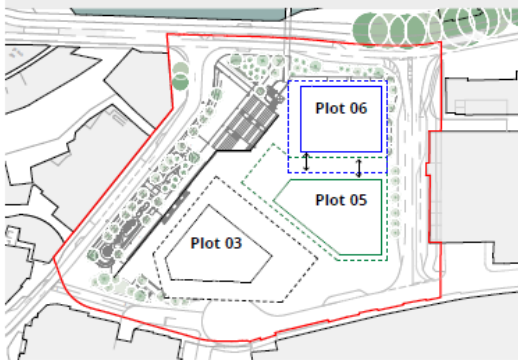


Artist's Impression of Smithfield Riverside Phase 1

APPLICATION TWO: OUTLINE SCALE & MASSING

Our second planning application will cover outline plans for the three plots at the centre of the Smithfield Riverside site: plots 3, 5 and 6.

The aim of our outline planning application is to secure the future development of the site in a flexible way, so that individual developments can come forward based on demand from future occupiers. While our outline application indicates potential uses – including offices, residential and hotel – it will provide a high degree of flexibility.



Massing

The buildings proposed for the Riverside will be carefully considered in relation to the surrounding context and wider conservation area. The massing envelopes in Application Two show the largest massing proposed for the site.

These masses are tested as part of the application for their impact on the historic townscape from several key locations looking towards the site.

The massing is stepped in height down towards the river, and also chamfered back from the site edge on the south west boundary to respond to important landmarks in the town centre, as well as views into the site from the west.

Any future Riverside buildings that are proposed in detail, will have to ensure they fit within massing envelopes proposed in Application Two.

Maximum and Minimum Sizes

The image above shows the maximum and minimum zones for three future buildings on the Riverside site. The exact footprint, size and shape of these buildings will be defined at a later stage and subject to a full detailed planning application known as 'Reserved Matters'.

The overlap between Plots 5 and 6 shows the flexibility of the footprint of these two plots. Depending on commercial interest, either plot could be made larger or smaller within the indicated boundaries.

Below, we can see a specific view looking east from Welsh Bridge towards the site. The maximum massing envelopes are shown, with examples of the buildings on plots 3, 5 & 6 contained within them. The view shows how the massing has responded to the townscape setting, stepping down to the river and back to preserve views of the church spire of St Mary the Virgin.



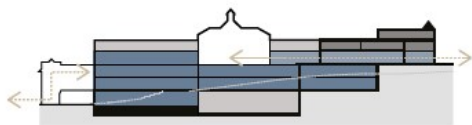
APPLICATION THREE: PRIDE HILL

Our third planning application proposes a new social destination between Pride Hill and Raven Meadows, forming a vibrant new space to eat, meet and socialise, and linking shopping in the town centre with the new public park on Roushill. The eastern part of the podium overlooking Raven Meadows will become a meanwhile use space for local makers and small businesses.

Below, you can see how we plan to achieve this, and some of the different uses being considered for this plot.

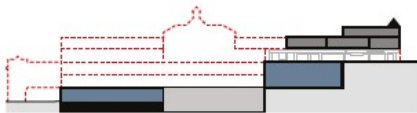


Photo of the Pride Hill Centre as it currently looks



Existing Pride Hill Shopping Centre

The existing shopping centre is an inward-looking building, which provides little interaction and interest to the surrounding streets and paces. It does not provide a pleasant access route from Pride Hill to the riverside area.



Partial Demolition and Reconfiguration

Opportunity exists to reconfigure the building to enhance and promote the pedestrian connections between Pride Hill, Roushill Bank and Riverside. The proposed demolition will retain the existing service yard platform. This will reduce the extent of demolition and disruption, whilst preserving a substantial amount of embodied carbon. This strategy would also result in retention of the existing foundations, retaining walls to the south and west, and some of the existing cores and structure to the south of the building, forming a new covered arcade that will open onto Pride Hill.



Redevelopment Proposal

The proposed scheme is envisaged as a series of courtyards, that cascade from Pride Hill down to Raven Meadows, responding to the existing height changes and surrounding buildings. The creation of a podium accommodates the space needed for a cinema within the slope of the site, where a terrace of retail pavilions animate the pedestrian journey through the scheme. Opening up the retained refurbished mall creates a seamless connection from Pride Hill, forming a covered retail arcade and gateway into the scheme.



Appendix D: Levelling Up Fund Grant Award, Project 1 - Smithfield Riverside Redevelopment Programme: Capital Project Scope and Summary of Works



Budget Estimate	£	
Demolition Riverside shopping centre and associated works e.g., asbestos strip	3,035,000	
Utility diversions and reinforcement	1,785,089	
Site and Ground investigations and surveys	409,999	
Construction Roushill Park (including new bridge link and walkway)	7,142,000	
Highways works and realignment (including Avenue)	1,491,000	
Landscaping	416,000	
Fees Demolition	127,406	
Fees Roushill Park and enabling	1,052,758	
Contingency risk allowance	1,040,362	
Fees MAH design fees and surveys to Planning (100% match)	1,715,000	
Land and asset contribution (100% match)	1,250,000	
Total LUF project 1 Costs	19,464,616	

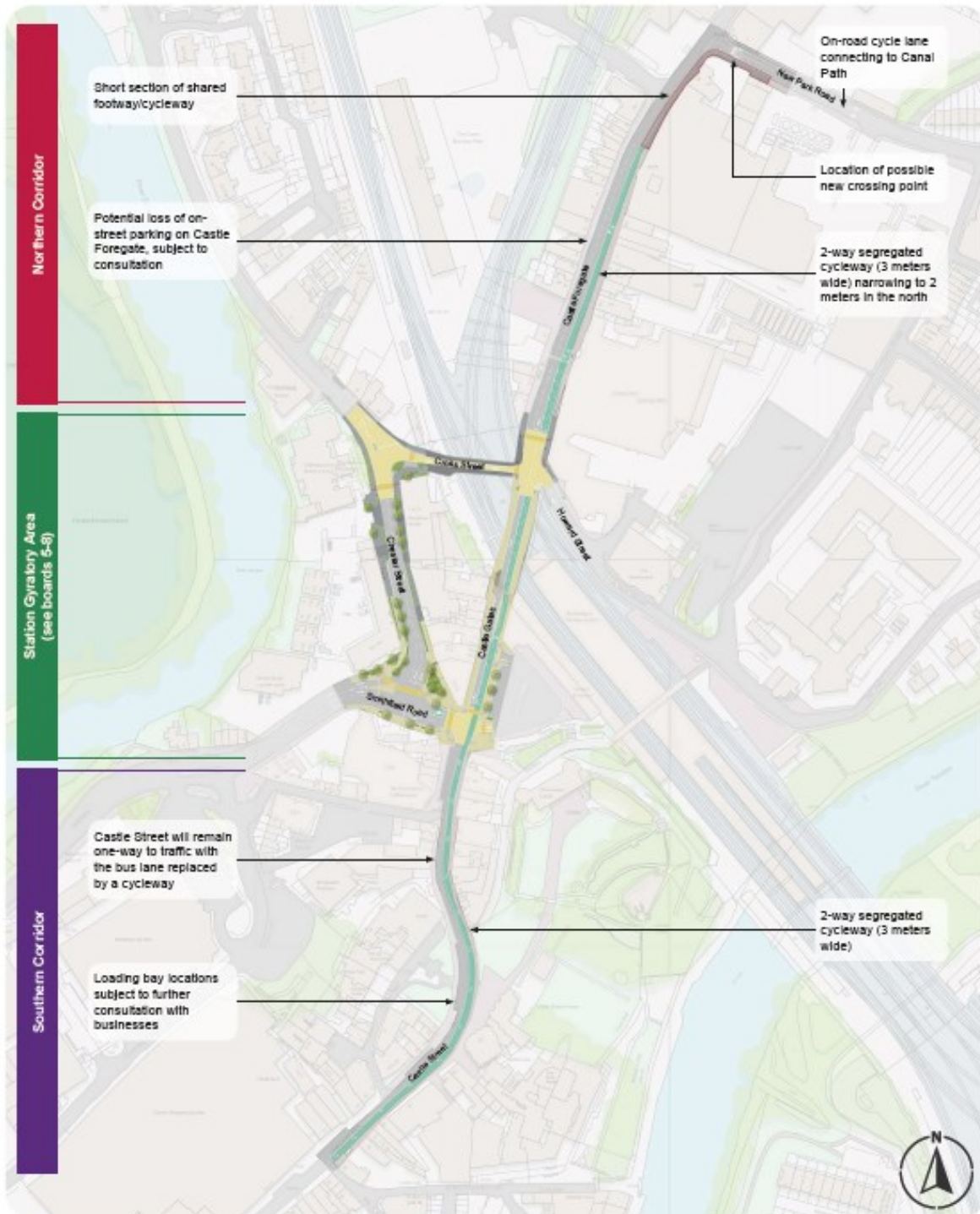
Delivery Milestones

	<i>Programme Element</i>	<i>Date/ period</i>	<i>Comments</i>
	Planning consent – Demolish Riverside shopping centre and construction of Roushill linear park	Resolution to Grant achieved 5 th March.	Final detailed conditions to be agreed and Judicial Review period to complete – target end April
	Appoint demolition contractor and commence works	Summer 2024	Subject to tender negotiations – intention to start with soft strip in advance of this date
	Complete demolition of Riverside shopping centre	End 2024 – subject to tender returns, archaeology, utilities disconnections are discharge of conditions	Sectional completion to be achieved to allow the park to be commenced.
	Appoint Roushill Park and enabling works contractor	Nov / Dec 2024	
	Complete Roushill Park	Summer 2025	

Appendix E: Levelling Up Fund Grant Award, Project 2 – Transforming Movement and Public Spaces in Shrewsbury: Capital Project Scope and Summary of Works



DETAILED PLAN OF ACTIVE TRAVEL PROPOSALS



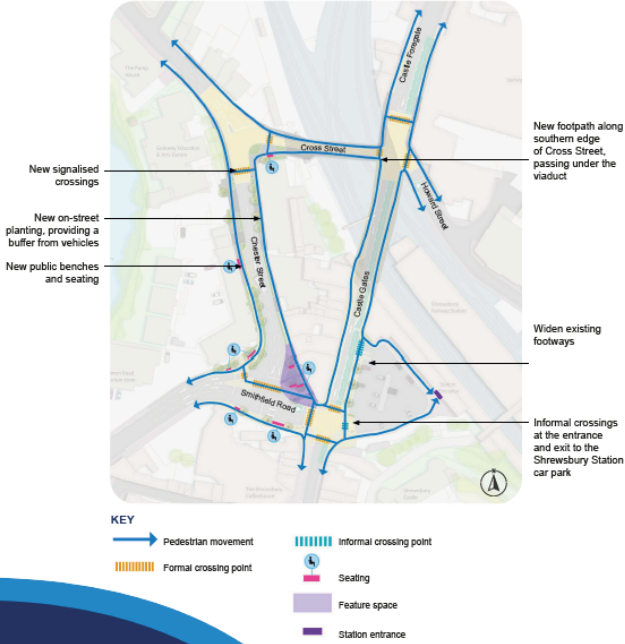
KEY

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Building | Railway | Shared footway/cycleway |
| River | Existing tree | Cycle track |
| Carriageway | Coloured junction treatment | Indicative proposed planting area |
| Pedestrian crossing point | Indicative proposed tree planting | |



MOVEMENT - WALKING PROPOSALS

The proposed changes for walking movement aim to increase active travel, prioritise safety and ease of movement across key junctions, and improve accessibility into and out of the Station Gyrotory area. There will be wider pavements, new signalised crossings and benches. In addition the reduction of traffic and addition of a footpath along the southern edge, Cross Street will be a better route for pedestrians.



SMITHFIELD ROAD AND CHESTER STREET JUNCTION

View is from the junction of Smithfield Road and Chester Street. The view faces east towards Shrewsbury Castle and outlines the key changes to the junction, additional street greening and new public spaces proposed to the south of the Station Gyrotory.



LOCATION PLAN

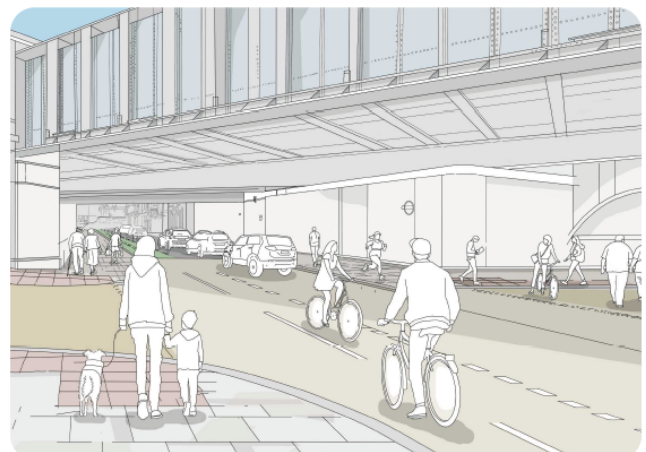
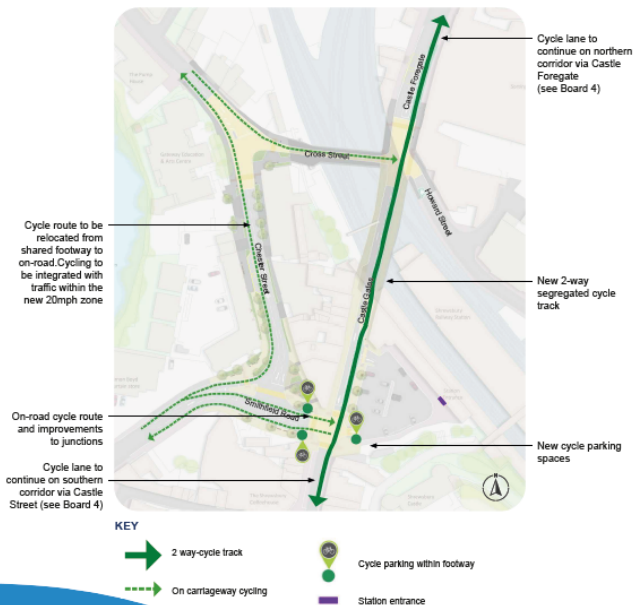
POWERED BY
LEVELLING UP

5

MOVEMENT - CYCLING PROPOSALS

The proposals for cycling movement aim to encourage active travel and improve accessibility for cyclists throughout the Station Gyrotory area. These changes align with the Shrewsbury Movement and Public Space Strategy to link with proposals for movement routes within the wider area, both to and across Shrewsbury.

As part of the Station Gyrotory Improvements project we will introduce two new cycle routes to the north and south of the scheme via new active travel corridors along Castle Foregate (north of the Station) and Castle Street (south of the Station towards the town centre).



CASTLE FOREGATE, CROSS STREET AND HOWARD STREET JUNCTION

View is from the northern junction between Castle Foregate, Cross Street and Howard Street. View faces south along Castle Foregate and shows the proposed junction improvements, reduction of the existing vehicle movement to single lane traffic (as shown on the vehicle proposals plan) and addition of the new 2-way segregated cycle track.



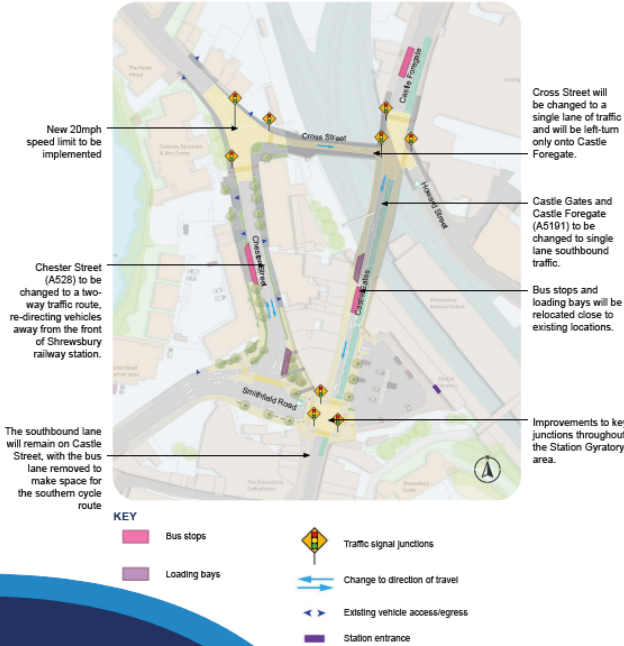
LOCATION PLAN

POWERED BY
LEVELLING UP

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MOVEMENT - VEHICLE PROPOSALS

The proposed improvements and changes for vehicles movement aim to ease congestion and enhance safety for all users throughout the Station Gyratory area. A new 20mph speed limit is to be proposed throughout the Station Gyratory area to reduce vehicle speeds and further improve safety for walking and cycling movement. Our proposals include reconfiguring vehicle movement in line with the overall vision for Shrewsbury indicated within the Big Town Plan.



TRAFFIC MODELLING SUMMARY

We have modelled the existing and forecast vehicle movements in the Gyratory area across weekday and weekend peak rush hours. Based on 2023 surveyed flows our proposals improve the operation of the two Cross Street junctions (with Chester Street and Castle Foregate). The introduction of traffic lights will introduce some additional delay to vehicle movements at other junctions around the Gyratory. However, the overall total current delays on the Gyratory are forecast to reduce during peak periods with the reduction in through-traffic in the town centre associated with the opening of the North West Relief Road, other infrastructure improvements and the proposals for the Gyratory.



CROSS STREET AND CHESTER STREET JUNCTION

View is from the corner of Cross Street and faces south along Chester Street. The view shows the proposed junction improvements, street greening along and conversion of Chester Street to a 2-way traffic route.

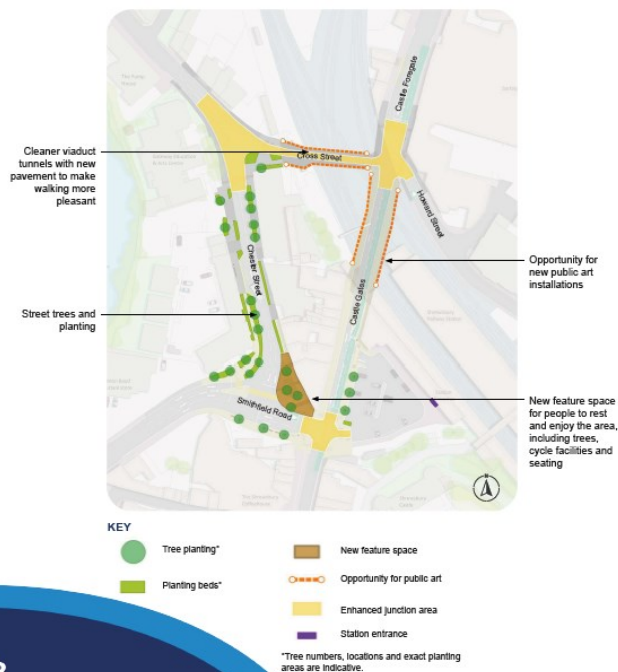


LOCATION PLAN

POWERED BY
LEVELLING UP

PUBLIC SPACE PROPOSALS

The proposed improvements and changes to public space aim to improve public safety throughout the Station Gyratory area and celebrate the local character of our historic town centre. The area will be greener and less polluted, making it more welcoming for those visiting Shrewsbury by rail, as well as more appealing for commuters using the railway station.



CASTLE GATES AND SMITHFIELD ROAD JUNCTION

View is from the southern end of Castle Gates at the junction with Smithfield Road and faces north along Castle Gates. The view demonstrates the proposed junction improvements and accessibility by Shrewsbury railway station, the reduction of Castle Gates to single lane traffic, the introduction of the new 2-way cycle track and the proposed street greening and public space improvements.



