Shropshire Council
Legal and Democratic Services
Guildhall,
Frankwell Quay,
Shrewsbury
SY3 8HQ
Date: Wednesday, 6 May 2026

Committee: Council

Date: Thursday, 14 May 2026
Time: 10.00 am
Venue: The Council Chamber, The Guildhall, Frankwell Quay, Shrewsbury, SY3 8HQ

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 (Please note that while we strive to live stream meetings, technical issues may occasionally occur. In the event of a technical disruption, the meeting will be paused to try to resolve the issue. Should it not be possible to resume the live stream, the meeting will proceed as scheduled, and a backup recording will be made available after the meeting. Any disruption to the live stream does not affect the legality of the meeting)

The recording of the event will also be made available shortly after the meeting on the Shropshire Council Youtube Channel Here

Tim Collard
Service Director – Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer)

Duncan Borrowman (Chairman)	Tom Dainty	Rhys Gratton
Gary Groves (Vice-Chair)	Jamie Daniels	Andy Hall
Heather Kidd (Leader)	Rosemary Dartnall	Kate Halliday
Alex Wagner (Deputy Leader)	David Davies	Harry Hancock-Davies
Sho Abdul	Pamela Davies	Nick Hignett
Caroline Bagnall	Andy Davis	Alan Holford
Elizabeth Barker	Julian Dean	George Hollyhead
Bernie Bentick	Joshua Dickin	Ruth Houghton
Neil Bentley	Mandy Duncan	Dawn Husemann
Ed Bird	Greg Ebbs	Peter Husemann
Jeremy Blandford	Susan Eden	Benedict Jephcott
Andy Boddington	Donna Edmunds	Robert Jones
Thomas Clayton	Craig Emery	Duncan Kerr
Susan Coleman	Brian Evans	Christopher Lemon
Rachel Connolly	Roger Evans	Nigel Lumby
	Adam Fejfer	Brendan Mallon

Sarah Marston	Vivienne Parry	Teri Trickett
David Minnery	Ed Potter	David Vasmer
Vicky Moore	Rosie Radford	Beverley Waite
Mark Morris	Sharon Ritchie-Simmons	David Walker
Alan Mosley	Carl Rowley	Sam Walmsley
Malcolm Myles-Hook	Charles Shackerley-Bennett	Alison Williams
Chris Naylor	Colin Stanford	Rob Wilson
James Owen	Jon Tandy	
Mark Owen	Colin Taylor	
Wendy Owen	Dan Thomas	

Your Committee Officer is:

Tim Ward Committee Officer
Tel: 01743 257713
Email: tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk

AGENDA

1 Election of Chairman

To elect a Chairman for the ensuing year.

2 Apologies for Absence

3 Appointment of Vice Chairman

To appoint a Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year

4 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.

5 Minutes (Pages 1 - 12)

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 February 2026

6 Announcements

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

7 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 12.00 noon on Friday 8 May 2026

8 Questions from Members

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

9 Scrutiny Reorganisation/Housing Supervisory Board (Pages 13 - 20)

Report of the Service Director – Legal and Governance and the Statutory Scrutiny Officer is attached

Contact Tim Collard Tel 01743 252756
Tom Dodds Tel 01743 258518

10 Constitution of Committees and Allocation of Seats to Political Groups (Pages 21 - 38)

Report of the Service Director – Legal and Governance is attached

Contact Tim Collard Tel 01743 252756

11 **Scheme of Delegation** (Pages 39 - 96)

Report of the Service Director – Legal and Governance is attached

Contact Tim Collard Tel 01743 252756

12 **Appointment of Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive)** (Pages 97 - 100)

Report of the Service Director Enabling is attached

Contact: Sam Williams. Tel. 01743 252817

13 **Appointment of Monitoring Officer (Service Director Legal and Governance)** (Pages 101 - 104)

Report of the Interim Chief Executive is attached

Contact: Tanya Miles. Tel. 01743 252817

14 **Shropshire Council Corporate plan 2026/27-2030/31** (Pages 105 - 150)

Report of the Interim Chief Executive is attached

Contact: Tanya Miles. Tel. 01743 252817

15 **Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy** (Pages 151 - 192)

Report of the Service Director – Strategy and Change is attached

Contact: Paul Clarke Tel. 01743 252421

16 **Adoption of the Jo Cox Civility Pledge** (Pages 193 - 196)

Report of the Service Director – Legal and Governance is attached

Contact Tim Collard Tel 01743 252756

17 **Adoption of Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan Review** (Pages 197 - 468)

Report of the Service Director – Place Shaping is attached

Contact: Kassandra Polyzoides Tel. 01743 254797

18 **Motions**

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

a **Motion received from Councillor Brendan Mallon and supported by the Reform Group**

Please note: due to a procedural error at the last meeting Cllr Mallon was denied his right of reply prior to the vote being taken following a closure motion. Therefore, there will be no debate on this motion but Cllr Mallon will be given his right to reply prior to a vote being taken

Globally, the transition to 'Net Zero' energy systems is in a state of rapid collapse. No large economy is persisting with this and only a handful of lesser economies are still fully committed. The US is unequivocally out. Russia, India, most of Asia and South America were never really in (despite the Paris Agreement) and China simply lies.

China's wind and solar 'farms' are merely a shop front for the planet's primary manufacturer of that equipment. Meanwhile, they rapidly expand Coal and Nuclear use. China alone is 32% of global emissions (Our World in Data), more than the combined developed world. Chinese per capita emissions surpassed the UK in 2022 and are now already double the UK's, with no slowdown in the increase. China plus just the USA and India make up fully half of global emissions.

The latest domino to fall is Germany. Previous dependence on Russian gas and their abandonment of Nuclear makes Germany now heavily dependent on coal and lignite (14% - AG Enrgiebilanzen) and LNG and thus the EU's largest emitter at 22% of the total (EDGAR 2024 report). Unaffordable energy has resulted in large scale off-shoring of German heavy industry. Thus, Chancellor Merz's announcement to reverse their energy policies, maintaining Net Zero in name only.

What remains is a handful of smaller European economies plus Australia still pursuing Net Zero to a similar extent as the UK, with a combined output circa 7% of global emissions (Net Zero Tracker and EDGAR 2024). Canada nominally has Net Zero policies but, unlike the UK, continues with extensive hydrocarbon production. Clearly, 7% of Net Zero is little more than a rounding error. Thus, any further spending on Net Zero is an obvious waste of money.

A number of Councils around the country, including Labour-led Islington, have heavily curtailed or suspended Net Zero spending. In the context of our Financial Emergency, in order to reduce both capital and revenue spend, we move that the Council immediately suspend all Net Zero related spending, pending a review of value-for-money beyond clearly ineffectual reductions in CO2 emissions.

b **Motion received from Councillor Carl Rowley and supported by Councillors Elizabeth Barker, Brian Evans, Harry Hancock-Davies and George Hollyhead**
Motion: Removal of Canal Towpaths from the Safe Walking Routes Policy

This Council notes that:

1. Shropshire Council's approach to assessing walked routes to school allows a wide range of routes to be treated as "available", including public footpaths and other non-highway routes, where risk is judged primarily on traffic and highway considerations.

2. Canal towpaths are routinely subject to risks wholly distinct from adopted footways, including:

    - Unfenced watercourses and unprotected edges;
    - Seasonal flooding, surface degradation, ice and low-light conditions;
    - Conflicts between pedestrians, cyclists and other users;
    - Limited access for emergency services.

3. The current assessment framework assumes accompaniment by a responsible adult, an assumption which does not reflect the reality of many working families or older primary-age children walking independently.

4. These assumptions are not consistently supported by objective evidence, real-world behaviour, or safeguarding standards, and do not reflect the lived experience of many families, particularly working parents and older age children walking independently.

5. Treating canal towpaths as “safe walked routes” has the effect of removing entitlement to home-to-school transport, transferring risk and responsibility from the local authority to families.

This Council believes that:

1. Assumption must never replace evidence where child safety is concerned. A route that is “theoretically walkable” is not necessarily practically or safely walkable for children on a daily basis.

2. Policies which depend on presumed adult supervision or ideal conditions place inappropriate responsibility and risk onto families rather than the local authority.

3. Recreational access infrastructure should not be reclassified by assumption as safe school transport infrastructure without clear, objective and child-specific safety criteria.

4. A lawful policy is not automatically a reasonable or proportionate one when measured against safeguarding principles.

This Council resolves to:

1. Remove canal towpaths from classification as “safe walking routes” for the purposes of school transport eligibility within Shropshire Council policy.

2. Amend the walked route assessment framework so that assumptions of accompaniment, surface condition, seasonal usability and comparability with footways may not be relied upon in determining route safety.

3. Ensure that no child or family is denied statutory home-to-school transport on the basis of a route whose safety is assumed rather than objectively evidenced.

4. Instruct officers to report back to Cabinet/Council with revised policy wording.

19 Future Meeting Dates

To agree that the meetings of the Council in 2026 – 2027 will be held on the following Thursdays, commencing at 10.00 am.

16 July 2026
24 September 2026
10 December 2026
25 February 2027
25 March 2027
13 May 2027

Shropshire Council

Committee and Date

Council

14 May 2026

COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2026
In the The Council Chamber, The Guildhall, Frankwell Quay, Shrewsbury, SY3 8HQ
10.00 am - 3.35 pm

Responsible Officer: Tim Ward
Email: tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 257713

Present
Councillors Duncan Borrowman (Chair) and Heather Kidd (Leader), Gary Groves (Vice-Chair), Alex Wagner (Deputy Leader), Sho Abdul, Caroline Bagnall, Elizabeth Barker, Bernie Bentick, Neil Bentley, Ed Bird, Jeremy Blandford, Andy Boddington, Thomas Clayton, Susan Coleman, Rachel Connolly, Tom Dainty, Jamie Daniels, Rosemary Dartnall, Andy Davis, Julian Dean, Joshua Dickin, Mandy Duncan, Greg Ebbs, Susan Eden, Donna Edmunds, Brian Evans, Roger Evans, Adam Fejfer, Rhys Gratton, Andy Hall, Harry Hancock-Davies, Nick Hignett, Alan Holford, George Hollyhead, Ruth Houghton, Dawn Husemann, Peter Husemann, Benedict Jephcott, Robert Jones, Duncan Kerr, Christopher Lemon, Nigel Lumby, Brendan Mallon, Sarah Marston, David Minnery, Vicky Moore, Mark Morris, Alan Mosley, Chris Naylor, James Owen, Mark Owen, Wendy Owen, Vivienne Parry, Ed Potter, Rosie Radford, Sharon Ritchie-Simmons, Carl Rowley, Charles Shackerley-Bennett, Colin Stanford, Jon Tandy, Colin Taylor, Dan Thomas, David Vasmer, Beverley Waite, David Walker, Sam Walmsley and Rob Wilson

70 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors David Davies, Pamela Davies, Craig Emery, Kate Halliday, Malcolm Myles Hook, Terri Trickett and Alison Williams.

71 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.

In respect of agenda items 14 and 15 Cllr Duncan Kerr declared a pecuniary interest as he was a board member of STAR Housing and stated that he would leave the room during discussion and voting on these items.

In respect of agenda items 14 and 15 Cllr Mark Owen declared a pecuniary interest as he was a board member of STAR Housing and stated that he would leave the room during discussion and voting on these items.

Councillor Mark Morris declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 10. He made the declaration as soon as it became apparent and left the room .

72 **Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2025, as circulated with the agenda papers, be approved and signed as a correct record.

73 **Announcements**

Chairman's Engagements

The Chairman referred Members to the list of official engagements carried out by himself since the last meeting of the Council on 11 December 2025, which had been circulated by email prior to the meeting.

74 **Public Questions**

The Chair advised that 6 questions had been received in accordance with Procedure Rule 14.

Question from Tim Ashton regarding aligning the DMP with reviving the "Grand Tour of England. By way of supplementary Mr Ashton advised that the matter may shortly discussed in parliament and asked the Portfolio Holder to consider how the Council could support a response.

Question from Adrian Tacchi regarding planning breaches at Sovereign Park Shrewsbury. In response to a question regard specific breaches the Portfolio Holder agreed to discuss these with Officers and report back to Mr Tacchi, in writing.

Question from David Kilby regarding the replacement swimming pool in Shrewsbury (Read by The Service Director – Legal, Governance and Planning)

Question from John Palmer regarding an inquiry into the management of the North West Relief Road project. There was no supplementary question

Question from Andrew Sceats regarding Council receipts from Cornovii. In response to a supplementary question the Portfolio Holder confirmed that Cornovii did build a range of types of dwellings, and that building homes in excess of the standards required provide some sort of future proofing and guaranteed that improvements may not be needed in the future.

Question from Caroline Price regarding infrastructure evidence for planning applications (Read by The Service Director – Legal, Governance and Planning)

The full questions and responses can be found here: - (Public Pack)Responses to Public and Member Questions Agenda Supplement for Council, 26/02/2026 10:00

75 Questions from Members

The Chair advised that 6 questions had been received in accordance with Procedure Rule 15

Question from Councillor Rosemary Dartnall regarding spending on the North West Relief Road. By way of supplementary question Councillor Dartnall asked how did the Council ascertain that they were getting best value for money on the contact with WSP and Keir. The Portfolio Holder replied that the contracts were negotiated and valued independently but that he felt that the main issue was the way the spending on the project was managed and how this can be improved for the future.

Question from Councillor Chris Lemon regarding delays in the adoption of new housing developments. By way of supplementary question Councillor Lemon asked whether it would be possible to apply parking restrictions to overcome the problems being experienced even though the roads had not been adopted. The Portfolio Holder agreed to speak with Officers and report back to Councillor Lemon.

Question from Councillor Elizabeth Barker regarding the governments pilot scheme to build council-owned housing specifically for asylum seekers. In response to a supplementary question the Leader reiterated that there was no current proposal for the Council to participate in the pilot scheme and that any future proposal would be considered in a transparent way through the democratic process

Question from Councillor Harry Hancock-Davies regarding the collection of council tax arrears. In response to a supplementary question the Portfolio Holder paid tribute to the work that The Revenue and Benefits team were doing and stated that the service review that had been carried out was done internally so apart from officer time there was little cost.

Question from Councillor Chris Naylor regarding the prioritisation of pot hole repairs. In response to a supplementary question the Portfolio Holder asked Councillor Naylor to send him details of specific problems that he had and he would discuss them with Officers and get back to him

Question from Councillor Susan Coleman regarding the Council forward plan. By way of supplementary question Councillor Coleman asked whether the conditions attached to the EFS would affect the forward plan. The Leader advised that the plans were all in place.

The full questions and responses can be found here (Public Pack)Responses to Public and Member Questions Agenda Supplement for Council, 26/02/2026 10:00

76 Appointment of Interim Chief Financial Officer

It was proposed by the Leader, Councillor Heather Kidd and seconded by Councillor Roger Evans, Portfolio Holder for Finance that the report and the recommendations contained therein be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

That Duncan Whitfield be appointed as Interim Chief Financial Officer in accordance with section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972

77 **Fees and Charges Pricing Policy**

It was proposed by Councillor Roger Evans, Portfolio Holder for Finance, and seconded by Councillor Alex Wagner, Portfolio Holder for Communities that the report and the recommendations contained therein be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

That Council approve and adopt the Fees and Charges Policy for 2026/27 and incorporation into the Medium-Term Financial Strategy and budget setting process in February 2026

78 **Fees and Charges 2026/27**

It was proposed by Councillor Roger Evans, Portfolio Holder for Finance, and seconded by Councillor Alex Wagner, Portfolio Holder for Communities that the report and the recommendations contained therein be received and agreed.

With regard to specific queries raised by Members the Portfolio Holder stated that he would liaise with the relevant portfolio holders and respond to Members after the meeting

RESOLVED:

That Council

A. Note the breakdown of the total income for 2025/26 and 2026/27 and in particular that the proposed 2026/27 charges for discretionary services represent £50.868m of the £104.981m of income derived from Fees and Charges.

B. Approve the charges for 2026/27 as detailed in Appendix 3 to be implemented from 1 April 2026.

C. 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.

D. Note that the fees chargeable for hackney carriage, private hire vehicle and operator's licences, and drivers' licences are currently under consultation, with the proposed new charges to take effect from 9 February 2026.

E. Note that the proposed new charges for Adult Social Care Deferred Payment Policy, are detailed in a separate report which is also being considered at this meeting.

F. Note that the fees and charges set in 2026/27 reflect the implementation of the Fees and Charges Pricing Policy which is also being considered at this meeting.

G. Agree to revise housing rents as follows (subject to restrictions or exemptions identified in the Welfare Reform and Work Bill):

G(i). Social Housing and Affordable rents for 2026/27 are increased by 4.8% from 6th April 2026.

G(ii) Shared Ownership rents continue to be calculated at 2.75% of the landlord's share at the time of purchase. From the following April, rents are reviewed annually in line with the terms set out in the lease. As additional shares in the property are purchased, rent will decrease proportionally, based on the original property value.

G(iii) Service charges will be calculated based on actual cost plus a 15% management and admin fee (excluding sewage), with changes in the way these are calculated following an in-depth service charge review.

79 **Draft 2026/27 General Fund budgets and Medium Term Financial Plan 2026/27 - 2030/31**

It was proposed by Councillor Roger Evans, Portfolio Holder for Finance and seconded by the Leader, Councillor Heather Kidd that the report and the recommendations contained therein be received and agreed.

Members were able to ask questions and seek clarification from the Interim Chief Financial Officer

Members asked that communications be done to alert members of the public to the support available for those struggling with payments.

On being put to a recorded vote with 44 Members voting for, 21 against and 1 abstention as follows:

FOR

Councillors Abdul, Bagnall, Bentick, Bently, Blandford, Borrowman, Connolly, Dainty, Daniels, Dartnall, Davis, Dean, Dicken, Ebbs, R Evans, A Fejfer, Gratton, Groves, Hall, Holford, Houghton, Jephcott, Jones, Kerr, Kidd, Marston, Minnery, Moore, Morris, Mosley, Naylor, J Owen, M Owen, W Owen, Parry, Radford, Tandy, Taylor, Vasmer, Wagner, Waite, Walker, Walmsley and Wilson.

Against

Councillors Barker, Bird, Clayton, Coleman, Duncan, Eden, Edmunds, B Evans, Hancock-Davies, Hignett, Hollyhead, D Husemann, P Husemann, Lumby, Mallon, Potter, Ritchie-Simmons, Rowley, Shackerley-Bennett, Stanford and Thomas

Abstention

Cllr Lemon

80 **North West Relief Road**

It was proposed by Councillor David Vasmer, Portfolio Holder for Highways and Environment and seconded by Councillor Alex Wagner, Portfolio Holder for Communities that the report and the recommendations contained therein be received and agreed.

RESOLVED

A. That the North West Relief Road (DfT funded project) is formally cancelled.

B. That the S151 officer be requested to make appropriate Capital Programme and accounting adjustments following the decision in paragraph A.

81 **Treasury Strategy 2026/27**

It was proposed by the Councillor Roger Evans, Portfolio Holder for Finance and seconded by Councillor Alex Wagner, Portfolio Holder for Communities that the report and the recommendations contained therein be received and agreed.

RESOLVED

That Full Council:-

A. Approve, with any comments, the Treasury Strategy for 2026/27, set out in appendix 1 (parts 1-3).

B. Approve, with any comments, the Investment Strategy, set out in Appendix 1 (part 4) in accordance with the DLUHC Guidance on Local Government Investments.

C. Approve, with any comments, the Prudential Indicators, set out in Appendix 1 (part 5), in accordance with the Local Government Act 2003.

D. Approve, with any comments, the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement, set out in Appendix 1 (part 6).

E. 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.

F. Authorise the Section 151 Officer to use other Foreign Banks which meet MUFG Corporate Markets' creditworthiness policy as required

82 Report of the Shirehall Strategic Review - Council Task and Finish Group

It was proposed by Councillor Dawn Husemann, Chair of the Shirehall Strategic Review - Council Task And Finish Group and seconded by Councillor Rosemary Dartnall that the report and the recommendations contained therein be received and agreed.

It was proposed by The Leader, Councillor Heather Kidd and seconded by Councillor Dawn Husemann that the report be referred to a special meeting of Cabinet for consideration. By way of amendment to this proposal Councillor Julian Dean proposed the addition of the following: - Council also recommends to Cabinet to work towards the recommendations within this report. On taking a vote the amendment was not supported.

RESOLVED

That the report of the Shirehall Strategic Review - Council Task and Finish Group be referred to a special meeting of cabinet for consideration

83 Social Housing Tenancy Agreement

It was proposed by Councillor James Owen, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Leisure and seconded by Councillor Jeremy Blandford that the report and the recommendations contained therein be received and agreed.

RESOLVED

That Council:

1. Approve the adoption of the revised tenancy agreement, reflecting updated regulatory requirements and incorporating amendments made to ensure alignment with current industry standards, particularly within Section 3.4 (Repairs, Maintenance and Alterations).

2. Approve the transition from a 48-week to a 52-week rent charging model, aligning rent payments with Universal Credit and Housing Benefit cycles to improve tenant budgeting and financial resilience.

3. Approve the updated service charge schedule and annual review process, ensuring transparency and clarity for tenants regarding their obligations and entitlements

4. Approve the proposed implementation timeline, with the new tenancy agreement and rent model to take effect from April 2026.

5. Delegate authority to the Service Director – Communities and Customer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing & Leisure, to make any minor amendments to the proposed tenancy

84 **Social Housing Rent and Service charges 2026**

It was proposed by Councillor James Owen, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Leisure and seconded by Councillor Jeremy Blandford that the report and the recommendations contained therein be received and agreed.

RESOLVED

1. Approve an increase to Social and Affordable rents of 4.8% from 6 April 2026, in line with Government rent policy

2. Approve the adoption of the Government's staged rent convergence mechanism — following the publication of the formal Government Direction setting out the statutory rules for implementation — which will allow:

   - an additional £1/week uplift from 2027/28, and an additional £2/week uplift from 2028/29.

3. Approve revised service charges for 2026/27, calculated on the basis of:

   - Actual cost of service delivery
   - Plus 15% management and administration fee (excluding sewage)
   - Over 52 weeks.

4. Approve the draft HRA revenue and capital budgets for 2026/27 as shown in Appendices 2 and 3.

5. Delegate authority to the Section 151 Officer or Deputy and relevant Service Director of Communities & Customer, in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder, to finalise rent and service charge implementation and issue statutory notifications.

85 **Adult Social Care Deferred Payments Policy**

It was proposed by Councillor Ruth Houghton, Portfolio Holder for Social Care and seconded by Councillor Sarah Marston that the report and the recommendations contained therein be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

That

3.1 Council approves the updated Deferred Payment Policy in Appendix 1;

3.2 Council notes the following main changes within the policy:

- Increased one-off setup fee from £610 to £750
- The introduction of an annual administration charge to reflect the work undertaken during the lifetime of the DPA in notifying interest rate changes and supplying statements;
- Introduce legal charges to reflect the work done in entering the DPA, registration at Land Registry and removing the charge once repaid.
- Maintain the application of interest from contract signing.
- Implement process improvements to reduce completion timelines and strengthen compliance

86 **Motions**

The following motion was received from Councillor Donna Edmunds and supported by Councillors Kate Halliday, Caroline Bagnall, Rosemary Dartnall and Alan Mosley

Amendment of Council Rules of Procedure on Submission Deadlines for Reports and Motions to Council

Council notes that:

1. Under section 11.6 of the Council Procedure Rules, reports are required to be made available with "sufficient time [...] afforded to members to consider the report and any associated papers."

2. Case law and sector guidance issued by bodies such as the Local Government Association establish that unreasonable delay in the production or publication of reports and decision records may undermine democratic accountability, effective scrutiny, and public confidence in local government.

3. Section 100B of the Local Government Act 1972 stipulates that copies of the agenda and associate reports must be made available to the public at least five clear days before meetings, and after having been made available to members. It further states that associated reports must be made available at the time an item is added to the agenda.

4. The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, as amended by the Local Government (Openness of Local Government Bodies) Regulations 2014, reinforce the principle that local authority decision-making must be transparent, timely, and accessible.

5. Members are currently required to give 10 working days' notice in order to bring a motion to council under section 16.1 of the Council's Procedure Rules.

Council therefore resolves that:

1. The Council's Procedure Rules be amended to reflect that officers responsible for preparing reports following a Full Council and Committee meeting must ensure that such reports, including minutes and any associated recommendations or outcome summaries, are submitted to the Proper Officer and published within five clear working days of the date of the meeting, in line with section 100B of the Local Government Act 1972.

2. For the purposes of this motion, clear working days shall be those defined within section 1.14 of the Council's Procedure Rules: to exclude the day of receipt, Saturdays, Sundays, other days when the Council's offices are closed, and the day of the meeting itself.

Where exceptional circumstances prevent the submission of a report within the five clear working day period, the responsible officer shall provide a written explanation to the relevant Committee Chair, Group Leaders, and the Proper Officer, outlining the reasons for delay and an expected submission date;

And

The Speaker will be required to make known to the same, giving their reasoning, whether they accept the related item onto the agenda or wish to defer, as per item 11.6 of the Council's Procedure Rules.

3. Section 16.1 of the Council's Procedure Rules be amended from:

[…] must be delivered to the Chief Executive at least than 10 clear working days before the date of the meeting.

To

[…] must be delivered to the Chief Executive at least 5 clear working days before the date of the meeting.

Council further requests that:

1. A six-month review of compliance with these new requirements be presented to the appropriate committee to identify any barriers to delivery.

This was seconded by Councillor Rosemary Dartnall

In presenting her motion Councillor Edmunds pointed out that there was an erroring the resolution and that it should read "The Council's Procedure Rules be amended to reflect that officers responsible for preparing reports ahead of a Full Council and Committee" rather than "follow"

By way of amendment the Chair Councillor Duncan Barrowman proposed that the motion be referred to the Constitution Working Group for consideration prior to a report being brought back to Council and that he and Cllr Edmunds should also attend this meeting. This was seconded by Councillor Gary Groves.

On taking a vote the amendment was passed.

Motion received from Councillor Brendan Mallon and support by the Reform Group

Globally, the transition to 'Net Zero' energy systems is in a state of rapid collapse. No large economy is persisting with this and only a handful of lesser economies are still fully committed. The US is unequivocally out. Russia, India, most of Asia and South America were never really in (despite the Paris Agreement) and China simply lies.

China's wind and solar 'farms' are merely a shop front for the planet's primary manufacturer of that equipment. Meanwhile, they rapidly expand Coal and Nuclear use. China alone is 32% of global emissions (Our World in Data), more than the combined developed world. Chinese per capita emissions surpassed the UK in 2022 and are now already double the UK's, with no slowdown in the increase. China plus just the USA and India make up fully half of global emissions.

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What remains is a handful of smaller European economies plus Australia still pursuing Net Zero to a similar extent as the UK, with a combined output circa 7% of global emissions (Net Zero Tracker and EDGAR 2024). Canada nominally has Net Zero policies but, unlike the UK, continues with extensive hydrocarbon production. Clearly, 7% of Net Zero is little more than a rounding error. Thus, any further spending on Net Zero is an obvious waste of money.

A number of Councils around the country, including Labour-led Islington, have heavily curtailed or suspended Net Zero spending. In the context of our Financial Emergency, in order to reduce both capital and revenue spend, we move that the Council immediately suspend all Net Zero related spending, pending a review of value-for-money beyond clearly ineffectual reductions in CO2 emissions.

After a short debate Councillor R Evans proposed that the motion be put and on taking a vote the motion was not supported

Motion received from Councillor Carl Rowley and supported by the Reform Group

The Chairman advised that this motion had been withdrawn

87 **Report of the Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority**

It was proposed by Councillor Adam Fejfer that the report of the Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes, be received and noted.

RESOLVED:

That the report of the Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority be noted.

88 **Exclusion of Press and Public**

RESOLVED:

That that in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972 and paragraph 10.4(3) of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules, the public and press be excluded for the consideration of the remaining business.

89 **Exempt Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the Exempt Minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2025, as circulated with the agenda papers, be approved and signed as a correct record.

Signed ..... (Chairman)

Date: .....