LOCATION PLAN

POWERED BY
LEVELLING UP

Elemental Cost Summary

<i>Element</i>	<i>Budget estimate</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Professional fees	£964 455	Design validation, development, contract documentation, procurement, project management, site supervision
Surveys and Assessments	£182 803	Topographical surveys, traffic modelling/ data, legal support, drainage surveys, safety audits, air quality assessments.
Consultation and engagement	£42 593	
Construction works	£2 593 816	Gyratory and active travel routes
Contingency	£495 027	
Total	£4 278 694	

Milestones

• Preliminary design – complete following reviews	End October - completed
• Main stakeholder engagement	February – March 2024 - ongoing
• Detailed design	November 2023 – March 2024 - ongoing
• Contract Award (following open market tender)	March 2024
• Mobilisation (subject to contractor programme)	April 2024
• Construction period (subject to contractor programme)	April 2024 – March 2025
• Scheme completion	April 2025

Appendix F: Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA) Stage One
Screening Record 2024 (appended report)

Shropshire Council
Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA)
Stage One Screening Record 2024

A. Summary Sheet on Accountability and Actions

Name of proposed service change
Shrewsbury Town Centre Regeneration: Smithfield Riverside Phase One Development Activities

Name of the officer carrying out the screening
Tim Pritchard & Claire Evans

Decision, review, and monitoring

Decision	Yes	No
Initial (Stage One) ESHIA Only?	X	
Proceed to Stage Two Full ESHIA or HIA (part two) Report?		X

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

Actions to mitigate negative impact or enhance positive impact of the service change in terms of equality and social inclusion considerations
<p>The development and delivery of the Shrewsbury Town Centre Regeneration: Smithfield Riverside Phase One Development Activities is anticipated to have a positive impact on communities in Shropshire.</p> <p>Positive impacts would be intended for a variety of intersecting Protected Characteristic groupings as defined by the Equality Act 2010 (Age, Disability, Pregnancy and Maternity, Sex) as the development provides a unique opportunity to repair/ stitch together and transform this part of the town centre and positively change perceptions of the area.</p> <p>The area is poorly connected to the town centre due to its topography and the barrier created by the former shopping centres accommodated in the Pride Hill and Riverside centres. The existing footbridge that links Frankwell to the Riverside is also difficult to navigate for some due to its height above the road and landings. Furthermore, pedestrian routes are dominated by vehicular traffic and prevent good quality public realm being developed, particularly along the river, and an inability to maximise footfall.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 215</p> <p>The redevelopment of Smithfield Riverside and the proposed interventions, notably</p>

the inclusion of Roushill Park, and its inclusiveness including green interventions, play equipment and access to all aspects of the site will ensure that this area of the county town is accessible for all.

Given the recognised intersectionality across the nine Protected Characteristic groupings as set out in the Equality Act 2010 above, there will be a predicted positive impact for individuals and households across groupings, particularly in the groupings of Age and Disability. For example, young people who have been engaged with the consultation activity to date have contributed to the design of Roushill Park and the overall masterplan to ensure it incorporates interventions that can positively impact their lives.

The involvement of Accessibility Groups has ensured that consideration has been given to residents and visitors to the town who may have a range of disabilities, whether physical, sensory or in terms of neurodiverse conditions. Specifically, the entry point from Frankwell Bridge into the site will be fully compliant with legislation to address disability discrimination, empowering individuals to feel confident walking through and utilising this area creating a much more pleasant environment for all to enjoy. It is also important that any wayfinding implemented across the town is multi-sensory, enabling neurodiverse individuals to be able to experience the town in a safe and accessible manner.

Similarly, older people who may be frailer due to associated physical disability have been considered through involvement with Age UK and may also feel more confident venturing out, therefore mitigating against loneliness as well as improved physical wellbeing.

There will be ongoing efforts, in this and future related projects, to engage with people in the Protected Characteristic groupings, particularly where low levels of responses to public consultation have been received to date and where responses are limited to demographics.

Overall, there will therefore be positive equality impacts anticipated across local communities and groupings within, as the Masterplan sets out to support creation of a vibrant, safe and inclusive town centre.

Actions to mitigate negative impact or enhance positive impact of the service change in terms of health and wellbeing considerations

Key elements of the design of Smithfield Riverside have evolved to maximise health and wellbeing considerations, and as such will have a positive impact.

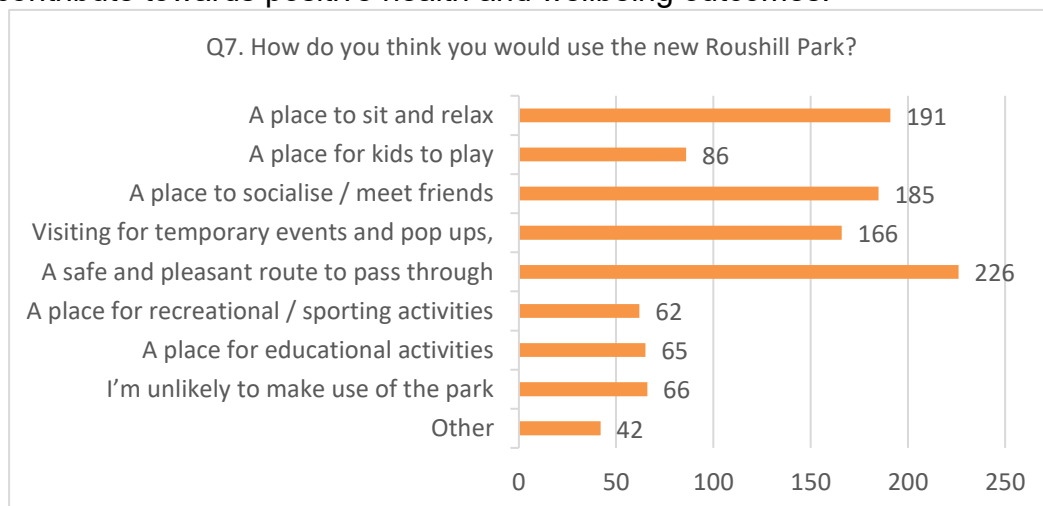
The Park will be an exciting new space for the town centre, a symbol of urban regeneration and demonstration of the importance of greenspace as a crucial part of making towns more resilient to climate change and improving health outcomes.

A panel review with Design Midlands on the initial masterplanning vision produced the following feedback:

“The site as existing has a confused street layout, suffers from severance and feels to a large degree like the ‘back of town’.

The development provides a unique opportunity to repair/ stitch together and transform this part of the town centre and positively change perceptions of the area. The site has significant potential and the investment in Shrewsbury town centre is welcome. The shared ambition, the collaborative approach and the work undertaken to date is rigorous and commendable. This approach has led to a scheme which is sensitive, well considered overall and responds positively to its site context”

The results of the consultation (the approach to which is laid out in Section B) identified the key uses that Roushill Park would provide for. All of these uses contribute towards positive health and wellbeing outcomes.



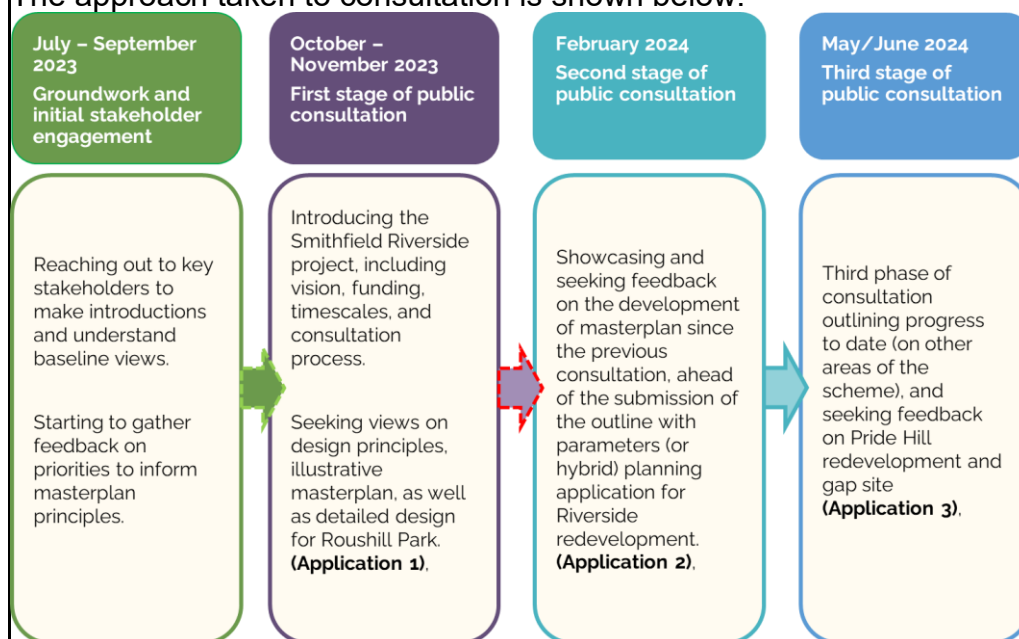
Children’s play elements have been made more reflective of stakeholder desires, making use of solid and sculptural play features rather than traditional children’s play equipment, with a design ethos that ties more closely with the geology and archaeology of the site. This will also make the play equipment more robust, and easier to clean up after flooding – responding to a concern raised in feedback.

Partly in response to these considerations around flood resilience, climbing boulders have been incorporated into the park design. These features also reflect feedback around the need to provide outdoor play and activity elements for a range of ages, including adults. Access to blue and green spaces, and places to ‘play’ will have a further positive impact on wellbeing.

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

Ongoing communication, engagement and public consultation with residents and key stakeholders in Shrewsbury will need to consider any potential negative impacts of the strategic interventions outlined in terms of equality, social inclusion, and health. In addition, noting positive impacts of the development will be key to show the positive change made for the residents and visitors of Shrewsbury. As the redevelopment programme continues at each stage public consultation will be a requirement, and at those intervals reviewing and monitoring of previous activity can be undertaken.

The approach taken to consultation is shown below:



Monitoring and evaluation are essential to ensuring that the activities within phase 1 of the development are delivering the outputs stated in the Outline Business Case and as a requirement of receiving Levelling Up funding.

The following monitoring and evaluation activities will be undertaken as part of the LUF2 funding:

- Change in business sentiment
- Change in perceptions of place (business, residents and visitors)
- Increase in business investment
- Change in pedestrian & cycle flow (+20% increase in foot and cycle trips)
- Increased pride of place of Shrewsbury residents
- Future phases of Shrewsbury Masterplan accelerated

Carbon performance and climate mitigation measures have also been included as an integral part of the project from the early stages of the design process. Carbon performance will be quantified, monitored and reported as the project proceeds.

Additionally, the social value outputs of the phase 1 development activities will be tracked and monitored. For instance, there will be on-going engagement with Shrewsbury Colleges Group (SCG) to potentially offer young people work placements and enable age-specific engagement with this hard to reach group. Considerable efforts have been put into establishing and developing the

relationship between Smithfield Riverside and SCG to ensure positive impacts are made for this Protected Characteristic grouping, and relationships with Age UK and Shropshire Accessibility Groups will remain in place.

The Council is also keeping abreast of other approaches across the country in regard to monitoring and evaluating the impact of changes. To reflect this, Equality Impact Assessments, and associated documents from local authorities across the West Midlands continue to be analysed to understand their approach to monitoring equality impacts.

Further engagement work will include efforts to strengthen engagement with people in Protected Characteristic groupings and people at risk of social exclusion, to maximise positive health impact benefits for individuals and for the wider community, and to define and deliver actions accordingly to mitigate any negative impact and enhance positive impact of the proposals as they progress.

Actions to mitigate negative impact, enhance positive impact, and review and monitor overall impacts in terms of climate change considerations and any other impacts with regard to economic and societal implications

The current site of Smithfield Riverside has low ecological value (i.e. hard standing, amenity grass and shrubs). The phase one activities for Smithfield Riverside will help reverse that resulting in a positive impact while helping to negate the current site conditions and their impact on economic and societal factors and future proofing the site against the impact of climate change.

The aim is to identify all materials which have the potential to be recovered for re-use, reclaim or recycling as part of the demolition works to minimise waste to landfill. This waste will be stockpiled for a period of time on site.

Roushill Park will be planted with new trees and plants for pollinators - boosting local biodiversity in the town centre. The park will collect surface water runoff into Rain Gardens, which will create new habitats for birds and invertebrates. As a consequence of the new park, there will be a substantial increase in greenspace on the Site and biodiversity net gain.

The Park avoids removing further area from the floodplain providing additional flood compensation within the Site. The permeable hardstanding treatments allows water to be naturally released from the site in the event that it does flood with landscaped areas providing filtration of surface water.

In the short term, the demolition and development of the Park meet the following key policy objectives and will have a positive impact on a number of health, social and environmental implications:

- Providing high quality public realm and links between spaces including walking routes
- A new green link via the Park to the River Severn
- Removing underused buildings to provide a setting for investment in better quality buildings
- Celebrating new gateways and arrival points through the Park and a new arched wall feature and lift and stairs linking the Park and podium
- The park will replace existing buildings, increasing the volume of available floodplain storage.
- Rain gardens and planted filter margins have been incorporated into the park landscape in preference to traditional surface drainage such as gullies. The proposed features will help to attenuate surface water, will provide storage for surface water within the filter material, and will help to safeguard water quality. Within and outside of Roushill Park, surface water storage tanks and flow restrictions will also be provided where possible.
- The park will provide substantial leisure and amenity value as well as enhancing biodiversity in what is currently a heavily urbanised area.
- Proposed landscaping in Roushill Park would introduce substantial new planting and green infrastructure including tree and shrub cover, flower rich meadows, flowering and fruiting trees and shrubs and

seasonally wet SUDS areas. All planting is selected to maximise biodiversity and feature native or near native species which will help to establish a new habitats within the Site compared to existing.

- Roushill Park will reuse part of a redundant brownfield site to create new open space in the centre of Shrewsbury providing multifunctional uses - places to meet, sit, play and host community events;
- Community health and wellbeing benefits arising from the new Park in terms of access to nature and open space

Carbon performance and climate mitigation measures have been included as an integral part of the project from the early stages of the design process. Carbon performance will be quantified, monitored and reported as the project proceeds and includes:

- inclusion of the linear park to Roushill linking the Riverside to Pride Hill and the River Severn, whilst contributing to flood adaptation;
- raising of the development site to ensure flood resilience, potentially create undercroft parking, and improve connectivity of the site to both Pride Hill and Frankwell; and,
- to retain/improve parking at the site of the Raven Meadows multi-story car park to sustain/improve footfall to the Darwin Centre.
- all materials which have the potential to be recovered for re-use, reclaim or recycling as part of the demolition works to minimise waste to landfill.
- the design of specific buildings such as the Multi-Agency Hub (MAH) has included extensive consideration of energy and carbon performance.
- Stakeholder engagement workshop(s) undertaken by Arup (Engineering specialist on the Project) on the sustainable design of the Riverside redevelopment, including exploring the potential to incorporate various low carbon energy technologies and other sustainable design features.





Associated ESHIAs

A recent ESHIA for the Shrewsbury Movement and Public Space Strategy was undertaken by the same team involved in Smithfield Riverside and went to Cabinet on 17 January 2024. The overlap between this and the Movement Strategy is important to recognise as both will provide positive impact for Shrewsbury. The involvement in delivering the Shrewsbury Big Town plan for each of these ESHIAs ensures that that future public consultations in Shrewsbury continue to engage with Protected Characteristic Groupings.

ESHIA's were also previously carried out in relation to the development of the Council's Economic Growth Strategy 2022 - 2027, before and following public consultation. These provide useful additional context for the overall strategic policy of the Council towards economic growth as an integral element of place shaping approaches across the County.

An initial Equality, Social and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA) completed for the Shrewsbury Big Town Plan was signed off on 17th October 2018 with a follow up ESHIA in January 2021.

Scrutiny at Stage One screening stage

People involved	Signatures	Date
<i>Lead officer for the proposed service change</i>	Tim Pritchard 	11 March 2024
<i>Officer carrying out the screening</i>	Claire Evans 	4/3/2024
<i>Any other internal service area support*</i>		
<i>Any external support**</i>	Lois Dale 	7 th March 2024
	Adrian Cooper 	12 th March 2024

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

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

Sign off at Stage One screening stage

Name	Signatures	Date
<i>Lead officer's name</i>	Tim Pritchard 	11 March 2024
<i>Service manager's name</i>	Tracy Darke 	12 th March 2024

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

B. Detailed Screening Assessment

Aims of the service change and description
<p>The aim of the Phase One development is to undertake demolition works, alongside facilitation and enablement works. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 1a – demolition of the former Riverside shopping centre, ground remediation, enabling works and the creation of the park to Roushill. • Phase 1b – Partial demolition of the former Pride Hill shopping centre and construction of leisure led mixed-use redevelopment, including cinema and food and beverage. • Phase 1C – Construction of commercial office (including multi-agency hub) to the site of the former Riverside shopping centre site. • Phase 1d – refurbishment/reconstruction of the Raven Meadows multi-storey car park (subject to further detailed technical assessments). <p>These Phase One activities form a key, regenerative element of the Shrewsbury Town Centre Redevelopment (STCR) Programme which is an ambitious regeneration initiative, supporting many of the strategic objectives of the Shropshire Plan.</p> <p>Notably, it supports a Healthy Economy, promoting the County town ‘as a safe, strong and vibrant destination to visit and invest’; Healthy Environment and Organisation through the potential for low carbon development, mitigating climate change, increasing flood resilience, whilst reducing the Council’s operational carbon footprint and providing greenspace in our public realm.</p> <p>These objectives are reinforced by the Economic Growth Strategy, Shrewsbury Place Plan and Big Town Plan Vision and informed by the emerging Movement and Public Space Strategy (which is currently subject to public consultation, ending 22 March 2024).</p>

The key objectives for Smithfield Riverside, as laid out in the Shrewsbury Riverside Framework Regeneration are provided below, and when taken together ensures that the redevelopment aims to make positive impacts on equality, social inclusion, climate change and health and wellbeing outcomes.

<p>CELEBRATE THE RIVER SEVERN, making the most of the fantastic natural waterfront setting, providing opportunities for biodiversity through the site and ensuring the site responds to and is resilient to flooding.</p>	<p>INNOVATIVE & SUSTAINABLE, a design which embraces new technology and contemporary design to deliver sustainability and distinctiveness, representing a positive future and spearheading innovation in Shrewsbury.</p>	<p>MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS, a highly connected site which knits seamlessly into the town centre and the surround urban context.</p>	<p>RESILIENT TO CHANGE, delivering an adaptable plan which can respond is resilient to economic and environmental change.</p>	<p>CHARACTERFUL & DISTINCTIVE, achieving distinctive modern design which responds to the unique character of Shrewsbury.</p>	<p>PEDESTRIAN-LED, a place which is designed for and prioritises pedestrians and cyclists over vehicles.</p>	<p>A HIGHLY LIVEABLE TOWN CENTRE, contribute towards a town centre with a vibrant mixed use community and delivers an excellent quality of life within a beautiful urban setting.</p>

Intended audiences and target groups for the service change

Throughout the consultation, engagement activities have been guided by the following key principles:

- Being open and honest with stakeholders and members of the local community when presenting all information about the proposals.
- Being clear and 'plain speaking', avoiding the use of jargon or technical terms where possible.
- Ensuring that all public engagement materials can be easily accessed by local stakeholders and the wider public.
- Identifying different audiences and developing appropriate communication techniques that effectively engage with each one.
- Responding quickly and effectively to enquiries received from stakeholders and members of the public.

The objectives of the consultation process were as follows:

- To undertake a multi-phase consultation to ensure that members of the local community and key stakeholders had the opportunity to comment and influence the development proposals at
 - (a) an early, formative stage and
 - (b) a more detailed design stage.
- To demonstrate best practice in consultation delivery, ensuring the consultation was accessible, thorough, and robust.
- To proactively demonstrate where feedback from the consultation has influenced the scheme design.
- To use the consultation and engagement process to fully explain the proposals in context, and as an opportunity to address any sensitive issues or concerns.

The different audience groups identified were:

- Elected representatives – including representatives to Shrewsbury Town Council and surrounding parish councils, Shropshire Council, and Members of Parliament.
- Directly affected residents – i.e. those living close to the site.
- Local organisations and businesses – including schools and colleges, civic organisations, museums and cultural attractions, environmental groups and residents' organisations.
- Businesses and residents across a wider area of Shropshire

The intended audience and target groups have been engaged in the consultation activities that have taken place to date, with concerted efforts to engage younger audience which is demonstrated by the summary of the first consultation below, and showing a 23% response rate overall for 16 – 19 year olds:

CONSULTATION OVERVIEW

Between 18 October and 15 November 2023, Shropshire Council and the Smithfield Riverside project team consulted with residents, businesses, and organisations across the county to gather feedback on our plans for Smithfield Riverside, including a new park on Roushill.



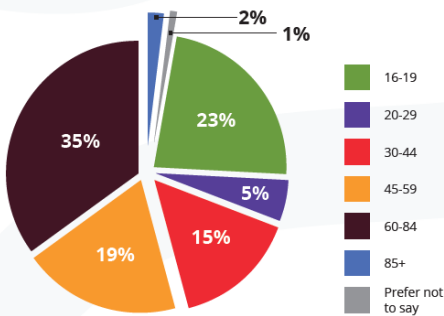
Over the course of the consultation we:

- Spoke to over **500** people from all across Shropshire
- Hosted **8** events
- Received **429** written responses
- Had more than **14,000** visitors to the Smithfield Riverside website

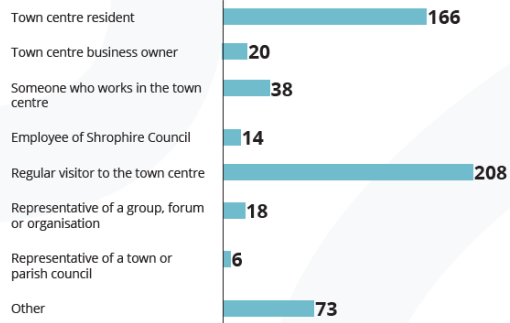
Who did we speak to?

Most people we spoke to either lived in Shrewsbury or were regular visitors to the town. We heard from people across different age groups, genders, and ethnicities to gather a sample that represents the different demographics in Shropshire.

What age group are you?*



How are you responding to this questionnaire

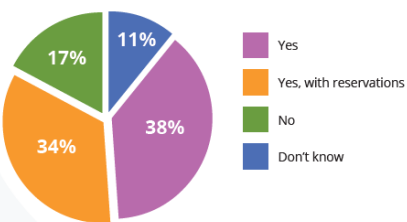


* of 387 people who answered this question

What did people think of the plans?

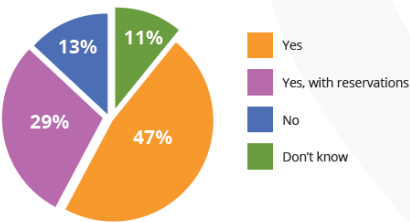
Most people we heard from were supportive of our plans, particularly for a new park on Roushill. Lots of people also had suggestions on how we could improve the scheme.

Based on what you've seen so far, do you support our vision for Smithfield Riverside?*



* of 389 people who answered this question

Based on what you've seen so far, do you support our plans for Roushill Park?***



*** of 378 people who answered this question

Evidence used for screening of the service change

The Smithfield Riverside Redevelopment Programme is supported by a robust evidence base. The programme has undertaken numerous economic & environmental impact assessments, and provided a full Planning Statement in January 2024 as part of the Planning Application for the demolition and creation of the Roushill Park (23/05402/FUL)

Over the last five years Shrewsbury has been the focus of an ambitious plan for growth, driven forward by the Big Town Plan. This plan outlined a series of key themes for the town, which included creating a place for enterprise and vitality, life and mix. The plan has since been progressed in 2020 through the creation of the [Shrewsbury Masterplan Vision](#) to drive forward the aspirations of the original Big Town Plan. A key driver of both these plans has been to connect communities and create balanced growth.

The Proposed Development will also act as a catalyst for benefits in the longer term namely:

- Reducing the impact of traffic on Smithfield Road
- Providing further high quality public realm and new routes through to Pride Hill
- Enhancing the role of the river and access to it

Shropshire's adopted Local Plan and emerging Review has identified Shrewsbury as a 'Strategic Centre', with 'high-growth aspirations' which will enable growth of its businesses through the provision of both housing and employment land allocations. The population of the town is already growing faster than the county average (+3.8%, equating to +2,700 people over the last five years).

As a result of ambitious growth plans, the population is projected to rise to 85,700 by 2026. This is the equivalent of more than 10,000 additional people who will be reliant on the town centre for access to the retail, education, health, leisure and cultural offer within 'their' town.

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

A number of methods were used to engage with intended audiences that included:

- Consultation Postcard – distributed to 4,436 commercial and residential properties
- Stakeholder Emails
- Consultation Posters
- Public Information Totems in 8 locations in the town centre
- Information in public libraries across the county
- Media Coverage & associated PR campaign
- Social Media
- Consultation website
- Consultation Drop-in Events, a breakdown of the attendees of each drop-in event during the consultation period is shown below.

Date	Time	Attendees
Wednesday 25 October	2pm -7pm	74
Thursday 26 October	11am-4pm	102
Saturday 28 October	10:30am – 3:30pm	202
Wednesday 15 November	4pm - 6pm	10

- *Three events were held at Shrewsbury Colleges Group (SCG) campuses in the final week of the initial consultation, with a particular focus on gathering the views of young people. In total, 102 students were engaged and 78 feedback forms were collected from these events. The events held at SCG campuses collected feedback from a total of 78 young people across three days, as shown below.*

Date	Location	Feedback Forms Collected
Wednesday 15 November	SCG London Road Campus	20
Thursday 16 November	SCG English Bridge Campus	26
Friday 17 November	SCG Welsh Bridge Campus	32

The feedback that was collated as part of the consultation was provided in summary form and disseminated at the second consultation event in February 2024 to demonstrate the impact the engagement had in informing the design – this is shown below:

OCTOBER 2023 CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

In October 2023 we launched our first round of consultation on Smithfield Riverside, where we asked for your feedback on the masterplan and our designs for Roushill Park.

Between 18 October and 15 November last year, we:



spoke to more than **500** Shropshire residents across **8 events**



received **429** feedback forms



had over **14,000** visitors to the Smithfield Riverside website



found that around **two thirds (65%)** of people we asked were supportive of our plans

Many people were excited to see positive change happening in this area of the town centre. Lots of people also had suggestions on how we could improve the scheme.

YOU SAID: WE DID!

The feedback we received helped us to further develop the plans for Roushill Park, and ensure they meet the needs of Shropshire residents.

Some specific changes we've made to the park's design, based on your feedback, are:

Many people had questions about how the park will cope with flooding, so we're using solid sculptural play features, rather than traditional children's play equipment, with a design that will tie-in closely with the geology and archaeology of the site. This will also make the play equipment sturdier, and easier to clean up after flooding.

Climbing boulders have been incorporated into the park design in response to feedback around the need to provide outdoor play and activity elements for a range of ages, including adults.

The park has been designed to make cleanup after flooding events as easy as possible, including the use of durable paving materials and furniture, research into suitable soils, and carefully chosen tap locations for clean up hoses/pipes.

Additional rain gardens have been introduced to the park to enhance its role in the Sustainable Urban Drainage and Flood Management Strategy for the area. The additional rain gardens will also improve biodiversity and wildlife on the site, which was highlighted as a priority for many people.



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

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

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

Protected Characteristic groupings and other groupings in Shropshire	High negative impact <i>Stage Two ESHIA required</i>	High positive impact <i>Stage One ESHIA required</i>	Medium positive or negative impact <i>Stage One ESHIA required</i>	Low positive, negative, or neutral impact (please specify) <i>Stage One ESHIA required</i>
<u>Age</u> (please include children, young people, young people leaving care, people of working age, older people. Some people may belong to more than one group e.g., a child or young person for whom there are safeguarding concerns e.g., an older person with a disability)			X <i>positive</i>	
<u>Disability</u> (please include cancer; HIV/AIDS; learning disabilities; mental health conditions and syndromes; multiple sclerosis; neurodiverse conditions such as autism; hidden disabilities such as Crohn's disease; physical and/or sensory disabilities or impairments)			X <i>positive</i>	
<u>Gender re-assignment</u> (please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				Neutral
<u>Marriage and Civil Partnership</u> (please include associated aspects: caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				Neutral
<u>Pregnancy and Maternity</u> (please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)			X <i>positive</i>	

<u>Race</u> (please include ethnicity, nationality, culture, language, Gypsy, Roma, Traveller)				Neutral
<u>Religion or belief</u> (please include Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism, Nonconformists; Rastafarianism; Shinto, Sikhism, Taoism, Veganism, Zoroastrianism, and any others)				Neutral
<u>Sex</u> (this can also be viewed as relating to gender. Please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				Neutral
<u>Sexual Orientation</u> (please include associated aspects: safety; caring responsibility; potential for bullying and harassment)				Neutral
<u>Other: Social Inclusion</u> (please include families and friends with caring responsibilities; households in poverty; people for whom there are safeguarding concerns; people you consider to be vulnerable; people with health inequalities; refugees and asylum seekers; rural communities; and veterans and serving members of the armed forces and their families)			X <i>positive</i>	

Initial health and wellbeing impact assessment by category

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

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

Health and wellbeing: individuals and communities in Shropshire	High negative impact <i>Part Two HIA required</i>	High positive impact	Medium positive or negative impact	Low positive negative or neutral impact (please specify)
Will the proposal have a <i>direct impact</i> on an individual's health, mental health and wellbeing?		X – Creation of Roushill Park will improve health and wellbeing		

<p>For example, would it cause ill health, affecting social inclusion, independence and participation?</p> <p>.</p>		<p>outcomes</p>		
<p>Will the proposal indirectly impact an individual's ability to improve their own health and wellbeing?</p> <p>For example, will it affect their ability to be physically active, choose healthy food, reduce drinking and smoking?</p> <p>.</p>		<p>X - it will help support an individuals health & wellbeing outcomes through green and play spaces</p>		
<p>Will the policy have a direct impact on the community - social, economic and environmental living conditions that would impact health?</p> <p>For example, would it affect housing, transport, child development, education, employment opportunities, availability of green space or climate change mitigation?</p> <p>.</p>			<p>X – Community improvements will be made including measures to enable commercial premises to improve economic outcomes.</p>	
<p>Will there be a likely change in demand for or access to health and social care services?</p> <p>For example: Primary Care, Hospital Care, Community Services, Mental Health, Local Authority services including Social Services?</p> <p>.</p>				<p>Neutral</p>

Guidance Notes

1. Legal Context

It is a legal requirement for local authorities to assess the equality and human rights impact of changes proposed or made to services. It is up to us as an authority to decide what form our equality impact assessment may take. By way of illustration, some local authorities focus more overtly upon human rights; some include safeguarding. It is about what is considered to be needed in a local authority's area, in line with local factors such as demography and strategic objectives as well as with the national legislative imperatives.

Carrying out these impact assessments helps us as a public authority to ensure that, as far as possible, we are taking actions to meet the general equality duty placed on us by the Equality Act 2010, and to thus demonstrate that the three equality aims are integral to our decision making processes.

These are: eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advancing equality of opportunity; and fostering good relations.

These screening assessments for any proposed service change go to Cabinet as part of the committee report, or occasionally direct to Full Council, unless they are ones to do with Licensing, in which case they go to Strategic Licensing Committee.

Service areas would ordinarily carry out a screening assessment, or Stage One equality impact assessment. This enables energies to be focussed on review and monitoring and ongoing evidence collection about the positive or negative impacts of a service change upon groupings in the community, and for any adjustments to be considered and made accordingly.

These screening assessments are recommended to be undertaken at timely points in the development and implementation of the proposed service change.

For example, a Stage One ESHIA would be a recommended course of action before a consultation. This would draw upon the evidence available at that time, and identify the target audiences, and assess at that initial stage what the likely impact of the service change could be across the Protected Characteristic groupings and our tenth category of Social Inclusion. This ESHIA would set out intended actions to engage with the groupings, particularly those who are historically less likely to engage in public consultation eg young people, as otherwise we would not know their specific needs.

A second Stage One ESHIA would then be carried out after the consultation, to say what the feedback was, to set out changes proposed as a result of the feedback, and to say where responses were low and what the plans are to engage with groupings who did not really respond. This ESHIA would also draw more upon actions to review impacts in order to mitigate the negative and accentuate the positive. Examples of this approach include the Great Outdoors Strategy, and the Economic Growth Strategy 2017-2021

Meeting our Public Sector Equality Duty through carrying out these ESHIAs is very much about using them as an opportunity to demonstrate ongoing engagement

across groupings and to thus visibly show we are taking what is called due regard of the needs of people in protected characteristic groupings

If the screening indicates that there are likely to be significant negative impacts for groupings within the community, the service area would need to carry out a full report, or Stage Two assessment. This will enable more evidence to be collected that will help the service area to reach an informed opinion.

In practice, Stage Two or Full Screening Assessments have only been recommended twice since 2014, as the ongoing mitigation of negative equality impacts should serve to keep them below the threshold for triggering a Full Screening Assessment. The expectation is that Full Screening Assessments in regard to Health Impacts may occasionally need to be undertaken, but this would be very much the exception rather than the rule.

2. Council Wide and Service Area Policy and Practice on Equality, Social Inclusion and Health

This involves taking an equality and social inclusion approach in planning changes to services, policies, or procedures, including those that may be required by Government. The decisions that you make when you are planning a service change need to be recorded, to demonstrate that you have thought about the possible equality impacts on communities and to show openness and transparency in your decision-making processes.

This is where Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessments (ESHIA) come in. Where you carry out an ESHIA in your service area, this provides an opportunity to show:

- What evidence you have drawn upon to help you to recommend a strategy or policy or a course of action to Cabinet.
- What target groups and audiences you have worked with to date.
- What actions you will take in order to mitigate any likely negative impact upon a group or groupings, and enhance any positive effects for a group or groupings; and
- What actions you are planning to monitor and review the impact of your planned service change.

The formal template is there not only to help the service area but also to act as a stand-alone for a member of the public to read. The approach helps to identify whether or not any new or significant changes to services, including policies, procedures, functions, or projects, may have an adverse impact on a particular group of people, and whether the human rights of individuals may be affected.

There are nine Protected Characteristic groupings defined in the Equality Act 2010. The full list of groupings is: Age; Disability; Gender Reassignment; Marriage and Civil Partnership; Pregnancy and Maternity; Race; Religion or Belief; Sex; and Sexual Orientation.

There is also intersectionality between these. Eg a young person with a disability would be in the groupings of Age and Disability, and if they described themselves as having a faith they would then also be in the grouping of Religion or Belief.

We demonstrate equal treatment to people who are in these groups and to people who are not, through having what is termed 'due regard' to their needs and views when developing and implementing policy and strategy and when commissioning, procuring, arranging, or delivering services.

Social inclusion is then the wider additional category we use in Shropshire, in order to help us to go beyond the equality legislation in also considering impacts for individuals and households with regard to the circumstances in which they may find themselves across their life stages. This could be households on low incomes, or households facing challenges in accessing services, such as households in rural areas, and veterans and serving members of the armed forces and their families, or people that we might consider to be vulnerable, such as young people leaving care or refugee families.

Please note that the armed forces are now a grouping to whom we are required to give due regard under new Armed Forces legislation, although in practice we have been doing so for a number of years now.

When you are not carrying out an ESHIA, you still need to demonstrate and record that you have considered equality in your decision-making processes. It is up to you what format you choose.-You could use a checklist, an explanatory note, or a document setting out our expectations of standards of behaviour, for contractors to read and sign. It may well not be something that is in the public domain like an ESHIA, but you should still be ready for it to be made available.

Both the approaches sit with a manager, and the manager has to make the call, and record the decision made on behalf of the Council.

Carry out an ESHIA:

- If you are building or reconfiguring a building.
- If you are planning to reduce or remove a service.
- If you are consulting on a policy or a strategy.
- If you are bringing in a change to a process or procedure that involves other stakeholders and the wider community as well as particular groupings

Carry out an equality and social inclusion approach:

- If you are setting out how you expect a contractor to behave with regard to equality, where you are commissioning a service or product from them.

- If you are setting out the standards of behaviour that we expect from people who work with vulnerable groupings, such as taxi drivers that we license.
- If you are planning consultation and engagement activity, where we need to collect equality data in ways that will be proportionate and non-intrusive as well as meaningful for the purposes of the consultation itself.
- If you are looking at services provided by others that help the community, where we need to demonstrate a community leadership approach

3. Council wide and service area policy and practice on health and wellbeing

This is a relatively new area to record within our overall assessments of impacts, for which we are asking service area leads to consider health and wellbeing impacts, much as they have been doing during 2020-2021 and 2021-2022, and to look at these in the context of direct and indirect impacts for individuals and for communities.

A better understanding across the Council of these impacts will also better enable the Public Health colleagues to prioritise activities to reduce health inequalities in ways that are evidence based and that link effectively with equality impact considerations and climate change mitigation.

Health in All Policies – Health Impact Assessment

Health in All Policies is an upstream approach for health and wellbeing promotion and prevention, and to reduce health inequalities. The Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is the supporting mechanism

- Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is the technical name for a process that considers the wider effects of local policies, strategies and initiatives and how they, in turn, may affect people's health and wellbeing.
- Health Impact Assessment is a means of assessing both the positive and negative health impacts of a policy. It is also a means of developing good evidence-based policy and strategy using a structured process to review the impact.
- A Health Impact Assessment seeks to determine how to maximise health benefits and reduce health inequalities. It identifies any unintended health consequences. These consequences may support policy and strategy or may lead to suggestions for improvements.
- An agreed framework will set out a clear pathway through which a policy or strategy can be assessed and impacts with outcomes identified. It also sets out the support mechanisms for maximising health benefits.

The embedding of a Health in All Policies approach will support Shropshire Council through evidence-based practice and a whole systems approach, in achieving our corporate and partnership strategic priorities. This will assist the Council and partners in promoting, enabling and sustaining the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities whilst reducing health inequalities.

Individuals

Will the proposal have a *direct impact* on health, mental health and wellbeing?

For example, would it cause ill health, affecting social inclusion, independence and participation?

Will the proposal directly affect an individual's ability to improve their own health and wellbeing?

This could include the following: their ability to be physically active e.g., being able to use a cycle route; to access food more easily; to change lifestyle in ways that are of positive impact for their health.

An example of this could be that you may be involved in proposals for the establishment of safer walking and cycling routes (e.g., green highways), and changes to public transport that could encourage people away from car usage. and increase the number of journeys that they make on public transport, by foot or on bicycle or scooter. This could improve lives.

Will the proposal *indirectly impact* an individual's ability to improve their own health and wellbeing?

This could include the following: their ability to access local facilities e.g., to access food more easily, or to access a means of mobility to local services and amenities? (e.g. change to bus route)

Similarly to the above, an example of this could be that you may be involved in proposals for the establishment of safer walking and cycling routes (e.g. pedestrianisation of town centres), and changes to public transport that could encourage people away from car usage, and increase the number of journeys that they make on public transport, by foot or on bicycle or scooter. This could improve their health and well being.

Communities

Will the proposal directly or indirectly affect the physical health, mental health, and wellbeing of the wider community?

A *direct impact* could include either the causing of ill health, affecting social inclusion, independence and participation, or the promotion of better health.

An example of this could be that safer walking and cycling routes could help the wider community, as more people across groupings may be encouraged to walk more, and as there will be reductions in emission leading to better air quality.

An *indirect impact* could mean that a service change could indirectly affect living and working conditions and therefore the health and well being of the wider community.

An example of this could be: an increase in the availability of warm homes would improve the quality of the housing offer in Shropshire and reduce the costs for

households of having a warm home in Shropshire. Often a health promoting approach also supports our agenda to reduce the level of Carbon Dioxide emissions and to reduce the impact of climate change.

Please record whether at this stage you consider the proposed service change to have a direct or an indirect impact upon communities.

Demand

Will there be a change in demand for or access to health, local authority and social care services?

For example: Primary Care, Hospital Care, Community Services, Mental Health and Social Services?

An example of this could be: a new housing development in an area would affect demand for primary care and local authority facilities and services in that location and surrounding areas. If the housing development does not factor in consideration of availability of green space and safety within the public Space, further down the line there could be an increased demand upon health and social care services as a result of the lack of opportunities for physical recreation, and reluctance of some groupings to venture outside if they do not perceive it to be safe.

For further advice: please contact

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Committee and Date

Council

21 March 2024

Item

Public



Post 16 Transport Task and Finish Group: Update Report and Next Steps

Responsible Officer:	David Shaw – Assistant Director of Education and Achievement James Willocks – Passenger Transport Group Manager		
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Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	Ian Nellins Kirsty Hurst-Knight		
Task and Finish Group Chair:	Ian Nellins		

1.0 Executive Summary

1.1 Council, at its meeting on the 14 December 2023 passed a Motion that commissioned a task and finish group to look into how the Council could promote fairness and inclusivity by ensuring that all students, regardless of their economic backgrounds or location, have equal access to education without an unfair financial burden of excessive transportation costs

1.2 This paper sets out the findings and recommendations of this task and finish group.

2.0 Report

2.1 Members of the task and finish group, supporting officers, and Member observers have met to discuss the motion and work through the relevant information to understand the issues, options and confirm next steps and emerging recommendations.

2.2 As part of this work they considered two core statutory documents which are useful reference regarding what the Council must provide in terms of post 16 Transport.

- [Travel to school for children of compulsory school age \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

- [Post-16 transport and travel support to education and training \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

2.3 The group also considered the local situation in Shropshire, particularly in relation to the public transport network, and how the network would look without funding support. They discussed the challenges of living in rural areas and recognised that one of the biggest challenges relating to equity of access was public transport network coverage.

3.0 Next steps and recommendations

3.1 The group confirmed that the first steps should be to meet the requirements of the Motion. Members reflected that the conversation was positive, and solution focused, but they were at risk of moving beyond the scope of their work.