Committee and Date

Council
14 May 2026

Item

Public

Healthy People | Healthy Economy | Healthy Environment | Healthy Organisation

Scrutiny Reorganisation/Housing Supervisory Board

Responsible Officer:	Tom Dodds (Statutory Scrutiny Officer) Tim Collard (Monitoring Officer)		
email:	Tom.dodds@shropshire.gov.uk Tim.collard@shropshire.gov.uk	Tel:	01743 258518 01743 252756
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	All		

1. Synopsis

This report proposes introducing a Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee, ceasing the Housing Supervisory Board (whose executive functions will now be performed by Cabinet), and renaming the Transformation and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be the Finance and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2. Executive Summary

2.1. The opportunity has been taken to review committees at the council to ensure that we are enabling a focus on the council's priorities. As part of this:

- a fifth Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) has been established – the Housing OSC where this committee can use the powers available to overview and scrutiny to look at this important topic and related topics. With the creation of this committee we will be ceasing the Housing Supervisory Board with its executive decision-making functions being undertaken by Cabinet.
- the Transformation and Improvement OSC will be renamed the Finance and Improvement OSC, which reflects the council's commitment to being financially sustainable where this committee will need to have a strong focus.

2.2. The terms of reference for these committees are being developed and reviewed accordingly.

3. Recommendations

3.1. That the Housing Supervisory Board be removed from the Constitution.

3.2. That the Scrutiny Committees and their terms of reference be approved as follows:

Committee Title	**Outcomes that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is responsible for**	**Senior Officers (EDs & SDs)**	**Portfolio Holders**
Finance and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee	• Financial Management and the delivery of the Financial Plan • Overall Council Performance (including financial, quality and activity) • Effectiveness and delivery of the Improvement Plan • Effectiveness and delivery of change at the Council Priority Ambition(s): • A Council that is financially sustainable, with clear priorities and purpose, and a workforce that is supported to excel	Chief Executive Executive Director Section 151	Leader Finance Transformation and Economic Growth
Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC)	• The Council's duty of health and wellbeing including needs assessments, strategies, prevention, commissioning • Planning and delivery of Health Services (HOSC) • Integrated Care System (including Council services) • Neighbourhood working Priority Ambitions: • People live in safe, inclusive places with	Executive Director – Public Health (DPH)	

Committee Title	Outcomes that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is responsible for	Senior Officers (EDs & SDs)	Portfolio Holders
	homes that meet their needs • Everyone has the opportunity to be healthy and thrive at every stage of life • An environment that harnesses our natural assets and supports wellbeing External focus: Health Trusts which are based in, impact on or provide services in the Shropshire Council Area Integrated Care System in the Shropshire Council Area		
Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC)	To scrutinise health issues that impact on the wider health system in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin	Executive Director – Public Health (DPH)	Adult Social Care and Public Health
Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee	• Housing (including affordable and social housing and homelessness/temporary accommodation, housing register, housing allocations and HomePoint) • Cornovii • Shropshire Town and Rural Housing (STAR) • Planning Policy (Housing) inc. Local Plan and Place Plans • Planning Development Management • Developer Contributions (Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 agreements)	Executive Director – Communities Growth Partnerships Executive Director – Public Health (DPH) Service Director – Place Shaping	Housing Planning

Committee Title	Outcomes that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is responsible for	Senior Officers (EDs & SDs)	Portfolio Holders
	Priority Ambitions: • People live in safe, inclusive places with homes that meet their needs		
People Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Services for adults including: • Social Care, • Safeguarding, • Special needs services, Services for children including: • Social Care • Safeguarding • Special needs services • Schools and learning • Home to school transport (including SEND transport) • Youth Services Priority Ambition(s): • People live in safe, inclusive places with homes that meet their needs • Everyone has the opportunity to be healthy and thrive at every stage of life	Executive Director - DASS Director of Children's Services (DCS) Service Director – Care and Wellbeing (interim DASS)	Adult Social care and Public Health Children and Education Communities and Environment
Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	• Planning Policy (Economy) inc. Local Plan • Planning Development Management (Highways) • Economic growth • Highways infrastructure and connectivity • Climate strategy and action plan • Environmental Management (Waste Management etc)	Executive Director – Communities Growth Partnerships Service Director – Place Shaping	Communities and Environment Transformation and Economic Growth Planning Highways and Waste

Committee Title	Outcomes that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is responsible for	Senior Officers (EDs & SDs)	Portfolio Holders
	• Community Safety (required focus) • Culture and Leisure • Flooding and water management (required focus) • 16+ Education and learning and skills Priority Ambition(s): • Communities are connected by well-maintained roads, accessible transport and infrastructure • An environment that harnesses our natural assets and supports wellbeing • A thriving economy that benefits everyone		Transport and Regeneration

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

4.1. Effective Overview and Scrutiny is a feature of the Council's governance arrangements, where the Council is operating executive arrangements. There are a range factors that could result in risks to Council of not doing Overview and Scrutiny effectively. These include the failure to

- challenge and hold decision makers to account.
- link O&S work to the delivery of the council's priorities and risk management – failure to demonstrate added value
- carry out thorough and appropriate research to make evidence-based recommendations

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
- Ensuring that Overview and Scrutiny work will add value to the Council and communities e.g. through strong links between work programme topics and the integrated strategic plans that set out the actions and timescales to deliver the priorities in the Corporate Plan
- Have robust well-defined terms of reference for all overview and scrutiny work, especially task and finish groups. This is equally relevant for task and finish groups that are commissioned by Cabinet and occasionally Council.
- 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. The proposed structure for the Overview and Scrutiny Committees provides the opportunity to put in place strong links to the priorities in the Corporate Plan to support an outcome focus to their work, as well as ensuring that, where required, the committees can be sighted on a directorate.

4.5. Topics for Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programmes are identified based on a number of different considerations which include an understanding of risks to the Council (e.g. failure to deliver the Corporate Plan), employees, to service users 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 customers/service users, feedback from partners/providers, and reports from regulators.

4.6. Overview and scrutiny work provides the means for members who are not on Cabinet to contribute to decision making through policy review and development and through pre-decision scrutiny. Pre-decision scrutiny provides the mechanism for decision makers to invite and benefit from the knowledge and experience of Members to inform and strengthen the decision being taken.

4.7. During overview and scrutiny work evidence will be gathered that builds on this understanding to inform the development of conclusions and evidence-based recommendations.

5. Financial Implications

5.1. Effective overview and scrutiny will produce 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 what the situation is 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.

5.2. An additional Special Responsibility Allowance will be payable as a result of the creation of a new Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

6.1. Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programmes directly link to the Corporate Plan priorities. In the draft Corporate Plan 2026-2030 the priority ambition 'An environment that harnesses our natural assets and supports wellbeing' includes responding to climate change and references activity that will contribute to the delivery of carbon reduction. Climate change and carbon reduction related issues are directly identified in the remit and therefore focus of the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

7. Background

7.1. The Housing Supervisory Board was created predominantly to exercise the Councils function as Shareholder of Cornovii.

7.2. Recent advice suggests that it may be more appropriate for an Overview and Scrutiny Committee to perform the Scrutiny function while Executive decisions are taken by the Cabinet.

7.3. Since May 2025, the Administration has examined the role and function of the current Overview and Scrutiny Committees and recognised a need for this to be adapted and updated.

8. Conclusions

8.1. The review reinforces the importance of all members being engaged in overview and scrutiny work, seeing and feeling the added value that is achieved and can be achieved. The success of overview and scrutiny will be heavily influenced by Member ownership and leadership.

8.2. Overview and Scrutiny Committees can add significant value for the organisation, the delivery of the priorities in the Corporate Plan and the aims of the Improvement Plan, and for Shropshire Communities.

8.3. They have a unique position being able to make evidence-based recommendations to inform decision making and look at the progress and impact of implementing decisions. This is particularly relevant at a time when the Council is working hard to ensure that it is making its resources go as far as possible. The committees and wider overview and scrutiny work is well placed to complement the Improvement Boad and directly support the Council's improvement journey.

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

None

Local Member: All

Appendices [Please list the titles of Appendices]

None

Annual Council

14 May 2026

Item

Public

Healthy People | Healthy Economy | Healthy Environment | Healthy Organisation

CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES AND THE ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO POLITICAL GROUPS

Responsible Officer:	Tim Collard		
email:	tim.collard@shropshire.gov.uk	Tel:	(01743) 252756

1. Synopsis

1.1 This report deals with the overall constitution of committees, the overall entitlement of seats for each of the political groups and the proportionate allocation of seats between the groups across all committees.

2. Executive Summary

2.1 The provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 require the Council to review the representation of each political group on committees, panels etc. at each annual meeting or as soon as practicable after that meeting. The regulations require that all Scrutiny, Standing and Regulatory Committees are politically balanced across the total number of committee places. Subject to that overriding requirement, each committee must also be politically balanced, as far as it is reasonably practicable.

2.2 The Executive (Cabinet) is not subject to the political balance rules.

2.3 Advisory Committees and other ad hoc bodies and groups are not subject to the political balance rules either, but traditionally political proportionality has been applied to them outside the overall aggregate balance referred to in paragraph 2.1 above.

2.4 This report assumes that the report considered previously on Scrutiny Reorganisation/ Housing Supervisory Board is approved.

3. Recommendations

3.1. That the Council confirms the constitution of committees and the allocation of seats to each of the political groups for the 2026/27 municipal year and the allocation of seats between the political groups, as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 to this report.

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

4.1. The Council is obliged to ensure that the membership of committees and related bodies is proportionate to individual group membership.

5. Financial Implications

5.1. The allocation of seats on Committees will have no obvious financial implications.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

6.1. The allocation of seats on Committees will have no obvious impact in terms of climate change.

7. Background

7.1. The Council is requested to approve the overall constitution of committees.

7.2. This requires 114 seats to be allocated proportionately across all committees and the Council is requested to approve the overall constitution as set out below:

Committee Name	Seats per Committee
Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	11
Finance and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee	11
Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	11
Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee	11
People Overview and Scrutiny Committee	11
Audit and Governance Committee	9
Northern Planning Committee	11
Pensions Committee	4
Southern Planning Committee	11
Standards Committee	9
Strategic Licensing Committee	15
Total	114

8. Allocation of Seats

8.1. The Council is required to approve the allocation of seats to the political groups for the coming year.

8.2 The maximum number of seats available to each group within the political balance rules will be:

Group Name	Seats per Group
Liberal Democrats	65
Reform	23
Conservatives	11
Green and Progressive Independent	8
Labour	6
Non Aligned	1
Total	114

8.3 The proportionate allocation of seats to the political groups across all committees is set out in Appendix 1 and the proposed allocation of these totals to individual members, in accordance with the wishes of the respective Group Leaders, is set out in Appendix 2 to this report (To Follow).

8.4 The Council is entitled to 10 seats on the Shropshire and Wrekin Combined Fire Authority. Under the present arrangements, the Liberal Democrat Group is entitled to 6 seats, the Reform Group 2 seats, the Conservative Group 1 seat and the Green and Progressive Independent Group 1 seat.

8.5 The proposed allocation of seats meets the legal requirements, however, should the Council wish, it is possible to agree allocations which are not strictly politically balanced if no Member dissents.

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

Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and Regulations made thereunder.

Local Member: **All**

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Constitution of Committees and Allocation of Seats to Political Groups
Appendix 2 – Proposed Allocation of Seats to Political Groups

Contact: Tim Collard 01743 252756

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APPENDIX 1

ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO POLITICAL GROUPS

Composition of the Council	Lib Dem	Reform UK	Cons	Green & PI	Lab	Ind	Total
	42	**15**	**7**	**5**	**4**	**1**	**74**

SCRUTINY

	Lib Dem	Reform UK	Cons	Green & PI	Lab	Ind	Total
Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	6	2	1	1	0	1	**11**
Finance and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee	7	2	1	0	1	0	**11**
Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	6	3	1	1	0	0	**11**
Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee	6	2	1	1	1	0	**11**
People Overview and Scrutiny Committee	6	2	1	1	1	0	**11**

STANDING AND REGULATORY

	Lib Dem	Reform UK	Cons	Green & PI	Lab	Ind	Total
Audit & Governance Committee	5	2	1	0	1	0	**9**
Northern Planning Committee	6	2	1	1	1	0	**11**
Pensions Committee	3	1	0	0	0	0	**4**
Southern Planning Committee	6	2	1	1	1	0	**11**
Standards	5	2	1	1	0	0	**9**
Strategic Licensing Committee	9	3	2	1	0	0	**15**
Aggregate No Seats Required	65	23	11	8	6	1	**114**

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MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES
2026 – 2027

ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (11 Members)

Liberal Democrat	Reform UK	Conservative	Green and Progressive Independent	Labour	Independent
Adam Fejfer Alan Holford Ben Jephcott Chris Naylor Wendy Owen Sam Walmsley	Brendon Mallon Sharon Ritchie-Simmons	Ed Potter	Craig Emery		Donna Edmunds
TOTAL – 6	**TOTAL – 2**	**TOTAL - 1**	**TOTAL – 1**	**TOTAL - 0**	**TOTAL - 1**

Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee <u>Substitutes</u> (11 Substitute Members)

Liberal Democrat	Reform UK	Conservative	Green and Progressive Independent	Labour	Independent
Jeremy Blandford Andy Davis Gary Groves Malcolm Myles-Hook Mark Owen Teri Trickett	Mandy Duncan Dawn Husemann	Ed Bird	Julian Dean		
TOTAL - 6	**TOTAL – 2**	**TOTAL - 1**	**TOTAL - 1**	**TOTAL - 0**	**TOTAL -**

FINANCE AND IMPROVEMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (11 Members)
(previously known as Transformation and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee)

Liberal Democrat	Reform UK	Conservative	Green and Progressive Independent	Labour	Independent
Bernie Bentick Duncan Borrowman Gary Groves Malcolm Myles-Hook Chris Naylor Mark Owen Sam Walmsley	Dawn Husemann Charles Shackerley-Bennett	Ed Bird		Rosemary Dartnall	
TOTAL –7	**TOTAL – 2**	**TOTAL - 1**	**TOTAL – 0**	**TOTAL - 1**	**TOTAL - 0**

FINANCE AND IMPROVEMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE <u>Substitutes</u> (11 Substitute Members)

Liberal Democrat	Reform UK	Conservative	Green and Progressive Independent	Labour	Independent
Neil Bentley Jamie Daniels Andy Davis Gregory Ebbs Mark Morris Colin Taylor Jon Tandy	Brian Evans Brendon Mallon	Dan Thomas		Alan Mosley	
TOTAL –7	**TOTAL – 2**	**TOTAL - 1**	**TOTAL – 0**	**TOTAL - 1**	**TOTAL - 0**

HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (11 Members)

Liberal Democrat	Reform UK	Conservative	Green and Progressive Independent	Labour	Independent
Bernie Bentick Neil Bentley Andy Davis Adam Fejfer Rhys Gratton Beverley Waite	Susan Eden Dawn Husemann Vacancy	Colin Stanford	Chris Lemon		
TOTAL – 6	**TOTAL – 3**	**TOTAL - 1**	**TOTAL - 1**	**TOTAL - 0**	**TOTAL - 0**

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee <u>Substitutes</u> (11 Substitute Members)

Liberal Democrat	Reform UK	Conservative	Green and Progressive Independent	Labour	Independent
Duncan Borrowman Alan Holford Ben Jephcott Mark Morris Chris Naylor Sam Walmsley	Peter Husemann Thomas Clayton Vacancy	Nigel Lumby	Rachel Connolly		
TOTAL – 6	**TOTAL – 3**	**TOTAL - 1**	**TOTAL - 1**	**TOTAL - 0**	**TOTAL - 0**

NEW (subject to approval at 14 May Council) :
HOUSING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (11 Members)

Liberal Democrat	Reform UK	Conservative	Green and Progressive Independent	Labour	Independent
Jeremy Blandford Andy Davis Rhys Gratton Vicky Moore Jon Tandy Teri Trickett	Harry Hancock-Davies Carl Rowley	Nigel Lumby	Chris Lemon	Rosemary Dartnall	
TOTAL – 6	**TOTAL – 2**	**TOTAL - 1**	**TOTAL - 1**	**TOTAL - 1**	**TOTAL - 0**

Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee Substitutes (11 Substitute Members)

Liberal Democrat	Reform UK	Conservative	Green and Progressive Independent	Labour	Independent
Duncan Borrowman Adam Fejfer Alan Holford Chris Naylor Wendy Owen Sam Walmsley	Elizabeth Barker George Hollyhead	Ed Bird	Rachel Connolly	Alan Mosley	
TOTAL - 6	**TOTAL - 2**	**TOTAL - 1**	**TOTAL - 1**	**TOTAL – 1**	**TOTAL - 0**

PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (11 Members)

Liberal Democrat	Reform UK	Conservative	Green and Progressive Independent	Labour	Independent
Neil Bentley Jamie Daniels Mark Morris Wendy Owen Colin Taylor Teri Trickett	Thomas Clayton Mandy Duncan	Susan Coleman	Duncan Kerr	Alan Mosley	
TOTAL – 6	**TOTAL – 2**	**TOTAL - 1**	**TOTAL - 1**	**TOTAL - 1**	**TOTAL - 0**

People Overview and Scrutiny Committee <u>Substitutes</u> (11 Substitute Members)

Liberal Democrat	Reform UK	Conservative	Green and Progressive Independent	Labour	Independent
Bernie Bentick Alan Holford Ben Jephcott Malcolm Myles-Hook Chris Naylor Sam Walmsley	Elizabeth Barker Dawn Husemann	Dan Thomas	Julian Dean	Kate Halliday	
TOTAL - 6	**TOTAL - 2**	**TOTAL - 1**	**TOTAL - 1**	**TOTAL – 1**	**TOTAL - 0**

STANDING & REGULATORY

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE (9 Members)

Liberal Democrat	Reform UK	Conservative	Green and Progressive Independent	Labour	Independent
Duncan Borrowman Gregory Ebbs Duncan Kerr Malcolm Myles-Hook Mark Owen	Sharon Ritchie Simmons Thomas Clayton	Nigel Lumby		Kate Halliday	
TOTAL – 5	**TOTAL – 2**	**TOTAL - 1**	**TOTAL –0**	**TOTAL – 1**	**TOTAL - 0**

Audit Committee <u>Substitutes</u> (9 Substitute Members)

Liberal Democrat	Reform UK	Conservative	Green and Progressive Independent	Labour	Independent
Alan Holford Ben Jephcott Chris Naylor Wendy Owen Sam Walmsley	Harry Hancock-Davies Vacancy	Vacancy		Alan Mosley	
TOTAL – 5	**TOTAL –2**	**TOTAL - 1**	**TOTAL – 0**	**TOTAL – 1**	**TOTAL - 0**

NORTHERN PLANNING COMMITTEE (11 Members)

Liberal Democrat	Reform UK	Conservative	Green and Progressive Independent	Labour	Independent
Neil Bentley Andy Davis Gregory Ebbs Gary Groves Ben Jephcott Mark Owen	Brian Evans Carl Rowley	Ed Potter	Julian Dean	Rosemary Dartnall	
TOTAL – 6	**TOTAL – 2**	**TOTAL - 1**	**TOTAL - 1**	**TOTAL - 1**	**TOTAL - 0**

Northern Planning Committee <u>Substitutes</u> (11 Substitute Members)

Liberal Democrat	Reform UK	Conservative	Green and Progressive Independent	Labour	Independent
Duncan Borrowman Jamie Daniels Adam Fejfer Jon Tandy Colin Taylor Sam Walmsley	Thomas Clayton Brendon Mallon	Nick Hignett	Craig Emery	Alan Mosley	
TOTAL – 6	**TOTAL – 2**	**TOTAL - 1**	**TOTAL - 1**	**TOTAL - 1**	**TOTAL - 0**

PENSIONS COMMITTEE (4 Members)

Liberal Democrat	Reform UK	Conservative	Green and Progressive Independent	Labour	Independent
Roger Evans Gary Groves Malcolm Myles-Hook	Charles Shackerley-Bennett				
TOTAL – 3	**TOTAL – 1**	**TOTAL - 0**	**TOTAL - 0**	**TOTAL - 0**	**TOTAL - 0**

Pensions Committee <u>Substitutes</u> (4 Substitute Members)

Liberal Democrat	Reform UK	Conservative	Green and Progressive Independent	Labour	Independent
Ben Jephcott Chris Naylor Sam Walmsley	Carl Rowley				
TOTAL – 3	**TOTAL – 1**	**TOTAL - 0**	**TOTAL - 0**	**TOTAL - 0**	**TOTAL - 0**

SOUTHERN PLANNING COMMITTEE (11 Members)

Liberal Democrat	Reform UK	Conservative	Green and Progressive Independent	Labour	Independent
Andy Boddington Ben Jephcott Nigel Lumby Jon Tandy Colin Taylor Sam Walmsley	Thomas Clayton George Hollyhead	Nick Hignett	Rachel Connolly	Caroline Bagnall	
TOTAL – 6	**TOTAL – 2**	**TOTAL - 1**	**TOTAL - 1**	**TOTAL - 1**	**TOTAL - 0**

Southern Planning Committee <u>Substitutes</u> (11 Substitute Members)

Liberal Democrat	Reform UK	Conservative	Green and Progressive Independent	Labour	Independent
Neil Bentley Jeremy Blandford Duncan Borrowman Andy Davis Gregory Ebbs Mark Owen	Elizabeth Barker Carl Rowley	Colin Stanford	Chris Lemon	Alan Mosley	
TOTAL – 6	**TOTAL – 2**	**TOTAL - 1**	**TOTAL - 1**	**TOTAL - 1**	**TOTAL - 0**

STANDARDS (9 Members)

Liberal Democrat	Reform UK	Conservative	Green and Progressive Independent	Labour	Independent
Duncan Borrowman Vicky Moore Rosie Radford Teri Trickett Rosie Radford Beverley Waite	Thomas Clayton George Hollyhead	Dan Thomas	Rachel Connolly		
TOTAL – 5	**TOTAL – 2**	**TOTAL - 1**	**TOTAL – 1**	**TOTAL – 0**	**TOTAL - 0**

Standards Committee <u>Substitutes</u> (9 Substitute Members)

Liberal Democrat	Reform UK	Conservative	Green and Progressive Independent	Labour	Independent
Jamie Daniels Andy Davis Alan Holford Mark Owen Sam Walmsley	Dawn Husemann Charles Shackerley-Bennett	Ed Potter	Duncan Kerr		
TOTAL – 5	**TOTAL – 2**	**TOTAL - 1**	**TOTAL – 1**	**TOTAL - 0**	**TOTAL - 0**

STRATEGIC LICENSING COMMITTEE (15 Members)

Liberal Democrat	Reform UK	Conservative	Green and Progressive Independent	Labour	Independent
Bernie Bentick Jamie Daniels Gregory Ebbs Adam Fejfer Rhys Gratton Vicky Moore Mark Owen Jon Tandy Colin Taylor	Sue Eden Brian Evans Peter Husemann	Nick Hignett Nigel Lumby	Chris Lemon		
TOTAL – 9	**TOTAL – 3**	**TOTAL - 2**	**TOTAL - 1**	**TOTAL - 0**	**TOTAL - 0**

Strategic Licensing Committee Substitutes (15 Substitute Members)

Lib Dem	Reform UK	Conservative	Green and PI	Labour	Independent
Neil Bentley Duncan Borrowman Alan Holford Ben Jephcott Malcolm Myles-Hook Chris Naylor Teri Trickett Sam Walmsley	Carl Rowley Mandy Duncan Brendan Mallon	Ed Potter Colin Stanford	Julian Dean		
TOTAL – 9	**TOTAL – 3**	**TOTAL - 2**	**TOTAL - 1**	**TOTAL - 0**	**TOTAL - 0**

SHROPSHIRE AND TELFORD AND WREKIN FIRE AUTHORITY (11 Members)

Liberal Democrat	Reform UK	Conservative	Green and Progressive Independent	Labour	Independent
Roger Evans Adam Fejfer David Minnery Rosie Radford Beverley Waite Sam Walmsley	Thomas Clayton Peter Husemann	Susan Coleman	Duncan Kerr	Alan Mosley	
TOTAL – 6	**TOTAL – 2**	**TOTAL - 1**	**TOTAL - 1**	**TOTAL - 1**	**TOTAL - 0**

Annual Council

14 May 2026

Item

Public

SCHEME OF DELEGATION

Responsible Officer:	Tim Collard		
email:	tim.collard@shropshire.gov.uk	Tel:	(01743) 252756

1. Synopsis

1.1 The Scheme of Delegations in Part 8 of the Council's Constitution ("the Scheme") is agreed annually. A reconfiguration of the delegations within the Scheme has been undertaken following the appointment of key officers and subsequent structural changes and this report outlines the updates for Members' approval.

2. Executive Summary

2.1 The Scheme of Delegation sets out the arrangements for the delegation of authority to officers to carry out the Council's various functions and sets out those functions which have been delegated to officers. It should be read alongside other Council wide procedures and related documentation.

2.2 Where a function has been delegated to an officer, the person or body making the delegation may at any time resume responsibility for the function and may exercise the function despite the delegation.

2.3 Other than as set out below, the Scheme of Delegation presented to Council for approval does not alter the nature or level of the delegations given to officers from those set out in previous Schemes but merely seeks to address the organisational alterations brought about by recent changes.

2.4 It is acknowledged that the entire Constitution is in need of a review and a re-write is being lead by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny. Approval of the updated Scheme of Delegation is a priority before the full Constitutional review to ensure lawful delegated decisions can continue to be made.

3. Recommendations

3.1. That Members resolve that the updated Scheme of Delegations, set out in Part 8 of the Constitution be agreed as outlined within this report and as set out in Appendix 1.

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

4.1. It is important that the Council's Constitution is kept up to date to ensure it reflects the way the Council operates and also to ensure that decision making is carried out transparently with proper authority.

5. Financial Implications

5.1. This report seeks authority to update Part 8 of the Constitution. If the Constitution is not kept up to date, any flaws in decision making could lead to the risk of costs arising from challenges to decisions or delays in decision making leading to unforeseen costs.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

6.1. The adoption of this revised Scheme of Delegation will have no obvious impact in terms of climate change.

7. Background

7.1. Responsibility for Council functions is agreed annually at the Council's Annual General Meeting. Those functions are set out in Part 3 of the Council's Constitution which outlines the functions of the Council, Committees and the Executive and in Part 8 which outlines the functions delegated to officers. This part of the Constitution sets out the Scheme of Delegation to Officers.

7.2. Recent Changes require amendments to Part 8 because of changes in job titles and areas of Responsibility

7.3. There is currently no delegation to officers in respect of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects or Development Consent Orders set out in the Planning Act 2008 and these now need to be introduced. It is proposed that the responsibilities of the Council relating to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects and Development Consent Orders set out in the Planning Act 2008 be included with a delegation to the Service Director, Place Shaping.

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

Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and Regulations made thereunder.

Local Member:	**All**

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Scheme of Delegation

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PART 8 - SHROPSHIRE SCHEME FOR OFFICER DECISION-MAKING

PREAMBLE

A. Introduction

1. **Article 16** and **Part 3** of the Constitution set out the general arrangements for decision-making at the Council. This Part provides more detail on the exercise of decision-making powers by officers.

2. In line with the "Councillors at the core" principle of the Council's Strategic Operating Model, and in line with legal requirements, Councillors must be the decision-makers for important decisions. They may make decisions at Council, at regulatory committees such as Planning or Licensing, or at Cabinet (with Cabinet decisions being referred to as "executive decisions"). This class of decision may not be delegated, and the decisions that correspond to this class are set out in **Part 3.**

3. For certain decisions, however, councillors can decide to delegate their decision-making powers to officers. This Scheme ensures that this delegation, when it happens, is clear and consistent.

4. This Scheme also sets out where powers to make decisions are conferred directly by legislation, rather than being delegated by the Council or Cabinet.

5. Effective officer decision-making relies on a number of principles.

B. Principles underpinning officer decision-making

1. The most fundamental principle is that the powers exercised by officers under the Scheme do not extend to any of the functions reserved by Part 3 of the Constitution to Council, to the Cabinet or to any committee of the Council (unless explicitly delegated to identified officers, usually in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder, at the time Council, Cabinet or the Committee consider the matter).

2. Officers may not change policies which have been approved by Cabinet or Council, or create new policies where the right to do so is reserved to Cabinet or Council, by law or by the terms of this Constitution.

3. Officers may also not provide formal responses to any formal consultation by an external body (which may include consultations on White Papers) where those consultations may lead to policy changes, or where they may have a significant impact on services.