Raising awareness of options and informing expectations

3.2 That a One Stop Shop approach should be considered, where parents, carers, students and colleges could go to for advice, guidance and information that helped set out options and provided signposting in relation to post-16 transport.

3.3 The Passenger Transport Group Manager should talk to the Enhanced Bus Partnership Group (providers) about the challenges, opportunities and options relating to post-16 transport.

Developing a clearer understanding of the costs and challenges

3.4 A further mapping exercise should be carried out to provide a clearer understanding of current and future demand for post-16 transport taking account of small area statistics on 16 to 19 demographics (current and projected for the coming years), urban centres, Further Education (FE) college locations, and public transport routes, and should be integrated with data that is informing place planning.

3.5 Work should be completed to develop an understanding of the likely scale, costs and options to cover point 2 of the motion in the immediate term, whilst the wider work of negotiating with other bus companies is undertaken as a longer-term piece of work.

2. *that the total annual cost of a Post-16 student's transport, when using school buses and public transport, shall not exceed the expense of a single annual Arriva student bus pass within Shropshire.*

Future funding for the public transport network

3.6 The Department of Transport support ends on 31st March 2025. The Council should take an improved coverage option back to The Department for Transport to pursue future funding.

Working with the further education colleges

3.7 Improved data connectivity with colleges should continue to be progressed. This will help to develop understanding from the data and insights they hold on where their students travel in from. The group were mindful that next year's cohort would be known, shortly.

3.8 The Council should explore the opportunity to make available and visualise data that the Council holds and has access to, identifying the potential demand in

communities to indicate where there are young people in the relevant age groups in the current and future years. This might help colleges who are working to expand or target their own offers and how transport could be a feature. It could also be something that the council could provide as part of a commercial offer – either for a fee, or as part of a package that will deliver identified outcomes.

- 3.9 Where there are specific issues related to access from communities and it is known that a further education college is providing transport to a nearby settlement, the Council could ask the college whether they would either extend the route or provide a new service where there was demonstrated demand. As well as helping address access there would be a mutual benefit of increasing the colleges enrolment numbers.

4.0 **Manging the flow of the work**

- 4.1 The group identified three stages to the work.

Short term = One Stop Shop scoping exercise potentially moving to implementation,

Medium term = Opportunities to speak to colleges, and completing the data and mapping exercise for the realistic establishment of numbers and costs

Long term = Public transport infrastructure in Shropshire, developing a more integrated transport offer, making the link to the Economic Growth Strategy and employers and FE/HE (Higher Education) provision

- 4.2 The Group felt that the aim should be to get the short term element of this work underway for September 2024 for this years cohort, or January 2025 at the latest.

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

Local Member: All

Appendices [Please list the titles of Appendices]

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Committee and Date
Council
21 March 2024

Item

Public

Annual Report of the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Public Health

Responsible Officer:		Tanya Miles and Rachel Robinson	
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Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):		Cecilia Motley	

1. Synopsis

The Portfolio Report provides Council with an overview of the developments and achievements that have been delivered in 2023 for adult social care and public health. This has been a challenging year with ongoing demand pressures across the sector but also an exciting time of change with Transformation Programmes of work helping us to deliver the Shropshire Plan priorities.

2. Executive Summary

This report updates on the work across adult social care, public health and communities and includes the work being undertaken to deliver the Shropshire plan priorities, detailing areas of transformation and focus.

For adult social care pressures continue to increase with high demand for support, increasing complexity such as dementia and nursing provision required. This with the rising costs associated with delivering services has seen increased budget pressures despite being on target for our savings programme aligned to the transformation programmes. Social care and public health are working collectively to address and mitigate the impacts by focussing on early intervention and prevention activities to keep people well and supported in their own homes.

For public health, the report provides an overview of the context and delivery of improving Public Health outcomes in Shropshire. It summarises the key health and wellbeing priorities for Shropshire, the exercising of the Public Health statutory public health responsibilities.

3. Recommendations

That Members receive the report, and raise any issues as appropriate on the performance and activities of the functions of the Council in respect of adult social care, public health, and communities.

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

ASC has statutory duties under the Care Act 2014 to meet needs and manage the care market; meeting need in the most cost effective and way. The teams continue to assess needs and work with commissioners to do this creatively whilst maintaining good quality care that meets individual needs.

Public Health has a range of Mandated and Statutory Services and Duties it is expected to deliver within available resources alongside areas of identified local health and wellbeing need; this report demonstrates Public Health Shropshire's compliance with these functions. In addition, an assessment has also been undertaken in line with the Public Health function in the Rural Proofing Toolkit for Health and Inequalities ([Rural proofing for health toolkit – Rural England](#)). This shows the steps that need to be taken to rural proof the delivery of public health services. Our assessment noted nine areas where the indicator is met with five where it was partially met. Plans are in place to address partial or maintain and improve minimal areas noted within both assessments. A review against both the Mandatory/ Statutory Duties and Rural Proofing assessment will be routinely undertaken by the Directorate as part of annual service review planning and when a new policy or service is introduced and routinely shared with the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee as part of Public Health Updates.

5. Financial Implications

For adult social care the overall forecast overspend across Social Care Operations is £10.081m for quarter 2. This is mainly due to purchasing where numbers of service users and cost of placements are higher than anticipated at budget setting, we continue to see an increase in nursing care, highlighting a complexity in people's needs from the community and through the hospital discharge pathways. We have also seen more packages of care commissioned within peoples' homes, resulting positively on reduced waiting lists however costs have increased due to improved wait times. Work is on-going with the market to manage the increased costs of care. Finally, we have seen further pressures due to the continued need to support hospital discharges and short term care provision which has resulted in higher costs. One-off Grant funding has been applied to offset some of these pressures and the Reablement Transformation is in progress with system engagement.

Adult Social Care - Adult social care is on trajectory to meet its current savings plan currently over £12m to date, these savings are as a result of working differently and improving outcomes for people by progressing our transformation plans across the customer journey. By using technology we have many examples of how we have improved the wellbeing and

independence of individuals; one example includes reducing a care package by tailoring the technology to support an individual with high mental health needs which not only has resulted in efficiency savings but importantly has given their family the confidence so they have been able to go on holiday for the first time knowing their family member is safe and more independent.

We still however continue to experience high demand and high cost across the sector in areas such as hospital discharge and with people presenting with more complex needs, in particular needing dementia support. We are however positively supporting more people at home with Direct Payments giving people autonomy and choice over their care and support in a more cost-efficient way. Supporting people at home and increasing their independence and wellbeing is in line with the Shropshire plan priorities and the transformation programmes currently underway across adults social care.

To facilitate the delivery of Public Health outcomes, each upper tier local authority area has been given a grant since 2013. This grant is ring fenced and the terms of the grant include delivery of several mandated functions, which are specific to the public health prevention agenda, including lifestyles. Any remaining budget is to be used at the discretion of the local authority area to reflect local need and target areas with the biggest impact. In addition, the remaining grant is used to fund public health staff delivering statutory and mandated public health functions and the substitution of several key services within Shropshire Council that are deemed to be delivering priority public health Outcomes. During 2023/24 the full Public Health grant will be spent. Furthermore, the directorate held £4.215m as ring fenced Public Health reserve from activity paused during COVID and outbreak/contractual pressures. There are plans to use £1.4m of in 2023/24. The directorate has clear plans for the use of the balance of this reserve over the subsequent two years to meet public health local and national priorities, alongside supporting the Councils Transformation programmes and activities where the focus is on achieving improved health outcomes taking a prevention and demand management approach.

The directorate also brought in specific grant funding of £1.669m to enhance its public health activities in 2023/24, having secured approximately £5m in external funds to support activities between 2022/23 to 2024/25. For example, in drugs and alcohol spend, the Council has received an additional £0.8M in 2022/23 and £1.3m in 2023/24 for this area compared to its normal core spend of £2.7m (therefore nearly 50% additional funding for this area in 2023/24).

While spend on Public Health has increased over the past decade, there has been a 27% real-terms per person cut in the value of the grant between the initial allocations for 2015/16 and 2024/25 due to inflation and population growth.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

The climate crisis is a serious threat to the lives of millions of people globally, nationally and locally. The mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation measures to build resilience is now urgent and essential to prevent the worst outcomes. Even if we are successful in mitigating the worst effects, we will continue to experience more pronounced and frequent episodes of extreme weather. The much greater frequency of extreme weather events will significantly increase insurance risks and threaten the health, wellbeing and future resilience of our communities.

Shropshire Council declared a climate emergency in May 2019 and in December 2020 adopted a Climate Strategy and Action Plan, which establishes the objective of achieving net-zero carbon performance for Shropshire Council by 2030. The Climate Change Task Force was established to lead the Council's response in November 2019, supported by an internal officer working group. A Climate Change and Carbon Reduction Advisory Board was established in September 2022 to act as a 'critical friend' and to assist the implementation and review of the Council's Climate Strategy.

The climate crisis is already recognised as a significant strategic risk to Shropshire and the delivery of Council and public services. This risk is most likely to manifest itself in terms of financial impacts (e.g. operating costs, impacts on the Shropshire economy) and impacts on the health and well-being of staff and residents as service users.

Climate action and carbon reduction are integral to all aspects of the Shropshire Plan:

Healthy People – Extreme weather associated with the climate crisis will adversely affect vulnerable residents and service users disproportionately. This is likely to drive significant future growth in the demand for social care services as well as generating significant impacts on the physical and mental health and wellbeing of staff.

Healthy Economy – The recent energy crisis illustrates potential impacts on the Shropshire economy from the climate crisis. However, there are also significant opportunities for growth and skilled employment in new technologies, renewable energy and the rural economy.

Healthy Environment – The climate crisis has very serious implications for biodiversity and food production. However, as a large rural area, Shropshire is also in an excellent position to take positive action to help mitigate these effects.

Healthy Organisation – Extreme weather associated with the climate crisis may significantly disrupt the delivery of Council services through damage to physical infrastructure such as roads and power infrastructure, and through impacts on staff health and wellbeing. Demand for services and service delivery costs such as highway maintenance are likely to increase significantly.

Taking active steps through the implementation of a corporate Climate Strategy and Action Plan and supporting wider community efforts allows the Council to make a demonstrable contribution to reducing the carbon footprint of the wider county, as well as 'leading by example' by reducing its own carbon footprint. Through its regulatory role and procurement decisions, Shropshire Council is in a position to make a strong positive contribution to help the wider Shropshire community make a positive transition to a low carbon future.

Individual Council services will progressively need to engage with their staff and service users to explore the need for, and implications of, service changes which may result from the adoption of carbon reduction measures. The Council will need to adopt an agile approach keep abreast of national good practice in order to maximise opportunities for equality and social inclusion within the overall policy context of addressing the climate emergency.

During the last year, the efforts of the Climate Task Force have been directed towards continuing to embed climate change as a key consideration in the Council's corporate governance systems and to widen ownership of the issue through accredited carbon literacy training. A range of projects and initiatives continue to be developed and implemented to help

the Council improve its own performance and to help foster similar action across the wider economy and communities in Shropshire, including:

Renewable Energy - Shropshire Council is developing a 2MW solar farm on a former landfill site which lies within a large industrial area in Oswestry and is considering a number of other sites on Council-owned land for similar opportunities.

Low Carbon Community Buildings – the design of new buildings such as the new swimming pool at Whitchurch is increasingly being informed by information about lifetime energy and carbon performance to minimise carbon emissions and running costs.

Electric Vehicle Chargers – Shropshire Council has one of the largest EV charging infrastructure programmes in the Midlands and will soon own and operate over 300 chargers in its car parks, with a further 500 to come in future years!

Business Support – Shropshire Council is working closely with community climate organisation and local businesses to offer free climate advice and training for local firms and to free consultancy advice on the installation of solar panels on large industrial buildings.

Biochar – Shropshire Council recently approved £2m capital funding to develop a demonstrator plant to test the use of pyrolysis to ‘cook’ (rather than burn) natural woody materials from highway maintenance and garden waste to reduce it to pure carbon ‘biochar’ which can be used to store carbon in a stable form, improve soil quality and for the manufacture of low carbon building materials such as bricks and asphalt.

Green hydrogen feasibility – current battery technology is unsuitable for many of the heavy goods vehicles which are used to deliver Council services in Shropshire because of the long distances which they need to travel. The Council is therefore working with a range of commercial and academic stakeholders to develop a small scale demonstrator hydrogen fuel manufacturing facility, co-located with renewable energy generation on Council owned land near Shrewsbury.

Adult services recognise its role in reducing carbon emissions and it forms strategy and commissioning approaches to ensure Provider services across the county deliver services with consideration to its impact upon the climate.

Public health recognises the importance role it needs to play in promoting both activities to reduce carbon emissions, through its strategic influencing, service delivery and commissioning activities, and through its work to build resilience and response via the emergency planning functions. These activities form a core part of the public health function and are embedded within service delivery and improvement plans.

7. Background

Adult Social Care – Transformation

ASC has embarked on an exciting transformation programme. Our overarching ambition for this programme will be for advice, information, and support to be available for people to maximise their independence, prevent ill health, allowing people to live safely in their own home for as long as possible.

We want to identify what is important to people and will help shape our care market vision for the future ensuring high quality home care is readily available across all areas of Shropshire, delivered; through a sustainable market, resilient to future demands and challenges, by workers who are recognised and valued fully for the work that they do.

Care at Home:

The programme has 2 key areas and several other interdependent projects and programmes that support and are key to the successful delivery of the Care at Home transformation. All have actions, outcomes along with ensuring they link to the Shropshire Plan. This is to ensure people are receiving the correct service and seeking alternatives to paid care where possible through a robust reviewing process by social work teams.

Acknowledging the significant challenges, we face with rurality and an ageing population. A key focus will look at/work alongside care providers, service users, unpaid carers, communities, social care and partners to identify issues/risks and to ensure we have sustainable and reliable care market and thriving communities that can meet future demand for people who will require to have a paid care service in their own home.

Reablement:

The reablement project is a transformational change project focussed on supporting people in the right way, at the right time, and in the right environment to help more people regain and maintain their health and wellbeing.

Our ambition is to create an integrated approach to Reablement with effective ways of working between the Council and Health services, with a clear delivery model.

Increasing the numbers of people accessing reablement is an outcome based approach and reduces the likelihood for long term or ongoing care. This aim to move away from bedded provision models of care to the least amount of required support at home.

8. Integrated Community Services (ICS)

Hospital Discharge has seen increased demand over the past 3 years and more recently a 24% increase in Demand. Discharge activity has increased 13.5% since July 2023, nearly 80% of people have been supported 'Home First'.

Challenges remain with the 'No Criteria to Reside' numbers increasing to pre-summer levels after a significant reduction in July and August, however, this aligns with the increased demand.

We have increased complex discharges from hospital setting by 13.5% since July 2023. The percentage of people returning home after hospital has increased, with the current trend

being 80%. The length of stay in hospitals from referral to discharges for residents who need support from Shropshire Council has reduced to 1.6 days on average.

The ICS team are working within the Reablement Transformation programme to deliver an improved 'Home First' discharge offer which will build on the work we have already completed to reduce the length of stay for people who need support. The trial will see O.T.'s working closely with START and ICS to provide efficient and safe access to support, with the reablement being prescribed and monitored by an O.T. once home. The purpose of this is to achieve the best outcomes for people, support individuals to be as independent as possible and enable people to have the right support to remain in their local community with their existing support networks for as long as possible. This will also support Shropshire Council to manage demand for care home beds post discharge from hospital.

9. START

START (Short Term Assessment and Reablement Team*) is Shropshire Council's frontline reablement care provider. It offers a unique service within the Domiciliary Care Provider market. The service works with people in their own homes, utilising a person centred, approach to enable and support independence

People supported through the START reablement programme have significantly improved outcomes and remain more independent in the community for longer. The service has grown significantly in the last year with improvement in recruitment and retention rates. On average START are providing 65% of Reablement packages in Shropshire with a reduced length of stay of around two weeks. This has resulted in significantly lower pressure on the ASC demand pressure and proves the effectiveness of the reablement programme with approx. 65% needing no further care. The service is developing expertise to support more complex needs making it more widely available to people in Shropshire.

10. Community Social Work Team (Adults)

Demand into ASC in Shropshire has been steadily consistent over recent years, however a recent increase in demand and people presenting with have complex needs. To respond to this, we have focussed on reducing our response time, improved how we triage referrals and maintain contact with people waiting. Over the last 3-6 months there has been a significant reduction in the number of individuals waiting to be assessed.

Waiting times are the lowest they have been in over 4 years and the aim at the end of 2023 was for people to be assessed within 4 weeks of contact.

Teams have been trying new ways of working to improve efficiency and manage demand. A recent Innovation Week took place where teams worked closely to learn from each other, implementing different ways to support demand, such as 2 workers in a car, increasing visits, providing people with information and signposting them to services that could also help. A key focus is on early intervention and prevention and how people can link within their local community, reducing the need for formal care as appropriate.

There is clear evidence that the changes made over the last 12 months are having a positive impact.

Our data systems have been developed and improved so they are more accessible to support continuous improvement in performance, understanding demand to be able to support people at the right time and ensure resources are used in the right place by informing our commissioning intentions.

We are working with our colleagues in children's services and public health to look at the family hub offer recently launched by Early Help, building on from our successful Let's Talk Local model. Encompassing a family approach across the People's directorate and recognising the need to get involved with families as early as possible to reduce the risk and effects of the cost of living, risk of neglect, homelessness etc.

We are incorporating a Neighbourhood focussed approach in our locality areas, creating a multiagency approach to early intervention and prevention, a real focus on dementia, self-neglect, substance and alcohol misuse and those with co-morbidities. This will involve regular local Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDT) where agencies can share concerns and information about residents they are working with.

We continue to support individuals in their own homes and consider a care home placement only when all other options to safely support individuals in their own homes (or a community setting) have been explored.

11. Direct Payments

The direct payment team is now well established and provide support and guidance to operational staff, direct payment recipients, and others. Direct Payment Board is chaired jointly by an individual who receives a direct payment and the Assistant Director for Adult Social Care. Membership of the Board includes both staff and experts by experience.

Following the 'mend the gap' project a number of improvements have been made to the direct payment offer within the Council. These include improved and more personalised communications, the development of a direct payment policy, the development of the direct payment website and the development of the personal assistant noticeboard. The proportion of people receiving long term support via a direct payment is steadily rising with some teams achieving over 30%.

Direct payments not only provide people with the flexibility to meet their care and support needs they are also recognised as a cost-effective way of providing social care and staff are being encouraged to consider direct payments first and supporting people to utilise this method of support where appropriate.

12. Principal Social Worker Professional Development

The Principal Social Worker and professional development service have delivered training to operational staff on community led support, strengths-based practice, person centred assessments and reviews. A Practice Framework was also developed, aligned to our priorities and delivery model.

A Quality Improvement and Service Development board will provide the governance to evaluate quality of practice and service delivery.

In 23/24 The professional development team:

- Supported 14 SW students on BA/MA/Step-up courses
- Supported 13 Social Work apprentices in training; three of whom are due to qualify in early 24
- Supported 18 newly qualified social workers
- Sponsored 6 members of staff to complete their pre-AMHP training
- Supported and assessed three members of staff during their AMHP training and have identified a further two to complete their qualifying training in 2024
- Supported and Assessed 4 practice educators in training.
- Supported and Assessed 4 Social Care Practitioners.

13. Carers

Adult carer support in Shropshire had traditionally been outsourced to an external provider however the service was brought in-house in February 2021. The (Adult) Carer Support team is made up of 3.4 FTE carer support practitioners (CSP); a team coordinator, Information officer and Shropshire Carer Manager, who is also the Carer Lead for the People Directorate. The Carer Support service offers carers 1:1 support, information and advice, support line, regular wellbeing calls, peer groups, planning ahead, events, Carer Feedback and Carer Register, a tool to share relevant information with carers and where they receive an Emergency/ID carer card and emergency plan. 1437 carers on now on the register with support groups in place across the county.

The Hospital Carer Support practitioner (HCSP), supports carers through the discharge process while their cared for person is in a hospital setting, providing information and advice and signposting to other support. The HCSP raises awareness of carers with teams/wards within the secondary care sector, to enable NHS staff to identify carers and offer to signpost to support.

The commissioned digital carer support service, delivered by Mobilise, is continuing to exceed targets of carers reached. Statistics show that carers all over Shropshire are accessing the digital carer support, predominantly through mobile phones. This includes over 21,000 visits to the site, 4185 accessing information for example the carer allowance checker and 1,000 people supported 1:1 coaching, virtual cuppas as some examples.