Other principles include:

4. **Legality**. Decision-making authority is provided to the Council or to the Council's Cabinet by statute (with those powers being informed by the Council's "general power of competence" as provided for by Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011). The way that decisions are made must reflect the Council's overall powers and

must also reflect the exact way that those powers have been delegated[1]. This Scheme of Delegation provides a way for officers, members and the public to track the way that powers are delegated to ensure that decision-making authority, when exercised, is still exercised within the law. Importantly, the scope of the delegation may *not* be the same as the scope of the overall power that the Council enjoys in a given area;

5. **Adherence to wider legal requirements**. The Council is obliged to conform to the requirements of the Equality Act, the Human Rights Act and other legislation that requires that certain relevant considerations be taken into account in the process of decision-making;

6. **Procedural consistency and propriety**. Across the Council there needs to be consistency and fairness in the process by which decisions are made. Decisions must be within approved revenue and capital budgets and comply with the Council's Financial and Contract Procedure Rules (with some of those Rules making reference to formal, legal obligations), as well as with other procedural requirements;

7. **Reasonableness and proportionality**. The legal principles of "reasonableness" and "proportionality", as they apply to administrative action, are complex. In brief, decision-makers will need to be able to demonstrate that decisions are informed by evidence, that they conform to logical norms, that they are not erratic, and that – if an individual's rights are affected by the decision – that due care has been paid to considering how decision-making can be carried out in a way that minimises negative impacts;

8. **Transparency and accountability**. Decisions made under delegated powers need to be recorded properly and appropriately published.[2] Accountability for decisions – when, how, and by whom they are made – must be clear;

9. **Consultation and dialogue.** The management of the Council is based on an operating model that is focused on collective responsibility and action, and on administrative agility. Decision-making must be framed in a way that recognises the intersection between collective and individual responsibility.

10. Decisions made under delegated powers must also conform to the Council's "principles of decision-making", as set out at Article 13.2.

<u>Recording and reporting arrangements: overview</u>

11. Although there is a requirement for decisions made using powers set out in this Scheme to be recorded and reported, a failure to record and report decisions in the way set out does not *on its own* mean that the decision does not have effect. Decisions made under these powers should be understood as taking legal effect immediately on being made.

[1] For example, delegations must be exercised within agreed budgets.
[2] Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2014/2095/regulation/7

12. Decision-making at the Council will also closely reflect the key principles that underpin the Council's strategic operating model. These principles will underpin the approach that those holding power under this scheme of delegation will use to undertake their duties. In particular, the principles "Councillors at the core", "Stakeholder-based decision-making", and "Effective leadership" will be important underpinnings for the exercise of decision-making powers.

13. Specific requirements – in particular those setting out arrangements for sub-delegation and for the recording and reporting of decisions – are set out below.

C. Functions of the authority

1. For the purposes of the Scheme of Delegation we can divide the overall functions of the authority into three categories:

    - **Functions of the Executive (EF).** These are powers conferred directly on the Executive (the Cabinet) by law, and those powers that the Council has decided shall be carried by the executive where the law provides for a local choice. These decisions are "executive decisions". They do not include decisions which are made by officers in the ordinary, day to day management and operation of their services, the transaction of which ultimately falls under the responsibility of the Chief Executive (as Head of Paid Service). Some executive decisions are "key decisions" as defined in Article 13.3. [3] When an executive decision is designated as a key decision there are additional obligations around how it should be made, and implemented;
    - **Functions of the Council (CF).** These are powers which the law says must be carried out by full Council. This includes agreeing the budget and policy framework. Some Council duties may be delegated by full Council to other Council bodies, or to officers. Examples include licensing decision-making and planning, which are carried out by officers subject to triggers for referral to committees that hold those functions;

    - **Functions given to individual officers by other means (PO).** These are powers given to individual officers to carry out duties in a way that is specified in legislation. Some of these powers require that a "proper officer" is identified to carry out these functions. This designation may be provided for:
      In legislation directly – eg where the Council's Monitoring Officer is designated as the proper officer to transact certain duties;
      By Council or by the Chief Executive – the Council – either in a formal meeting or through a duty that sits with the CEO – may be able to designate the role whose occupant holds a specific statutory duty.

2. Usually, a deputy can be designated to carry out the duties of the named "proper officer" in that person's absence.

[3] https://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/documents/s36756/Part2ArticlesoftheConstitution.docx.pdf

3. In some cases, legislation gives power to "the authority" to do something – in this case the power exercised by officers is interpreted as having been delegated by Council subject to the terms set out in this Scheme (see above).

4. Sometimes, a named officer (in most cases the Chief Executive or Monitoring Officer) may have a general power to oversee, ensure or assure the Council's adherence to a variety of statutory obligations.

5. The table below marks each specific power listed with the description or initials corresponding to each of these categories so that those exercising powers, and those holding them to account, can understand from where those powers derive.

D. Sub-delegation, consultation and the recording and reporting of decisions

Consultation on decision-making

The organisation's strategic operating model

1. The Council has a Strategic Core, built around the political direction set by members, which is focused on collaboration between the organisation's political leadership (expressed through Cabinet) and its officer leadership (expressed through the Leadership Board).

   Some powers are conferred on, or delegated to, Chief Officers. For the purposes of this Part 8 "Chief Officers" means the Chief Executive, Executive Directors, Monitoring Officer, s151 Officer, Service Directors and Heads of Service

2. Officers will exercise their power to make decisions under delegated powers with regard to the work of the Leadership Board. Certain officers will need to work together consistently and regularly to carry out duties relating to services whose functions are closely linked – for example, the duties relating to the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970. In some cases, expectations around consultation between officers are set out in the Scheme, although the lack of an explicit mention of this duty in respect of certain powers does not mean that a requirement to consult is not present.

3. This will particularly need to be the case where the exercise of a delegated power is likely to affect more than one service area. In this case direct consultation shall take place with any Service Director whose service area is likely to be affected.

Leadership Board not a decision-making body

4. For the avoidance of doubt, the Leadership Board, as an entity, is not a body authorised to formally make decisions. Officers with the power to make decisions may co-ordinate the exercise of those powers at meetings of the Leadership Board but those officers retain their individual legal responsibility for decision-making, even if they choose to exercise those responsibilities in the locus of a meeting of the Leadership Board itself.

Sub-delegation

5. Sub-delegation – sometimes called “onward delegation” – is the principle that certain powers, once delegated, can be delegated further to other officers.

The Chief Executive

6. Any power exercisable by the Chief Executive in the Scheme shall be exercisable in the absence of the Chief Executive by such other Executive Director as the Chief Executive shall designate as their Deputy.

7. The Chief Executive may designate officers as authorised, or proper, officers for exercising the Council’s powers under any statutory provisions, subject to the powers conferred by legislation to do so. The designation of the Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer, Monitoring Officer and of the statutory functions carried out by Chief Officer shall be made by Council as part of the appointments procedure for senior officers as set out in Part 4.

8. If considering the exercise of a delegated power which would normally be exercised by one of the other members of the Leadership Board, the Chief Executive shall consult with the Executive Director or Service Director in question, with the Monitoring Officer and with the Leader , or Cabinet or relevant Portfolio Holder concerned. In doing so, the Chief Executive shall have regard to the possibility that the source and scope of the power in question may restrict the right of other officers to exercise it.

The Leadership Board and Chief Officers

9. Chief Officers – are authorised to act on behalf of the Council within the service area for which they are responsible. This includes the power to sub-delegate decision-making authority, where the source and scope of that power permits that sub-delegation. This is additional to the general power set out in this scheme for officers to deputise for Executive Directors and Service Directors.

10. Chief Officers and officers referred to by title in this Part 8 may sub-delegate powers to exercise functions delegated to them, to officers, where such power may be legally delegated. The qualification to this is that the delegation reserved to the officer with responsibility for trading standards (who, while specified in a the table below is not a membership of Leadership Board or a Chief Officer) may only be exercised by an officer possessing the necessary qualification to do so. For the avoidance of doubt, this sub-delegation does not create a line management situation in respect of those officers. However, certain legal functions have to be exercised by and in the name of the Service Director for Legal and Governance.

11. Sub-delegation does not abrogate the responsibility of the officer specified in this Scheme for the appropriate transaction of the delegated power in question.

12. In the event of an Officer referred to in Part 7 or within this Part 8 not being available for whatever reason, his/her Deputy (or, where there is no officer designated as such, the next most appropriate senior officer) shall be authorised to implement approved delegated arrangements. The qualification to this is that in the case of the delegation reserved to the officer with responsibility for weights and measures the delegation can only be exercised by an officer possessing the necessary qualification to do so. In addition, any officer attending any meeting, committee, public inquiry or other meetings of this nature as a representative of a Chief Officer shall have full authority to act on behalf of that Chief Officer unless such authority has been limited by the Chief Officer.

13. For the avoidance of doubt any delegation exercised by a Head of Service may be exercised by the relevant member of Leadership Board and any delegation exercised by an Officer may be exercised by the Chief Executive unless restricted by this Scheme of Delegation or by law.

14. Should the title of an Officer be altered from that shown owing to a re-organisation or for any other reason, the approved delegated arrangements shall be exercisable by the appropriate Officer referred to in Part 7 or this Part 8, as the case may be, responsible for the function in question

15. All the arrangements for sub-delegation in this section shall be made subject to being recorded and reported to Legal Services.

The role of statutory officers

16. Decision-making must be carried out subject to the advice and, where relevant, instructions of the principal statutory officers – the Chief Executive, the Chief Finance Officer, and the Monitoring Officer (Service Director (Legal and Governance)).

17. The approval of the Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer, or other officers that they designate shall be required for the submission of reports that set out decisions to be made by members in Cabinet, and at the Council.

18. The Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer hold particular duties to assure good practice with regard to the authority's legal, and financial, governance, which are set out in more detail in this Scheme.

Consultation with members

19. Where an issue which falls within an officer's delegated powers has significant policy, service or operational implications, or is politically sensitive, that officer shall consult and liaise closely with the appropriate Portfolio Holder (or in their absence, the Leader) or the committee chair (or in their absence, the vice-chair) before exercising the delegated powers.

20. It shall always be open to an officer to consult a Cabinet member, a committee, or its chair or vice-chair before exercising the delegated powers, or not to

exercise delegated powers but to refer the matter to the Council, Cabinet or a committee for decision.

21. The normal requirements for consultation with and notification of Local Members on matters affecting their Electoral Divisions, as set out in the Local Member Protocol[4], will also be adhered to. Consultation should be:
    - Timely, to ensure that the relevant Portfolio Holder's views can be fully taken into account in the substance of the decision;
    - Proportionate, to ensure that the principle of delegation is not undermined, that decisions are not *de facto* made by the Portfolio Holder, and that Portfolio Holders are involved in supporting delegated decisions where appropriate and not indiscriminately;
    - Consistent, to ensure that the decision-making process is predictable across the whole Council.

22. In determining on what matters Portfolio Holders should be consulted, officers shall have regard to:
    - The likely impact, to the Council and the wider community, of the decision;
    - The risks attached to the decision, which may include the risks attached to options considered but not taken forward;
    - The degree of political contention associated with the decision.

23. Officers shall always notify members when operational action of a significant nature is planned to be undertaken in their divisions but this should not amount to consultation on the nature of that action other than as part of a wider consultation / engagement exercise.

24. For the avoidance of doubt, notwithstanding the commitment to consult Portfolio Holders the responsibility to make executive decisions shall rest with the officer designated in this Scheme.

Recording and reporting of decisions and of arrangements for sub-delegation

25. Executive decisions made under delegated powers shall be recorded, and reported, consistently. Decisions made under powers delegated by Council shall be similarly recorded and reported.

26. Arrangements for sub-delegation made by Chief Officers, shall be recorded and a record kept in Legal Services and made available for inspection. Arrangements for sub-delegation will:
    - Set out the scope of the sub-delegation with reference to the source of the legal power to which it relates;
    - Set out the Chief Officer to which the original delegation relates;
    - Set out the furthest that the decision-making power may be onwardly delegated. For example in respect of licensing decision-making, certain decisions may be made by the Licensing Manager but not by a Licensing Officer;

[4] https://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/documents/s39713/Part5CodesandProtocols.doc.pdf

- Where appropriate, set out the qualifications or other characteristics that the person to whom a power is delegated must possess, whether required by law or reflecting arrangements put in place by the Council.

27. Decisions cannot be made by anyone other than the officer set out in this Scheme unless the officer in question has made sub-delegation arrangements that comply with these requirements.

28. Where decisions are made by officers who have been designated as the "proper officer", by Council or directly by legislation, the requirements to record and report those decisions may be different depending on the nature of the power being exercised. Those exercising these powers will need to satisfy themselves, subject to the advice of the Monitoring Officer, that they are meeting any such requirements when they make decisions using those powers.

Arrangements for oversight

29. The Council will make, and maintain, systems to ensure that the operation of the Scheme of Delegation is kept under active review. There are four continuing levels to this review:

- By Chief Officers, in respect of decisions made under delegated powers
- By the Monitoring Officer
- By the Constitution Working Group
- By Council formally

SPECIFIC POWERS DELEGATED TO OFFICERS

Authorisation

By this Scheme and subject to the limitations and reservations herein, the Council delegates and authorises the officers identified in this Part 8 and any officers acting in their place under paragraphs D10, D12 and D14

(i) to exercise the powers specified;
(ii) to exercise any of the Council's functions in an emergency; and
(iii) authorises any other officers identified under arrangements made by the Council or Cabinet or any committee pursuant to section 101 (2) of the Local Government Act 1972 or section 15 the Local Government Act 2000 to exercise the powers specified in relation to the appropriate officers in those arrangements

E. Executive Directors/Statutory Officers

Power held by…	**Brief description of power**	**Source of the power**
	CHIEF EXECUTIVE	
Chief Executive	Exercise functions of Head of Paid Service (undertaking the general management of the Authority)	**Section 4, Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (PO)**

Power held by…	Brief description of power	Source of the power
Chief Executive	Exercise any function in legislation which is described as the duty of the "Clerk", in respect of legislation before October 1972	**(designation as "proper officer" in various pre-1972 legislative provisions)**
Chief Executive	Exercise functions as Head of Paid Service: • to approve the grading and regrading of posts subject to NJC to Local Government Services, Soulbury and Youth and Community Worker Conditions of Service) where the proposed maximum grade is Band 14 or above (or equivalent). • to approve the original grading of individual posts, (subject to JNC Chief Officer Conditions) and regradings of such posts providing that the proposed grading is no more than one grade higher (or lower) than the current grade • to approve the composition of Appeal Panels convened by the Service Director (Enabling) to deal with disciplinary, grading or other issues; • to approve significant variations to existing corporate personnel policies and locally adopted conditions of service in relation to all national negotiating bodies prior to consultation taking place with Trades Unions, except where the financial or policy implications across the	**As above**

Power held by…	Brief description of power	Source of the power
	Council require the matter to be referred to the Cabinet; • To adopt new corporate personnel policies and exercise any discretions available in national agreements, in relation to all national negotiating bodies, except where the financial and policy implications across the Council require the matter to be referred to the Cabinet. This Scheme sets out where the Chief Executive shall delegate responsibility for management of staff and services to Service Directors.	
Chief Executive	Maintain a list of politically restricted posts and determine applications for exemption from the list (in consultation with Service Director (Enabling))	**Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (PO)**
Chief Executive	Carry out formal duties relating to councillors, including: • Witness and receipt of declaration of acceptance of office (s83) • Receipt of notice of resignation by councillor (s84) • Declaration of any vacancy of office (s86) • Convening a meeting of Council to fill casual vacancy in office of Chairman (s88(2)) • Receipt of notice of casual vacancy from two local government electors (s89(1)(b))	**Local Government Act 1972 (PO)**

Power held by…	Brief description of power	Source of the power
	• Agree changes to appointments to outside bodies arising from changes in Cabinet, members or group nominations • Approve nominations received for the filling of coopted member vacancies on committees and panels in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder and/or chair where relevant.	
Chief Executive	Act as Parish Trustee; hold responsibility for convening newly created parish councils; receipt of notice of casual vacancy in respect of parish councils from two local government electors	**Section 13(3) Local Government Act 1972 (PO), Local**
Chief Executive	Exercise emergency powers, including authorising the incurring of expenditure where there is no specific provision in the budget set by the Council for this to be done (subject to the views of the Chief Finance Officer and rules relating to emergency decision-making).	**Section 138, Local Government Act 1972 (PO)**
Chief Executive	Appoint such independent persons to Appeals Committees or Panels as required by law or in his/her discretion appears appropriate and may maintain lists of such persons for such purposes.	**Various sources**
Chief Executive	Appoint the Chairs of Education Admission and Exclusion Appeal Panels	**Section 94, School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (FC)**
Chief Executive	Issue licences or control any registration of persons or premises on behalf of the Council under any legislation, save to the extent that	**Various sources**

Power held by…	Brief description of power	Source of the power
	this power is specifically delegated by this Scheme or reserved by law to a specific officer.	
Chief Executive	In consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder to take decisions in respect of any company where the Council has an interest as shareholder, subject to issues of a significant nature being brought to Cabinet and, if necessary, to Council. (A significant issue is a decision which is likely to result in the Council incurring expenditure, making a saving, receiving income or an increase in share value above a budget value of £500,000 as per the Council's Financial Rules).	
Chief Executive	Publish notices as required on behalf of the Council under any legislation save to the extent that this power is specifically delegated by this Scheme or reserved by law to a specific officer.	**Various sources**
Chief Executive	To approve any requests from Town Councils for Shropshire Council to delegate its powers to install / create Freemen and Honorary Freemen.	**Sections 248 & 249 of the Local Government Act 1972**
Chief Executive	Act as the Council's Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer for local elections and as Acting Returning Officer for Parliamentary elections, referendums and for other elections Carry out functions relating to petitions Receive and inspect returns and declaration of election expenses,	**Representation of the People Acts (PO)** **Local Authorities (Referendums) (England) Regulations 2011** **Local Authorities (Conduct of Referendums)**

Power held by…	Brief description of power	Source of the power
	and notice of appointment of election agents. Including provision of accommodation for election courts and retention for inspection of election documents.	**(England) Regulations 2012**
Chief Executive	On the recommendation of relevant member of Leadership Board to amend fees and charges within a year from that agreed by Full Council's Charging Policy but only where: • Such arrangements follow the principles set out in the approved Charging Policy; • Any proposed changes are approved in line with the Council's Virement Rules (where financial thresholds are met). • It is subject to consultation with the Portfolio Holder for the relevant service area.	**Full Council delegation**
	SECTION 151 OFFICER / CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER	
Section 151 Officer / Chief Finance Officer	Carry out the responsibilities and powers of the Chief Finance Officer, including: • Making recommendations to the Council on: ○ Council Tax requirements; ○ The Council Tax base; • Managing generally all matters relating to Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates including (where required and/or permitted by law) the awarding of discounts, relief and exemptions and the levying,	**Section 151, Local Government Act 1972 (PO), Local Government Finance Act 1988, Local Government and Housing Act 1989, Local Government Act 2003** **Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015**

Power held by…	Brief description of power	Source of the power
	collection recovery and disbursement of all sums due to the Council in respect of the same. • Maintaining the Council's Financial Procedure Rules, subject to consultation with the Monitoring Officer, , as part of the Council's Constitution.	
Section 151 Officer / Chief Finance Officer	Ensure, and provide assurance, that public money is safeguarded, and used economically, efficiently and effectively, in line with the authority's Best Value duties. This includes: • The determination of financial management and accounting procedures and the form and extent of financial records; • The production and distribution of financial management information; • The maintenance of the Council's Financial Procedure Rules and Contract Procedure Rules, in conjunction with the Monitoring Officer.	**Local Government Act 1999 (CF)**
Section 151 Officer / Chief Finance Officer	Undertake duties relating to operational financial management including but not limited to: • Action on behalf of the Council in respect of financial arrangements and obligations with external bodies (including management of grant funding where the Council is the Accountable Body); • Virement (ie the transfer of sums approved for a	

Power held by…	Brief description of power	Source of the power
	specified purpose), in accordance with the Finance Procedure Rules; • Virement in cases of urgency, where not otherwise covered by delegated authority, subject to member consultation; • Approval of individual items of expenditure from the Council's reserves; • Maintenance of a "carry-forward" scheme for underspends; • Approve supplementary capital votes subject to the limitations set out in the Financial Rules • Management of arrangements for supplementary revenue for items which are unavoidable (ie arise from externally-imposed legal/contractual requirements, and the obligation to deliver a balanced budget) and not inconsistent with approved budgetary policy. The above, and connected, tasks to give effect to Council's votes on budget and finance matters, and Cabinet agreement, as appropriate.	
Section 151 Officer / Chief Finance Officer	Undertake duties relating to effective treasury management and asset management, including but not limited to: • The operation of banking arrangements; • The payment of salaries, allowances and invoices, and payments of pensions, gratuities, grants etc;	**Local Government Finance Act 1988, Local Government Finance Act 1992** **Superannuation Acts (and Regulations)**

Power held by…	Brief description of power	Source of the power
	• Support to the Council's function to administer and operate the Pension Fund, including acting as Scheme Administrator for the Shropshire County Pension Fund; and to exercise the Council's voting rights as a member of the National Association of Pension Fund Investment Protection Committee subject to consultation with the chair pf Pension Committee if appropriate • To collect coordinate control and administer income and monies due to the Council, and to exercise discretion conferred on the Council and administer and determine claims in respect of Council Tax, national non-domestic rates (business rates), and Housing Benefit; • Write off court costs in respect of national non domestic rates and council tax • Write off irrecoverable income if the amount owed is £100,000 or less; • The safeguarding of assets; • Maintenance of insurance arrangements.	
Section 151 Officer / Chief Finance Officer	Make accounts available for inspection by councillors	**Section 228(3), Local Government Act 1972 (PO)**
Section 151 Officer / Chief Finance Officer	Make Chief Finance Officer reports	**Proceeds of Crime 2002 (PO)**
Section 151 Officer / Chief Finance Officer	Act as the Council's Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO)	

Power held by…	Brief description of power	Source of the power
		General Data Protection Regulation
	MONITORING OFFICER (SERVICE DIRECTOR, LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE)	
Monitoring Officer	Exercise the powers and responsibilities as Monitoring Officer, and submitting reports to Council in that capacity	**Section 5, Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (PO)**
Monitoring Officer	Make or authorise payment or provision of other benefits in the cases of maladministration as set out in Schedule 1 of the Functions Regulations	**Local Government Act 2000**
Monitoring Officer	Undertake duties relating to the representation of the Council on legal matters, including: • To take steps or undertake legal proceedings to secure compliance with any notice served or injunction granted to the Council by the courts; • To institute, defend, act (or authorise others to act) in relation to any legal proceedings instituted by, or against, the Council and where the interests of the Council require that it should be legally represented; • To settle such proceedings where doing so meets the best interests of the Council, in consultation with the s151 officer where there are financial implications; • To take steps to enable or effect compliance with any Council, Cabinet or Committee resolution,	**Section 222, 223, Local Government Act 1972 (PO)** **Section 60, County Courts Act 1984 (PO)** **Local Authorities (Contracts) Act 1997 (FC, EF depending on the contract)** **Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000**

Power held by…	Brief description of power	Source of the power
	including signing any relevant documentation; • To represent the Council on proceedings before the Courts in relation to authorisations for the use of investigatory powers, and to act as SRO in respect of RIPA codes of practice; • To sign contract certificates; • To authorise and instruct Counsel and external solicitors;	
Monitoring Officer	To affix the Council's Common Seal to any document in order to give effect to any decision of the Council, Cabinet, Committee, Sub-Committee or of an officer acting under delegated powers and thereafter to attest the seal. To sign any documentation in order to give effect to any decision of the Council Cabinet, Committee, Sub-Committee or of an officer acting under delegated powers.	**Various**
Monitoring Officer	Deposit of documents further to standing orders of either House of Parliament	**Section 225(1), Local Government Act 1972 (PO)**
Monitoring Officer	Certify photographic copies of documents, authentication of documents	**Section 229(5), section 234(1), Local Government Act 1972 (PO)**
Monitoring Officer	Sign the summons to council meetings, and take notice of councillors' preferred address for	**Section 99, Schedule 12, Local**

Power held by…	Brief description of power	Source of the power
	summonses where not their place of residence	**Government Act 1972 (PO)**
Monitoring Officer	Manage the system for receiving and registering councillors' declarations of interest, including handling sensitive interests and dispensations from restrictions	**Sections 29-33, Localism Act 2011**
Monitoring Officer	Carry out functions relating to Political Groups, including: • Receipt of notice of changes to Groups, including notice of cessation of membership of Groups; • Take representations from Groups in respect of proportionality, and notify Groups of allocations; • Take receipt of notice (in writing) that a Councillor wishes to forego part of any entitlement or allowance.	**Sections 15 et seq, Local Government and Housing Act 1989** **Regulation 9 et seq, Local Government (Political Groups) Regulations 1990**
Monitoring Officer	Certify byelaws, and send confirmed byelaws to the proper officer of parish / community councils to which they apply	**Section 236, 238, Local Government Act 1972 (PO)**
Monitoring Officer	Manage the formal records of the Council including: • Exclusion of formal reports from inspection • Supply of documents to the press • Providing a written summary where minutes would disclose exempt information • Compilation of lists of background papers • Exclusion from production to Councillors of documents disclosing exempt	**Schedule 12A, s100B et seq, Local Government Act 1972 (PO)**

Power held by…	Brief description of power	Source of the power
	information (unless they are entitled to information by virtue of the "need to know" or Regulations)	
Monitoring Officer	Certification of copies of resolutions, minutes and other documents	
Monitoring Officer	Authenticate and serve statutory notices	**Various sources**
Monitoring Officer	Serve notices requiring particulars of ownership	**Section 16, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976**
Monitoring Officer	Undertake duties in relation to the Council's compliance with legislation on information management, including transacting "s36" reviews on the use of the exemption to the requirement to provide information on the ground that it would be prejudicial to the effective conduct of public affairs	**Freedom of Information Act 2000, General Data Protection Regulations**
Monitoring Officer	Maintain the Council's Constitution to include making routine revisions providing clarity where necessary and by replacing references to any repealed, amended, consolidated or replacement primary or secondary legislation, and replacing references to job titles referred to where they are changed or restructured	**Power conferred by the Constitution (FC)**
Monitoring Officer	In conjunction with the s151 Officer to maintain the Council's Contract Procedure Rules	

Power held by…	Brief description of power	Source of the power
	DIRECTOR OF ADULT SOCIAL SERVICES	
Director of Adult Social Services	Carry out the functions of Director of Adult Services, including making arrangements for the appointment of a deputy statutory officer in the absence of, incapacity of, or vacancy in, the post	**Section 6, Local Authority Services Act 1970 (PO)**
Director of Adult Social Services	Terminate contracts funded from agreed budgets for the provision by third parties of services for adults (in consultation with the Monitoring Officer)	
Director of Adult Social Services	Power to authorise officer to undertake duties as the nominated individual by the Council to undertake regulated activities	**Regulation 6, Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014 (PO)**
	DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES	
Director of Children's Services	Carry out the statutory duties relating to the Director of Children's Services	**Section 18, Children Act 2004**
Director of Children's Services	Carry out the Council's education functions as a local authority (except those excluded by law)	
Director of Children's Services	Carry out the Council's functions relating to children's social services within the meaning of the Local Authorities	
Director of Children's Services	Approve the convening of a secure accommodation panel	
Director of Children's Services	Approve the placement of a child or young person out of county	**Care Planning, Placement and Case Review**

Power held by…	Brief description of power	Source of the power
		(England) Regulations 2010
Director of Children's Services	Actions in relation to children looked after, including: • Approval of a request for a LAC to join the Armed Forces • Deciding to cease looking after a 16 or 17 year old person looked after by virtue of a Care Order • Notification to Ofsted and the Secretary of State following the death of a child looked after / serious harm to a child looked after in a children's home or foster care • Notification to Ofsted of a serious case review • Placement of a child with an (interim) care order with parents or persons with parental responsibility • Agreement of any stay with parent(s) for more than 24 hours • Approval of short or long term external residential placements • Approval of unregulated provision • Agreement to authorise absence from education • Agreement that a child can remain in residential placement on attainment of the age of 18 • Carry out assessments and pathway plans in respect of care leavers	

Power held by…	Brief description of power	Source of the power
Director of Children's Services	Provide financial assessment to children in need in the area	**Section 17, Children Act 1989**
Director of Children's Services	Authorise statutory penalty notices for court proceedings in respect of non-attendance at school	**Section 444, Education Act 1996**
	DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH	
Director of Public Health	Hold the statutory role for the Council as person appointed as the Director of Public Health	**Section 73A, National Health Service Act 2006**
Director of Public Health	In relation to the above, develop and direct the Council's work with regard to: • Public health intelligence • Health improvement • Health protection including emergency planning for public health • Wider determinants of health • Public health commissioning • Provision of advice to the NHS	
Director of Public Health	Certify resolutions applying or disapplying provisions under the Public Health Acts	**Schedule 14 Para 25, Local Government Act 1972 (PO)**
	Carry out duties relating to notifiable diseases: • Supply of forms to doctors, and prepare certificates for Justices of the Peace, for purposes of removal of bodies to mortuaries and burial, and connected purposes	**Public Health (Control of Diseases) Act 1984 (PO)** **Heath Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010 (PO)**

Power held by…	Brief description of power	Source of the power
	• Receipt and disclosure of notification of suspected notifiable disease, infection or contamination • Power to enter premises • Signature / authentication of notices, orders etc	
Director of Public Health	Act as the Caldicott Guardian	**Statutory guidance issued under the Health and Social Care (National Data Guardians) Act 2018**

F. Leadership Board/Chief Officers

Power held by…	Brief description of power	Source of the power
	ALL MEMBERS OF LEADERSHIP BOARD AND CHIEF OFFICERS (NB: AS INDIVIDUALS IN RESPECT OF THEIR OWN SERVICE, AND NOT COLLECTIVELY)	
All LB Members	Officers referred to in Part 7 (Management Structure) or by title within this Part 8 or any successor subsequent to any re-organisation and any officers acting in their place under paragraphs D10 and D12 are authorised to exercise the powers of the Council (both Executive and non-Executive functions) relating to their areas of responsibility as set out in Part 7 of this Constitution including professional and managerial functions relating to his/her service subject to the limitations and reservations of this Scheme	
Chief Officers[5]	In respect of employment matters, and subject to the power held by the Chief Executive as Head of Paid Service:	

[5] As defined in paragraph D1 above

Power held by…	Brief description of power	Source of the power
	• Implement, in the areas for which they are responsible, corporate personnel policies and nationally and locally determined conditions of service adopted by the Council; • Within the services for which they are responsible appoint staff (and approve changes to the number and distribution of posts, and to grading taking account of job evaluation outcomes subject to the proposed maximum grade being Band 14 or equivalent) within structures and budgets approved by the Council and the Cabinet where Procedure Rules allow and exercise control and discipline and dismissal in accordance with the Council's agreed policies and personnel procedures; • Make agreements with other organisations for placing of staff at the disposal of other organisations, (eg through secondment or joint working arrangements) on advice from the Service Director (Enabling).	
All LB members	With prejudice to the powers of the Service Director Legal and Governance, the power to institute proceedings either in the name of the Council or in the name of an officer under those statutory provisions which relate to their respective service areas, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer.	
LB members	Recommend to the Chief Executive the amendment of fees and charges within a year from that agreed by Full Council's Charging Policy but only where: • Such arrangements follow the principles set out in the approved Charging Policy; • Any proposed changes are approved in line with the Council's Virement Rules (where financial thresholds are met). • It is subject to consultation with the Portfolio Holder for the relevant service area.	**Full Council delegation**
Chief Officers	Act on behalf of the Council in respect of the service area for which he /she is responsible and exercise day to day management of services, staff and resources under the control of the relevant Chief Officer subject to the considerations set out in	**Full Council (subject to the approved budget and policy framework)**

Power held by…	Brief description of power	Source of the power
	the Introduction above and this scheme of delegation This includes: • the acquisition of assets and services necessary for this day to day management performance of the Council's business or fulfilment of any matter authorised by Cabinet for which a budget has been approved. • Maintaining the operation and effectiveness of services; • Implementing decisions (including policy decisions) taken by the Council and Cabinet	**Executive (subject to the need to resource and implemented Cabinet decisions)** **Delegation from the Head of Paid Service**
Chief Officers	Enter into agreements for the provision of services to third parties and make charges	**Full Council, Cabinet (depending on the services in question)** **Subject to consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder and advice from the Monitoring Officer**
Chief Officers	Authorise staff to exercise such powers of entry, inspection and survey of land buildings or premises and issue any necessary evidence or authority as may be appropriate to the execution of their duties and in respect of which they have statutory powers	
Chief Officers	Designate another officer to carry out powers delegated through this Scheme, subject to the law and to separate arrangements for sub-delegation.	
	SERVICE DIRECTOR, STRATEGY AND CHANGE	
Strategy and Change		

Power held by…	Brief description of power	Source of the power
	Duties relating to the overall management of their service in line with the principles for officer decision-making.	
	SERVICE DIRECTOR, LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE	
Legal and Governance	Duties relating to the overall management of their service in line with the principles for officer decision-making. (Other duties relating to this Service Director are set out in the table of Chief Officer powers above).	
	Commons/Town and Village Greens	
Legal and Governance	Undertake duties relating to the registration of land as a town or village green as set out: a) To sanction the withdrawal of an application to register land as a town or village green where there are no objections to such a withdrawal. b) To determine whether an application to register land as a town or village green is duly made in accordance with the relevant regulations. c) To advertise applications to register land as town or village greens that are deemed duly made in accordance with the relevant regulations.	**Section 15, Commons Act 2006**
Legal and Governance	To determine applications for the apportionments of rights of common in the Register of Common Land.	**Commons Act 2006**
	Registrars	
Superint. Registrar	Exercise of registration functions relating to births, marriages and deaths, and carrying on other ceremonies	**Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953** **Marriage Act 1949** **Civil Partnership Act 2004** **Registration Act 1836**

Power held by…	Brief description of power	Source of the power
		Registration of Births and Deaths Regulations 1987
	SERVICE DIRECTOR, PLACE SHAPING	
	Planning	
Place Shaping	Determination of all planning matters as set out in the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 with the exception of the following which shall be determined by the relevant committee: • Applications made, by or on behalf of, or relating to the property of Members or officers of the Council who hold politically restricted posts or who either directly or indirectly report to the Planning and Development Services Manager or the Policy and Environment Service Manager, • Applications made by the Council, or in relation to land owned by the Council, which are not in-line with statutory functions (this would mean that classroom extensions etc were delegated to officers but speculative proposals on council owned land would not be) • Applications accompanied by a Schedule 1 Environmental Statement • Complex or major applications which in the view of the Service Director for Legal and Governance or the Planning and Development Services Manager in consultation with the committee chairman or vice chairman should be determined by the relevant Planning Committee Member call-in • Applications requested to be referred, by the Local Member, to the relevant Planning Committee within 21 days of electronic notification of the application and agreed by the Planning and Development Services	**Town and Country Planning Act 1990** **Planning (Hazardous Substances) Act 1990** **Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act** **Environment Act 2021** **Town and Country Planning Act 1971** **Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003** **Planning Act 2008**

Power held by…	Brief description of power	Source of the power
	Manager or Team Manager (Planning) in consultation with the committee chairman or vice chairman to be based on material planning reasons. A Practice Note is available in relation to "material planning considerations" Parish and Town Councils • Applications where the Parish Council submit a view contrary to officers (approval or refusal) based on material planning reasons the following tests need to be met: i. these contrary views cannot reasonably be overcome by negotiation or the imposition of planning conditions; and ii. the Team Manager (Planning) or Principal Planning Officer in consultation with the committee chairman or vice chairman and the Local Member agrees that the Parish/Town Council has raised material planning issues and that the application should be determined by committee. For the avoidance of doubt the following remain delegated to the Service Director Place Shaping <u>Consultee Objections</u> · Ability to proceed to determine under delegated powers applications where a statutory consultee may object to a proposal providing that the development remains in accordance with the provisions of the Development Plan. <u>Enforcement</u> · Ability to authorise entry to land and property · Ability to issue Planning Contravention Notices, Breach Of Condition Notices, Enforcement Notices, Temporary Stop Notices, Stop Notices, Section 215 Notices, Listed Building Enforcement Notices, Conservation Area Notices, Discontinuance Notices in respect of advertisements, Building Preservation Notices, Notices under Section 330 requiring information as to interests in land and other remedial action as set out in the Planning Compliance policy. <u>Trees / Hedgerows</u>	

Power held by…	Brief description of power	Source of the power
	· To make and confirm Tree Preservation Orders, Tree Replacement Notices, Hedgerow Replacement Notices, Hedgerow Retention Notices and to determine applications to carry out works to protected trees including trees in Conservation Areas and hedgerows and to provide replacement trees and hedgerows. · To deal with all matters relating to complaints regarding high hedges <u>Appeals</u> To respond to all appeals on planning matters · To refuse to determine applications where an appeal for the same development has been refused within the 2 years <u>Planning Obligations</u> To require planning obligations without referral to committee · To discharge planning obligations under Section 52 Town and Country Planning Act 1971 or Section 106 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and to vary or modify Section 52 Agreements as required. · To approve release of contribution money to third parties All matters relating to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects and Development Consent Orders set out in the Planning Act 2008.	
	Building Control	
Place Shaping	Responsible for exercising the Council's Building Control service to include: • Approval, conditional approval and rejection of applications, notices, commencement of legal proceedings, signing and service of notices and issuing formal cautions, • Staffing and supplies of goods and services • Authorisation of staff: to serve notices requiring particulars of ownership; to exercise powers of entry to land/property for the purposes of inspection, enforcement, surveying, testing and sampling as provided in the relevant legislation, to swear affidavits in any court proceedings; to determine and	**Building Act 1984 (PO)** **Building Regulations** **Local Government Goods and Services Act 1970** **Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Acts 1976 and 1982** **Party Wall Act 1996**

Power held by…	Brief description of power	Source of the power
	negotiate fees and charges for building regulation applications and notices; • Hire of plant and specialist sub-contractors • Sale of surplus materials, equipment and goods • Assess, determine and publish building control fees and charges in conjunction with Section 151 Officer and consultation with Portfolio Holder • Provision of fee earning services beyond the scope of Bulidng Regulations, with in Local Government Goods and Services Act • Entry into partnerships and determine building regulation applications under the LABC Partnership Scheme • Carry out Council building control functions • Act as Appointing Officer for determination of Party Wall Act matters • Emergency action in respect of dangerous structures	
	Property and Estates	
Place Shaping	Authorise repairs, appointment of agents and applications for planning permission, in connection with the sale of surplus property	**Cabinet**
Place Shaping	Agree rating assessments for Council property, and make proposals and objections to the Valuation Court	
Place Shaping	Exercise day-to-day control over the Council's land and premises and serve all necessary notices and counter-notices	**Full Council**
Place Shaping	Declare surplus and authorise terms for the acquisition or sale of property not exceeding £500,000 in value (with property of a greater value requiring Cabinet decision)	**Cabinet**

Power held by…	Brief description of power	Source of the power
Place Shaping	Approve allowances to tenants for expenditure incurred by them for repairs, drainage rates and the like.	
Place Shaping	Settle dilapidation claims and compensation payments on the termination or surrender of hirings or lettings in accordance with relevant statutory provisions	
Place Shaping	Take all necessary steps to recover possession of land or property, save that where such property or land is occupied by travellers, not to take such action without: • giving prior consideration to the educational health and welfare needs of those involved • consulting with the Local Member or if they cannot be contacted, with the relevant Portfolio Holder.	**Human Rights Act 1998, Children Act 1989, Housing Act 1985**
Place Shaping	Authorise the granting of leases and licences whether as a Landlord or Tenant, and up to a value of £500,000 capitalised over the term or £50,000 in rental value (with leases and licenses of a greater value requiring Cabinet decision). Where the value is above this and the Chief Executive is not involved, Cabinet to decide	**Cabinet**
Place Shaping	Approve the terms for the surrender of leases and licences and any pre-existing terms up to a maximum of £500,000 (with leases and licenses of a greater value requiring Cabinet decision).Where the value is above this and the Chief Executive is not involved, Cabinet to decide.	**Cabinet**
Place Shaping	Submit planning applications on behalf of the Council	**Council, as owner of property**

Power held by…	Brief description of power	Source of the power
Place Shaping	Enter into party wall agreements with adjoining owners to Council property	**Council, as owner of property**
Place Shaping	Managment of industrial and commercial premises including lease renewals and rent reviews.	
Place Shaping	Authorise the purchase at market value of land and premises included in compulsory purchase orders made by the Council or its predecessor councils, together with blight/purchase notices accepted by the Council, including payment of compensation in accordance with relevant legislation, subject to availability of funding within the Council's capital programme, or from elsewhere.	
Place Shaping	Approve the review of rents reserved by existing leases and tenancy agreements of Council land and property at current market rental levels	
Place Shaping	Approve assignments of the residue of leases and tenancy agreements and underleases thereof subject to the receipt of satisfactory references.	
Place Shaping	Approve (where appropriate at the market value thereof) the modification or release of covenants contained in existing conveyances, leases, agreements and licences subject to compliance with the Council's planning or other policies and to approve the terms of any such modification or release.	
Place Shaping	Approve the grant of easements, wayleaves, etc. over Council owned land where the annual acknowledgement to be paid does not exceed £1,000, or where a capital payment of up to £10,000 is involved.	

Power held by…	Brief description of power	Source of the power
Place Shaping	Approve the purchase of or agreements for easements, wayleaves, etc. necessary to fulfil Council requirements where the annual acknowledgement to be paid does not exceed £1,000 or a capital payment of £10,000 and settle subsequent claims where the total in respect of capital payments and claims does not exceed £10,000	
Place Shaping	Approve the appointment of professional advisers and/or agents, using any select list currently in force, and to settle any fees or other costs arising therefrom providing they are within budget allocations approved for this purpose.	
Place Shaping	Authority to let and manage shops, buildings and land held under the Housing Revenue Account (including granting/refusal of wayleaves/easements/restrictive covenants; renewal of leases, and serving Notices to Quit for breach of covenant).	
Place Shaping	Determine whether assets are listed or not as assets of community value.	**Localism Act 2011 The Assets of Community Value (England) Regulations 2012**
Place Shaping	Determine whether compensation is payable to an owner in respect of the community right to bid	**Localism Act 2011**
	Land Charges	
Place Shaping	Act as local registrar for land charge matters	**Land Registration Act 2002 (PO)** **Local Land Charges Act 1975 (PO)**
	Community Infrastructure Levy	
Place Shaping	Act on behalf of the Council in its role as the Community Infrastructure Levy charging authority in the day to day implementation of the Community	**Community Infrastructure Levy Community**

Power held by…	Brief description of power	Source of the power
	Infrastructure Levy in accordance with the Community Infrastructure Regulations	**Infrastructure Regulations 2010**
	Highways	
Place Shaping	Receive certificates approving dedication of highways to be maintained at public expense; power to adopt highway by agreement making certificates available for inspection	**Section 37(5), 38, Highways Act (PO)**
Place Shaping	Agree the execution of streetworks	**Section 278, Highways Act 1980 (PO**
	Waste	
Place Shaping	Waste: making and retention of controlled waste related documents and the furnishing of documents fixed penalty notices for offences relating to EPA 1990 Sections 34 (5) and (6), 46, 47, 47ZA provision of adequate receptacles for waste (household, commercial, industrial)	**Environmental Protection Act 1990**
	SERVICE DIRECTOR, COMMISSIONING	
Commissioning	Duties relating to the overall management of their service in line with the principles for officer decision-making.	
Commissioning	Maintenance of cemetery records, including responsibility for the signing of grants relating to cemeteries	**Local Authorities Cemetery Order (PO)**
	SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE	
Children and Young People	Duties relating to the overall management of their service in line with the principles for officer decision-making.	
Children and Young People	Act as or designate responsible individual for carrying on a children's home	**Regulation 26, Children's Homes**

Power held by…	Brief description of power	Source of the power
		(England) Regulations 2015
Children and Young People	Designate manager for children's home(s)	**Regulation 27, Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015**
Children and Young People	Appointment of Independent Reviewing Officers to children's services files	**Children Act 1989**
	SERVICE DIRECTOR, CARE AND WELLBEING	
Care and Wellbeing	Duties relating to the overall management of their service in line with the principles for officer decision-making	
Care and Wellbeing	Exercise adult social services functions	
Care and Wellbeing	Take any lawful action on the services to be provided to an individual, or action to be taken in respect of an individual (including decisions on charging and the agreement of individual care packages)	**Mental Health Act 1983, Mental Capacity Act 2005, Care Act 2014**
Care and Wellbeing	Make applications to the Court of Protection, and to undertake the role of Deputy for property and financial affairs on appointment by the Court, and to sign documents and approve paperwork as appropriate.	**Mental Capacity Act 2005**
Care and Wellbeing	Exercise the role of appointeeship with the Department for Work and Pensions, and to sign documents and approve paperwork as appropriate.	**Social Security (Claims and Payments) Regulations 1987 (PO)** **Universal Credit, Personal**

Power held by…	Brief description of power	Source of the power
		Independence Payment, JSA and ESA (Claims and Payments) Regulations 2013 (PO)
Care and Wellbeing	Exercise the Council's role as a supervisory body in respect of deprivation of liberty, including the authorisation of a Deprivation of Liberty arrangement.	**Mental Capacity Act 2005**
Care and Wellbeing	Approval of paperwork for Court of Protection orders	**Mental Capacity Act 2005**
Care and Wellbeing	Approval and signing of paperwork relating to: • Applications for access to bank accounts, private pensions and stocks and shares; • Sale of property and house clearances; • Confirmation of changes in details; • Reports to the Office of the Public Guardian	**Mental Capacity Act 2005** **Lasting Powers of Attorney, Enduring Powers of Attorney and Public Guardian Regulations 2007**
Care and Wellbeing	Accept a guardianship application and make an associated order for discharge subject to guardianship	**Mental Health Act 1983**
Care and Wellbeing	Deal with complaints arising from the Council's adult social care functions	**The Local Authority Social Services and National Health Service Complaints (England) Regulations 2009**
	SERVICE DIRECTOR, INFRASTRUCTURE	
Infrastructure		

Power held by…	Brief description of power	Source of the power
	Duties relating to the overall management of their service in line with the principles for officer decision-making	
	Traffic and Highways	
Infrastructure	Make arrangements for highways management and appointment of Traffic Manager	**Traffic Management Act 2004 (PO)**
Infrastructure	Management and enforcement in relation to traffic and highways to include signing and serving notices in respect of contraventions	**Highways Act 1980, (PO) Traffic Management Act 2004 (PO) New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 (PO)**
Infrastructure	To serve notices requiring particulars of ownership	**s16 Local Government (Miscellaneous) Provisions Act 1976**
Infrastructure	Advertise road traffic orders Make traffic orders or parts of orders where no objections received to the order or part Make traffic orders where objections received but on due consideration they are considered to be frivolous or irrelevant, not of a complex nature and/or of only local significance, the making of other orders being a matter for Cabinet Make minor modifications to traffic orders before it is made including to address any objections received	**Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**
Infrastructure	Carry out duties in relation to streetworks in private streets, including certification of documents giving details of any amendments to costs, provisional and final apportionment of costs	**Section 205, 210 et seq, Highways Act 1980 (PO)**

Power held by…	Brief description of power	Source of the power
Infrastructure	Issue notice requiring owners to remove materials from streets in which works are due to take place	**Section 295, Highways Act 1980 (PO)**
Infrastructure	Sign and authenticate notices, consents and other documents	**Section 321, Highways Act 1980 (PO)**
	Land Drainage	
Infrastructure	Carry out duties in respect of Land Drainage to include signing and serving notices in respect of contraventions	**Land Drainage Act 1991**
	Highways and Environmental Maintenance	
Infrastructure	Carry out duties in respect of highways, environmental maintenance (to include the enforcement of local bylaws) and parking enforcement generally for the areas for which they are responsible to include: • Discharging the powers, duties and responsibilities of the Council; • Appointing, designating and authorising officers; • Authorising the institution and defence of proceedings	
Infrastructure	Civil enforcement of Traffic Contraventions and Blue Badge scheme	**Traffic Management Act 2004 Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970**
Infrastructure	Littering to include fixed penalty notices and dealing with the unauthorised distribution of free printed matter	**Sections 87,88, Schedule 3A Environmental Protection Act 19900**
Infrastructure	Abandoned Vehicles/Fly-Tipping: Abandoned motor vehicles, and related items, unauthorised/harmful depositing of waste, transportation of controlled waste without registering, to include removal of such waste, and issue of fixed penalty notices for contraventions	**Refuse Disposal (Amenity) Act 1978 Environmental Protection Act 1990 Control of Pollution (Amendment) Act 1989**
Infrastructure	Fly-Posting/Graffiti: displaying advertisements in contravention of regulations obliterating traffic signs including	**Town and Country Planning Act 1990 – s224**

Power held by…	Brief description of power	Source of the power
	signposts erected or placed along a footpath, bridleway, restricted byway or byway painting or otherwise inscribing or affixing marks on the surface of or on any structures in or on the highway Section destroying or damaging property as it relates to the painting or writing on, or the soiling, marking or other defacing of, any property by whatever means to include issuing penalty notices for relevant offences relating to graffiti and fly-posting	**Highways Act 1980 s131, s132** **Criminal Damage Act 1971** **Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 – s44**
Infrastructure	Nuisance parking; Exposing vehicles for sale on a road Repairing vehicles on a road, Nuisance parking To include issuing fixed penalty notice	**Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005**
Infrastructure	Pavement permits: administration and enforcement of permission to use the highway - insofar as it relates to the use of the highway where no pavement permit has been sought or granted	**Highways Act 1980**
Infrastructure	Waste: making and retention of controlled waste related documents and the furnishing of documents fixed penalty notices for offences relating to EPA 1990 Sections 34 (5) and (6), 46, 47, 47ZA provision of adequate receptacles for waste (household, commercial, industrial)	**Environmental Protection Act 1990**
Infrastructure	Anti-social behaviour and community protection including administration and enforcement of Community Protection Notices, and Public Space Protection Orders	**Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 (PO)** **Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (PO)**
	Countryside and Rights of Way	
Infrastructure	Perform duties relating to access to the countryside	**Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000**

Power held by…	Brief description of power	Source of the power
Infrastructure	Determine all rights of way matters as set out in the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 save for those matters which in the discretion of the Service Director Infrastructure should be referred to the relevant Planning Committee. The Local Member has the right, after consultation with the Service Director Infrastructure to request that objected to Public Path Applications (under the Highways Act 1980) that are based on grounds of preference) are referred to the relevant Planning Committee. The request by the Local Member is to be made in writing within 10 days of the Local Member being notified of matters to which there have been objections. NB. For the avoidance of doubt, this procedure does not apply to order applications based on evidence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.	**Highways Act 1980** **Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981** **Countryside and Rights of Way Act 1980**
Infrastructure	Authorise holding of trials between motor vehicles on public paths	**S 33 Road Traffic Act 1988**
Infrastructure	Authorise temporary stopping up of highways for mineral workings	**S261 Town and Country Planning Act 1990**
Infrastructure	Actions in respect of the diversion of public paths arising from the grant of planning approval	**Town and Country Planning Act 1990**
Infrastructure	To serve notices requiring particulars of ownership	**s16 Local Government (Miscellaneous) Provisions Act 1976**
Infrastructure	Discharge functions relating to stray dogs	**Section 149, Environmental Protection Act 1990 (PO)**
	SERVICE DIRECTOR, ENABLING	

Power held by…	Brief description of power	Source of the power
Enabling	Duties relating to the overall management of their service in line with the principles for officer decision-making.	
	HR/Personnel	
Enabling	Receipt of notification to deal with objections by the Executive to appointments or dismissals of Chief Officers or their deputies	**Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001 (PO)**
Enabling	Approve minor variations to existing corporate personnel policies, and recommend substantial changes to the Chief Executive	
Enabling	Agree additional increments to individual employees based on exceptional contribution (on the recommendation of Chief Officers and subject to budgetary provision)	
Enabling	Approve requests for approval of outside interests or employment made by employees (in consultation with the Monitoring Officer)	
Enabling	Authorise the payment of honoraria to employees (excluding staff in schools and colleges)	
Enabling	Approve travel / subsistence arrangements where they are in excess of existing rules, where this is unavoidable	
Enabling	Introduce and maintain employee benefit arrangements (other than the provision of cars)	
Enabling	Review and implement conditions of service for employees further to NJC, and other, agreements, including recruitment and retention incentives	

Power held by…	Brief description of power	Source of the power
Enabling	Convene panels of members for hearing employee appeals on discipline, dismissal and grading, and on other matters where a member appeal panel may exceptionally be required	
Enabling	Exercise any employer pension discretions, in consultation with the s151 officer	
	SERVICE DIRECTOR, COMMUNITIES AND CUSTOMER	
	Licensing	
Communities and Customer	Exercise licensing functions including: • regulation of activities involving animals (excluding dangerous wild animals and those in zoos) – excluding final approval of LA policy statement and fee setting which are matters for Strategic Licensing Committee • regulation of activities involving dangerous wild animals excluding final approval of LA policy statement and fee setting which are matters for Strategic Licensing Committee • regulation of caravan sites, moveable dwellings and camping sites (including arrangements for site managers to be fit and proper persons) excluding final approval of LA policy statement and fee setting which are matters for Strategic Licensing Committee • regulation of Mobile Homes - arrangements for site managers to be fit and proper persons excluding final approval of LA policy statement and fee setting which are matters for Strategic Licensing Committee • regulation of the distribution of free printed material, save for:	**Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976** **Animal Welfare Act 2006** **The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018** **Animals (Penalty Notices) Act 2022** **The Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2023** **Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960** **Public Health Act 1936** **Mobile Homes Act 2013** **The Mobile Homes (Site Licensing) (England) Regulations 2014**

Power held by…	Brief description of power	Source of the power
	- Designation by Order of land for the purposes of Schedule 3A of the EPA 1990 and revocation of any such order which is a matter for Strategic Licensing Committee; and Final approval of the Litter Authority Policy Statement which is a matter for Cabinet	**Environmental Protection Act 1990**
	• regulation of licensing for storing explosives, save for: - Final approval of the Local Authority Policy Statement which is a matter for Cabinet; - Fee setting which is matter for Strategic Licensing Committee; - Applications for Local Authority Assent where representations received and not withdrawn; which are matters for Licensing and Safety Sub-committee - Decisions to vary or revoke licences, where representations received and not withdrawn which are matters matter for Licensing and Safety Sub-committee; - Decisions to refuse, renew or transfer licences where representations received and not withdrawn which are matters matter for Licensing and Safety Sub-committee;	**The Explosives Regulations 2014** **Fireworks Regulations 2014**
	• licensing of premises for gambling save for: - Final approval of the Licensing Authority Policy Statement which is a matter for Council; - Policy not to permit casinos and fee setting which are matters for Cabinet; - Applications for premises license, to vary, or transfer licenses, applications for a Provisional Statement, where representations are received and not withdrawn; Review of a premises licence, Application for club gaming/club machine permits where objections are made and not withdrawn, Cancellation of club /club machine permits, Decision to give a counter notice to a temporary use notice which are matters for Licensing Act Sub-Committee.	**Gambling Act 2005** **Town Police Clauses Act 1847** **Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976**

Power held by…	Brief description of power	Source of the power
	• licensing of Hackney Carriage and private hire drivers, operators and vehicles save for final approval of the Local Policy Statement and Fee setting which are matters for Strategic Licensing Committee • licensing of house-to-house collections save for final approval of the LA Policy statement which is a matter for Strategic Licensing Committee • licensing of personal and premises licenses (including licensing of temporary events and power to appoint a sub-committee of 3 Members from the membership of the Strategic Licensing Committee for the purposes of determining the applications under the Licensing Act 2003), save for: -final approval of the Licensing authority policy statement which is matter for Council; -Fee setting which is a matter for Cabinet; -Matters for Licensing Act sub-committee as follows: ➢ Personal licence with no convictions or spent convictions if a police objection is made, ➢ Personal Licence with unspent convictions, ➢ Application for Premises Licence/Club Premises Certificate if relevant representation is made and not withdrawn, ➢ Application for a provisional statement if a relevant representation is made and not withdrawn, ➢ Application to vary a premises licence/club premises certificate if a relevant representation is made and not withdrawn, ➢ Application to vary designated premises supervisor if a police objection is made, ➢ Application for transfer of premises licence if a police objection is made, ➢ Application for interim authority if a police objection is made, ➢ Application to review premises licence/club premises certificate,	**The Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle (Safeguarding and Road Safety) Act 2022** **The House to House Collections Act 1939** **House Collections Regulations 1947** **Licensing Act 2003** **The Business and Planning Act 2020**

Power held by…	Brief description of power	Source of the power
	➢ Decision to object when Licensing Authority is consultee only, ➢ Determination of objections to temporary event notice, ➢ Determination of application to vary premises licence at community premises to include alternative licence condition if a police objection is made, ➢ Revocation of personal licence under s124 LA 2003 if police, or Secretary of State (immigration) objection notice is made and not withdrawn, ➢ Revocation and suspension of personal licence under s132A Licensing Act 2003, • pavement licensing save for final approval of LA policy statement and fee setting which are matters for Strategic Licensing Committee • licensing for scrap metal (collection and sites) save for final approval of LA policy statement which is a matter for Cabinet and fee setting which is a matter for Strategic Licensing Committee • licensing of sex establishments save for - Applications for new, renewal or transfer of sex establishment licence where observations and /or objections are received and not withdrawn, - final approval of the LA policy statement, fee setting and prescribing standard conditions on a sex establishment licence which are matters for Strategic Licensing Committee, - revoking an existing sex establishment licence and applications to waive the requirement of a sex establishment licence which are matters for Licensing and Safety Sub-committee • registration of persons and premises to carry out skin piercing and other temporary / semi-permanent cosmetic procedures (Acupuncture, Tattooing, Semi-permanent	**Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013** **Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982** **Policing and Crime Act 2009**