The All-Age Carers strategy 2022-2027 was ratified by Cabinet in March 2023. The strategy has been co-produced with carers, former carers and key organisations representing carers spanning all carer age groups. The action plan supplementing the strategy demonstrates how we will deliver the priorities and what measures are in place to monitor success.

14. Preparing for Adulthood Team

We are currently supporting over 190 young people. We have a target to become involved with young people at a younger age, currently this averages in the 17th year, the aim is to incrementally lower this age to ensure a positive impact for adult life. This will complement the 0-25 years pathway.

Last autumn we began a new project with IMPACT (Improving Patient Care Together), funded by the NDTi exploring community support and early information for young people who may require adult social care support in future. The objective being young people and families receiving information and signposting at the time that is right for them, reducing dependence on social care services and improving outcomes for young people.

15. Mental Health Team

The mental health social work team working in the community of Shropshire have developed following adult social care's innovation week, a restructured front door experience for individuals being referred into mental health social worker- reducing the time it takes to receive an assessment. With a robust duty system, individuals are supported to access the most appropriate services at the most appropriate time.

We have reduced waiting time to zero and have plans to sustain this, over 52% of contacts to the team are concluded successfully and are not requiring further assessment or support.

Work is planned in the next period to review models of support with commissioning colleagues to ensure the right service, right time and right place is used. We have a target to increasingly meet need closer to home, in a way that maximises independence.

We continue to work with partners in MPFT (Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust) to improve outcomes for individuals.

16. Adult Safeguarding Team

The team has a countywide remit to explore safeguarding concerns. The team explores all concerns on daily basis undertaking same day visits when required. The team has experienced an increase in demand however the team have been able to manage this with support from both First Point of contact and Community Social Work teams.

In addition to the direct work with residents our team holds strategic responsibility as a key partner for Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership (SSCP) to prevent and tackle Child and Adult abuse in Shropshire.

17. Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)

The volume of requests remains a challenge to the service. Numbers have risen over the years from 1857 in 2019/20 to 2516 in 2022/23. Shropshire referrals are higher than the national average however in line with West Midlands figures. Work is underway with acute trust colleagues to ensure appropriateness of hospital referrals. An action plan is in place to address the waiting lists and will be an area of focus this year.

The Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) has been postponed indefinitely by central government however work is underway with regional partners to reduce system challenges to assist with meeting a higher proportion of referrals.

18. Four Rivers Nursing Home

Four Rivers is the only nursing home run by Shropshire Council. Their last CQC (Care Quality Commission) inspection in April 2019 rated the home as good in all five of the assessment

areas and a recent CQC desk top review in 2023 did not identify any concerns. Four Rivers are now utilising an electronic care planning system, and this has improved monitoring and recording processes in the home.

There has been continued development with using IT for several tasks from food ordering, medication monitoring, recording and ordering and case records. There are now two deputy managers to support Four Rivers, following analysis of tasks, roles and business need. Apprenticeships are being introduced to encourage the recruitment and retention of staff. The home also has difficulties recruiting nurses so we are exploring how we can demonstrate a clear career path of development.

19. Making it Real (MiR)

Shropshire's Making it Real board is made up of Experts by Experience (EbE), practitioners, council officers, managers and representatives of voluntary organisations. It uses the principles of the Making it Real framework to ensure that people who are Experts by Experience are at the centre of the design and delivery of care and support. This can be either at a personal and individual level or working together on developing policies and strategies.

The board strongly supports the principle of including EbE and their families as equal partners in the planning, design, development, and evaluation from the outset and throughout the life of all adult social care services.

EbE, their families and the local community should be involved at the earliest and all stages of service development journey as equal partners. They are the experts in knowing what support and services are needed to ensure individuals and families can live full and independent lives in a way that is genuinely "person-centred".

Locally, MiR continue to work with EbE to coproduce the development and transformation of ASC. This includes the development of several forward-thinking documents such as a Remuneration Policy, Co-production Framework and Experts by Experience Guide. Furthermore, this will be supported into 2024 with the introduction of Coproduction Champions. The MiR webpages have also been redesigned to ensure they're assessable and up to date and the Local Account has provided another powerful way of celebrating the impact that ASC's broad remit has on people's lives. MiR has also assisted other department within the council to improve the literature that is communicated to residents, removing jargon and improving the tone. Making it Real Shropshire has grown its Board membership over the last 12 months and continues to develop its membership of both EbE and council officers.

20. Day Opportunities

This year has seen an emphasis placed on person centred support that flexibly and creatively helps people develop their belonging and connections in their chosen communities.

Early in 2023 a wide range of stakeholders came together (guided by the NDTi) to understand how younger and older adults can best be supported and empowered to reach their full potential. Discussions involved people who draw on support alongside council run and independent providers, representatives from health, education, the police, and the voluntary sector.

Messages shared show that people want to “live a gloriously ordinary life”. Day opportunities play an important role in understanding people well and responding to strengths, dreams and needs, while on that journey.

Providing Community based day opportunities in the right place and at the right time helps individuals find and build relationships and good support in their own communities. Highlights have included the relationships built with community-based organisations such as OsNosh (Oswestry) and Shrewsbury Town in the Community. This year we have seen the offer of weekend and evening events, new activities and a stronger link to young people leaving school education.

Links with the Healthy Lives project run through Actio (involving PACC (Parent and Carer Council) and Taking Part) have helped raise access to, and the importance of, ongoing health checks for members of the learning disability community.

Connections, friendships and opportunities have been communicated through ‘The Rainbow Times’, a publication that arose during Covid as a way of keeping people in touch. It continues with input and stories from the learning disability community.

21. Joint Training

The Joint Training team has recently been amalgamated with some officers from the children's team to form one People's Directorate training team. The new team are going through a transformation process to be rebranded and relaunched to support social care services and wider partners in Shropshire. The changes will ensure that social care provider services both within and commissioned by the Council can have all their training needs met to ensure compliance with CQC and Ofsted regulations. Partners such as Police, Health, Fire and Ambulance will also be able to access training to support their staff. The new training team will be formally launched early in 2024.

22. Enable (Supported Employment Services)

Enable helps a wide variety of disadvantaged people in Shropshire find paid work, training and education, as well as providing long term post-employment support to ensure sustainable outcomes. The service contributes to the prevention and delay of people accessing council services and benefits.

The team have grown again in the last year, taking on several new contracts. These include working with clients accessing substance misuse services, clients accessing talking therapies and supporting with employment and retention and working with any economically inactive people on a self-referral basis whilst still supporting priority client groups such as those not in education, employment and training and those aged over 50.

Enable are working on several projects to continue growth and to save more money through prevention. They are working hard with the SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) team to increase travel training which will reduce the council's transport costs and are continually bidding for new funding to support more people.

23. Market Engagement and Commissioning

Adult Social Care consulted with Partners in Care (Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin) and providers regarding the overarching fee uplift for 2022/23. We recognised the significant

challenges faced by the market providing care with rising prices and workforce pressures and therefore, in order to utilise our limited resources to the greatest effect and support a sustainable market, the decision was made to uplift domiciliary care rates by 12%, a 7% uplift to supported living, alongside a 7% increase on standard rates to residential and nursing homes. The fee review for 2024/25 is currently being reviewed based on affordability, provider feedback, current pressures and benchmarking activity.

The Council is in the process of undertaking a root and branch review of supported living, which is detailed later in the document.

A celebration event recognising the contribution of our residential and nursing providers also took place in November.

Adult Social Care engaged with care home and domiciliary care providers in order to meet the DHSC (Department of Health and Social Care) requirements for receiving additional funding, in order for Council's to move towards paying providers a fair cost of care. The fair cost of care exercise was undertaken over the summer period and the results published along with the market sustainability plan in October. The additional funding received from the DHSC was used towards the increase in provider fees set out above. We are now working through actions specifically in relation to the care home rates.

Engagement commenced in January with providers and stakeholders in order to identify issues relating to supporting individuals within their own homes with an ambition of appropriate support to be available to all across the breadth of Shropshire. We are currently seeking the views of people receiving care at home, Providers and care workers and gathering data to inform the future model of home care across the County.

Work is being developed across all ages with additional capacity put in place for Childrens commissioning; further work is currently underway to focus on children and young peoples commissioning and those transitioning into adult services to ensure smooth transfer.

The Commissioning Teams continue develop effective joint commissioning. Examples of this is include joint contracting of our Two Carers in a Car Service, joint brokerage functions on behalf of health to commission at scale and develop the market collectively. A system wide Strategic commissioning board with joint commissioning intentions to focus on areas of focus for joint commissioning.

In Autumn 2023, the Contracts and Compliance Team for Adults and Children's Social Care moved from the Resources Directorate to the People Directorate, streamlining processes and improving efficiency. Further work on roles and responsibilities to develop a comprehensive quality assurance process will be a key focus for the teams along with additional support for children's commissioning.

24. Supported Living

The Council continues to maintain an excellent track record of supporting individuals under 65 outside of residential and nursing care settings through its offer of Supported Living. We currently have over 200 individuals in over 120 properties.

The Council is in the process of undertaking a root and branch review of Supported Living processes in Shropshire, following a commitment to providers detailed in the 23/24 uplift

position. The root and branch review will explore best practice, benchmarking across other Local Authorities, process and contracting review alongside a review of existing rates paid across the sector. Consultation with Providers on the rates was completed Autumn 2023.

Our aim is to support a sustainable and vibrant market across Shropshire that are able to recruit and retain the best workforce and give the best quality service provision, using different methods of support such as technology. This is an area of focus and development within the market as we know we benchmark higher in spend on working age adults than similar local authorities and an efficiency review forms part of the transformation work.

The Council continues to work closely to develop its overall shared framework, the Flexible Contracting Arrangements, with Telford and Wrekin Council and are planning joint engagement events with supported living providers in early 2024.

25. Care Quality Commission (CQC)

CQC have just announced that Shropshire will receive its assurance visit, we are awaiting confirmation of timescales.

Adult social care had a quality assurance visit which was organised through ADASS with a team on site on the 30 and 31 March. A self evaluation was prepared in advanced against the draft framework which focusses on 4 domains; assessments will focus on how local authorities discharge their duties under Part 1 of The Care Act (2014). The 4 themes include:

- 1. How local authorities work with people
- 2. How local authorities provide support
- 3. How local authorities ensure safety within the system
- 4. Leadership

LAs will be rated; **Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement or Inadequate.**

The teams have been working through improvements including a clear prevention strategy, improving data and information dashboards, monitoring and reporting impact through case studies, feedback as well as performance such as waiting lists which was described above. Further actions are in place to prepare for its assurance visit. We are attending regional meetings and have recruited to a role to support the co-ordination of the CQC preparations.

PUBLIC HEALTH

26. Public Health and Good Health and Wellbeing is a shared responsibility

This section of the report provides an overview of the context and delivery of public health outcomes in Shropshire. It summarises Public Health's key health and wellbeing priorities and the work over the past 12 months.

Public Health is "The science and art of promoting and protecting health and well-being, preventing ill-health and prolonging life through the organised efforts of society". Public Health addresses the health of the population. Importantly, Public Health focuses on

preventing illness and promoting health to reduce the need for hospital or long-term care. It is about good health and wellbeing in our communities and tackling inequalities in health and care outcomes. The Faculty of Public Health defines nine key areas of Public Health practice:

1. Surveillance and assessment of the population's health and wellbeing.
2. Assessing the evidence of effectiveness of health and healthcare interventions.
3. Policy and strategy development and implementation.
4. Strategic leadership and collaborative working for health.
5. Health improvement
6. Public Health Intelligence.
7. Health and Social Service quality.
8. Health protection
9. Academic Public Health.

In local authorities, public health's functions focus mainly on areas 1 to 8 with support from partners and joint working to deliver these functions. These are prioritised according to needs and resources within each local area.

Many factors can have either a positive or a negative effect on a person's health. These include our age, family history, friends, our lifestyle choices, income, housing conditions, access to services and education; little as 10% of our health and wellbeing is linked to access to healthcare. Therefore, to improve health outcomes, action is required not just at the individual level but also in communities and through the work and living environment.

27. Public Health Outcomes/Priorities

A comprehensive list of Public Health Outcomes is available on Public Health England's Fingertips website (<https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/>). This is monitored on a routine basis with key indicators being included in [The Shropshire Plan](#), [Director of Public Health Annual Report](#), Integrated Care Strategy and Health and Wellbeing Strategy; a directorate dashboard is also currently being built containing high level outcomes as listed below alongside more detailed service KPIs.

Overall, health and wellbeing in Shropshire is above the national average. Healthy life expectancy for females in Shropshire remains significantly better than England for females in Shropshire (67.1 years; England 63.9 years) and similar for males (Shropshire 62.8 years and England 63.1 years). However, there are several outcomes where, overall Shropshire continues to underperform as a County. Furthermore, significant inequalities remain across the County. This requires local, targeted response and delivery based on best practice. The table below illustrates this trend.



Considering all the information above, national and local policy drivers, Public Health focuses on several outcomes in its work outlined in this report; a continued focus on smoking including smoking in pregnancy, alcohol, mental health including excess mortality from serious mental illness and diabetes. Additional focus will be on work to monitor road traffic accidents (RTAs), cancer screening coverage and children and young people's health including school readiness. Targeted work will also be undertaken to understand inequalities in local areas and action required to tackle those outcomes.

Details of the public health offer in Shropshire are given below, grouped into the following themes.

- Public Health Intelligence
- Partnerships & Communities
- Healthy Population
- Inclusion Health
- Inequalities
- Healthcare Public Health

Health protection will be covered under the Annual Report of the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulatory Service.

28. PUBLIC HEALTH INTELLIGENCE

There are two Statutory duties in relation to Public Health Intelligence produce an annual report and prepare the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) in addition to the requirements to support the evidence base for commissioning, population health management (NHS) and monitoring of outcomes.

JSNA

Local authorities and health have equal and joint duties to prepare JSNAs and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies, through the health and wellbeing board. The JSNA seeks to identify current and future health and wellbeing needs in the local population and identify strategic priorities to inform commissioning of services based on those needs. In practice, in Shropshire, these duties are led by Public Health to deliver on behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Board and are available [here](#).

Since 2019, Shropshire introduced a comprehensive programme to meet these duties and supported evidence-based commissioning and work to tackle inequalities. This was paused temporarily during COVID. It is managed as three separate workstreams:

- Placed-based JSNA: Supporting the development of the integration and transformation work as part of the Shropshire Plan. A Place Based Profile is developed followed by an action plan, which is put together and supported by local stakeholders and takes account of local inequalities including rural factors. The aim is to have all 18 Place Plan JSNAs completed by end of summer 2024.
- Web-based JSNA: Shropshire's suite of web-based needs assessments present key data for Shropshire's population, its communities, and the wider determinants of health, following a life-course approach, new datasets and dashboards continue to be developed.
- Thematic JSNAs: Including the Statutory pharmaceutical needs assessment 2022/23 which describes the current pharmaceutical services in the county, systematically identifies gaps, unmet need, and in consultation with stakeholders made recommendations on future development. Currently the team are leading a comprehensive Children and Young's People's Needs Assessment and recently published the Drug and Alcohol Needs Assessment.

Annual Report

Directors of Public Health have a statutory requirement to write an annual report on the health of their population. It describes the health of the population, is evidence based and is a way of informing local people about the health of their community. It also provides necessary information for decision makers in local health services, authorities and communities on health gaps and priorities that need to be addressed. The reports also include an update of progress against recommendations from previous reports and areas for priority actions. Three reports have been published since 2019 which can be found [here](#).

Evidence Based Decision Making

In addition, the directorate leads the population health management agenda for STW ICS as part of its core offer to the STW ICS. Recognising good decision making is based on a good strong evidence base and understanding of the population needs, the team have a focus on improving integration across health and social care and making better use of health and social care intelligence and evidence to drive and underpin decision making. This will include the use of predictive analytics to allow services to be targeted to need and help to reduce inequalities in Shropshire.

29. PARTNERSHIPS & COMMUNITIES

Health & Wellbeing Board (including Healthy Lives Steering Group)

The Shropshire Health and Wellbeing Board acts to ensure that key leaders from the health and care system work together to improve the health and wellbeing of Shropshire residents. The Board is now co-chaired by the Portfolio Holder and the accountable officer for the ICS with a revised format which is aligned to scrutiny to maximise our outcomes. Board members collaborate to understand their local community's needs, agree priorities and work together to plan how best to deliver services. The board meets [five times a year](#) and works to deliver the [Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#) published in 2022.

The vision is for Shropshire people to be healthy and fulfilled. The aims are:

- To improve the population's health and wellbeing
- To reduce health inequalities that can cause unfair and avoidable differences in people's health
- To help as many people as possible live long, happy and productive lives by promoting health and wellbeing at all stages of life
- To ensure that prevention is at the heart of improving health and wellbeing, and to reduce ill health and the associated demand on health and care services

The Healthy Lives Steering Group brings together partners from across the system and enables sharing of current workstreams and relationships to be built to coordinate delivery. This has included warmer homes through the Marches Energy Agency, enabling links to train a wide range of professionals on what can be offered to families, as well as highlighting issues that may contribute to poor outcomes for children. Other areas of collaboration have included youth vaping, social prescribing, oral health, food banks and tier 3 weight management.

Shropshire Integrated Place Partnership

The purpose of Shropshire Integrated Place Partnership (ShIPP) is Shropshire's Place Partnership Board. Established in March 2021, it is a partnership with shared collaborative leadership and responsibility, enabled by the Health and Wellbeing Board and the ICS governance and decision-making processes. Clinical/care leadership is central to the partnership, to ensure that services provide the best quality evidence-based care and support for our people, improving outcomes and reducing health inequalities aligned to delivery of outcomes in the HWBB and ICP Strategies. It is expected that through the programmes of

ShIPP routine involvement and coproduction with local people and our workforce is prioritised so that our residents and staff can feed ideas and information to inform and influence system strategy and priority development.

Key successes for ShIPP include driving the Personalised Care (Person Centred) approach for Shropshire, including Social Prescribing & Health Coaching, Creative Health & Community Led approaches for health improvement, community led approaches for improving outcomes for SEND, action on falls prevention and embedding trauma informed approaches. Other activities and outcomes are documented through this report. The Strategic Plan for 2023/24 includes delivering an all-age Local Care Programme across communities in Shropshire and improving access to health, care and wellbeing services and community support.

Prevention Framework & One Shropshire

To support our population to lead healthier lives public health have led the development of a prevention framework, drafted during 2023. This is an ambitious approach to prevention at scale across the life course, it builds on the effective work already established across the County and the Integrated Care System, recognising that all key partners, communities, and individuals have a role in improving the quality of lives and health of our population. The [draft framework](#) has been developed through working with system partners. It highlights the needs of our communities (our case for change), our vision and our plans to embed prevention activity across all our services as a system; through a holistic community offer that supports people to take charge of their own health and wellbeing. It is recognised that the Framework is, and will be a, living document.

Community Health and Wellbeing Hubs

Our work on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Place Plan areas demonstrates the variation in outcomes across local areas and variation in assets within each area, levels of need and service provision. It is important to therefore take a place-based approach to delivery of services to tackle inequalities and focus on prevention and early intervention. Through the work programme focused on Integration and the [approach to integration](#)), we have been able to articulate our person-centred approach for Neighbourhood working, that includes the development of community and family hubs rooted within local communities. These hubs will be places where people can access a local venue where they can get help to navigate the health, care and community system. The hubs will also be enhanced by the work to develop integrated practitioner teams, with consultation panels operational to discuss the needs of children and young people and families where support from a multi-disciplinary perspective would be helpful. The work is being developed on a rolling programme based on need. The hubs model will be finalised during early 2024 and will build on the delivery of Early Help Family Hubs moving towards an all-age approach.

Women's Health Hubs

A new national initiative to develop Women's Health Hubs with the expectation that there will be at least one hub in every ICB area. This is currently being explored with Telford & Wrekin Council, ICS, and primary care to identify opportunities and options incorporating existing models of care supported by the team.

Healthy Lives Social Prescribing Service

In Shropshire, our Healthy Lives Team delivers Health checks and Social Prescribing. Social prescribing uses a person centred, preventative approach by intervening early, before problems start to escalate, or to support people alongside other services. In Shropshire, people referred have the space to talk one to one with a trained Social Prescribing Advisor and come up with a plan of action together, to help resolve health and wellbeing concerns and help put the person back in charge of their life, shown [here](#). In 2022/23 there were 3343 referrals to adults Social Prescribing, and in 2023/24 (April to September) there have been 1,708 referrals so far. This is a service that is maintaining a high level of support for people and gathers excellent satisfaction reports from people who have been supported.