Power held by…	Brief description of power	Source of the power
	skin colouring, Cosmetic Piercing and Electrolysis) save for final approval of LA policy statement and fees setting which are matters for Strategic Licensing Committee. • licensing of street collections save for Approval of the proposed Regulations under Police, Factories, & c. (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1916 for confirmation by the Secretary of State or the Minister for the Cabinet Office which is a matter for Strategic Licensing Committee • licensing of street trading save for; - final approval of LA policy statement and fee setting which are matters for Strategic Licensing Committee - applications for new or renewal of licence, specifying principle and subsidiary terms of the licence, and revocation of a licence, where representations are made and not withdrawn which are matters for Licensing and Safety Sub-Committee	**Charities Act 1992** **Police, Factories &c (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1916**
	• licensing of zoos save for - final approval of LA policy statement and fee setting which are matters for Strategic Licensing Committee - Application for new licences where representations are received and not withdrawn which is a matter for Licensing and Safety Sub-committee • Regulation of activities involving hypnotism – excluding final approval of LA policy statement and fee setting which are matters for Strategic Licensing Committee	**Zoo Licensing Act 1981** **Hypnotism Act 1952**

Power held by…	Brief description of power	Source of the power
	Environmental Health, Trading Standards, Ecology, Animal Health and welfare, Enforcement	
Communities and Customer	Discharge regulatory powers, duties and responsibilities in respect of Environmental Health (including housing), Trading Standards (including Road Traffic and Weight Restrictions), Licensing, Burials, Cremations, Ecology and Animal Health and Welfare	
Communities and Customer	Authenticate documents, issue of notices (including abatement notices) , institute proceedings, enter premises, apply for warrants of entry, works in default relating to various statutory provisions	**Public Health Acts, Control of Pollution Act 1974, Housing Acts 1957 and 1988, Local Government Act 1989, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949, Food Safety Act 1990, Building Act 1984, Environmental Protection Act 1990 (all PO)**
Communities and Customer	Appoint, designate and authorise officers as inspectors, sampling officers or authorised officers as the case may be for the purposes of the legislation concerning Environmental Health (including housing), Trading Standards (including Road Traffic and Weight Restrictions), Licensing, Burials, Cremations, Ecology and Animal Health and Welfare matters	
Communities and Customer	To authorise the institution and defence of proceedings brought: (i)under the legislation concerning Environmental Health (including housing), Trading Standards, (including Road Traffic and Weight Restrictions), Consumer Protection, Licensing, Burials,	

Power held by…	Brief description of power	Source of the power
	Cremations, Ecology and Animal Health and Welfare matters. (ii) for any offence under any legislation whatsoever or any offence contrary to common law where proceedings for such offence concern or arise from (whether directly or indirectly) any of the functions of the Council in pursuance of Environmental Health (including housing), Trading Standards (including Road Traffic and Weight Restrictions), Licensing, Burials, Cremations, Ecology or Animal Health and Welfare or any other function/service area of the Council where proceedings for such an offence for which permission by the Chief Officer with responsibility for that function has been granted	
Trading Standards and Parking Enforcement Team Manager[6]	Act as the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures [if holding a certificate of qualification] Including authorising officers to act as inspectors of weights and measures and instituting proceedings	**Section 73, Weights and Measures Act 1985 (PO)**
Communities and Customer	Act on food safety matters	**Section 5, Food Safety Act 1990 (PO)**
Communities and Customer	Nominate a public analyst	**Section 27, Food Safety Act 1990 (PO)**
Communities and Customer	Appoint agriculture inspectors and an agricultural analyst	**Section 67, Agriculture Act 1970 (PO)**
	Enforcement in respect of the following areas to include: • **Discharging the powers, duties and responsibilities of the Council;** • **Appointing, designating and authorising officers;**	

[6] See paragraph D10 above

Power held by…	Brief description of power	Source of the power
	• **Authorising the institution and defence of proceedings**	
Communities and Customer	Civil enforcement of Traffic Contraventions and Blue Badge scheme	**Traffic Management Act 2004** **Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970**
Communities and Customer	Enforcement in respect of littering to include fixed penalty notices and dealing with the unauthorised distribution of free printed matter	**Sections 87,88, Schedule 3A Environmental Protection Act 1990**
Communities and Customer	Enforcement in respect of Abandoned Vehicles/Fly-Tipping: Abandoned motor vehicles, and related items, unauthorised/harmful depositing of waste, transportation of controlled waste without registering, to include removal of such waste, and issue of fixed penalty notices for contraventions	**Refuse Disposal (Amenity) Act 1978** **Environmental Protection Act 1990** **Control of Pollution (Amendment) Act 1989**
Communities and Customer	Enforcement in respect of Fly-Posting/Graffiti: Displaying advertisements in contravention of regulations, Obliterating traffic signs including signposts erected or placed along a footpath, bridleway, restricted byway or byway, Painting or otherwise inscribing or affixing marks on the surface of or on any structures in or on the highway, Destroying or damaging property as it relates to the painting or writing on, or the soiling, marking or other defacing of, any property by whatever means, to include issuing penalty notices for relevant offences relating to graffiti and fly-posting	**Town and Country Planning Act 1990 – s224** **Highways Act 1980 s131, s132** **Criminal Damage Act 1971** **Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 – s44**
Communities and Customer	Enforcement in respect of nuisance parking; Exposing vehicles for sale on a road, Repairing vehicles on a road, Nuisance parking, To include issuing fixed penalty notice,	**Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005**
Communities and Customer	Enforcement in respect of pavement permits: Administration and enforcement of permission to use the highway - insofar as it relates to the use of	**Highways Act 1980**

Power held by…	Brief description of power	Source of the power
	the highway where no pavement permit has been sought or granted	
Communities and Customer	Enforcement in respect of waste: Making and retention of controlled waste related documents and the furnishing of documents, Fixed penalty notices for offences relating to EPA 1990 Sections 34 (5) and (6), 46, 47, 47ZA Provision of adequate receptacles for waste (household, commercial, industrial)	**Environmental Protection Act 1990**
Communities and Customer	Exercise functions relating to anti-social behaviour and community protection including administration and enforcement of Community Protection Notices, and Public Space Protection Orders	**Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 (PO)** **Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (PO)**
	Housing	
Communities and Customer	Appoint Rent Officers under scheme, and certify provision of suitable alternative accommodation	**Section 63, Rent Act 1977 (PO)** **Schedule 15, Part IV, Para 7 (PO)**
Communities and Customer	Assess and enforce housing standards, including improvement notices, prohibition orders, hazard awareness notices, emergency remedial action, emergency prohibition orders, making demolition orders, prosecutions, overcrowding notices, notices for production of documents and information , closing orders, clearance areas, licenses for excess numbers, abatement of overcrowding, grant of assistance to occupants of defective housing, enforcing powers of entry	**Housing Act 2004, Housing Act 1985**
Communities and Customer	Declare a Renewal Area including powers of entry	**Section 89, Local Government and Housing Act 1989**
Communities and Customer	Part 1 Determination of applications for Disabled Facilities Grants	**Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996**

Power held by…	Brief description of power	Source of the power
Communities and Customer	Determination of applications for financial assistance made under the Council's Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy	**The Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England & Wales) Order 2002**
Communities and Customer	Notices to obtain particulars of persons interested in land	**Local Government Misc. Provisions) Act 1976 (as amended)**
Communities and Customer	Restore or continue the supply of water, gas or electricity.	**Local Government Misc. Provisions) Act 1976 (as amended)**
Communities and Customer	All actions to gain possession of property occupied as a consequence of the duty to house under Housing Act 1996	**Housing statutes and common law**
Communities and Customer	Powers in relation to inquiries, decisions and actions relating to homeless or threatened with homelessness applicants, and reviews in relation to homelessness decisions	**Housing Act 1996**
Communities and Customer	Signing Acknowledgment of Party Structure Notices	**Party Wall Act 1996**
Communities and Customer	Authority to authorise Anti-Social Behaviour orders and other legal tools (including application to the Courts for demotion of a Secure Tenancy and to seek possession of a tenancy under a demoted tenancy) in order to combat nuisance in and around multi-tenure estates	**Crime and Disorder Act 1998 suppl. By Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003** **Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014**
Communities and Customer	Authority to issue notices, commence court proceedings, and make decisions to gain possession of a secure tenancy on one of more of the statutory grounds	**Housing Act 1985 as amended by the Housing Acts 1988 & 1996** **Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014**
Communities and Customer	S.2 - Authority to grant permission for a mutual exchange or assignment of tenancy. Schedule 3 - Authority to withhold consent for a mutual exchange or assignment	**Housing Act 1985**

Power held by…	Brief description of power	Source of the power
Communities and Customer	Authority to grant a tenant a home loss payment (HLP) where he/she is displaced from a dwelling in consequence of: a) The compulsory acquisition of an interest in the dwelling; b) the making or acceptance of a housing order or undertaking in respect of the dwelling; c) Where the land has been previously acquired by an authority possessing compulsory powers or appropriated by a local authority and is for the time being held by the authority for the purposes for which it was acquired or appropriated, the carrying out of any improvement to the dwelling or of redevelopment on the land; d) The making of an order for possession on ground 10 or 10A in part II of Schedule 2 to the Housing Act 1985	**Land Compensation Act 1973 - s29**
Communities and Customer	Authority: a) to approve the sales of Council Dwellings; b) to deny the Right to Buy where the terms and conditions of paragraph 11 are not met; c) to enter into deeds of rectification for houses sold under the Right to Buy; d) to apply service charges to leasehold properties sold under the Right to Buy	**Housing Act 1985 (as amended)**
Communities and Customer	Authority to issue notices, commence court proceedings and make decisions to gain possession of a flexible tenancy on one or more of the statutory grounds.	**Housing Act 1985 as amended by the Localism Act 2011**
Communities and Customer	Authority: a) to make decisions on the option of re-purchasing properties which are offered back to the Council; b) to decide whether the full amount of discount on the sale of a Council house within the 5 year period should be repaid	**Housing Act 2004 (as amended)**
Communities and Customer	Authority to: a) grant an Introductory Tenancy; b) extend the trial period in relation to an Introductory Tenancy c) conduct a review of a decision to extend the trial period of an Introductory Tenancy; d) seek possession of a dwelling where there is a breach of an	**Housing Act 1996 as amended by Housing Act 2004**

Power held by…	Brief description of power	Source of the power
	e) Introductory Tenancy	
	Assets of Community Value	
Communities and Customer	Determine reviews against the listing of an asset of community value Determine reviews against the payment or not of compensation by the owner in respect of assets of community value	**Localism Act 2011 The Assets of Community Value (England) Regulations 2012**

Council

14 May 2026

Item

Public

Appointment of Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive)

Responsible Officer:	Sam Williams		
Email:	sam.williams@shropshire.gov.uk	Tel:	01743 252 817
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	Heather Kidd		

1. Synopsis

This report outlines the approach to recruiting to the permanent position of Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service) undertaken and recommends confirmation of the successful candidate.

2. Executive Summary

2.1. The Council is required by Section 4 (1) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1979, to appoint one of its officers to the statutory role of Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive).

2.2. Following consideration by the Chief Officer Employment Panel, it is recommended that Tanya Miles be confirmed as the Council's Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive).

3. Recommendations

3.1. That Council confirm the appointment of Tanya Miles to the permanent Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive), with effect from 1st June 2026.

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

4.1. The recommendations enable Shropshire Council to comply with the requirements for the appointment of statutorily required officers.

5. Financial Implications

5.1. The post of Head of Paid Service/Chief Executive has been vacant since September 2025 and covered on an interim basis by the Executive Director (Director of Adult Social Services). There are no additional costs associated with this appointment.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

6.1. There are no climate change implications from this report.

7. Background

7.1. The Council is required to appoint a Head of Paid Service in accordance with Section 4 (1) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1979. At its meeting on 21st March 2024, the Council agreed to adopt the Senior Officer Employment Procedure under which a Chief Officer Employment Panel is convened to consider the appointment of certain officers, including the Head of Paid Service.

7.2. The duties of the Head of Paid Service are, amongst other things, to address and report upon a) the manner in which the discharge by the authority of their different functions is coordinated; b) the number and grades of staff required by the authority for the discharge of their functions; c) the organisation of the authority's staff; d) the appointment and proper management of the authority's staff.

7.3. The role of Head of Paid Service is commonly associated with the designation 'Chief Executive'. In accordance with the Local Authority's (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001, the function of the appointment of an Officer designated as Head of the Authority's Paid Service must be approved by the council.

7.4. The role also incorporates the role of Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer under the Representation of the People Act 1983.

7.5. In March 2026 the recruitment process was instigated in partnership with West Midlands Employers (WME) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE). Both have extensive experience of senior recruitment in the public sector, particularly Chief Executives in Local Authorities.

7.6. There were 15 applicants for the role, 8 longlisted and 5 shortlisted, with 2 candidates being taken through to the final interview. Applicants were from a range of professional backgrounds and the shortlist comprised of both internal and external candidates of a very high calibre.

7.7. The process was thorough and extensive and comprised of the following:

Contact: Sam Williams | sam.williams@shropshire.gov.uk

Role advertised/executive search commenced	March 2026
Technical Interviews (SOLACE and ex Local Authority Chief Executive)	w/c 6th April 2026
Shortlisting	15th April 2026
Assessment Centre: Partners Stakeholder Panel People Stakeholder Panel 1:1 with Leader/Deputy Leader Written Exercise Psychometric Testing	22nd April 2026
Final Interviews – Chief Officer Employment Panel	28th April 2026

7.8. The Chief Officer Employment Panel is made up of three members of the Administration and the Group Leaders of the largest opposition Groups, and they decided by a majority to recommend the appointment of Tanya Miles, as the Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive).

7.9. Subject to full council confirmation, arrangements will be made to offer a contract of employment to Tanya Miles with effect from 1st June 2026.

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

Appendix 1 Senior Officer Employment Procedure.pdf

Local Member: N/A

Appendices

None

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Council

14 May 2026

Item

Public

Appointment of Monitoring Officer (Service Director Legal & Governance)

Responsible Officer:	Tanya Miles		
email:	tanya.miles@shropshire.gov.uk	Tel:	01743 252817
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	Heather Kidd		

1. Synopsis

This report outlines the approach to the recruitment to the permanent position of Service Director Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer) undertaken and recommends confirmation of the successful candidate.

2. Executive Summary

2.1. The Council is required by Section 5(1) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 to appoint one of its officers to the statutory role of Monitoring Officer.

2.2. Following consideration by the Chief Officer Employment Panel, it is recommended that Richard Phillips be confirmed as the Council's Monitoring Officer (Service Director – Legal & Governance).

3. Recommendations

3.1. That Council confirm the appointment of Richard Phillips as the Council's permanent Monitoring Officer (Service Director - Legal & Governance) and Deputy Electoral Registration Officer, with effect from Monday 29th June 2026.

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

4.1. The recommendations enable Shropshire Council to comply with the requirements for the appointment of statutorily required officers.

5. Financial Implications

5.1. The current postholder is retiring from the position. There are no additional costs associated with this appointment.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

6.1. There are no climate change implications from this report.

7. Background

7.1. The Council is required to appoint a Monitoring Officer in accordance with Section 5 (1) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. At its meeting on 21st March 2024 the Council agreed to adopt the Senior Officer Employment Procedure under which a Chief Officer Employment Panel is convened to consider the appointment of certain officers including the Monitoring Officer.

7.2. The duties of the Monitoring Officer are set out within paragraph 12.3 of Article 2 as well as the Protocol for the Role of the MO in Part 5 of the Constitution.

7.3. The role will also incorporate the post of Deputy Electoral Registration Officer under the Representation of the People Act 1983.

7.4. In March 2026 the recruitment process was instigated with Opus People Solutions who have extensive experience of senior recruitment in the public sector.

7.5. There were 6 applicants for the role and 3 shortlisted for interview. The shortlist was comprised of external candidates.

Contact: Tanya Miles tanya.miles@shropshire.gov.uk

7.6. The process and timeline for the recruitment were as follows:

Role advertised/executive search commenced	February/March 2026
Shortlisting	12th March 2026
Technical Interviews	19th March 2026
Final Interviews – Chief Officer Employment Panel & Stakeholder Panel	20th March 2026

7.7. The Chief Officer Employment Panel is made up of three members of the Administration and the Group Leaders of the largest opposition Groups, and they unanimously decided to recommend the appointment of Richard Phillips as the Monitoring Officer.

7.8. Richard is currently the Deputy Monitoring Officer at Telford & Wrekin Council.

7.9. Subject to full council confirmation, arrangements will be made to offer a contract of employment to Richard Phillips subject to appropriate pre-employment checks.

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

Appendix 1 Senior Officer Employment Procedure.pdf

Local Member: N/A

Appendices

None

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Shropshire Council	**Committee and Date** **Cabinet 6 May 2026** **Council 14 May 2026**	Item **Public**

Healthy People | Healthy Economy | Healthy Environment | Healthy Organisation

Shropshire Council Corporate Plan 2026- 2030

Responsible Officer:	Tanya Miles – Interim Chief Executive		
email:	tanya.miles@shropshire.gov.uk	Tel:	
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	Heather Kidd - Leader		

1.0 Synopsis

This report seeks approval of the Corporate Plan for 2026-2030 by Cabinet and Council. The Plan replaces the Shropshire Plan and sets out a proposed vision and priority ambitions that will provide the context for the Council's business and budget planning. It will help guide and determine what we focus on to deliver, enable, and influence better outcomes for Shropshire and its residents, while becoming financially sustainable.

The Plan provides a strategic framework rather than a detailed delivery plan. While it sets out our ambitions and overall direction, the scale of our commitments and the pace of delivery must remain realistic and affordable. This will require a clear focus on prioritisation within available resources and may, in some cases, involve changes to service standards or service levels.

2.0 Executive Summary

2.1 The Corporate Plan 2026-2030 sets the Council's direction for the next four years, within a longer-term view of Shropshire's future. It is intended to provide a basis and context for prioritisation, decision-making, policy development and resource allocation, ensuring activity is aligned to the outcomes the Council is most focussed on delivering, enabling through others, and influencing through partnership. This focus is particularly important given the Council's financial position.

2.2 The Plan's priority ambitions have been informed and shaped by a range of evidence and engagement, including the New Direction report (Council 25/09/25) local data and insight, resident feedback (including budget consultation), engagement with staff, councillors, and partners, and consideration of national/regional policy developments, local priorities, statutory duties and responsibilities, the Improvement Plan and the Medium-Term Financial Plan.

2.3 The six priority ambitions are:

1. A Council that is financially sustainable, with clear priorities and purpose, and a workforce supported to excel
2. Communities that are connected by well-maintained roads, accessible transport and infrastructure
3. People live in safe, inclusive places with homes that meet their needs
4. Everyone has the opportunity to be healthy and to thrive at every stage of life
5. An environment that harnesses our natural assets, and supports wellbeing
6. A thriving economy that benefits everyone

The first priority ambition is at the centre of everything we do and underpins the other five.

2.4 For each ambition the Plan explains why it is a priority for Shropshire and summarises the key things the Council will focus on delivering, enabling or influencing, including the strategies, plans, programmes and partners that we work with and through to deliver against the ambitions.

2.5 The Plan recognises the priority of financial sustainability. While it is important to have overall ambitions as a context for Council activity, the scale and pace of delivery against them must remain realistic and affordable. Service standards, levels of provision and the pace of delivery need to be aligned to available resources, recognising this may require difficult choices, reduced service levels in some areas, and prioritisation to ensure financial sustainability.

2.6 It will also require us to think about the role and purpose of the Council in delivering outcomes, and a need to consider where it is more economical, efficient and effective to achieve outcomes by working differently with partners, partnerships, and communities themselves. This will involve a greater emphasis on enabling and influencing and exploring and maximising the opportunities of working in partnership with town and parish councils, Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise Sector (VCSE) organisations, communities and through our statutory and non-statutory partnerships.

2.6 The Plan is a strategic framework, not a detailed delivery plan. Delivery will be determined and driven through strategies, service plans and programmes. Given ongoing demand pressures (particularly on adult and children's social care services), changing national policy priorities, and the ongoing focus on financial sustainability, we will use business and budget planning each year to determine commitments and activity, ensuring they remain aligned to limited resources available.

2.7 An annual review of the Plan and our commitments against it will help enable us to do that, and to respond to any changes and developments that require amendments to priorities. It will also support earlier conversations with partners on alternative delivery approaches ahead of autumn budget setting. The key commitments for 2026/27 will be presented to Cabinet as part of the performance framework that will be used to report progress, delivery and impact.

2.8 The framework will also include Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that are reported quarterly to Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committees. It is anticipated KPIs will include measures that have been used to demonstrate performance against the Shropshire Plan, and metrics from the *Local Outcomes Framework.* That Framework, formally published in February 2026, sets out the

Contact: Tanya Miles - tanya.miles@shropshire.gov.uk

key outcomes that central and local government want to achieve together for people and places, focusing on results that matter most to residents. The framework will be presented to the Transformation and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 8th June 2026 and Cabinet for approval on 10th June 2026.

2.9 The Corporate Plan sits alongside the Improvement Plan and Financial Strategy, to provide a strategic basis for everything we do. Together the suite of plans set out the priority ambitions we need to focus on, summarise how we need to improve as an organisation to contribute to them in the most effective, economical and efficient way as a 'Best Value' authority, and how we need to become financially sustainable and reduce reliance on Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) from Government. The suite of plans sits top of the council's 'golden thread', aligning organisational priorities through to service planning and individual staff Performance Development Reviews.

Recommendations

Cabinet is asked to:

3.1 Consider and recommend the draft Corporate Plan 2026-30 to Council for approval

3.2 Note the underlying need for financial recovery and sustainability, the need to align delivery commitments to the Council's financial position, and the potential impact on service standards

3.3 Note that a performance framework will be developed (and presented to Cabinet on 10th June 2026) providing a basis for reporting progress, delivery and impact against the priority outcomes – including:

(i) a set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), including the relevant Local Outcome Framework measures

(ii) a set of key delivery commitments against each of the priority ambitions

(iii) an annual review report, summarising delivery over the previous 12 months, and refreshing the commitments for the next 12 months (to ensure alignment with our financial position and sustainability)

Council is asked to:

3.4 Consider and approve the Corporate Plan 2026-2030

3.5 Note the underlying need for financial recovery and sustainability, the need to align delivery commitments to the Council's financial position, and the potential impact on service standards

Contact: Tanya Miles - tanya.miles@shropshire.gov.uk

Report

4.0 Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal.

4.1 Risk table

Risk	*Mitigation*
Failure to approve the Corporate Plan – weakening the strategic basis and context for our business and budget planning	The priority ambitions are based on what data and insight, engagement, and statutory responsibilities suggest are the things that are most important for the Council to focus on. The Improvement Plan and Financial Plan also provide a context and basis for our business planning, prioritisation, policy development and decision making.
Failure to keep the council aligned to the delivery of the Corporate Plan ambitions	Develop and roll-out the business and budget planning approach to take place each summer, enabling a cross-cutting thematic view of how the priority ambitions will be delivered. Service Plans to be developed at directorate and service level as appropriate. SMART outcomes and plans established and in place
The Plan does not reflect changing circumstances e.g. financial sustainability and changing national context	Undertake horizon scanning during the plan development to identify known policy developments and seek confirmation from subject matter experts. Annual budget and business planning provides the opportunity to systematically update plans to take account of policy developments and financial sustainability.

4.2 It is a legal requirement, laid upon us as a public sector body through the Equality Act 2010, for local authorities to assess the equality and human rights impact of changes proposed or made to services. Carrying out 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. We need to be in a position to be able to demonstrate to the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) that we have made every effort to carry out our equality impact screenings, and that we have done so at every stage where it would be appropriate to do so. In Shropshire, the tool that we use to do this work is referred to as an **Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA).** The ESHIA for the Corporate Plan 2026-2030 is attached at appendix 2 of this report.

4.3 The Equality Act 2010 describes nine Protected Characteristics groupings or characteristics that people may share, e.g. Age, Disability, Race. Local authorities such as us and other public sector organisations are obliged to have 'due regard' to the needs of people in these groupings in our decision-making processes. In this stocktake ESHIA record, initial assessment of the Corporate Plan in its draft form is that there is potential for a Neutral to Low Positive impact across all nine groupings, as well as for the additional groupings of people that we think about in Shropshire, of Social Inclusion, Carers, and Young People Leaving Care.

Contact: Tanya Miles - tanya.miles@shropshire.gov.uk

4.4 The Council also considers those in the grouping of veterans and serving members of the armed force and their families, in a separate grouping, in order to visibly demonstrate that 'due regard' is being given to people in this grouping, as per the requirements of the Armed Forces Act 2021. Our additional categories help us to seek to ensure that we consider the needs of the following: rural households in our large and sparsely populated rural county; households on low incomes; households in fuel poverty; and those we may consider to be vulnerable. This includes refugee families, people living in fuel poverty, people fleeing domestic violence, and those who are rough sleepers or at risk of homelessness for what may be a variety of circumstances.

4.4 At this stage, the anticipated likely positive impacts include mitigation and prevention of poor health outcomes, better paid jobs and carbon reduction. Priorities include efforts to address inequalities; to identify and support vulnerable children, young people, adults and families; to ensure that there is a range of affordable and appropriate and specialised accommodation; and to achieve shared priorities with partners around transport; digital and mobile connectivity; employment, skills and the economy; and the environment.

4.5 As a strategic document for the Council, the priority ambitions in the Corporate Plan encompass both health and wellbeing across all groupings, with a policy intention to contribute positively to the wider determinants of health. There is a clarity of focus on:

- Tackling health inequalities
- Promoting well-being, including the role of the environment for physical and mental health
- Embedding prevention with partners
- Enabling communities to be safe
- Partnership working to tackle domestic abuse
- Supporting people as they move through life events

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 Shropshire Council continues to manage unprecedented financial demands and a financial emergency was declared by Cabinet on 10 September 2025. The overall financial position of the Council is set out in the monitoring position presented regularly reported to Cabinet.

5.2 Significant management action has been instigated at all levels of the Council to reduce and remove any non-essential spending to help ensure the Council's financial sustainability. While there are no financial implications arising directly from this report and the draft Corporate Plan, it is noted that financial sustainability represents the core of the Corporate Plan.

5.3 Services must be aligned to the limited resources the Council has available whilst ensuring we deliver our statutory duties at the minimum statutory level. It is recognised that this involves some difficult decisions that need to be taken and communication with our stakeholders, including our residents, that is adequate and proportionate.

Contact: Tanya Miles - tanya.miles@shropshire.gov.uk

5.4 Having an agreed Corporate Plan will provide context and basis to inform the development of the financial strategy and budget setting and relationships with all third parties, including contractors, the voluntary sector and residents, embracing change and transformation as necessary.

6.0 Conclusions

6.1 The Corporate Plan is a key strategy of the Council, setting out the priorities that will guide what the Council commits to deliver, enable and influence. In doing so, as well as informing what staff do, the plan also shapes what Members will be focusing on e.g. through their work on overview and scrutiny committees.

6.2 Having an agreed plan in place, alongside the Financial Plan and Improvement Plan, will provide the focus for the business plans and budget planning and setting by the Council – helping to ensure our commitments are grounded in the reality of our financial position. It will also support discussions and decision making with partners locally, including the development of a Partnership Plan, as well as position the Council for discussions regionally and nationally.

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

New Directions for Shropshire – Council 25 September 2025

Improvement Plan – Council 11 December 2025

Medium-term Financial Plan 2026/27- 2030/31 – Council 26 February 2026

Local Member: *All*

Appendices [Please list the titles of Appendices]

Appendix 1: Draft Shropshire Council Corporate Plan 2026-2030

Appendix 2: ESHIA Shropshire Council Corporate Plan 2026-2030

Shropshire Council

Corporate Plan 2026-2030

Rebuilding Shropshire Together

May 2026

Appendix 1

Draft for consideration by Council 14/05/26









Foreword from the Leader and Interim Chief Executive

Shropshire Council is at a pivotal moment. Our financial position means we need to live within our means, while we build a stronger future for our county and its communities.

We are setting a new direction for the Council over the next four years, rooted in realism, responsibility and ambition. Our plan reflects both the challenges we face and the opportunities we must grasp. It is focused on **rebuilding Shropshire together**.

Financial sustainability underpins this Plan. We must be honest about the resources available to us and disciplined in how we use them. That means being focused on needs, not wants, and ensuring that every pound we spend delivers the greatest possible benefit and impact for our residents and communities. This Corporate Plan therefore goes hand-in-hand with our Improvement Plan and Financial Plan, providing a single, coherent direction for the Council. One that is focussed on achieving financial sustainability and delivering our statutory responsibilities in the most effective, efficient, and economical way.

To do this, our role and purpose as a Council must change. We will continue to focus on our responsibilities, particularly in supporting and protecting the most vulnerable people in our communities and our ambition to be a child friendly Shropshire. We will also maintain our commitment to improving our responsiveness to our customers. But we recognise that we cannot deliver everything alone. Increasingly, our role must be enabling, facilitating and influencing — working with our partners, town and parish councils, the voluntary and community sector, businesses and, most importantly, our communities – to achieve outcomes, develop and embed resilience, and realise the greatest possible impact for Shropshire and its residents.

This Plan is built around clear priority ambitions and outcomes. It focuses on what we know matters most to Shropshire: connected communities; safe and inclusive places with homes that meet people's needs; opportunities for people to thrive and be healthy at every stage of life; a protected environment that promotes wellbeing; a fair and thriving economy - all supported by a Council that is financially sustainable, with clear priorities and a workforce that is supported to excel. These priorities reflect both the realities of Shropshire today and the future we are planning for.

We want communities across Shropshire to feel pride in where they live, confidence in the services they rely on, and trust that the Council is focused on the right things. That means working in partnership, listening carefully, and being open about the challenges we face as well as the opportunities ahead. We will work in line with our organisational values and future council principles which together guide our behaviours and actions.

By being clear about our priorities, aligning our resources, and working together around shared outcomes, we can build a Shropshire that is sustainable, connected and resilient.

Councillor Heather Kidd
Leader of Shropshire Council

Tanya Miles
Interim Chief Executive, Shropshire Council

Sustainable – Resilient – Together

Sustainable: We need to live within our means, protect our environment and support a strong local economy, so services and opportunities remain sustainable for the long term

Resilient: We want to build strong communities that can respond to change and future challenges, where people stay healthier and independent for longer, and where council services are there when they are most needed.

Together: We want to be a council that works closely with its communities and partners, and a county that is well connected, so people can easily access services, opportunities and support they need.





Contents

Section	Purpose	Page
1. Introduction	This section explains the purpose of the Plan, its relationship with other strategic documents such as the Improvement Plan and the Financial Strategy	4
2. Our context	This section summarises what Shropshire is like currently and how it is expected to look in the future, providing the context to our priority ambitions.	9
3. Our ambitions and what we will focus on	This section sets out the priority ambitions and what the council will be focused on, which have been informed by a range of data, evidence and engagement.	12
4 How we will work and making sure we deliver	This section provides a summary of the arrangements that provide assurance we are delivering the Plan. It sets out how the Council will measure delivery against priority ambitions through a new performance framework and shares our values and future council principles which guide how we operate and deliver.	20

Section 1
Introduction









Purpose of this Plan

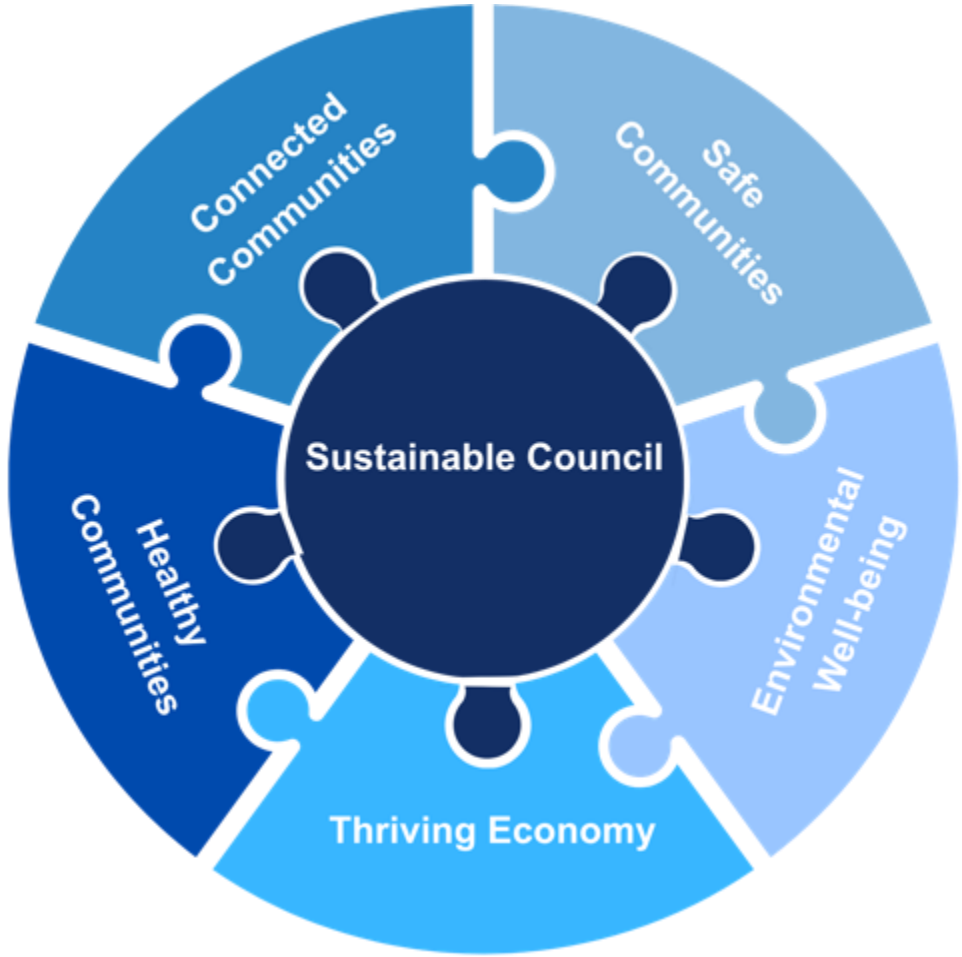
This Corporate Plan 2026-2030 sets out the priority ambitions we will focus on as a Council over the next four years to deliver, enable, and influence better outcomes for Shropshire and its residents, while becoming financially sustainable.

The Plan provides the context for how we plan our activity and spend our money. Alongside our Improvement Plan and Financial Plan, it provides a clear strategic basis for our decision-making and everything we do.

The Plan helps us to stay focused on what is most important for Shropshire, aligned to our financial sustainability, and our continued improvement as an organisation.

Working with our partners and communities we want Shropshire to be a place where....

- there is a financially sustainable council, with clear priorities and purpose, and a workforce that is supported to excel
- communities are connected by well-maintained roads, accessible transport and infrastructure
- people live in safe, inclusive places with homes that meet their needs
- everyone has an opportunity to be healthy and thrive at every stage of life
- an environment that harnesses our natural assets and supports wellbeing
- a thriving economy that benefits everyone



Data, insight and engagement that have informed the Plan

The Plan and its priorities have been informed by a range of data and evidence. Our data led approach has been combined with insights from staff, elected members, our work with partners, and communities, and takes account of what we understand the international, national, regional, and local socio-economic and policy landscape is likely to be over the next few years and further into the future.

The Plan has also been shaped by the financial position of the Council. While we remain ambitious about the outcomes we want to see achieved for our county and residents, we also know that what the council can deliver is dependent on its financial sustainability, and our improvement as an organisation, and a need to focus on what we are statutorily required to deliver, enable and influence.

The Plan has been informed by:

- 'A New Direction' presented to the Council meeting in September 2025, outlining the strategic direction and priorities proposed by the administration
- Data and evidence provided by the Council's Business and Intelligence Team, drawing on a range of data sources and other insights, including forecasting what Shropshire could be like in 2050 to inform a long-term context.
- Engagement and consultation – including resident engagement carried out during 2025 and the recent Budget Consultation (December 2025 - January 2026). Engagement has also been carried out with council staff, elected members, residents and partners during February, March and April 2026.
- Existing priorities, plans and strategies – including the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Climate Change Strategy, Independent Living and Specialist Accommodation Strategy, Economic Growth Strategy, Waste Prevention Strategy and Youth Strategy.
- Statutory requirements – including ensuring vulnerable people are safe and have access to the care they need, access to social housing and specialist housing for those who need it, and the health and well-being of Shropshire communities.
- Our Medium-Term Financial Plan and Improvement Plan – recognising that the Council needs to be realistic about what can be achieved given its financial position and the need to continue to deliver less and enable more.

Three Plans: One Direction

The Corporate Plan does not stand alone. It is part of our suite of strategic plans that together set the direction for the Council – including:

i. The Improvement Plan which sets out how we will improve as an organisation so we can operate in the most effective, efficient and economical way

ii. Our Financial Plan which summarises the financial position, and how we will reduce our reliance on Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) from Government and become financially sustainable over the medium term

Together they set the strategic direction for the council over the coming 4 years, establishing the foundation for the council to be financially sustainable, and better equipped to deliver, enable and influence outcomes for residents and communities

The Plans provide the context and basis for our business and budget planning, helping to shape the focus and priorities for our service plans, teams and individuals – ensuring everything we do is focused on our financial sustainability, our organisational improvement, or the ambitions set out in this Plan.

Organisational Improvement

The Council's Improvement Plan was agreed by Council on the 11 December 2025. The Plan was developed as a response to:

- Feedback in various external reports which made recommendations to address the financial position and improve other areas including corporate governance.
- A 'financial emergency' declared by the Cabinet in September 2025, which required immediate actions to reduce overspending.
- The Statutory 'Best Value' Guidance for councils which sets out the characteristics of a well-functioning authority. We know there are areas to improve before we can confidently demonstrate excellence against all characteristics.

The Improvement Plan sets out the priorities and programmes of action, to achieve the aims of being a council that:

- Is financially stable and sustainable
- Has clear priorities and purpose:
- Supports and enables its workforce to excel

Our People Plan has been developed to drive forward how we support and enable our staff and ensure to deliver the services and change required.

The Improvement Plan also sets out the future council principles which will guide how we work and provide a basis for our continued improvement and transformation into a council that is financially sustainable and equipped to deliver, enable, and influence the ambitions and outcomes set out in this Corporate Plan in the most effective, efficient and economical way.

Financial Sustainability

We need to ensure the Council can deliver outcomes now and in the future within its available resources. Our Medium-Term Financial Plan, agreed by the Council on the 26 February 2026, includes a commitment to develop a Financial Sustainability Strategy setting out how the Council will reduce its reliance on Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) from the Government.

This includes a transformation portfolio driven by the Future Council principles (page 22) and focused on modernising and changing how we do things to:

- Reduce the cost of services and operate more efficiently as an organisation
- Generate additional income from a variety of sources
- Reduce demand for services with a focus on early help and prevention
- Work in partnership, ensuring residents receive support they need, but not necessarily through council services
- Use digital technology to improve and enable service delivery

Economic growth can also make a contribution to our financial sustainability by broadening the local tax base and reducing demand-led pressures, while also creating jobs, raising incomes and improving life chances and opportunities for residents.

We will also continue to make an evidence-based case for Government funding that is more aligned to the demographics and rurality of Shropshire.

Our financial and non-financial strategies will be aligned with this Corporate Plan and a common focus of ensuring residents and businesses receive appropriate services that are affordable within the Council's financial resources. We will review what we will be doing to realise our ambitions each year to ensure that we are doing this. This may mean our aspirations and ambitions need to be lowered.

Delivering our ambitions and priorities

This Corporate Plan is a strategic framework rather than a detailed delivery plan. What we deliver, enable and influence against the priority ambitions will be determined and driven through a range of strategies, service plans and programmes. For each of the ambitions we have listed the key plans and strategies that drive our delivery, role and purpose. Many of these will be reviewed and revised over the coming months.

Partnership working: We work with and through a range of partnerships to deliver services and outcomes, recognising that modern local government no longer delivers outcomes on its own. These partners and partnerships are also listed and include a range of statutory and non-statutory partnerships.

Prevention and reducing demand: We are committed to promoting prevention and resilience, and reducing demand, for services and support, resolving issues as soon as possible. We take a targeted approach to tackling inequalities, improving how we do what we do, and making sure that people get the right support at the right time helping to prevent problems before they arise.

Reviewing our priorities: Given ongoing demand pressures (particularly on adult and children's social care services), changing national policy priorities, and the ongoing focus on financial sustainability, we will use business and budget planning each year, as well as the review and refresh of strategies, to determine commitments and activity, ensuring they remain aligned to resources available.

Participation and engagement: We will redesign and strengthen how we work together with our communities and those who require support and services to deliver, enable and influence sustainable outcomes.

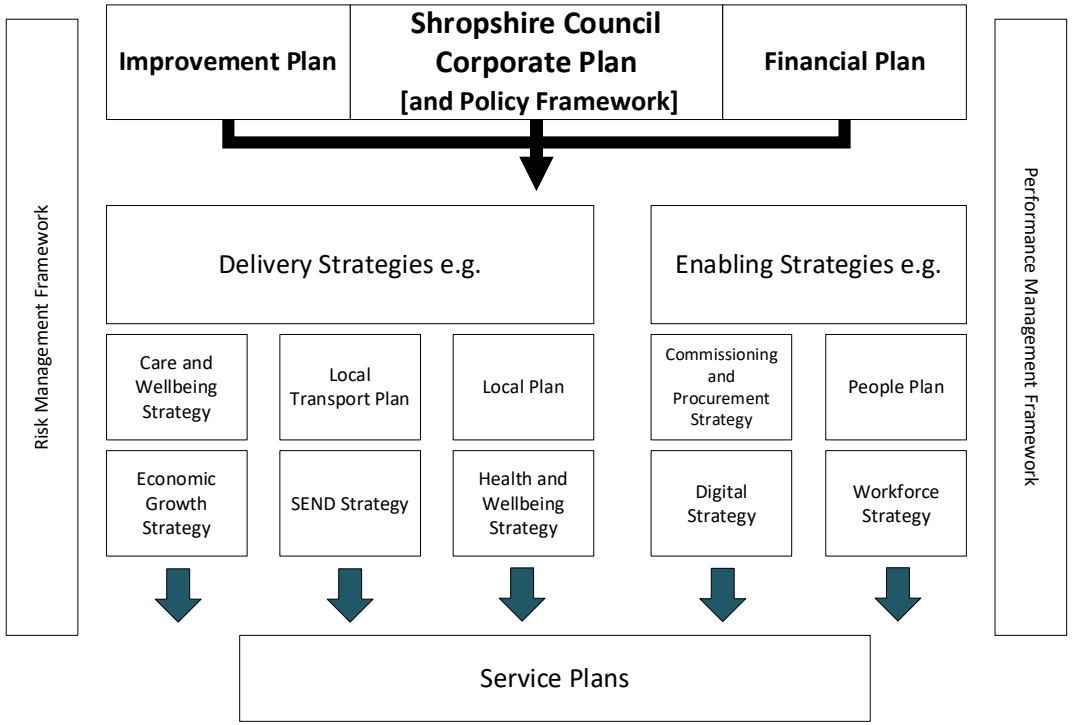


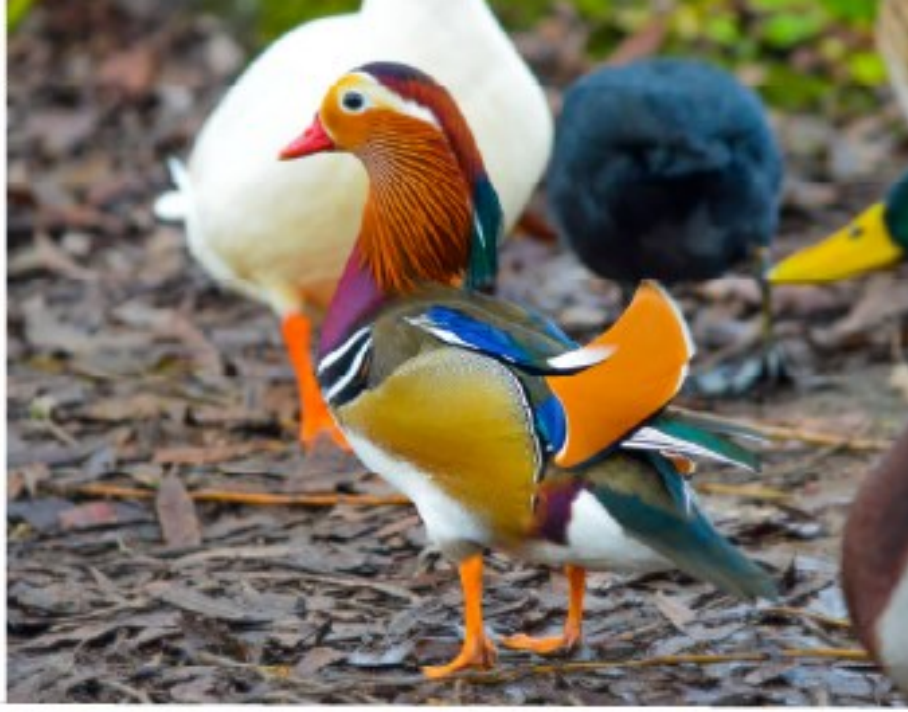
Figure 1:
How our plans and strategies work together to deliver our priorities and ambitions.

Shropshire Council

Section 2

Our context









National and regional policy direction

Our Corporate Plan needs to set the direction for the council in the context of national policy and likely changes and developments that are expected to follow them. For example, the new requirements for Spatial Development Strategy and national reforms in Children's Social care

Cross border relationships and working

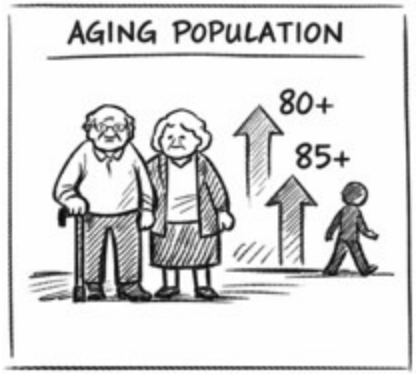
Our border with Wales and our close geographic, environmental, social and economic relationships with our neighbouring Welsh Local Authorities, such as Powys County Council, is reflected in our partnerships and our role needs to be recognised in our strategic plans. Some examples include the Marches Forward Partnership and the Severn Valley Water Management Scheme.



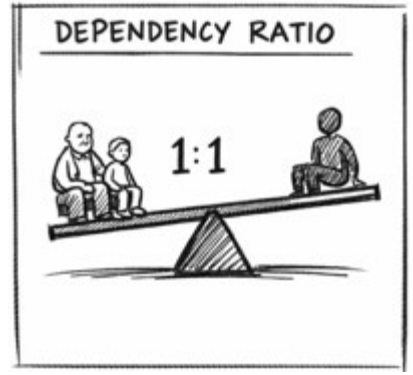
We have used long-term data and forecasts to understand how Shropshire may change by 2050 and what we need to do now to shape a positive future. An ageing population and more people living with long-term conditions will increase demand for care and support, making promoting prevention, healthy choices and strong communities more important than ever. We also need a strong local economy that builds on Shropshire's strengths, including its natural environment, tourism, agriculture and health and care, while attracting and retaining young people through good jobs, affordable homes and a great quality of life, and making Shropshire child friendly. As a large and rural county, reliable highways, active travel opportunities, and digital connectivity are essential to help people stay connected to work, education, services, family and friends. Our plans must also help communities adapt to climate change and strengthen resilience for the years ahead.



More people will live in Shropshire, increasing pressure and demand on homes, services, highways and local infrastructure.



Many more residents will be much older, while fewer children and young adults will live in the county.



There will be almost one person needing support for every person of working age.



More residents will live with long-term illness or disability, driving much higher demand for care and support.



More people aged 65+ will live alone and fewer families with children will need homes that suit different life stages.



Hotter summers and wetter winters will increase health risks, flooding, travel disruption and damage to homes and businesses

Shropshire Council

Section 3
Our ambitions and what we will focus on









Our ambitions and focus

This section sets out priority ambitions we will focus on to guide what we deliver, enable and influence for Shropshire and its residents. It sets out the direction that the council is working towards.

For each of these ambitions we have summarised:

- **Why it is a priority for Shropshire**: so that people understand why it is important for our county and communities, and why we need to focus on it. ***(Why)***

What we will focus on: sets out the areas that matter most, helping people understand where the Council's attention will be directed, including statutory responsibilities and existing plans. These priorities will be reviewed annually to ensure they remain relevant. Detailed delivery commitments will be set out through service plans and new strategies, aligned to the Council's financial position and available resources. ***(What)***

- **The plans, programmes and strategies** that help to deliver the ambitions demonstrating our current commitments and strategic intentions. The strategies and plans listed in the following sections are examples of those we have in place and are not an exhaustive list. ***(How)***

- **Partners and partnerships we work with to realise the ambitions:** so people understand that we work with and through a range of partnerships (statutory and non-statutory) to deliver services and outcomes, recognising that modern local government no longer delivers outcomes on its own. Where there is joint delivery, we will be clear about our contribution, dependencies and risks, and report progress transparently. ***(How)***



Why

What

How

Our ambitions and focus:

A financially sustainable council, with clear priorities and purpose, and a workforce that is supported to excel

Our ambition

A Council that is financially sustainable, with clear priorities and purpose, and a workforce that is supported to excel

Why this is a priority

There have been several events, external reports and recommendations identifying areas where the Council needs to improve, including a 'financial emergency' declared by the Cabinet in September 2025. A Local Government Association (LGA) Corporate Peer Challenge delivered in July 2025 provided observations and recommendations for improvement, including addressing the financial position and other areas of how the Council operates – including corporate governance and employee engagement. An External Auditor letter and subsequent Statutory Recommendation identified that the Council must take steps to review service delivery, improve robustness of savings plans and prevent reliance on Exceptional Financial Support (EFS). The Best Value Duty Statutory Guidance for Best Value Authorities provides the characteristics of a well-functioning authority, and we know that there are areas to improve on before we can confidently demonstrate excellence against all characteristics.

What we will focus on

Delivering our Improvement Plan, reviewing and refreshing priority programmes to respond to changing circumstances and context

Implementing a Financial Sustainability Strategy, as part of our overall Financial Plan, that reduces our reliance on Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) from the government.

Delivering a programme of transformation and change that is driven by the Financial Sustainability Strategy to reduce costs and increase income

Strengthening financial management practices including procurement and contract management, budget monitoring and forecasting, income collection and debt recovery

Implementing our People Plan to become an organisation people are proud to work for, feel valued, and can thrive with the right support and development

Developing how the council supports, enables, empowers and influences others to deliver priority outcomes

Plans, strategies and programmes

Improvement Plan
People Plan
Medium Term Financial Plan
Capital Strategy
Digital Strategy
Asset Management Strategy
Risk Management Strategy

Partners and partnerships

Shropshire Council Improvement and Assurance Board (SCIAB)

Local Government Association (LGA)

Our ambitions and focus:
Communities are connected by well-maintained roads, accessible transport and infrastructure

Our ambition

Communities are connected by well-maintained roads, accessible transport and infrastructure

Why this is a priority

Shropshire is the 2nd largest inland council (1,235 square miles) and its rural character makes good roads and reliable transport vital. There are 3,240 miles of highways with 91% classed as rural, and with long distances between our towns, services and employment, we know people rely on safe, well-maintained roads to go about their daily lives. Greener and more flexible transport options help reduce isolation, support those without access to a car, and keep our market towns vibrant. Improving travel times and infrastructure strengthens the whole county by opening-up opportunities for work, education and healthcare, and movement of goods, especially in our most remote communities, contributing to physical, mental and economic health. Expanding public transport, cycling, walking and EV access, can also help protect Shropshire's natural environment while helping people move more freely, affordably and sustainably. For a county as large, rural and community focused as ours, getting transport right isn't just practical – it is essential for fairness, wellbeing and long-term prosperity.

What we will focus on

Tackling potholes and improving the condition of our roads – through our highway maintenance contract and service, understanding risk and within available resources.

Maintain our transport infrastructure, including footways and cycle ways, in line with our Highways Asset Management Strategy

Develop plans and strategies that promote joined up transport and infrastructure, alongside housing growth, economic development and environmental protection

Work with partners to deliver integrated public transport (e.g. bus, rail, demand responsive services, community transport), facilitating viable sustainable and active travel choices for communities, across urban and rural areas

Work with partners and communities to improve road safety through education, reviewing speed and weight limits, enforcement, and engineering measures

Enable the rollout of EV charging infrastructure across the county, utilising the DfT Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Fund

Plans, strategies and programmes

Local Transport Plan
Local Plan
Spatial Development Strategy
Economic Growth Strategy
Highways
Local Cycling & Walking infrastructure Plan
Bus Service Improvement Plan
Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Programme

Partners and partnerships

Town and Parish Councils
Voluntary and Community Sector – Community Transport
National Infrastructure Network Management Organisations
Transport providers
Regional and national funding bodies

Our ambitions and commitments:
Safe inclusive places with home that meet people's needs

Our ambition

People live in safe, inclusive places with homes that meet their needs

Why this is a priority

As a large area with dispersed communities, where more than 50% of the population live in rural areas, Shropshire's future success depends on creating the conditions for safe, stable and resilient places to live. Ensuring access to appropriate, affordable and well-located housing is essential for supporting community cohesion, enabling people to remain in their local areas, and sustaining the services that rural communities rely on. Improving the health and well-being of residents and reducing inequalities in health outcomes a is key contributor. Strengthening community safety—through coordinated prevention, early intervention and safeguarding—helps protect vulnerable residents, reduces crime and antisocial behaviour, and builds public confidence. By working closely with partners, local stakeholders and communities, Shropshire can create a more integrated system that tackles the root causes of housing pressures and safety concerns, reduces demand on the council and public services, and supports sustainable, inclusive growth across the county.

What we will focus on

Developing a Local Plan for Shropshire that meets Government requirements, addresses local housing needs and improves affordability, and delivers the right mix of housing types and tenures so people can live closer to jobs and support networks.

Delivering our responsibilities as landlord to tenants living in our council owned homes, whilst also meeting the needs of vulnerable homeless people.

Encouraging and empowering communities to act locally and be proud of their area and promote increased opportunities to share knowledge and skills.

Tackling health inequalities and promoting safety and well-being in our communities, including by statutory and regulatory action, embedding prevention through our work with partners.

Implementing the Local Youth Offer, working with our partners to transform and embed it in early intervention and prevention, education, health and community safety.

Working with our partners to develop and deliver a multi-agency Domestic Abuse Strategy and safe accommodation through our Domestic Abuse Partnership.

Working with our partners to tackle crime and disorder in Shropshire and increase safety and resilience of our more vulnerable communities.

Plans, strategies and programmes

Housing Strategy
Local Plan
Homelessness & Rough Sleeper Strategy
Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy
Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy
Sustainable Affordable Warmth Strategy
Library Strategy
Youth Strategy
Community Safety Partnership Strategy
Children's Service Reform Plan

Partners and partnerships

Registered Housing Providers
Businesses and Employers
Housing providers, builders, developers
West Mercia Police
Fire and Rescue Service
Safeguarding Community Partnership
Town and Parish Councils
Voluntary and Community Sector

Our ambitions and focus:
Healthy and thriving at every stage of life

Our ambition

Everyone has the opportunity to be healthy and thrive at every stage of life

Why this is a priority

Our older population is significantly higher than the national average (26.4% v.19.5% ONS 2024 mid year estimate) and is forecast to continue to grow further over the coming years. We have children and families who also need our help and support. Tackling inequalities and improving wellbeing in our communities helps people have better outcomes and reduces demand for support. Our children, adults, families, and carers need access to the right support and care for their needs at the right time, delivered through good quality sustainable services. There are a range of national children's services reforms to implement as we develop a child friendly Shropshire, and a continued need to work with our partners to safeguard vulnerable people of all ages. Our work with our partners across the NHS, VCSE, care and housing providers, and communities also delivers integrated, multiagency support including through hubs, promoting independence, and safe transitions—particularly when people leave hospital and where young people move from children's social care into adulthood. Early intervention and prevention can help reduce long term needs and promote independence, enabling people to live in the right home with the right support, if and when they need it, and ensure that those working in health and care can live and work within the communities they serve, supporting a resilient locally anchored workforce.

What we will focus on

Delivering our statutory duties for Adult Social Care and Children's social Care including supporting vulnerable people to live in safe and caring homes and ensuring that they have their voices heard.