In addition to an adult social prescribing, Shropshire now offers a Children and Young People's Social Prescribing which is offered across Shropshire for those aged 11 (in school year 7) and above. The service would usually meet children and young people at the school they attend or maybe in a community venue or at home. Again, it is a non-medical approach to helping children and young people feel better and find out what matters to you. If you would like to feel happier, make friends where you live, reduce anxiety, improve mood, try something new or get fitter. In 2022-23 there were 249 referrals to the Children and Young People's Social prescribing, and in 2023-24 (April to September) there have been 254 referrals so far. This service has seen a rapid increase over the past year and achieves high satisfaction feedback from young people in the county.

Community Outreach Wellbeing Team

This team focusses on 4 key areas, health promotion, health protection, place based Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and supporting emergency support (e.g. Flooding). The team have supported the development of the Place Based JSNAs (Joint Strategic Needs Assessment), including a key element of the Place Based JSNA is to develop action plans to address key issues in local communities. The team has also started delivering mini-health checks in local communities, including the farming community and with other marginalised groups. The Team is working with other local health and community organisations across Shropshire to deliver preventative blood pressure checks in local communities. This includes working with teams of Blood Pressure (BP) Champion volunteers who are connecting with people in local areas to offer free blood pressure checks. By providing BP checks at locations that are convenient to local people, such as Livestock Markets, food banks, coffee mornings and veterans' groups, the programme hopes to prevent complications associated with high blood pressure in the population. The work with farming communities works across our Animal Health and Mental Health teams, to deliver improved health and mental health outcomes. Additionally, the team works with the Environment Agency and our Emergency Planning team to support during flooding events and other emergency situations to support communities.

30. HEALTHY POPULATION

The public health team leads a number of health improvement functions and public health mandated services:

Best Start for Life Programme

In line with the national vision to promote every child to have the [Best Start for Life](#), with evidence identifying the first 1001 days of a child's life as critically important to outcomes in

later life. During 2023 a comprehensive Best Start for life programme was formed which focuses on laying the best foundations for cognitive, emotional, and physical development, this will continue into 2024. The work to date includes a systematic review of the evidence, work to publish the best start in life offers to parents, carers and practitioners to increase awareness of the support available, development of a new universal parent course to be delivered perinatally to first time parents, developments to the early years speech language and communication offers through new interventions such as the Talkboost programme, coproduction of the programme with parents and carers, and enhancements to data collection and reporting so we can track outcomes. This is also part of the Council's Childrens transformation programme.

Healthy Child Programme

Public Health is responsible for ensuring the provision of the Healthy Child Programme including the weighing and measuring of children, through the commissioning of the Public Health Nursing Service (PHNS), delivered by Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust. PHNS includes health visiting, school nursing and family nurse partnership. The Healthy Child Programme mandated contacts have continued to be delivered through the Public Health Nursing service (PHNS), and there has been a significant increase in uptake in all contacts post-pandemic. The service is continuing to develop its offer to families and the following are examples of work undertaken during the reporting period: a school readiness leaflet has been produced, a focus on Healthy Start- to encourage the uptake of healthy start vitamin and food vouchers has been prioritised, along with work to promote Measles, mumps and rubella vaccination uptake for families, public and professionals. There has also been a focus this year on safer sleeping due to concerns locally and nationally over sudden infant deaths. In addition, the service supported a call to action to safeguard our youngest residents aged 0–4-year-olds and this led to piloting a drop-in clinic at Sunflower house. The team are also providing a response to Entitled Persons at Nescliffe through weekly clinics. Ensuring the strengthened resilience of the PHNS to respond has been achieved through implementation of its workforce development plan which included the service focusing on the training of new workforce through a grow your own model. Key measures are monitored at regular contracting meetings and routinely reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board and ICS Quality Committee.

Healthier Weight Strategy

Supporting our population to achieve a healthier weight and reducing rates of overweight and obesity is a H&WBB (Health and Well Being Board) and ICS priority for Shropshire. Public Health have led the development of a Healthier Weight Strategy for Shropshire, which was endorsed by the H&WBB at its November 2023 meeting and supported by cabinet. Actions will be monitored going forward.

NHS Health-checks

Public Health have the responsibility for commissioning the mandated NHS Health Check programme which offers an opportunity to identify many of the hidden health risks helping prevent heart attacks, stroke, diabetes, kidney disease and vascular dementia. In Shropshire the service is delivered through general practice, supported by the Healthy Lives delivery team. Covid-19 had a profound and continued impact on the total number of people receiving their health check. Pre-Pandemic 2,000 checks were being delivered each quarter. During 2022-23 we have seen a recovery with approximately 1,100 checks achieved in Q2 of 2023. Work is also underway with general practice and Primary Care Networks (PCN's) to

support areas yet unable to return to pre pandemic levels, and efforts are continuing to focus on those most at risk in our communities.

Smoking cessation

Smoking remains the leading cause of preventable illness and death, and reducing smoking rates in Shropshire remains a priority for the public health team. Public Health are members of the ICS Tobacco Dependency Treatment pathway Steering Group which is focused on stop smoking provision in acute settings, mental health in-patients and pregnant women working with midwifery. In addition, the Shropshire Public Health team deliver the mental health in-patient offer for community step down via our Healthy Lives team (or via the national community smoking cessation pharmacy scheme if preferred). A new webpage is available under Healthy Shropshire focusing on Stopping Smoking that describes the offer to Shropshire residents to aid them to stop smoking available here: [Stopping smoking | Shropshire Council](#)

During 2024/25 Shropshire will receive an allocation of national funding to support further enhancements to the smoking cessation offer. Work is currently underway to develop an enhanced delivery plan and further communications will be issued regarding this in due course.

Youth Vaping

A Task and Finish group has been established to improve local understanding and intelligence of underage (youth) vaping in Shropshire and to develop clear comms for professionals, practitioners, parents and carers and young people. A new Youth Vaping schools lesson programme has been designed in partnership between the Task & Finish group and the Public Health Nurse team that promotes conversation in the classroom and for students to consider their own attitudes and beliefs about vaping and vaping harms. The Director of Public Health, jointly with the Director of Children's Services and the Chief Medical Officer of the ICB published a position statement on vaping and young people which summarises the current evidence and understanding of risk associated with young people and vaping. It promotes a message that vaping is not for children and the safest, healthiest option is not to vape or smoke. The statement is available from the following link: [shropshire-position-statement-on-underage-vaping.pdf](#)

31. INCLUSION HEALTH

Public Mental Health and Mental Health Prevention

Mental health is a key area of improvement focus for Shropshire. The vision of the Shropshire Public Mental Health offer is for every resident in Shropshire to have the best mental health they can at every stage of their life to thrive, not just survive. To support this vision, the Healthy Shropshire webpage was updated with a dedicated Mental health and wellbeing site providing quick links and information for a range of support. A multi-agency programme focused on improving the health outcomes of the Shropshire farming community was launched in 2023, providing health checks to those in attendance of livestock markets.

Shropshire Council has invested one off funding and grants in the online TogetherAll mental wellbeing platform which provides 24/7 free, confidential access to peer support and resources to express feelings, managed round the clock by trained professionals. The Shropshire Bereavement Co-ordinated offer was launched in 2020 to address concerns from the pandemic on the impact of unexpected death and disruption to usual grieving processes

due to lockdowns. During this time, it has been identified there have been many of our residents who have complex bereavement, grief and loss needs which have not previously been addressed and who were not sure where to access support. Public Health continue to support and promote programmes such as Future in Mind and Mental Health in Schools Teams. Public Health is also developing our programme in support of local delivery of the Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health.

Suicide Prevention

A new Shropshire Suicide Prevention Strategy was published in September covering period 2023 to 2026. The focus of the strategy is to expand beyond the universal offers from the previous Strategy and explore with system partners how to target support to higher risk cohorts for suicide to ensure the most appropriate messages, support and impact can be connected. The Action Plan is currently being refreshed on how the above will be delivered with new workstreams created to invite those who already work with these cohorts to advise most appropriate approaches or to connect with existing programmes of work.

Tackling Drugs and Alcohol

Public Health services are responsible for ensuring the provision of drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services for their population. In Shropshire, core substance misuse treatment service delivery in Shropshire is delivered by a single third sector treatment provider, known as With You (WY). WY also deliver appropriate treatment services to children and young people. Shropshire Council also commissions a range of both inpatient detoxification services and residential rehabilitation placements for those assessed as suitable and requiring these interventions and has contracts with some GPs and pharmacies as part of its recovery services. This is routinely reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board and Shropshire Community Safeguarding Partnership.

During 2022 public health lead a bid for external funding to provide enhanced services for people who use drugs who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. £1.4m was awarded to the Council and a multi-disciplinary team established, known as RESET. The team is made up of staff from Shropshire Council, With You, Midlands Partnership Foundation University Trust, Shropshire Domestic Abuse Service, the Shrewsbury Ark, and Intuitive Thinking Skills. The programme provides opportunities to improve access into treatment services for rough sleepers which otherwise can often be complicated by changes in their personal circumstances.

Public Health have also led the production of a new partnership action plan to deliver the aspirations of the national drugs strategy. This plan is focused on breaking drug supply, improving drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services, and ensuring a generational shift in demand for drugs.

32. INEQUALITIES

Health in All Policies

Public Health continues to work across with colleagues across the Council to embed health in all policies. We do this through a screening tool, Equality Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA), the tool is used by teams to screen their own policies/strategies. Public Health have worked extensively with Place colleagues in specific areas including Economic Development, Severn Water Management and UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Public Health are currently supporting planning in the development of

Healthy Place through health impact assessment in the planning process. This approach is embedded in the Local Development Plan.

Shropshire Inequalities Plan

Health inequalities are defined as avoidable, unfair, and systematic differences in health between different population groups. At a high-level, health inequalities are measured by differences in life expectancy and healthy life expectancy between different population groups. Mortality rates and healthy life expectancy reflect a social gradient where people living in more deprived areas live shorter lives. Action to reduce health inequalities requires action to improve outcomes across all the factors that influence our health, including wider determinants of health such as education, employment, income, and housing. Only around 10% of our health is impacted by the healthcare we receive. The development of the Shropshire Inequalities Plan has been led by Public Health to address avoidable differences in outcomes for our population to reduce the inequalities that exist. Further information on the plan is available at the following link: [shropshire-inequalities-plan-executive-summary.pdf](#) This will be routinely monitored and reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board and ICB Inequalities and Prevention Group.

Shaping Places Programme

Shaping Places for Healthier Lives is an externally funded programme of work by the Local Government Association, in partnership with the Health Foundation, seeking to promote access to affordable and nutritious food, to help Shropshire residents live a healthy life. There are 4 workstreams that are being progressed:

1. Communities and Organisations working together. Over the last 12 months, we have been working in partnership with the Hardship and Poverty Group, Social Task Force, Cost of Living Communications Group, Voluntary and Community Sector Assembly, Food Partnership Advisory Group and Community Connectors.
2. Maximising Income including the successful development and ongoing support of a pilot training scheme in SW Shropshire for the Citizens Advice Bureau First Aiders (FPOC (First Point of Contact)).
3. Re-framing food insecurity. We have been working with the Design Council on improved visuals and communications to highlight the experience of residents experiencing food insecurity and reduce any stigma when seeking support.
4. Co-producing solutions which aim to reduce food insecurity: We have developed a town collaboration group in Church Stretton, to discuss and take action on the issue of food insecurity. This group comprises the local foodbank, the town mayor, town councillors, healthy lives advisor, the local Rotary Club and community members

Cost of Living Crisis

Shropshire's Cost of Living Social Taskforce supported by Public Health, has brought together a wide range of organisations from across the public, community, and voluntary sector, as well as business representatives to create a joint local response to the cost-of-living crisis. The taskforce has been meeting regularly since March 2022, building on the partnerships established and learnings gained in response to COVID. Membership of the Taskforce and Sub-groups (Hardship and Poverty Group and Cost of Living Comms) group incorporates representatives from over 20 organisations including Shropshire Council, Citizen's Advice Shropshire, Age UK Shropshire Telford and Wrekin, Marches Energy Agency, Community Resource, Shropshire Food Poverty Alliance, Shropshire Mental Health

Support, Shropshire *Voluntary and Community Sector Assembly*, *DWP (Department for Work and Pensions)*, Shropshire Association of Local Councils and local NHS trusts.

33. HEALTHCARE PUBLIC HEALTH

Specialist Public Health Advice to Integrated Care Board

Public Health services have a mandated requirement to provide specialist public health advice to Integrated Care Boards, to support them with the planning procuring and monitoring of health services. This requirement is achieved through the core public health offer. This offer covers specialist public health advice regarding intelligence and insight, evidence reviews of best practice, service and pathways evaluation and redesign and strategy development amongst others. During 2023/24 this work has continued including Public Health advocacy at system strategy and transformation boards (including: Integrated Care Partnership, Local Maternity & Neonatal System, Cancer Strategy Board, Inequalities & Prevention Board, Mental Health Boards, CVD Prevention etc) and providing support, guidance and input for reviewing applications as part of the NHS Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Individual Funding Request panels for consideration of exceptional clinical circumstances.

CVD (cardiovascular disease) Prevention

High blood pressure affects almost one in three adults in the UK, and many are unaware that they have it as there are often no symptoms. Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin's Hypertension Case-finding Pilot is a collaborative 12-month pilot funded through Health Innovation West Midlands. It aims to increase the detection of hypertension of targeted groups (20% most deprived areas, ethnic minority groups and those living in rural areas), narrow the diagnosis gap between the target groups and the general population, increase the proportion of patients being appropriately treated for high blood pressure, reduce heart attacks and strokes, and increase a network of CVD champions to raise community awareness.

Child Mortality

A report to the September 2023 ICB showed an overall increase in numbers of deaths across all perinatal, neonatal and child mortality in 2021/22 and 2022/23, public health is working with ICS colleagues to monitor 2023/34 closely. We recognise that every child's death is a tragedy and therefore more detailed work is being undertaken to review local evidence and actions. While there are already lots of activity in place across STW to address these issues, following additional investigation and actions have been agreed.

Oral Health

Shropshire Telford and Wrekin oral health network meet quarterly to discuss oral health improvement generally as well as the performance of the commissioned oral health improvement programmes, ensure that programme delivery is as effective as possible. Public Health supports this network which is led by the NHS dental team including a Dental Consultant in Public Health based with NHS England. There are issues with levels of hospital admissions for extractions. The team support action to improve uptake of dental health survey and ongoing monitoring of all and improvement plans as required.

34. Conclusions

This report has presented the work undertaken by adult social care and public health to meet the statutory and mandated functions of the local authority for these services. It demonstrates the range of work undertaken to provide care and support for our vulnerable residents and communities and outlines the model of delivery for Public Health across Shropshire.

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

Local Member: *All Members*

Appendices [Please list the titles of Appendices]

None



Committee and Date

Council
21 March 2024

Item

Public



Annual Report – Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2022/23

Responsible Officer:	Rachel Robinson		
email:	rachel.robinson@shropshire.gov.uk	Tel:	01743 25
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	Gwilym Butler		
Scrutiny Chair:	Steve Charmley		

1. Synopsis

Health and Adult Social Care Committee looked at a range of key topics in 2022/23 which are summarised in this paper.

2. Executive Summary

The Shropshire Plan includes ‘Healthy Organisation’ as a priority outcome and the Strategic Objective that “We will ensure councillors are supported to advocate for their constituents but to also be ambassadors for the council”.

This report shares the annual statement for 2022/23 for the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

3. Recommendations

Members are asked to consider and comment on the 2022/23 annual statement for Health and Adult Social Care Overview Committee.

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1 Effective Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) is a feature of the Council's governance arrangements, particularly where the Council is operating executive arrangements. There are a range of factors that could result in risks to Council of not undertaking O&S as effectively.
- Failure to challenge and hold decision makers to account.
 - Failure to link O&S work to the delivery of the council's priorities and risk management – failure to demonstrate added value
 - Failure to carry out thorough and appropriate research to make evidence-based recommendations.
 - Failure to engage partners and providers.
 - Failure to ensure that structures and models of operation are fit for purpose and match ambition and available resources.
 - Failure to ensure that O&S can operate as the voice of communities.
 - Failure to draw on member knowledge and experience to inform policy development.
- 4.2 To mitigate, tolerate or eradicate these risks, enablers for effective scrutiny include:
- Operating in an apolitical manner
 - Clarity of vision and purpose
 - Overview and Scrutiny support availability, capability and capacity
 - Effective engagement and commitment by Members and officers at all levels, including Cabinet, Opposition Leaders, Scrutiny Chairs and Senior Officers who play a central role in setting the tone and direction
 - Robust work programming and prioritisation of topics with clear objectives and expected impacts
 - Access to and availability of robust data and intelligence
 - Good relationship with partners and providers
- 4.3 Overview and Scrutiny Committees have remits that cover the breadth of the work of the Council, as well as looking externally including Health Services and provision through Health Overview and Scrutiny requirements.
- 4.4 Topics for Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programmes are identified based on a number of different considerations including an understanding of risks to the Council, employees, people who use services, to service themselves, and to communities. These may be identified through reviewing performance information and comparing with others, changes to national and local policies, budget information, feedback from communities and customers/service users, feedback from partners/providers, and reports from regulators.
- 4.5 During Overview and Scrutiny work, evidence will be gathered that builds on this understanding to inform the development of conclusions and evidence-based recommendations.

- 4.6 The use of external peer challenge such as that offered by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny provides objective review and feedback about opportunities to develop the effectiveness and impact of overview and scrutiny. The Council carries out a regular review of Overview and Scrutiny to collect feedback from Members and officers on what is going well and where there are opportunities for continuous improvement.

5 Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with the annual statements of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees set out in this report.
- 5.2 Effective Overview and Scrutiny produces evidence-based recommendations. These can be informed by learning from best practice and an understanding of "what works" at other similar local authorities, as well as developing a robust picture of the situation locally based on data, intelligence and insights. Where adopted recommendations can help with the efficiency and effectiveness of services that can be delivered differently, as well as informing the development of current and new policies.

6 Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programmes directly link to the Shropshire Plan priorities, including Healthy Environment which is built around climate change and carbon reduction, and the natural and historic environment.

7 Background

- 7.1 The Health and Adult Social Care Overview Committee considered a full range of topics from its remit, maintaining a view of what was happening in the health and care system in Shropshire. The Committee carried out activity holding decision makers and the providers of services to account. As well as making recommendations to inform the development and delivery of health and care services. The following section provides a summary of key topics and the work done.

Shrewsbury Health and Wellbeing Hub

- 7.2 Over the year the Committee have reflected the concerns of the community and maintained a clear focus on the proposals for a Health and Wellbeing Hub in Shrewsbury from the Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Intergrated Care Board (previously Clinical Commissioning Group.) Examining the opportunities and risks of this model of Primary Care provision.
- 7.3 The Committee reviewed the proposals, rational and development of the project which involved the Beeches Medical Practice, Belvidere Medical Practice, Claremont Bank Surgery, Marden Medical Practice, Marysville Medical Practice and South Hermitage Surgery.
- 7.4 Evidence was presented which laid out that the GP Practices were in a varying state of condition - most being either no longer fit to deliver modern healthcare services and/or do not having enough space to meet future demand. It was laid out that The Hub would offer opportunities to expand the services they can offer in a fit

for purpose building, which would offer attractive conditions to retain and recruit, as well as a viable option that works best for the current workforce.

- 7.5 Members raised concerns regarding the initial lack of engagement with both the Council and the public on the proposals. An acknowledgement was made by the ICB representatives that the initial engagement had not been thorough enough and that every effort would be made to ensure all parties were consulted throughout the project. Members were assured by the sharing of an engagement roadmap and the creation of Stakeholder Reference Group to deliver an engagement exercise to ensure openness and transparency and that Council representatives were sought to join the group.
- 7.6 The Committee raised further concerns about the engagement process as it did not appear to adequately have included those without transport, frail and elderly patients and how would the views of hard-to-reach groups be obtained independently, especially those not digitally enabled?
- 7.7 The Committee highlighted concerns about the travel implications for many patients whose surgery would be relocating and associated costs and carbon emissions. The Committee felt this may deter patients from visiting their GP which is against the emphasis on preventative care.

Bishops Castle Community Hospital

- 7.8 The Committee considered points arising from the proposal by Shropshire Community Health Trust to reduce services Bishops Castle Community Hospital.
- 7.9 Through their work the Members understood that the temporary closure had come about due three main areas: recruitment, outpatients, and relocated services.
- 7.10 Members made suggestions to support with recruitment including that registered nurses be contacted before their registration lapses and to send letters to bank staff. Advertisements for posts would be more entertaining.
- 7.11 The Committee also suggested that as services available at the hospital prior to closure have been retained the public should be made aware of the returned services and the success of the recruitment campaign. The CCG was working with Shropshire Council on integrated services to meet health needs and to put together a vision for preventing and delivering care when needed. This would be realistic, sustainable, and focused on patient outcomes.