Our ambition to be a 'child friendly' county and responding to the national Children's Social Care reforms

Supporting people who are moving through life events e.g. from children's social care to adulthood and adulthood to older age

Supporting people of all ages to be as independent as they can be and lead fulfilling lives including working with our partners to enable children to achieve their potential

Delivering our statutory public health and protection responsibilities including work with our partners in our communities to improve wellbeing and address inequalities

Fulfilling the Council's statutory education responsibilities and work with schools and partners to support improved outcomes, including enabling children and young people with SEND (EHCP) to be supported in mainstream education

Plans, strategies and programmes

Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy
Prevention Framework
Inequalities Plan
Independent Living and Specialist Accommodation Strategy
Education Excellence Strategy
All-Age Autism Strategy
All-Age Carers Strategy
Youth Strategy
Children's Participation & Impact Strategy
SEND & Alternative Provision Strategy

Partners and partnerships

NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Trusts
Primary Care Networks, GP practices and community health providers
Partners in Care (Social Care Providers)
Schools and Further Education colleges
Voluntary and Community Sector

Our ambitions and focus:
An environment that supports well-being

Our ambition

An environment that harnesses our natural assets and supports wellbeing

Why this is a priority

Shropshire's natural and historic environment and cultural economy is one of our greatest assets, economically and for its contribution to improving the mental and physical health of our residents. 23% of the area is designated as an AONB and we have one of the largest rights of way networks in England, but the amount of accessible green space (27.84sqm) is below the recommended level (28.2sqm) and forecast to reduce. Creating the conditions for healthier lifestyle choices enables and empowers people to take control of their own health and wellbeing and become less reliant on public services. Climate change continues, and it is important we remain prepared for the challenges and opportunities arising from it. Continuing to deliver our climate change strategy and progressing towards carbon neutrality for both the council and the wider county is central to securing a resilient, sustainable future. Investing in green infrastructure, including local area energy plans, and driving nature recovery through strong local partnerships helps with this. There are a range of statutory responsibilities under the Climate Act 2008 and the Environment Act 2021 to minimise waste and promote sustainable behaviours across communities.

What we will focus on

Aligning our health improvement activity and promoting the positive role of the environment with national priorities and working in prioritised neighbourhoods and hubs to focus action where it matters most.

Improving population health through a 'Health in All Policies' approach and strengthening public protection

Encouraging and empowering our communities and stakeholders, to progress the environment policy and requirements, and continue to promote climate action and work towards being carbon neutral.

Delivering our statutory environmental duties including our Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and other regulations that help support pollution control nature restoration, climate change and public wellbeing.

Working with our neighbouring councils, land-owners and voluntary groups to prepare for and respond to the impact of climate change and waste minimisation.

Building local area energy planning into our planning activity

Plans, strategies and programmes

Local Plan
Health & Wellbeing Strategy
Corporate Climate Strategy & Action Plan
Local Nature Recovery Strategy
Sustainable Affordable Warmth Strategy
Waste Prevention Strategy for Shropshire

Partners and partnerships

Primary Care Networks, GP practices and community health providers
Voluntary and Community Sector
Town and Parish Councils
Marches Forward Partnership
Landowners

Our ambitions and focus:
A thriving economy

Our ambition

A thriving economy that benefits everyone

Why this is a priority

Shropshire's long-term prosperity depends on creating the right conditions for sustainable growth, productive businesses, and a skilled local workforce. A clear spatial development strategy with strong links and relationships with our neighbouring councils, will enable us to shape growth in a way that strengthens communities, supports key economic sectors and contributes to our financial sustainability as a council. Ensuring that skills provision aligns with current and future labour market demand will help retain young people and working age adults, while giving employers reliable access to a strong local talent pipeline. Continued investment in digital and mobile connectivity is essential for enabling businesses to innovate and compete, particularly in rural areas. By maximising the county's distinctive strengths and opportunities – including being a destination people choose to visit, the renewable and green economy, evolving agricultural and engineering technologies, health and care, and nationally significant heritage skills – Shropshire can attract new investment and safeguard high value employment. Expanding apprenticeships, training, and work pathways further increases opportunity and participation, underpinning a resilient, future ready economy.

What we will focus on

Setting a clear direction and strategy for our economy to attract investment supporting key economic sectors, and ensuring robust links to our plans for transport, infrastructure and housing provision

Delivery of a Destination Management Plan to grow tourism, strengthen stakeholder collaboration, enhance access and inclusion and follow restorative tourism practices.

Review and explore new models of delivery of our cultural and heritage services.

Influencing and working with utilities and telecoms sectors to deliver future-proof mobile, broadband, and wider infrastructure that supports development, businesses, and economic growth across Shropshire.

Working with business sectors, schools and higher education providers to understand the skills gaps and workforce capacity to realise the opportunities from demographic, technological, and economic change.

Working with our partners to retain and attract young people to choose Shropshire to work and live in, including the development and promotion of clearer career pathways and opportunities.

Plans, strategies and programmes

Local Plan
Economic Growth Strategy
Spatial Development Strategy
Local Transport Plan
Get Marches Working Plan
Shropshire Education
Destination Management Plan (DMP)

Partners and partnerships

Marches Forward Partnership
Integrated Care Board
Department of Work and Pensions
Local businesses and business networks
Schools, HE and FE colleges
West Midlands Combined Authority
Town partnerships and place-based groups e.g. Shrewsbury Big Town Plan Partnership, Future Oswestry

Shropshire Council

Section 4
How we work – Making Sure We Deliver









How we work: Our values



Figure 2: our organisational values

Our **values** drive our culture, building strong partnerships, developed by good relationships, working together, with respect, creating opportunities, seeking understanding and developing a *'can do'* culture with high standards

How we work: Our principles

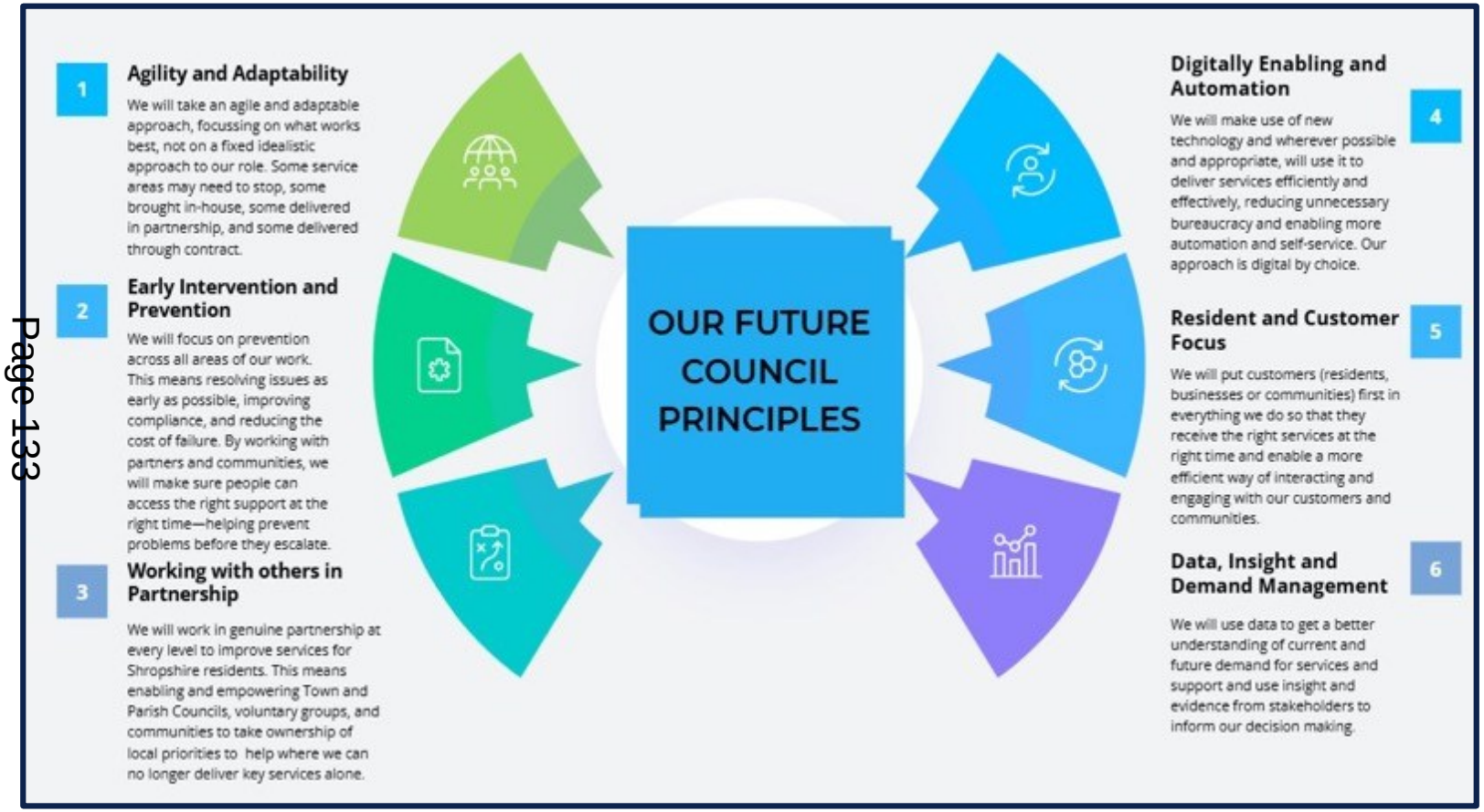


Figure 3: principles that guide how we operate, improve and transform

Our **principles** guide how we work and provide a basis for our continued improvement and development into a council that is financially sustainable and equipped to deliver, enable, and influence for Shropshire and its residents in the most effective, efficient and economical way.

Performance Management Framework

Alongside this new Corporate Plan, a strengthened Performance Management Framework is being developed to ensure everyone in the organisation is working towards the ambitions set out in the Corporate Plan, our Improvement Plan, and our aim of financial sustainability.

The key features of the Performance Management Framework are:

- **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):** A set of KPIs helps demonstrate the outcomes we are trying to improve and the progress and impact we are making. These will draw on the nationally set Local Outcomes Framework (LOF) as well as including other measures we identify locally.
- **Monitoring and reporting:** Quarterly reporting to Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committees against the Corporate Plan KPIs. Additionally, we will produce an *Annual Review Report* summarising delivery and impact against the Corporate Plan priorities.
- **Annual review of what we will focus on:** Will enable an agile response to changes and developments that require amendments to our priorities, ensuring that what we are focusing on aligns to the financial sustainability of the Council.
- **Business and Budget Planning:** Directorates and service areas produce a Service Plan, setting out their contribution to the delivery of the Corporate Plan
- **Performance Development Reviews (PDRs):** ensures a clear link between individual objectives, directorate/service plans and the Corporate Plan, Improvement Plan and Financial Plan. This is the 'golden thread' (figure 3) which enables staff to understand how they contribute to delivering the council's overall priorities.

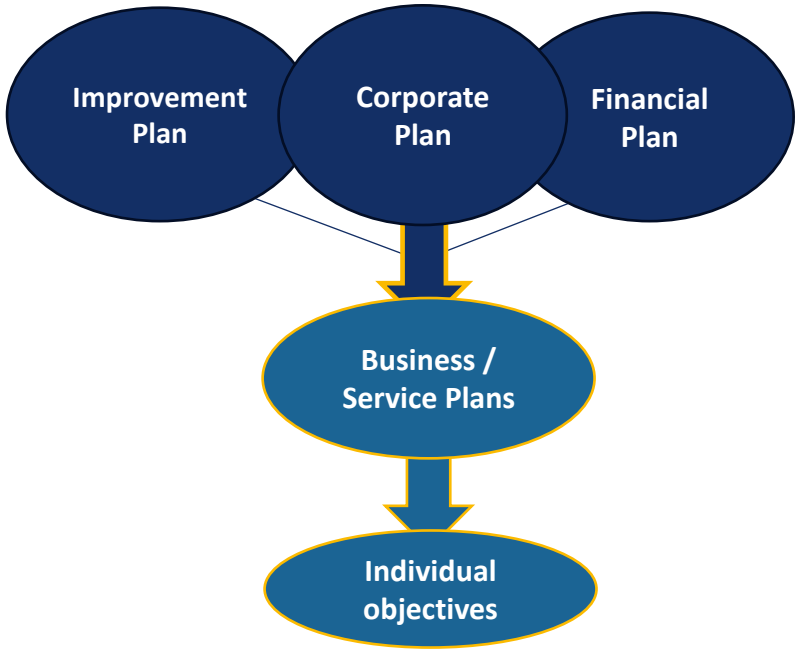


Figure 3: The 'Golden Thread'

Communication and engagement

Regular communication on the plan and progress and impact will take place to ensure that staff and Members are kept up to date. This will keep the delivery of the plan firmly in focus and partners and residents will also be kept informed about the delivery of the plan.

There will be ongoing engagement with staff as the plan rolls out which will form part of the Council's redeveloped staff engagement approach. There will also be engagement as appropriate and required with residents and those who receive services as projects to deliver the plan are implemented.

Shropshire Council

Rebuilding Shropshire Together



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Shropshire Council
Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA)
Stage One Screening Record 2026

Please note that part A and part B of this document should be completed.

A. Summary Sheet on Accountability and Actions

Name of proposed service change
Shropshire Council Corporate Plan 2026-2030

Name of the officer carrying out the screening
Tom Dodds

Decision, review, and monitoring

Decision	**Yes**	**No**
Initial (Stage One) ESHIA Only?	✓	
Proceed to Stage Two Full ESHIA or HIA (part two) Report?		✓

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

Assessment of likely neutral, negative impact or positive impact of the service change in terms of equality and social inclusion considerations
The Corporate Plan 2026-2030 sets the Council's direction for the next four years, within a longer-term view of Shropshire's future. It is intended to provide a basis and context for prioritisation, decision-making, policy development and resource allocation, ensuring activity is aligned to the outcomes the Council is most focussed on delivering, enabling through others, and influencing through partnership. As an overarching plan, the Corporate Plan sets out high-level views of what the Council will be focusing on delivering. It has strong links to the Council's current and emerging strategies, including those in partnership, whether with organisations through the Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin ICS, or with town and parish councils. Actions identified in the delivery plans may require ESHIAs of their own. The Plan's priority ambitions have been informed and shaped by a range of evidence and engagement, including local data and insight, resident and

organisational feedback (including budget consultation), and engagement with staff, councillors, residents and partners. This has aided the stocktake assessment, grounding it in evidence and setting the scene for ongoing engagement across all groupings in the community and in the workforce.

The Equality Act 2010 describes nine Protected Characteristic groupings or characteristics that people may share, eg Age, Disability, Race. Local authorities such as ourselves and other public sector organisations are obliged to have 'due regard' to the needs of people in these groupings in our decision-making processes. In this stocktake ESHIA record, initial assessment of the Corporate Plan in its draft form is that there is potential for a Neutral to Low Positive impact across all nine groupings, as well as for the additional groupings of people that we think about in Shropshire, of Social Inclusion, Carers, and Young People Leaving Care. The Council also considers those in the grouping of **veterans and serving members of the armed force and their families,** in a separate grouping, in order to visibly demonstrate that 'due regard' is being given to people in this grouping, as per the requirements of the Armed Forces Act 2021.

Our additional categories help us to seek to ensure that we consider the needs of the following: rural households in our large and sparsely populated rural county; households on low incomes; households in fuel poverty; and those we may consider to be vulnerable. This includes refugee families, people living in fuel poverty, people fleeing domestic violence, and those who are rough sleepers or at risk of homelessness for what may be a variety of circumstances. Inclusion health groups (those with multiple overlapping risk factors) are also included.

At this stage, the anticipated likely positive impacts include mitigation and prevention of poor health outcomes and promotion of positive health outcomes through the current, and to be refreshed Health and Wellbeing strategy, developing a thriving economy which will include better paid jobs and carbon reduction. Priorities include efforts to address inequalities; to identify and support vulnerable children, young people, adults and families; to ensure that there is a range of affordable and appropriate and specialised accommodation; and to achieve shared priorities with partners around transport; digital and mobile connectivity; employment, skills and the economy; and the environment.

Assessment of likely neutral, negative or positive impact of the service change in terms of health and wellbeing considerations

As a strategic document for the Council, the priority ambitions in the Corporate Plan encompass both health and wellbeing across all groupings, with a policy intention to contribute positively to the wider determinants of health.

There is a clarity of focus on:

- Tackling and reducing health inequalities

- Promoting well-being, including the role of the environment for physical and mental health, through Planning Policy and promotion of/access to Shropshire's natural landscapes.
- Embedding prevention and early intervention with partners
- Enabling communities to be safe
- Partnership working to tackle domestic abuse
- Supporting people as they move through life events, with an understanding of predicted demographic change and service demand planning.

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

The delivery of the Corporate Plan priority ambitions is a central component of the Council's Performance Management Framework which is being refreshed and strengthened alongside the new plan.

Performance dashboards will set out the relevant measures against each of the six priority ambitions. These will be maintained as the data becomes available, providing a rolling view of the progress and impact of the delivering the Council's priorities for officers and Members.

As well as the visibility of progress and impact from the dashboards there will also be quarterly reports to Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Cabinet that will highlight key points by exception, providing the opportunity to identify any positive or negative impacts and any mitigating actions that will be taken.

There will be an annual review of progress against the delivery of the Corporate Plan and the intention is to share this using an Annual Report. This will be followed by annual Budget and Business Planning which will enable the council to be agile and responsive to changing needs and demands and ensure that resources are targeted where they need to be. Service Planning will be carried out each year to set out the delivery of the Corporate Plan.

This will provide the scope to identify any gaps relating to equalities issues arising from the circumstances in which people and households find themselves, including changes in circumstance driven by the significant rise in fuel costs and/or location in the county such as living in more rural areas, as well as challenges for individuals and their families, including hidden or more visible disabilities.

The delivery of the priorities will also be a central feature of annual Business and Budget Planning activity and the Service Plans that will be completed at Service Director or Head of Service level as appropriate. These will have more detail on the actions being taken. These plans and the projects and programmes set out within them will be available to inform the annual review and development of the Strategic for Overview and Scrutiny work programme that will identify opportunities for the committees to identify topics that they could look into during their work and add value for the Council and communities.

Projects progressing the key deliverables for the priority ambitions are likely to require ESHIAs and service areas will accordingly need to carry out engagement with the groups and communities within their scope, as well as potentially seeking expertise from cross-organisation teams where appropriate. The completed Service Plans can be reviewed to identify the actions and key deliverables that are expected to require an ESHIA.

Associated ESHIAs

The impact assessment carried out for the Shropshire Plan provides useful context. It may be viewed as such alongside ESHIAs carried out in relation to service area strategy and Council-wide strategy. Additionally, the ESHIA carried out for the Council's Strategic Equality Objectives Action Plan 2024-2028 provides policy context in regard to our efforts to comply with our Public Sector Equality Duty, to continue to work with partners and communities, and to demonstrate good practice in doing so. The ESHIA for the Action Plan may be found with Cabinet papers for November 2024, whilst the Action Plan itself is on our EDI pages of the website, along with our Annual Service User Diversity Reports and Workforce Diversity Reports.

Assessment of likely neutral, negative or positive impact, and actions to review and monitor overall impacts, with regard to climate change impacts and with regard to economic and societal impacts

A primary focus of the Plan is financial sustainability of the council. The scale and scope to which the delivery of the priority ambitions set out in the plan can and will be delivered will be set each year with this in mind.

Climate change

Climate change and the environment is cross-cutting against the six priority ambitions in the Corporate Plan e.g. in terms of EVs and green transport options, and the green economy. There is also a priority ambition on the environment that includes adaptation and resilience in relation to climate change impacts, as well as recognising the value and benefit of the environment on people's mental and physical well-being.

The achievement of the priority ambitions should support the Council to make good progress in realising our climate change ambitions and targets. Because the Corporate Plan is at the top of the council's 'Golden Thread', this focus and delivery actions will be written through the organisation e.g. in Service Plans.

The spotlight on tackling climate change in Shropshire will be maintained through the Council's Performance Management Framework with a focus on progress with the actions, projects and initiatives and the impact achieved. These will be monitored, reviewed, and reported, with action taken as required when the data is published, and they will be a feature of the Council's regular performance reporting and performance management work.

As progress is made and actions are completed, and new projects and programmes are developed, there will be scope within the delivery plan and the performance management framework to include them. They can be refreshed as and when required with new actions, measures and milestones added so that progress with and the impact of tackling climate change will always be current.

Economic and societal/wider community

As would be expected, the Corporate Plan has a strong view across all of the duties that the council is responsible for delivering, as well as areas where it plays a wider place leadership role, working with partners to achieve shared outcomes, especially where they might help prevent need and therefore demand for statutory services.

The Plan reinforces the Council's commitment to working in partnership with Town and Parish Councils, VCSE, and communities. It demonstrates recognition that the role and purpose of the council will change to having a stronger emphasis on enabling and influencing, as well as delivering services and discharging statutory functions in so doing.

There are priority ambitions that cover connected communities, safe and inclusive places, homes and housing, education and skills, jobs and the economy, and the environment. Cost-of-living and financial resilience programmes have been approved as part of the Crisis & Resilience Fund (CRF) and will be delivered alongside partners for the period 2026 – 2029 who have been supported with additional (non-Council) grant funding provided by the Department for Work & Pensions.

A reality for Shropshire is the long-standing trend that young people leave the area to study and for their careers, and whilst we have a growing population this is through inward migration, in the main by older people. The plan identifies that we need to consider social mobility opportunities that will make Shropshire attractive for young people to want to live and work here and for people to settle here and raise their families here.

Overall, deprivation in Shropshire is relatively low compared to the national picture. However, there are pockets of significant deprivation within certain areas and domains. Shropshire is much more deprived in the barriers to services domain and the living environment domain. Some very small, particularly rural, neighbourhoods with high deprivation may be hidden in the data as deprivation in rural areas tends to be more dispersed.

Also, in some cases people can be asset rich but cash poor, do not want to claim benefits or know what they are entitled to. For example, in our older population, many of whom are asset rich, some may still struggle to afford to heat their homes and afford the increasing cost of food. The costs of rural living can push people into poverty even if their incomes are above thresholds to claim benefits. Where possible, the CRF and programmes aim to support in these instances, either through providing cash-first payments, or more long-lasting resilience support

around income maximisation, budgeting, benefits advice or other support schemes.

Scrutiny at Stage One screening stage

People involved	Signatures	Date
Lead officer for the proposed service change		13/4/2026
Officer carrying out the screening		230/4/2026
*External support** **Mrs Lois Dale** **Senior Insights and Research EDI Specialist**		19/04/2026
Phillip Northfield *Public Health – Integration & Inequalities Officer*		22/04/2026

This refers to support external to the service and within the Council, e.g., the Senior Insights and Research EDI specialist, the Integration & Inequalities Officer – Public Health, other Insights and Research or Public Health colleagues, the Feedback and Insight Team, Climate Change specialists, etc.

Sign off at Stage One screening stage

Name	Signatures	Date
Lead officer's name		23.04.2026
Service manager's name		23.04.2026

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

B. Detailed Screening Assessment

Aims of the service change and description
The Corporate Plan 2026-2030 sets the Council's direction for the next four years, within a longer-term view of Shropshire's future. It is intended to provide a basis and context for prioritisation, decision-making, policy development and resource allocation, ensuring activity is aligned to the outcomes the Council is most

focussed on delivering, enabling through others, and influencing through partnership.

The Plan sets out six priority ambitions

The six priority ambitions are:

1. A Council that is financially sustainable, with clear priorities and purpose, and a workforce supported to excel
2. Communities that are connected by well-maintained roads, accessible transport and infrastructure
3. People live in safe, inclusive places with homes that meet their needs
4. Everyone has the opportunity to be healthy and to thrive at every stage of life
5. The environment is protected and people's wellbeing is supported
6. A fair, thriving economy benefits everyone

For each ambition the Plan explains why it is a priority for Shropshire and summarises the key things the Council will focus on delivering, enabling or influencing, including the strategies, plans, programmes and partners that we work with and through.

The Plan recognises the priority of financial sustainability. While it is important to have overall ambitions as a context for Council activity, the scale and pace of delivery against them must remain realistic and affordable. Service standards, levels of provision and the pace of delivery need to be aligned to available resources, recognising this may require difficult choices, reduced service levels in some areas, and prioritisation to ensure financial sustainability.

It will also require us to think about the role and purpose of the council in delivering outcomes, and a need to consider where it is more economical, efficient and effective to achieve outcomes by working differently with partners, partnerships, and communities themselves. This will involve a greater emphasis on enabling and influencing and exploring and maximising the opportunities of working in partnership with town and parish councils, Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise Sector (VCSE) organisations, communities and through our statutory and non-statutory partnerships.

The Plan is a strategic framework. Delivery will be determined and driven through strategies, service plans and programmes. Given ongoing demand pressures (particularly on adult and children's social care services), changing national policy priorities, and the ongoing focus on financial sustainability, we will use business and budget planning each year to determine commitments and activity, aligned to resources available.

An annual review of the Plan and its commitments will enable an agile response to any changes and developments that require amendments to priorities and support

earlier conversations with partners on alternative delivery approaches ahead of autumn budget setting.

The annual review will form part of the performance management framework, demonstrating progress, delivery and impact against the Plan's ambitions. The framework will also include Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that are reported quarterly to Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The Transformation and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be engaged in its development.

It is anticipated that those KPIs will include measures currently used to demonstrate performance against the Shropshire Plan, and metrics from the *Local Outcomes Framework.* That Framework, formally published in February 2026, sets out the key outcomes that central and local government want to achieve together for people and places, focusing on results that matter most to residents. The Framework will be presented to the Transformation and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 8th June 2026 and Cabinet for approval on 10th June 2026.

Together with the Improvement Plan and Financial Strategy, the Corporate Plan forms the strategic basis for everything we do – setting out the priorities we need to focus on, how we will improve as an organisation to deliver those priorities in the most effective, economical and efficient way, and how we will become financially sustainable and reduce reliance on Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) from Government. The suite of plans sits top of the council's 'golden thread', aligning organisational priorities through to service planning and individual staff Performance Development Reviews.

Intended audiences and target groups for the service change

- All those who live in, work in and visit Shropshire
- Local elected councillors due to their community leadership roles
- Town and Parish Councils
- VCSE organisations and groups
- Health and social care organisations, including through the Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin ICS
- Neighbouring local authorities and those with whom we work in strategic partnership, including the Britain's Leading Edge group of rural and coastal local authorities (BLE), the County Councils Network (CCN), the Rural Services Network (RSN), and the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA).
- Local Members of Parliament including through All Party Parliamentary Groups
- Government Departments and Agencies
- Bodies and teams with whom the Council is working in regard to its financial situation

Evidence used for screening of the service change
The Plan's priority ambitions have been informed and shaped by a range of evidence and engagement, including local data and insight, resident and organisational feedback (including budget consultation), engagement with staff, councillors, residents and partners, and consideration of national/regional policy developments, local priorities, statutory duties and responsibilities, the Improvement Plan and the Medium-Term Financial Plan. This includes Census data, IMD analysis, Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNAs) and other research data collected and analysed at local, regional and national level.

Specific consultation and engagement with intended audiences and target groups for the service change
As per the above, there have been efforts to ensure that a range of feedback is sought across a range of audiences and through a number of communication mechanisms. This has aided the stocktake assessment, grounding it in evidence gathered and considered to date, and setting the scene for ongoing engagement across all groupings in the community and in the workforce. Services must be aligned to the limited resources the Council has available whilst ensuring that we are delivering our statutory duties at the minimum statutory level. It is recognised that this involves some difficult decisions that need to be taken. Communications with our stakeholders, including our residents and those who advocate on their behalf, will need to be adequate and proportionate and transparent. Having an agreed Corporate Plan will provide a context and basis to inform the development of the financial strategy and budget setting and relationships with all third parties, including contractors, the voluntary sector and residents, embracing change and transformation as necessary.

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 for a grouping, through stating this in the relevant column, including if it is anticipated to be neutral (no impact).

Please also record in here your headline rationale for the ratings you have given.

Protected Characteristic groupings and other groupings locally identified in Shropshire	**High negative impact** *Stage Two ESHIA required*	**High positive impact** *Stage One ESHIA required*	**Medium positive or negative impact** *Stage One ESHIA required*	**Low positive, negative, or neutral impact (please specify)** *Stage One ESHIA required*
Age (please include children, young people, young carers, 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)				Neutral to low positive
Disability (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)				Neutral to low positive
Gender re-assignment (please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				Neutral to low positive
Marriage and Civil Partnership (please include associated aspects: caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				Neutral to low positive
Pregnancy and Maternity (please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				Neutral to low positive
Race (please include ethnicity, nationality, culture, language, Gypsy, Roma, Traveller)				Neutral to low positive
Religion or Belief (please include Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism, Nonconformists; Rastafarianism; Shinto, Sikhism, Taoism, Veganism, Zoroastrianism, and any others)				Neutral to low positive

Sex (please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				Neutral to low positive
Sexual Orientation (please include associated aspects: safety; caring responsibility; potential for bullying and harassment)				Neutral to low positive
Other: Social Inclusion (please include households in poverty or on low incomes; people for whom there are safeguarding concerns; people you consider to be vulnerable; people with health inequalities; refugees and asylum seekers; rough sleepers and those at risk of homelessness; and rural communities)				Neutral to low positive
Other: Carers (please include families and friends with caring responsibilities)				Neutral to low positive
Other: Veterans and serving members of the armed forces and their families (as per Armed Forces Act 2023)				Neutral to low positive
Other: Young people leaving care				Neutral to low positive

Initial health and wellbeing impact assessment by category

Please rate the impact that you perceive the service change is likely to have with regard to health and wellbeing, through stating this in the relevant column, including if it is anticipated to be neutral (no impact).
Please also record in here your headline rationale for the ratings you have given.