The Future of Primary Care-The Fuller Report

- 7.12 The Committee considered the implications arising from the Fuller Report, with the outputs from their focus summarised below. The committee:
- Were presented with information about the background, scope, vision, and challenges of the Fuller Report, as well as the four key areas of intervention and feedback from the Royal College of GPs. A response was awaited and the Board would be setting out local implementation plans.
 - Made comments and asked questions about various issues, including the current status of the report, definitions of Integrated Care Board and Integrated Care Partnership, the 'Core 20 plus five approach' for Shropshire, digital issues in rural areas, workforce issues, and the withdrawal of support

for Primary Care Networks by the BMA. Concerns were also raised about the utilisation of available space, the need for focus on obesity, and long waits for GP appointments.

- Discussed the 'Core 20 plus five approach' which was designed to support Integrated Care Systems to drive targeted action for health qualities improvement, with rural population groups in Shropshire benefiting from a tailored approach. Members felt that engagement with only 1,000 people was not representative and expressed concerns about the lack of reference to very rural areas in the report. Members also referred to the need for easy access to dashboards of information.

Prevention, Primary Care, Urgent and Emergency Care, and Discharge Task and Finish Group Report

- 7:13 The Committee received the report of the Task and Finish Group for Prevention, Primary Care, Urgent and Emergency Care, and Discharge. The Task and Finish Group, assisted by the Executive Director of Health and the Executive Director of People, scoped their work around three key stages:
- Primary Care and preventing emergency department attendance
 - Emergency department attendance and admission to hospital
 - Preparing for discharge from hospital and discharge from hospital
- 7:14 The Group acknowledged that a whole system approach is needed to improve the current system. Concerns were raised about the lack of hospital beds available, especially in certain parts of the county, which delayed admission to hospital.
- 7:15 Members also acknowledged concerns about disconnect when being discharged from hospital, as patients may be told they can leave, but not all actions had been completed, for example, they were unable to get their medication or transport was not available at the time, and therefore they were unable to be discharged.
- 7:16 It was agreed that these issues need to be raised with the Joint HOSC and ICS and to work together to agree on a work program to find and assess the impact of solutions. Examples to ease the pressure on services included setting up another ward in A&E or having a discharge ward, which is currently in operation in other areas.
- 7:17 Members felt that social care staffing shortages were leading to care packages not being delivered and that 24/7 care in hospitals, including radiographers and pharmacists, could improve the system to allow treatment to continue in the community and reduce the time taken to discharge patients.
- 7:18 Members agreed that performance data was required to track patients from the point of entry at A&E through to discharge to understand the system in more detail. It was noted that a joint commissioning project with the ICS was in progress and that a piece of work was also taking place with Healthwatch

Shropshire on patients' experiences through A&E. The findings from this were expected to be published in January.

- 7:19 It was also stated that GP contracts in community hospitals could be coming to an end in April, which were felt to play a significant part in patient recovery and could ease the pressure on other services. Further information regarding these proposals was requested.
- 7:20 The Executive Director for People advised members that there had been an increased number of discharges despite national challenges around the workforce. Shropshire Council was now supporting many more patients at home than ever before and looking at a range of options as to how to support people differently. There was an aspiration for more patients not to have to go to the hospital, but if they did, to be discharged as soon as possible. It was felt that understanding the scope and expected outcomes of the work being undertaken was important.
- 7:21 The report highlighted the impact of Shropshire being a rural and in areas sparsely populated on access to health and care services. This encapsulated ongoing concerns raised by the Committee on this subject and informed the creation of the Rural Proofing in Health and Care Task and Finish Group at the March 2023 HASC.
- 7:22 As per recommendation 7 of the report it was presented to JHOSC on the 19th of December 2023 and the JHOSC agreed to use it to shape the scope for future work, key lines of enquiry, and prepare for a meeting being held with wider system key partners so that recommendations could be made in time for plans for the next winter.

Market Position Statement

- 7:23 The document presented opportunities within the care and support market of Shropshire by identifying the future demand for care and support to ensure needs can be met now and in the future.
- 7:24 Members noted the significant increase in costs in care provision as well as workforce pressures and were asked to consider the role of the Council in buying or commissioning services, targeting resources, and supporting market development and sustainability. The new MPS would be implemented in April 2023, subject to Cabinet approval.
- 7:25 Members felt that the mapping contained within the presentation showing the places with the highest older populations was quite dramatic and demonstrated the areas in the county which required more focus to ensure needs were being met.
- 7:26 Concerns were expressed regarding rurality in terms of service delivery, including care provision and broadband. The MPS had a place-based approach and the team was working closely with colleagues in Health and the broadband team to ensure a collaborative response. A request for a map detailing areas experiencing shortages of care workers was made.

- 7:27 Members noted the differing types of support available, such as care in the community. One scheme was “two carers in a car”, however, it was felt that this was less feasible in more rural areas due to distance and related time between visits. Despite national workforce pressures, the Council was expanding its in-house care team alongside partners across the county. A Hub was suggested to be set up in partnership with the University of Chester to train carers and shape the market. The Council had already partnered with the University of Chester and had 15 local apprentices graduating next February, 14 of which had confirmed their intention to work for the council. A retention payment was available after 2 years of service.
- 7:28 Funding had been made available for work experience placements and further funding options were being looked into, including options for recruiting from overseas. Members felt that it was important that there were opportunities for career progression. It was also suggested that, by partnering with local care homes, these could act as hubs where an outreach team could be based to deliver care in the community. This could involve working alongside the planning team to ensure that care can be delivered in rural areas.
- 7:27 To maintain a view of what was happening in the health and care system during the year the Committee also reviewed:
- The **Shropshire Inequalities Plan** for Shropshire and the issues and areas of focus that have been identified.
 - The **Welsh Air Ambulance - Changes to Sites** to discuss and agree the response made by the Committee to the consultation exercise.
 - The **Carers Strategy**, the Committee considered and provided feedback to inform the final version of the strategy.
 - **Social Prescribing**, the Committee received an update on progress and impact of Social Prescribing for Shropshire people, including development areas such as working with Adult Social Care, Accident and Emergency and Children and Young People.
 - **Progress on Highley Medical Practice**, the Committee received an update on Highley Medical Practice.

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

Meeting Papers for the People Overview Committee April 2022 to March 2023

Local Member: All

Appendices [Please list the titles of Appendices]



Committee and Date

Item

Council

21st March 2024

Public



Annual Report of the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, Environment & Transport

Responsible Officer:	Mark Barrow		
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Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	Ian Nellins		

1. Synopsis

The Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, Environment & Transport has responsibility for a range of functions delivered by the Place Directorate. This report updates on key work undertaken over the year and outlines key achievements and developments, as well as future priorities.

2. Recommendations

That Members receive the report and raise any issues as appropriate on the performance and activities of the Council's Climate Change, Environment and Transport function.

3. Climate Change

- 3.1. The climate crisis is a serious threat to the lives of millions of people globally, nationally and locally. The mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation measures to build resilience is now urgent and essential to prevent the worst outcomes. Even if we are successful in mitigating the worst effects, we will continue to experience more

pronounced and frequent episodes of extreme weather. The much greater frequency of extreme weather events will significantly increase insurance risks and threaten the health, wellbeing and future resilience of our communities.

- 3.2. Shropshire Council declared a climate emergency in May 2019 and in December 2020 adopted a Climate Strategy and Action Plan, which establishes the objective of achieving net-zero carbon performance for Shropshire Council by 2030. The Climate Change Task Force was established to lead the Council's response in November 2019, supported by an internal officer working group. A Climate Change and Carbon Reduction Advisory Board was established in September 2022 to act as a 'critical friend' and to assist the implementation and review of the Council's Climate Strategy.
- 3.3. The climate crisis is already recognised as a significant strategic risk to Shropshire and the delivery of Council and public services. This risk is most likely to manifest itself in terms of financial impacts (e.g. operating costs, impacts on the Shropshire economy) and impacts on the health and well-being of staff and residents as service users.
- 3.4. Climate action and carbon reduction are integral to all aspects of the Shropshire Plan:
 - A. **Healthy People** – Extreme weather associated with the climate crisis will adversely affect vulnerable residents and service users disproportionately. This is likely to drive significant future growth in the demand for social care services as well as generating significant impacts on the physical and mental health and wellbeing of staff.
 - B. **Healthy Economy** – The recent energy crisis illustrates potential impacts on the Shropshire economy from the climate crisis. However, there are also significant opportunities for growth and skilled employment in new technologies, renewable energy and the rural economy.
 - C. **Healthy Environment** – The climate crisis has very serious implications for biodiversity and food production. However, as a large rural area, Shropshire is also in an excellent position to take positive action to help mitigate these effects.
 - D. **Healthy Organisation** – Extreme weather associated with the climate crisis may significantly disrupt the delivery of Council services through damage to physical infrastructure such as roads and power infrastructure, and through impacts on staff health and wellbeing. Demand for services and service delivery costs such as highway maintenance are likely to increase significantly.
- 3.5. Taking active steps through the implementation of the adopted corporate Climate Strategy and Action Plan and supporting wider community efforts allows the Council to make a demonstrable contribution to reducing the carbon footprint of the wider county, as well as 'leading by example' by reducing its own carbon footprint. Through its regulatory role and procurement decisions, Shropshire Council is in a position to make a strong contribution to help the wider Shropshire community make a positive transition to a low carbon future.
- 3.6. Individual Council services will progressively need to engage with their staff and service users to explore the need for, and implications of, service changes which may result from the adoption of carbon reduction measures. The Council will need to adopt an agile approach keep abreast of national good practice in order to maximise opportunities for equality and social inclusion within the overall policy context of addressing the climate emergency.
- 3.7. The Council's latest annual carbon performance was last reported to Cabinet on 7th June 2023, and this showed that the Council's corporate carbon emissions had dropped by only 1% overall, with an increase in direct emissions offset by a decrease in indirect emissions. This is likely to be due to a return to normal services after three years of

disruption from the Covid pandemic. It is also important to recognise that the path to our corporate net zero goal will take time and improvements will not be linear. Commissioned and outsourced services represent 93% of our footprint and this will be an increasingly focus over the coming year in order to drive down emissions.

- 3.8. The Climate Change agenda was considered by Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee on 25th January 2024 and generated a wide-ranging discussion around recent work and future priorities. Scrutiny Committee are proposing to establish a Standing Task and Finish Group to consider climate change and carbon reduction in more detail.
- 3.9. During the last year, the efforts of the Climate Task Force have been directed towards continuing to embed climate change as a key consideration in the Council's corporate governance systems and to widen ownership of the issue through accredited carbon literacy training. A range of projects and initiatives continue to be developed and implemented to help the Council improve its own performance and to help foster similar action across the wider economy and communities in Shropshire. A wide range of Shropshire Council staff outside the Climate Task Force also contribute actively to carbon reduction and climate action projects, including:
- A. The Council's Affordable Warmth team, who have been extremely successful in attracting substantial amounts of Government grant to retrofit homes for our most vulnerable residents.
 - B. Colleagues in our Facilities Management Service, who are working out how we can best improve the energy and carbon performance of both our existing buildings and new construction projects.
 - C. Colleagues in Highways and Transport, who are busy installing grant-funded EV charging infrastructure across the county and improving the carbon performance of the Council's vehicle fleet.
- 3.10. **Key Achievements during 2022-23:**
- A. *Grant Funding* - The Climate Team has attracted Government capital and revenue grant funding awards totalling £4.3m to date.
 - B. *Integration / normalisation* – supply chain emissions and changes to procurement policy. We are making great strides in building internal capability as an organisation through an active programme of carbon literacy training. Most of the Council's Cabinet and senior leadership team have now been externally accredited as 'carbon literate' and the Council as an organisation is accredited to the 'Bronze' level.
 - C. *Biochar* – Shropshire Council is currently procuring a demonstrator plant to test the use of pyrolysis to 'cook' (rather than burn) natural woody materials from highway maintenance and garden waste to reduce it to pure carbon 'biochar' which can be used to store carbon in a stable form, improve soil quality and for the manufacture of low carbon building materials such as bricks and asphalt. This is a technology which could be widely deployed commercially in Shropshire to generate 'green growth'.
 - D. *Green hydrogen feasibility* – current battery technology is unsuitable for many of the heavy goods vehicles which are used to deliver Council services in Shropshire because of the long distances which they need to travel. The Council is therefore working with a range of commercial and academic stakeholders to on a project to test hydrogen refuelling facilities for its own fleet and that of its contractors. In the longer term, the Council hopes to develop a small-scale demonstrator facility to manufacture hydrogen fuel locally.

- E. *Leading by example* - A number of the demonstrator projects which we are developing are already recognised as being at the forefront of good practice by local authorities in the UK.
- F. *Low Carbon Community Buildings* – the design of new buildings such as the new swimming pool at Whitchurch is increasingly being informed by information about lifetime energy and carbon performance to minimise carbon emissions and running costs.
- G. *Electric Vehicle Chargers* – Shropshire Council has one of the largest EV charging infrastructure programmes in the Midlands and will soon own and operate over 300 chargers in its car parks, with a further 500 to come in future years!
- H. *Business Support* – Shropshire Council is working closely with community climate organisation and local businesses to offer free climate advice and training for local firms and to free consultancy advice on the installation of solar panels on large industrial buildings. The continued availability of these support programmes may also help local companies supplying goods and services to Shropshire Council to reduce their emissions.
- I. *Community Climate Action* - We have established a really positive and constructive ongoing working relationship with community climate organisations across Shropshire.

3.11. **Aims and Objectives for the Future:**

- A. Generate wider ownership of the climate change agenda through staff engagement, and through the integration and normalisation of climate considerations as part of normal council business. This should include:
 - i. building internal awareness, capacity and capability through an on-going programme of carbon literacy training
 - ii. the development and implementation of a corporate carbon accounting approach, including the inclusion of carbon offset values in project financial business cases
 - iii. the identification of service-level champions to help ensure that carbon performance and climate issues to be considered as a normal part of service planning across all Council services
 - iv. urgently working our top 100 suppliers to test modelled data and to help them develop and deliver carbon reduction plans to reduce the carbon emissions which they generate on our behalf
- B. Resilience & Adaptation – National research indicates that 77% of local authorities have reported that public health is already being impacted adversely affected by climate-related hazard such as heat, flooding and heavy rainfall. We urgently need to work jointly with others to work out how local services and infrastructure could be affected by extreme weather and to build their resilience.
- C. Support wider engagement of Shropshire communities and businesses to generate informed decisions about investment in measures to improve the energy performance of domestic and commercial buildings and capture the full potential of green growth and skills in Shropshire.
- D. The Climate Task Force is proposing to carry out a mid-term review of the adopted corporate Climate Strategy and Action Plan during 2025 to take account of Shropshire’s climate and carbon performance to date and to reflect the availability of additional information and changes in context and technology.

4. Integrated Waste PFI Contract

- 4.1 The Integrated Waste Management PFI Agreement commenced in 2007 and covers the collection, transport, treatment and disposal of municipal waste in Shropshire the contract being in two parts, Waste Treatment Services (WTS) and Collection Recycling Services (CRS). The PFI Agreement was awarded to Veolia Environmental Services Shropshire Ltd (VES Shropshire) with Shropshire Council (“the Council”) taking on the role of client from the Shropshire Waste Partnership, following the creation of the Unitary Authority in 2009.
- 4.2 The existing assets including operational depots and Household Recycling Centres (HRC) are leased to Veolia under the terms of the contract whilst the key piece of infrastructure, the 95,000 tonnes per annum Battlefield Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) became operational in 2015. The original planning application for the ERF was refused in July 2010 and following a planning appeal, approval was issued in January 2012 with construction of the facility starting in October 2012. The contract was for 27 years up to September 2034 however, due to the delay in the construction of the ERF the contract was extended in March 2015 for a further 4.5 years taking the end of the contract to 2038/39.
- 4.3 The project has also benefited from financial support in the form of PFI credits due to the associated infrastructure development, specifically the ERF. The plant has been successfully delivered and been classed as a recovery operation by the Environment Agency, other minor infrastructure has been developed as required within the PFI Agreement, the only outstanding element being the in-vessel composting facility. A suitable site has now been identified and plans for the plant will be put forward once the decision on the future collections of food and garden waste have been agreed in order to determine the size and type of facility required.
- 4.4 Contract performance in terms of the delivery of key contract requirements has been good and is reflected in both Key Performance Indicators (KPI) and customer satisfaction this is also reflected by relatively low number of formal complaints received relating to the waste services.

Energy Revenue Share

- 4.5 The arrangement within this contract is fixed which provides stability, predictability, reduces administrative costs and complexity, gives a clear financial responsibility and benefit to the provider although the provider may take more risk, they also have a greater percentage of any reward.
- 4.6 There is a base case revenue for both energy (electricity from the ERF) and recyclable materials. The ERF principal activity is the burning of residual household waste 24/7, which heats water, and the steam turns turbine blades attached to a generator that converts the energy into electricity which is then sold on to the wholesale energy market. Due to the significant increase in the wholesale energy market it is now predicated that the council will be moving into a positive revenue share position from energy and recycle from 2024/25 onwards.

Key Achievements during 2022-23

Best Value Review

- 4.7 The Best Value Duty relates to the statutory requirement for local authorities and other public bodies defined as best value authorities in Part 1 of the Local Government Act 1999 (“the 1999 Act”) to “make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness”. In practice, this covers issues such as how authorities exercise their functions to deliver a balanced budget (Part 1 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992), provide statutory services, and secure value for money in all spending decisions.
- 4.8 There conditions within the contract allow the council to instigate a best value review at any time and to address the council budgetary pressures and requirement for financial savings the council instigated a formal review of the relevant services within the contract in September 2023.

This had the following objectives:

- To determine how to extract better value out of the contract and where there may be opportunities for efficiencies and financial savings.
- To gain a better understanding of the payment mechanism and the financial model and how these are being applied to invoices in practice.
- To establish whether energy and recycle revenues have been generated in accordance with the contract and, are an actual reflection of energy and materials pricing over the contract term to date.
- To summarise the financial performance of Veolia ES (Shropshire) Ltd as set out in the published accounts and compare to the projections in the financial model.
- To understand how IRR was intended to be applied to the contract and any opportunities for gainshare.
- To be clear on the impact of how upcoming legislation may alter waste volumes in the original base case financial models.
- To consider potential options to derive value from the contract and analyse the pros, cons and potential for efficiencies associated with each of them in order to determine a recommended way forward.

This work was undertaken by PWC and covered 6 main areas:

1. Commercial review of contract terms to identify value levers:
2. Invoice validation:
3. Commodity market review - energy and recycle
4. Assessment of current market value and IRR including gainshare options
5. Assessing the impact of upcoming legislation
6. Options appraisal to extract best value from the Contract:

EfW Net Future Value Analysis

- 4.9 Additional work was also undertaken by WSP to inform the future value of the EfW asset: setting out the longlist of contracting options for the council upon expiry of the PFI in 2039

Aims and Objectives for the Future:

Weekly Food Waste Collections

- 4.10 The council presently collects food with garden waste on a fortnightly basis from 90,000 of the 147,000 properties in Shropshire those not included are in Bridgnorth and Oswestry and they receive a fortnightly garden waste only service.
- 4.11 In December 2022 DEFRA wrote to all Local Authorities regarding the implications of the introduction of separate food waste collections on existing long-term contracts setting out relevant criteria for a potential transitional period. As there is already a mixed food & garden service in place then in accordance with the legislation a weekly food waste collection service is required to be implemented by 2026/27
- 4.12 We have been working with colleagues from DEFRA through the food waste programme and part of this work has included the provision of funding to develop weekly food waste collection options across Shropshire utilising the WRAP Kerbside Analysis Tool (KAT).
- 4.13 This work was to explore the costs and operational implications of introducing a separate weekly food waste collection system. The carbon emissions from each collection option have also been modelled through the Waste & Resource Assessment Tool for the Environment (WRATE). This work has been undertaken by the Local Partnerships through Frith Resource Management.
- 4.14 The options presented give a good understanding of the impact of changes to the existing baseline service. The overall results show that there will be both a financial and carbon impact that cannot be helped. Whilst increased recycling and decreased residual will mitigate some of the impacts, the report correctly identifies that weekly separate collections of food waste will significantly impact on the council finances in terms of capital and revenue expenditure which has not been included within our medium-term financial strategy due to the uncertainty around new burdens funding.
- 4.15 However, indicative transitional costs for bins and vehicles has now been confirmed as grant payment for 2023/24 of £2.791m, this presently does not meet the cost of any of the options modelled and quality assured by DEFRA, subsequently we have raised our concerns and are awaiting confirmation of additional funding to cover the gap.
- 4.16 It is also critical for our medium-term financial strategy that we receive indicative funding details for both the resource transitional funding for 2024/25 and ongoing resource and revenue costs post 1 April 2026.

Garden Waste

- 4.17 The council continues to face significant financial pressures and it is therefore essential that the council looks at alternative sources of revenue generation, the alternative would be to cut essential frontline services.
- 4.18 The collection of garden waste is not presently a statutory duty and a service the council are not required to provide if they choose not to do so. However, this service was including within the specification for the letting of the integrated waste contract and was subsequently priced into the bids submitted.

- 4.19 There is presently no statutory duty to collect garden waste and whilst some councils collect free of charge the majority 67% (221) charge for the service. There is no specific legislation that dictates what a council can charge, the fees for garden waste can vary from between £30-£75 and are set on each councils' individual circumstances such as, cost of providing the service, local budget constraints and demand. The revenue generated can be used to offset other budget pressure and support the delivery of existing services.
- 4.20 The benefit in Shropshire is that the infrastructure in terms of bins, vehicles, staff, and treatment facilities are already in place and these costs fully understood so the introduction from an operational point of view is straight forward.
- 4.21 Residents will only pay for the service if they opt-in to the scheme and it will remain free for residents to dispose of their garden waste at our Household Recycling Centres (HRC)
- 4.22 We remain committed to protecting and enhancing our environment and delivering on the aims and priorities as set out in our corporate plan. This includes continuing to encourage people to think about the impact of their actions on the environment and to 'reduce, reuse and recycle' their waste.
- 4.23 There is no evidence to suggest that we will see any increase in fly-tipping because of a subscription service being introduced. We have spoken to other councils that have introduced similar schemes and they have not seen an increase. Importantly, fly-tipping is a crime, and anyone caught doing it could be prosecuted and face a large fine, although this is organic material and will naturally breakdown, posing no risk to the environment.

Waste Minimisation

- 4.24 Reducing the amount of waste that residents produce in Shropshire can have several benefits ranging from protection of natural resources, conserving energy and reducing carbon emissions to the financial benefits to the council of reducing our collection costs. Current waste minimisation initiatives include:
- Master Composter Programme.
 - Shropshire Good Food Partnership
 - Social media and piggy backing of national and local campaigns
 - Outreach and Public Engagement
- 4.25 Further to a recent motion at Council a revised 'Waste Minimisation plan' is now being developed, this will include relevant consultation and is due to be discussed and agreed at full council in September 2024.

5. Public Transport - Background

- 5.1 Shropshire Councils Active Travel ambitions are established and prioritised within the draft Shropshire Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). In the summer of 2023, the Council analysed the feedback generated through a comprehensive public and stakeholder engagement exercise and produced the final draft of the LCWIP and the Delivery Plans for Shrewsbury, Oswestry, Market Drayton, Whitchurch, Ludlow, Bridgnorth and Church Stretton. (See Background Paper- Draft LCWIP)

- 5.2 The LCWIP aims to deliver on the Shropshire Plan’s key strategic objectives by providing for a high-quality active travel network of routes which will enable more people to choose walking, cycling and wheeling for short trips. This, in turn, will help Council to deliver on its ambitions to:
 - a. Develop more opportunities for active travel in Shropshire generating a range of related benefits, including improved air quality and better health and wellbeing (Healthy Environment)
 - b. Support the increase in low carbon transport in the County (Healthy Environment)
 - c. Encourage changes to the way people travel and the use of sustainable transport options (Healthy Economy)
 - d. Increase health and wellbeing and reduce social isolation through physical activities (Healthy People)

- 5.3 Once endorsed by Cabinet (March 2024), it is expected that the LCWIP will be adopted by Council summer 2024.

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

Draft LCWIP

Local Member:

All

Appendices

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MEMBER QUESTIONS COUNCIL 21 MARCH 2024

Question from Councillor Dan Thomas

This year a former Town Councillor and community activist took his own life, shocking the Much Wenlock Community. His family will clearly never overcome this loss.

In a personal capacity I am a member of the Shropshire Roots Brotherhood, a community group that encourages men across Shropshire to meet and discuss issues affecting their mental health. Suicide is now the leading – and increasing - cause of premature mortality in men below the age of 50.

There are a number of occupations where suicide rates are high, and one is farming. This is important in Shropshire which is a predominantly rural county and one where farming is a significant -and often solitary - activity. In recent years suicide prevention campaigns have focused on men, who apparently still have a much higher rate than women in all age groups and are over three times more likely to die by suicide than women. However, recent global reports reveal that suicide has overtaken maternal mortality as one of the highest incidences of premature death in young women.

It is vital that Mental Health Services have adequate risk assessments and procedures in place so that the risk of suicide is recognised and minimised.

Would the Portfolio Holder articulate the measures that are in place to provide support and intervention in order that individuals can get their lives back onto an even keel, so that families do not have to suffer the anguish that has afflicted too many in Shropshire during the last couple of years?

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

Thank you for your question and interest in this important issue. Every loss of life due to suicide is devastating and may I start my response by sending my deepest sympathies and condolences to all our Shropshire residents who have been personally impacted by the loss of a family member or friend.

Suicide prevention has been a priority for Shropshire health and care system since 2017. There are around 5,200 lives lost to suicide every year in England and around 35 each year in Shropshire. Every one of these deaths leaves behind family, friends and communities shattered by the loss. We know the results of an individual attempting to take their own life are wide reaching and every death by suicide is a tragic loss with major impact on our communities.

We believe that suicide is preventable; but it requires all of us to seek every opportunity to achieve this. Through promoting more awareness and conversation about suicide throughout the health and care workforce and in our communities, we hope to tackle stigma and to encourage anyone struggling with or impacted by

suicide to reach out as early as possible. There is no one reason why someone may decide to end their life and anyone can be affected at any time in their life, which makes prevention complex. National evidence identifies a range of factors that can increase suicide risk. These can include recent challenges such as the cost-of-living crisis, ongoing global conflicts and the impact from the pandemic which can also influence poorer mental health and increased suicide risk. We also know from national evidence there are a range of groups with a higher risk of suicide.

To this end, in September 2023 a revised partnership Shropshire suicide prevention strategy for was published, which sets ambitions and commitments of raising awareness of suicide risk across our communities and workforce, enhance skills and confidence talking about suicide to reduce stigma and promote early help seeking behaviour, ensure the right offers are available to the right people at the right time and ensure those who have been impacted or bereaved by a suicide or unexpected death have access to the support that best address their needs. An online version of the Strategy can be found here: [Shropshire Suicide Prevention Strategy 2023 - 2026 | Shropshire Council](#).

The refreshed Strategy recognises national evidence that there are some groups within society that are at greater risk of suicide compared to the general population and as such, the new Strategy includes the need for targeted offers in addition to universal services. This includes men (as a group), people with protected characteristics (including neurodivergent conditions), people in contact with mental health services, people with long term physical health conditions, young people and young adults and our farmer/rural population.

The Strategy and Programme in Shropshire is delivered by the multi-agency Shropshire Suicide Prevention Action Group led by our Public Health Team. This partnership group includes the local NHS, Mental Health Trust, Shropshire Council, Emergency services, Criminal Justice, Drug & Alcohol services, Voluntary and Community Sector partners (including Shropshire Mental Health Support, Samaritans and Papyrus) and experts by experience who have been impacted by suicide amongst others with an interest in supporting the programme.

Aligned to the Strategy, there are a series of programmes already in place and new ones being developed within the new action plan.

Below are some of the highlights of what has been delivered to date;

1. **Skills based suicide prevention understanding and awareness training** for those most likely to be working with vulnerable and high-risk groups. This continues to be targeted across all above partner agencies including the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital Mental Health Liaison team within the Emergency Department, frontline workers in the Mental Health Trust and Adult Social Care teams within the Council. Subsidised (and sometimes free to access) training has also been targeted to additional agencies working with veterans and homeless/at risk of rough sleeper populations, people working in pharmacies, abuse support services, drug alcohol services, money and financial worries support, sports and youth clubs, carer groups as well as many other community groups and services. An overview of the training options currently are highlighted below.

- **Zero Suicide Alliance free online training available** at: [Free online training from Zero Suicide Alliance](#). Zero Suicide Alliance is one of the country's leading suicide prevention charities and they provide easy access and digestible information on how to talk about suicide, how to spot risk and how to signpost. There are also versions available in Welsh language and also targeted at specific groups including veterans, taxi drivers, prisons and probation staff.
 - **Suicide Awareness** – a 2-hour interactive webinar delivered by our local Shropshire Joint Training team based at Shropshire Council aimed at anyone with an interest and reach to support suicide prevention and assuming no prior knowledge. The purpose is to explore the myths and stigma on suicide, raise awareness of risk and build confidence in applying the Zero Suicide Alliance approach. More details can be found at: [Suicide Prevention Awareness | Shropshire Council](#)
 - **Suicide First Aid: Understanding Suicide Intervention** – a 1 day more in-depth training session to practice skills and knowledge to identify someone who may be thinking about suicide and competently intervene to help create suicide safety in any professional or personal setting. More details can be found at: [Suicide First Aid: Understanding Suicide Intervention | Shropshire Council](#)
 - **Suicide First Aid: Children and Young People** – a 1 day programme to develop knowledge and skills to identify a child or young person who may be thinking about suicide with the opportunity to build confidence to intervene
2. **Bespoke local resources and materials to promote support for suicide risk**. The Action Group designed and widely shared the Pick Up The Phone You Are Not Alone z-card – a wallet sized fold-out information card that provides first point of contact details and advice for anyone concerned about suicide in themselves or someone else. Printed copies have been shared with GP practices, pharmacies, libraries and a range of other public facing services across the Shropshire Council area. A digital version can be found online at: [pick-up-phone-z-card-single-pages.pdf \(shropshire.gov.uk\)](#)

Targetted offers to high-risk populations. A recent project taking a health check offer to farmers and being delivered at livestock markets launched in 2023 using grant funding with support from the Suicide Prevention Action Group, Shropshire Council, the Public Health Outreach Team, Shropshire Rural Support and NFU. The purpose of this project is to reduce barriers for farmers and those working within the rural community to talk about their health and wellbeing, to have an opportunity to check their blood pressure, access advice and also to have an opportunity to discuss emotional wellbeing and mental health concerns with a mental health first aid and suicide first aid trained practitioner. In addition, we are seeking opportunities to connect with those who work alongside the sector to target skills-based training on recognising and understanding suicide risk, how to have a difficult conversation and

how to signpost or appropriately intervene. We are continuing to work with representatives from the farming community to explore what could and should be within the suicide prevention action plan that could best support local needs.

3. **Support for people impacted by suicide**. A Suicide Bereavement Service was launched in 2021 for people who are bereaved by suicide or possible suicide, which is being delivered in partnership by Shropshire Mental Health Support and Telford Mind providing support for the county of Shropshire. This service recognises that people bereaved by suicide can be at greater risk of a mental health crisis or suicide and works closely with the Coroner team as well as wider partners including the police to promote the offer. The service is available to anyone impacted by a suicide death (recent or previous). It provides practical and advocacy support to ensure client needs are best met. In addition, a new peer support group led by the charity Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide group was launched in Shrewsbury and Oswestry in 2023. The purpose is to provide a safe space to talk about their experiences and support each other, with support from trained facilitators who themselves have been bereaved by a suicide death. More details about local bereavement support can be found at: [Bereavement support | Shropshire Council](#) You raise, that it “is vital that Mental Health Services have adequate risk assessments and procedures in place so that the risk of suicide is recognised and minimised”. Please see detailed response from Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust below.

More information on local mental health and wellbeing offers a dedicated site has been created on the Healthy Shropshire webpage at: [Mental health and wellbeing | Shropshire Council](#). This provides access to;

- Information, tools and resources on how to keep mentally well – including the locally invested online peer support portal TogetherAll, which provides a safe, secure and anonymous community for anyone aged 16+ who lives in an area served by Shropshire Council and who may be stressed, anxious or feeling low
- Local support for an emotional health or mental health concern
- A dedicated page for concerns about suicide (including link to the Shropshire Telford and Wrekin Suicide Prevention Resources page at: [Suicide and suicidal thoughts - NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin \(shropshiretelfordandwrekin.nhs.uk\)](#))
- A first point of contact resource that provides suggestions on local support that could support both mental health and other influencing factors that may impact on mental wellbeing (including money worries, employment, health and social care needs, families and unpaid carers and impacted by abuse)

Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust

Query:

[It is vital that Mental Health Services have adequate risk assessments and procedures in place so that the risk of suicide is recognised and minimised.](#)

Suicide Strategy and Planning

Midlands Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (MPFT) takes its responsibilities around effective suicide mitigation seriously. We have our own suicide prevention plan which was aligned to the 'Suicide prevention in England: 5-year cross-sector strategy' on its publication in September 2023.

In line with the national strategy and plan, we work closely with our partners in the Shropshire suicide prevention partnership and have strong alignment with their work and plan. We are an active member of the Suicide Prevention Action Group in Shropshire and support their targeted working groups.

Risk Assessment and Targeted Intervention

In relation to risk assessment, we have been working with the recommendations of the National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (NICE). Its guidance on 'Self-Harm: assessment, management and preventing recurrence' (NG225), published in September 2022 states that mental health services should not use risk assessment tools and scales to predict future suicide or repetition of self-harm. It has been identified through research that such scales have a low efficacy in predicting suicide (as low as 5%).

Instead, NICE recommends focusing the assessment on the person's needs and how to support their immediate and long-term psychological and physical safety.

Within its national strategy the Department of Health and Social Care has convened a national safety planning working group, which is expected to publish its suicide safety planning guidance by March 2024 and roll out its training by March 2025.

MPFT has chosen not to wait for the outcome of this and undertaken to train our own clinical trainers in suicide awareness and mitigation training developed by 4MentalHealth. We have already trained over 1,200 staff on suicide awareness and mitigation and are currently building the SafeTool safety planning document into our electronic patient record to support this.

In line with the national suicide prevention strategy, we recognise the need to ensure that our mental health services are aligned to high-risk groups and those in mental health crisis. As such we have in place:

- Mental health crisis intervention and home treatment services
- Mental health 111 services (from April 2024)
- Liaison mental health services in urgent care
- Mental health support teams in schools
- 72-hour follow up of those discharged from mental health inpatient services, in line with national guidance

Learning

MPFT implemented the national NHS Patient Safety Incident Response Framework (PSIRF) in December 2023, which includes the use of a system-based patient safety learning response review for all unexpected deaths of those accessing our services

or discharged within six months. These reviews involve all services involved in supporting the person. In addition, we seek to engage families in the review through the support of our family liaison officer who ensures their voice is included in the learning review and they receive appropriate support and sign posting to postvention support.

The learning we take from our review of patient safety incidents is shared widely across services to offer the widest opportunity to mitigate further impact. Our learning from deaths reporting is shared at multiple levels of the Trust including the Trust Board and incorporates an analysis of the data, learning themes and any associated learning from system and national activity (such as the national confidential enquiry into suicide and homicide). We share learning with system partners through the Shropshire Suicide Prevention Action Group.

Oversight and Assurance

In terms of objective scrutiny of our systems and processes, regular Quality Standards Assurance visits are carried out in clinical services by MPFT corporate quality staff. Partners such as Healthwatch and Integrated Care Board (ICB) commissioners often accompany quality visits. These, together with the regulatory oversight framework of the Care Quality Commission, ensure that teams and services are independently audited and held to account to deliver any action plans that arise.

Additionally, MPFT staff and teams always aim to work collaboratively to assess and mitigate risk with service users and their families, but also with other partners, both statutory and non-statutory (proportionate to need and where information sharing is justified). There is a history of close collaboration at team, service and organisational level between the Trust and Shropshire Council with regards the suicide prevention agenda and this work is a key feature of the multi-agency Mental Health, Learning Disability and Autism Operational Group, which reports into the ICB.



**Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority
Chair’s Report of the Meeting held on 21 February 2024**

**Capital Programmes, Treasury Management Statement and
Capital Strategy**

The Fire Authority confirmed its 2024/25 to 2028/29 capital programmes, and approved its Capital Strategy for the same period, together with its Treasury Strategy Statement for 2024/25.

Adequacy of Reserves and Robustness of Budget

The Fire Authority agreed the reserves, recommended by its Strategy and Resources Committee, and noted the Treasurer’s assurances covering the robustness of the 2024/25 budget and adequacy of the reserves.

Revenue Budget 2024/25

The Fire Authority considered recommendations made by its Strategy and Resources Committee in relation to the revenue budget for 2024/25.

The Committee had recommended, and the Fire Authority approved, a precept increase of 2.99% in 2024/25.

Revenue Budget: 2023/24 Precept

The Fire Authority agreed:

- A net budget requirement of £29,198,100
- A total precept of £20,123,327 to be levied on the billing authorities
- A Council Tax resulting in a basic amount of Council Tax at Band D of £114.49
- The amount payable by billing authorities for 2023/24, as follows:

Council	Precept £
Shropshire Council	13,646,194
Borough of Telford & Wrekin Council	6,477,133
	<hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black;"/> 20,123,327 <hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black;"/>

Annual Plan 2024/25

The Fire Authority has agreed the proposed format of its Annual Plan 2024/25. Authority has been delegated to the Fire Authority's Strategy and Resources Committee to agree the setting of corporate performance indicators and associated tolerances. This issue will be considered at the Committee's meeting on 21 March 2024.

Responsibility for agreeing the final layout and wording of the Annual Plan 2024/25 has been delegated to the Chief Fire Officer, in consultation with the Chair of the Fire Authority.

Annual Review of Charges for Special Services 2024/25

The Fire Authority has agreed that its special service charges be uplifted by 5%, which is the pay increase that has been awarded to firefighters for 2024/25.

As the standard method of increasing the special service charges is the application of the firefighter pay award for the year concerned, the Fire Authority has delegated this exercise to officers. Any future exceptions from this approach will be brought to the Fire Authority for consideration.

Amendments to the Pay Policy Statement 2024/25

The Fire Authority has conducted its annual review of the Pay Policy Statement and agreed changes to reflect the non-uniform pay award for 2023 and the revised National Joint Council pay award for Brigade Managers.

The amended Statement, as agreed by the Fire Authority will now be published as required under the Localism Act 2011, with updates being made as further pay awards are agreed.

Government Consultation Response to the Fire Reform White Paper

The "Reforming Our Fire and Rescue Service" consultation paper was first published in May 2022 and the fire sector, stakeholders and the public were given the opportunity to respond with their views. The consultation has now concluded, and the government has published its response. The Fire Authority received a summary report setting out the Government's vision for fire reform which is centred around three main themes:

People Talent and inclusion

The White Paper outlines plans to help fire professionals to further develop their skills and ensure that everyone could thrive in their work.

It also sets out the intention to build on existing progress to provide effective leadership of the sector and building capacity, embedding values, and nurturing talent within services.

Funding will be made available to support and widen the direct entry schemes which will allow more non-operational professionals to lead Fire and Rescue Services (FRSs).

Pay and role

The government will work with fire employers and unions to crucially review the National Joint Council (NJC) own mechanisms, operations, and transparency. This should be completed by early 2024.

If this does not result in meaningful change, the government will explore other routes to ensure a modern, fair pay system which constructively enables role reform in England.

Professionalism

Creating a College of Fire and Rescue

To assist in strengthening the overall professionalism of services it is proposed that a College of Fire and Rescue be created, with the most appropriate deliver model for this to be developed. Such a college would have responsibility for professional standards.

Raising standards

The White Paper will propose creation of a statutory code of ethics. Furthermore, the Home Office will place future responsibility for professional standards with the College of Fire and Rescue.

Governance

Governance Change

Although the White Paper outlined support for a single point of accountability for fire governance, it is not proposed to mandate the transfer of governance to Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs). Voluntary transfers and those facilitated in local devolution deals will be supported.

Operational Independence

Legislation will be introduced at the earliest opportunity to give chief officers operational independence, with FRAs retaining responsibility for their services.

Clarity will also be given on providing a clear separation of strategic and operational planning requirements, and overall governance.

The full document that will be set before Parliament can be accessed via the following link:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/657888bc095987000d95df2a/E02947034_Fire_Reform_Consultation_Resp_Accessible.pdf



David Minnery
Chair
Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority
February 2024

Background Papers

Agenda and Papers for the meeting of Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority held on 21 February 2024

The agendas and reports (except for exempt or confidential items) for all Fire Authority meetings and those of its committees appear on the Service's website:

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

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

- Click on 'About Us' 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 '21 February 2024' and the various reports and appendices will be listed

If you have any difficulty with the website, please contact Lynn Ince, Executive Support Supervisor via lynn.ince@shropshirefire.gov.uk .