Health and wellbeing: individuals and communities in Shropshire	**High negative impact** *Part Two HIA required*	**High positive impact**	**Medium positive or negative impact**	**Low positive negative or neutral impact (please specify)**
Will the proposal have a *direct impact* on an individual's health, mental health and wellbeing? For example, would it cause ill health, affecting social				Neutral to low positive

inclusion, independence and participation? .				
Will the proposal *indirectly impact* an individual's ability to improve their own health and wellbeing? For example, will it affect their ability to be physically active, choose healthy food, reduce drinking and smoking? .				Neutral to low positive
Will the policy have a *direct impact* on the community - social, economic and environmental living conditions that would impact health? For example, would it affect housing, transport, child development, education, employment opportunities, availability of green space or climate change mitigation? .				Neutral to low positive
Will there be a likely change in *demand* for or access to health and social care services? For example: Primary Care, Hospital Care, Community Services, Mental Health, Local Authority services including Social Services? .				Neutral assessment at this stage

Initial health equity assessment	
For the following categories, please complete with the expected impacts of this service change on wider inequalities, not just those that are health-related (whether positive, negative, or neutral) – include any additional information you feel is pertinent or useful. **Consider and record which you can control, which you can influence, and which may be out of your control**.	
Which population groups/demographics will face health impacts as a result of this change (if any)?	The Corporate Plan is a whole council plan that provides the direction that the council is taking over the coming 4 years. It identifies that there

• Socio-Economically Deprived • Geographic Deprivation (inc. Rurality) – *if so, where?* • Inclusion Health & Vulnerable Groups[1] • Other	are particular communities that will benefit from more targeted support that will help address matters including health inequalities which might be as a result of access to services due to geography, socio economic situations, or as a result of illness or disability. The Plan should not impact negatively on any specific part of the community and should promote improved health equity.
What mitigations/enhancements are already in place, or what mitigations/enhancements do you plan to include for the foreseeable consequences of these changes?	The Plan provides a framework and direction that the delivery of the wider plans, strategies and programmes will support. The implementation of these will be the vehicles that takes forward the ambitions in this plan. The council will be developing how it works in partnership with local organisations, communities and other public sector organisations to deliver shared priorities and maximise the impact that can be realised for communities.

1- *Inclusion health is an umbrella term used to describe people who are socially excluded, who typically experience multiple overlapping risk factors for poor health, such as poverty, violence, and complex trauma. This includes people who experience homelessness, drug and alcohol dependence, vulnerable migrants, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, sex workers, people in contact with the justice system and victims of modern slavery. Health impacts for this wide grouping will therefore potentially be the same as those recorded under the Social Inclusion category in the equality impact table.*

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Cabinet – 6 May 2026

Council – 14 May 2026

Item

Public

Healthy People | Healthy Economy | Healthy Environment | Healthy Organisation

Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy

Responsible Officer:	Paul Clarke – Service Director (Strategy & Change)
email:	paul.clarke@shropshire.gov.uk
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	Ruth Houghton - Portfolio Holder for Social Care (Adults and Children)

1. Synopsis

This report presents the Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy 2026–2029 (Appendix 1) for approval. The Strategy has been developed collaboratively through the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board (DALPB), in line with statutory duties, and has been informed by the Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment 2024 followed by public consultation and a completed Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA) (Appendix 2).

This is a Partnership Strategy but is presented to Cabinet and Full Council for approval given the Council has a statutory leadership and co-ordination role for the Strategy under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

2. Executive Summary

2.1. The Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy 2026–2029 sets out the Partnership's shared approach to reducing domestic abuse and improving outcomes for victims, children and families over the next three years. The Strategy supports the ambitions in the draft Corporate Plan 2026-30, including safe places to live, opportunities to thrive and improved wellbeing.

2.2. The strategy has been developed collaboratively through the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board (DALPB), informed by lived experience, local needs assessment evidence, and a public consultation held between February and March 2026. Alongside this, a Stage One Equality, Social Inclusion and Health

Impact Assessment (ESHIA) has been completed to assess the likely impacts of the strategy on protected and vulnerable groups.

2.3. The Strategy is structured around four inter-connected priorities:

- Victims – ensuring timely, trauma informed support and access to safe accommodation
- Perpetrators – preventing harm and strengthening accountability and behaviour change
- Workforce – building confidence, consistency and trauma informed practice
- Community – strengthening awareness, prevention and shared responsibility

2.4. Consultation feedback demonstrated strong support for the strategy's vision and priorities, with no substantive concerns requiring changes to the overall approach proposed. The ESHIA identifies a low to medium positive impact across protected characteristic groups and inclusion health populations, with actions identified to strengthen engagement with under-represented groups during implementation.

2.5. This is a Partnership Strategy, developed and owned collectively through the Shropshire Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board. While Shropshire Council has a statutory leadership and coordination role under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, the delivery of this strategy is a shared commitment across statutory partners and the voluntary and community sector. Implementation will rely on joint ownership, shared accountability, and coordinated action across agencies, rather than delivery by the Council alone.

2.6. The previous Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy was published in 2018. Since then, new legislation, updated needs assessments, Domestic Homicide Review learning, and changes in local need have required a refreshed strategic approach.

3. Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to:

3.1. Agree the Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy 2026-2029 (Appendix 1) and recommend its approval to Full Council

3.2. Note that delivery of the Strategy will be overseen by the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board through an accompanying action plan, with regular monitoring and review by the Community Safety Partnership.

Council is recommended to:

3.3 Approve the Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy 2026-2029 (Appendix 1)

3.4 Note that delivery of the Strategy will be overseen by the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board through an accompanying action plan, with regular monitoring and review by the Community Safety Partnership.

Contact: Paul Clarke – paul.clarke@shropshire.gov.uk

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

4.1. Failure to adopt the strategy would present a significant risk to the Council's ability to meet its statutory duties under Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. It would also weaken strategic coordination, limit system learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews, and reduce the Council's ability to demonstrate accountability and partnership leadership.

4.2. There is a risk that some groups were under-represented in the public consultation. This is mitigated through the ESHIA and a commitment to targeted engagement during delivery, particularly with minoritised and inclusion health groups.

4.3. Opportunities include strengthened partnership working, improved consistency of response, better use of evidence and lived experience, and more effective prevention and early intervention.

4.4. A key risk is the potential for fragmented delivery if partnership ownership is not maintained. This is mitigated through governance via the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board, which provides shared oversight, collective accountability and coordination across all partners.

4.5. Risk table

RISK	MITIGATION
Failure to meet statutory DA Act duties	Strategy approved and overseen by DALPB
Under-representation of some groups	Targeted engagement within action plan
Inconsistent implementation	Clear Governance and monitoring

There is no direct link to current strategic Risks

5. Financial Implications

5.1. Shropshire Council continues to manage unprecedented financial demands, and a financial emergency was declared by Cabinet in September 2025. The overall financial position of the Council is set out in the monitoring position presented to Cabinet on a monthly basis. Significant management action has been instigated at all levels of the Council reducing spend to ensure the Council's financial survival. While all reports to Members provide the financial implications of decisions being taken, this may change as officers and/or Portfolio Holders review the overall financial situation and make decisions aligned to financial sustainability. All non-essential spend will be stopped and all essential spend challenged. These actions may involve (this is not exhaustive):

- scaling down initiatives,
- changing the scope of activities,
- delaying implementation of agreed plans, or
- extending delivery timescales.

5.2. The Strategy itself does not commit the Council to new unfunded expenditure. Delivery will be supported through existing resources, external grant funding (including Domestic Abuse Act funding), and commissioning decisions brought

Contact: Paul Clarke – paul.clarke@shropshire.gov.uk

forward separately for approval as required. All activity will be subject to ongoing financial challenge in line with the Council's current financial position.

5.3. This Strategy does not represent a single organisation funding commitment. Delivery will be supported through a combination of resources, including Shropshire Council funding, external grant funding, and partner investment, both financial and in kind.

5.4. Statutory partners and voluntary and community sector organisations will continue to fund, commission and deliver activity within their own remits, aligned to the shared priorities set out in the strategy. Any future commissioning or funding decisions arising from the strategy will be brought forward separately for approval in line with established governance and financial processes.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

6.1. The strategy has no direct negative impact on climate change. Where possible, delivery will promote digital engagement, reduce unnecessary travel, and align with the Council's wider climate commitments.

7. Conclusions

7.1. The Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy 2026–2029 provides a clear, shared framework for collective action across the partnership. It reflects a commitment by all partners, statutory and voluntary, to align effort, resources and expertise in order to reduce domestic abuse and improve outcomes for victims, children and communities.

7.2. Approval of the strategy enables coordinated delivery, shared accountability and system-wide learning, while recognising that implementation will be achieved through joint ownership and partnership delivery, rather than through Shropshire Council alone.

List of Background Papers

- Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy 2026–2029
- Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA)
- Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment 2024
- Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy

Appendices

- Appendix 1: Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy 2026–2029
- Appendix 2: Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment

Contact: Paul Clarke – paul.clarke@shropshire.gov.uk

Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy 2026-2029

Collectively endorsed and supported by all the following partners on the **Shropshire Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board:**



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If you need support, you are not alone

If you are being subjected to domestic abuse, or if you are worried about someone else, please remember there are support services who are ready to help. Taking the step to reach out—whether for yourself or on behalf of someone else—can feel daunting, but it is a sign of strength and courage. You do not have to manage this alone.

To find out more about the support available, please visit our Local Domestic Abuse Partnership Board webpage

In an emergency:

If you or someone else is in immediate danger, **call 999 straight away.** If you are unable to speak, you can use the Silent Solution system by dialling 999 and pressing 55 when prompted—this will let the operator know you need urgent help without having to say anything.

"For survivors, a strategy is not an abstract document. It becomes real in the moment we reach out for help, often at the point of crisis, fear, exhaustion, or trauma. The priorities of this strategy should therefore be grounded in what survivors actually experience when engaging with systems that are meant to protect and support us."

– A quote from a domestic abuse survivor from the Lived Experience Advisory Group

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Foreword



"We welcome you to the Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy 2026-2029. Domestic abuse remains a significant concern in Shropshire and nationally, causing lasting harm to individuals, children, families, and communities. It deeply affects physical and mental health, can threaten housing and financial security, strain social connections, and at its worst, results in loss of life. Ending domestic abuse requires collective action. The Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board (DALPB) is dedicated to addressing domestic abuse. Success depends on coordinated efforts involving all sectors, people with lived experience, and the wider community. We thank everyone who contributed, especially victims and survivors whose experiences have shaped this strategic response."

Laura Fisher, Shropshire Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board Chair



"Domestic abuse is a significant public health issue and a key area of focus highlighted in our Health and Wellbeing Strategy, that impacts the wellbeing, safety and long term outcomes of individuals and families across Shropshire. As a partnership, we have a responsibility to respond with clarity, compassion and evidence based action. This strategy brings together partners from across our system to ensure victims and survivors receive timely, trauma informed support, and that prevention, early intervention and accountability are embedded in all that we do. It reflects the voices of those with lived experience and recognises the unique challenges of our rural county. By working collectively, we can reduce harm, strengthen community resilience, and create the conditions for every person in Shropshire to live free from abuse."

Rachel Robinson, Deputy Chair of Shropshire Community Safety Partnership and Shropshire's Director of Public Health



"I want to reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership and to the ambitions set out in this new strategy. Domestic abuse has profound and lasting impacts on health, wellbeing and safety, and we recognise our responsibility as health leaders to respond with compassion, clarity and action.This strategy places victims and survivors at its heart, strengthens accountability for those who cause harm, and empowers our communities and workforce to act confidently and early. Our nursing and wider clinical teams will continue to champion trauma informed practice, accessible routes to support and strong collaboration across agencies. We are committed to ensuring every person affected by domestic abuse is heard, protected and supported to rebuild their lives.Together, we will help shape a safer Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin, one where domestic abuse is prevented, support is timely and effective, and every individual can live free from fear, harm and coercion."

Vanessa Whately, Interim Chief Nursing Officer for the Cluster of NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin and NHS Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent



"Domestic abuse affects individuals, families and communities across Shropshire, and tackling it requires strong partnership working. This strategy brings together the insight of survivors, local partners and our workforce to set a clear, shared direction for preventing harm, supporting victims, and holding perpetrators to account. By working together across our rural county, we can build a safer Shropshire where people feel heard, protected and able to access the support they need".

Cllr Ruth Houghton, Portfolio Holder for Social Care



"Domestic abuse destroys lives, and the rising number of cases in West Mercia underlines just how vital it is that we continue to invest in services and work collaboratively to protect victims and drive meaningful behaviour change. From our rural villages to our urban towns and cities, domestic abuse impacts all parts of West Mercia. That is why I am committed, as set out in my Safer Communities Plan, to doing all I can to ensure we deliver the support victims need, wherever they live, and to keep pushing for a society free from abuse."

John Campion, Police Crime Commissioner

Executive summary

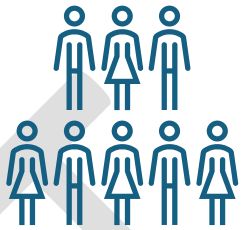
This strategy sets out a collaborative, multi-agency plan to reduce domestic abuse in Shropshire over the next three years. Developed by the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board (DALPB) in partnership with Shropshire's Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG) and input from the community.

This strategy focuses on the four priorities:

- Victims
- Perpetrators
- Workforce
- Community

The strategy recognises that ending domestic abuse in Shropshire requires collective action across all sectors and communities. It aligns with national legislation as outlined in The DA Act 2021 and will be delivered through a joint action plan overseen by the Shropshire Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board.

Progress will be monitored and regularly reviewed to ensure effective support and continuous improvement.



Co-production with those who have lived experience has been key to the development of this strategy.

The Shropshire Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board will oversee the progress of these strategic priorities through its accompanying delivery plan.

Priority 1: Victims

Priority 2: Perpetrators

Priority 3: Community

Priority 4: Workforce





The Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board is responsible for the implementation of this strategy.

The strategy is underpinned by an action plan that will be championed by each partner within the Shropshire DALPB



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Understanding domestic abuse

Domestic abuse is defined as any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening, or violent behaviour between individuals aged 16 or over who are personally connected. Domestic abuse can take many forms, including but not limited to emotional, psychological, physical, sexual, economic, digital abuse and so-called honour-based abuse. It is rarely limited to a single event; instead, it is most often characterised by a sustained pattern of behaviour that may escalate in frequency or severity over time.

For the full statutory definition of domestic abuse, please see the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

Domestic abuse is driven by a desire for power and control and increasingly, some perpetrators use technology such as smartphones, social media, GPS tracking, and digital monitoring to intimidate and control victims, extending abuse beyond physical spaces and into every aspect of daily life. Abuse may continue or intensify after separation, with long-term impacts on victims' emotional wellbeing, sense of safety, and ability to live independently.

Domestic abuse is perpetrated by people of all genders and occurs across all relationship types, including heterosexual and same-sex relationships, former partners, and within non-traditional family structures. Attempts to leave or end a relationship can increase risk, with abuse escalating through harassment, stalking, intimidation, threats, manipulation, and control via children, finances, housing, or ongoing communication.

Who Can Be Affected?

- Domestic abuse can affect anyone, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, age, ethnicity, disability, or background. However, people's experiences of abuse—and their ability to access support—are shaped by wider social, cultural, and structural factors that influence risk, disclosure, and recovery.
- Children, including unborn children, who see, hear, or experience the effects of domestic abuse are recognised as victims in their own right under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, even where they are not directly subjected to abusive behaviour. Exposure to domestic abuse can have significant and long-lasting impacts on children's emotional wellbeing, development, behaviour, and life chances.
- Domestic abuse may occur within any personal relationship, including between intimate partners, ex-partners, family members, parents and children, siblings, carers, or individuals who share parental responsibility.
- Abuse may also extend to pets or animals, with threats, neglect, or harm used as a means of control, intimidation, and emotional manipulation. Fear for the safety of animals can present a significant barrier to leaving an abusive situation or seeking help.

Child-to-Parent Abuse (CPA)

In Shropshire, Child-to-Parent Abuse (CPA) is recognised as an integral aspect of the broader definition of domestic abuse. In Shropshire, Child-to-Parent Abuse (CPA) is defined as harmful acts—physical, psychological, emotional, sexual, digital, stalking, harassment, coercive, controlling, or financial—by a child (any age) toward a parent, guardian, carer, or primary care provider. Siblings are also recognized as victims according to the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

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Professionals prefer the term "child or young person causing harm/using harmful behaviour," when the child is under 16, and acknowledge these children may also be victims of abuse or trauma. CPA is treated as part of the broader definition of domestic abuse in Shropshire

Why women are at a higher risk of domestic abuse

While domestic abuse can affect anyone, national evidence consistently shows that women are disproportionately affected, both in terms of prevalence and severity. The Office for National Statistics estimates that in the year ending March 2025, 2.2 million women experienced domestic abuse, compared with 1.5 million men, meaning women were significantly more likely to be victims in the past year (ONS, 2025). Women also experience domestic abuse more frequently, over longer periods of time, and are more likely to be subjected to coercive control, sexual violence, and post separation abuse.

Evidence from the Women's Aid Federation of England further highlights the gendered nature of domestic abuse. Its Annual Audit 2025 shows that the vast majority of survivors accessing specialist domestic abuse services are women, most of whom have experienced sustained abuse over an average of several years, often alongside caring responsibilities for children. Women's Aid also reports that abuse is overwhelmingly perpetrated by male partners or ex partners, reinforcing the link between domestic abuse and wider patterns of violence against women and girls.

The risks faced by women increase at key points, particularly during pregnancy, separation, and attempts to leave an abusive relationship. Women are significantly more likely to experience escalating harm, stalking and harassment following separation, and remain at highest risk of serious injury or death during these periods. National data consistently shows that women account for the majority of victims in domestic homicide cases, underscoring the need for early, coordinated and trauma informed intervention.

At the same time, women's experiences of domestic abuse are shaped by intersecting inequalities. Disabled women, women from minoritised ethnic communities, women with insecure immigration status, and women living in poverty or rural isolation face heightened risk and additional barriers to safety and support. Women's Aid highlights ongoing gaps in access to refuge and community-based services, particularly for those with complex needs, further compounding vulnerability.

Recognising that domestic abuse is a gendered crime does not diminish the experiences of male victims or those of other genders. Instead, it enables responses that are proportionate, evidence based and rooted in an understanding of risk. This strategy therefore adopts a gender informed, trauma aware approach that recognises women's heightened risk while remaining inclusive of all victims and responsive to diverse experiences.

This reflects the national Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy, which identifies domestic abuse as a core form of gender-based violence requiring whole system, trauma informed responses to reduce harm and prevent escalation.

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Barriers to Accessing Support

Despite the prevalence of domestic abuse, many victims encounter significant personal, practical, cultural, and systemic barriers when seeking help. These barriers often intersect, compounding risk and isolation. Common barriers include social isolation from friends and family, financial dependence on the perpetrator, fear of escalation or retaliation, stigma, lack of awareness of rights or available support, and difficulties accessing services. Barriers may also include dependence on the perpetrator for care or accommodation, language or communication needs, fear of discrimination or statutory involvement, and limited availability of specialist services. Some individuals face heightened risk or additional barriers to safety and support. This includes disabled and neurodivergent people, those from minoritised ethnic or faith communities, people with insecure immigration status, and those experiencing rural isolation.

Recognising and addressing these barriers is essential to ensuring that services, professionals, and communities respond proactively, equitably, and effectively to all those experiencing domestic abuse. Responses must be inclusive, trauma-informed, and adaptable to meet diverse and intersecting needs, particularly for those who may be less visible or face additional disadvantage.

Risks, impacts and our response

Domestic abuse places individuals at significant risk of serious harm and death and is closely associated with suicide, self-harm, and homicide—particularly where abuse is escalating or where victims attempt to resist, disclose, or leave. Domestic homicide reviews consistently identify coercive control, psychological abuse, separation, and isolation as key risk factors. Professor Jane Monckton Smith's research shows similar escalation patterns in both domestic homicide and suicide cases linked to abuse, with her Suicide Timeline. This evidence reinforces that suicide in the context of domestic abuse is often a preventable outcome of prolonged harm, rather than an isolated incident. For further information around Shropshire's strategy around suicide see the Shropshire Suicide Prevention Strategy. For further information on domestic homicides and suspected victim suicides in England and Wales, see the Domestic Abuse Homicide Project.

Recent research from the Vulnerability Knowledge Practice Programme, national policing's research and development unit, has reviewed all Domestic Homicide Reviews nationwide over four years. It found that "suspected victim suicides" following domestic abuse now outnumber homicides, emphasising the need to support those at risk of suicide as well as homicide. This research provides new insights into suicide risk factors, and locally, a 7-minute brief was created to summarise these details here.

Domestic abuse can have lasting effects, causing emotional and psychological harm, substance misuse, homelessness, and social exclusion. It also impacts physical health, economic stability, and safe relationships. Children exposed to abuse face higher risks of emotional harm, behavioural issues, and poor educational outcomes.

Domestic Abuse in Rural Shropshire

Shropshire is a predominantly rural county, characterised by a dispersed population, considerable geographic distances, with numerous small towns and villages. This rural setting shapes daily life and presents distinct challenges, particularly in terms of access to services, public transport, and community resources.

Rurality shapes how domestic abuse is experienced and responded to, with evidence showing that abuse in rural areas can last longer and remain hidden for extended periods. The Rural Crime Network's 2019 Captive and Controlled report found that domestic abuse lasts on average up to 25% longer in rural areas. While subsequent research continues to highlight increased risk in rural communities, no updated national study has produced a revised comparative statistic to the one produced in 2019; therefore, the domestic abuse local partnership board has used this evidence to inform the strategy and will ensure rurality is embedded across all future action plans

Geographic isolation limited public transport, reduced access to specialist services and concerns about anonymity in close-knit communities can all create additional barriers to disclosure and support. These factors can increase risk and allow abuse to escalate, particularly where coercive control is present.

This strategy recognises rurality as a defining local factor and commits the Partnership to embedding a rural-aware approach across prevention, identification and support, ensuring responses are accessible, effective and responsive to the needs of people living in Shropshire's rural and dispersed communities.

The impact of living in rural areas often means that those experiencing domestic abuse face unique obstacles, such as longer distances to travel to access help and fewer available services tailored to their circumstances. In many small communities, survivors may worry about being recognised or judged, which can deter them from seeking assistance or reporting incidents.

Furthermore, perpetrators may exploit these conditions by restricting movement, monitoring communications, or isolating victims from potential sources of support. The heightened risk associated with these dynamics means abuse can persist for longer periods without intervention. Recognising these challenges, the strategy aims to strengthen outreach, increase training for professionals in rural settings, and develop innovative solutions—such as mobile and digital support—to ensure that no one is left behind.

We consulted with a specialist from Rural Initiatives Tackling Abuse (RITA), when shaping this strategy to ensure our collective action plans reflect the specific challenges and context of rural Shropshire. Further information on their work can be found at the Churchill Fellowship.

"Rurality adds another layer of complexity. Survivors in rural areas may be isolated, have limited access to services, or fear lack of anonymity. Awareness campaigns and workforce training must account for these challenges, ensuring that prevention and support are accessible to all, regardless of geography"

– A quote from a domestic abuse survivor from the Lived Experience Advisory Group

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Introduction

Developed by the Shropshire Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board (DALPB) this strategy helps Shropshire Council meet statutory requirements by setting the strategic direction of support in safe accommodation for all victims. It also sets out how we will meet the wider needs of adults and children impacted by domestic abuse either as a victim or someone who uses harmful and abusive behaviours, and how we will support our communities and workforce in responding effectively and proportionately.

Co-production and the voice of lived experience

Victims and survivors from Shropshire's Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG), led by Shropshire Council's Domestic Abuse Prevention Team (DAPT), have played a key role in shaping the Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy, which has been vital in developing this strategy, making sure it is co-produced, inclusive, and truly reflects the voices of those affected by domestic abuse in Shropshire.

Members involvement involved:

- Co-designing the strategy through active participation in partnership board workshops
- Shaping the strategy by providing lived experience quotes which are embedded throughout
- Informing, drafting and decision making at key stages of development and refinement
- Contributing to consultation by taking part in the public consultation process
- Sense checking all strategy drafts, providing feedback prior to sign off

We acknowledge these views may not represent everyone's perspective and remain committed to learning from a range of experiences in our ongoing work. We thank our LEAG members for their dedication, which has ensured our approach stays focused on the needs of victims and survivors and continually informed by the realities faced in our communities.

Previous strategy

In 2018, we published a Domestic Abuse Strategy spanning the period 2018-2020. The pandemic meant this strategy was not reviewed or updated. Since the Domestic Abuse Act introduced new statutory duties, we have made key progress that has allowed us to identify future priorities for our partnership.

- Formed the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board as a statutory multi-agency body under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021
- Shropshire Council formed a Domestic Abuse Prevention Team (DAPT) which in turn recruited a Lived Experience Advisory Group to inform decision making and strategic direction.
- Delivered comprehensive Domestic Abuse Needs Assessments (2022 and 2024) which were, and will continue to be used to inform commissioning decisions and shape strategic priorities.
- An Operational Domestic Abuse Forum was re-formed to enable operational and tactical frontline services/professionals to feed directly into Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board decision-making.
- Delivered the Safe Accommodation Strategy in line with statutory duties.

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Needs Assessment

The most recent Shropshire Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment was released in 2024 and aimed to create a comprehensive picture of domestic abuse across the county. Developed in response to the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, the assessment looks at the demand for support in safe accommodation and identifies gaps in provision. Our needs assessment also looks at the wider support needs of victims and those using harmful and abusive behaviours. It includes national and local prevalence data and insights from those with lived experience and services across the county.

Key findings of the needs assessment fall into the following themes:



- Data
- Lived experience
- Housing
- Strategic Leadership
- Education/Training

The needs assessment concludes with recommendations aimed at improving accommodation-based and community-based services and creating a multi-agency approach to tackling domestic abuse in Shropshire.

"Reliance on a single agency to hold risk ignores the reality that survivors interact with multiple services, often simultaneously"

- A quote from a domestic abuse survivor from the Lived Experience Advisory Group

Gap Analysis

Following on from the needs assessment, a detailed gap analysis was completed, to highlight areas where services, support, or resources could be improved. The analysis was later shared with the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board and the Lived Experience Advisory Group, who were invited to examine the findings and work together to pinpoint urgent priorities and long-term actions for their organisations or groups. This collaboration contributed to shaping the strategy and its key priorities.

Definitions used in this strategy:

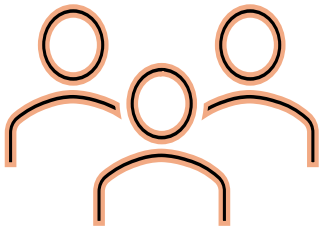
Throughout this strategy, we have adopted the term 'victim', to maintain consistency with the language used in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, as well as in statutory guidance and reporting. We acknowledge, however, that the experiences of those affected by domestic abuse are varied and deeply personal, and not everyone who has experienced, or is currently experiencing, domestic abuse chooses to identify as a 'victim'. For many, alternative terms such as 'survivor' may be preferred, reflecting their individual journey and resilience.

In addition, this strategy uses the term 'perpetrators', in accordance with the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, to describe the person causing harm. This terminology is used irrespective of whether the abuse has led to criminal proceedings, as it is intended to focus on behaviours that cause harm rather than legal convictions. We recognise the importance of language and strive to ensure our approach remains sensitive and inclusive, whilst being consistent for strategic and operational purposes.

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Shropshire profile

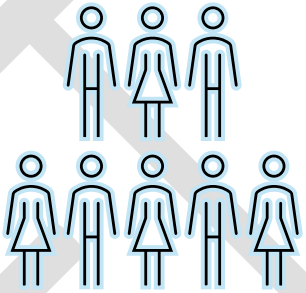
Please note, in line with our domestic abuse needs assessment 2024, this profile uses data from the Office of National Statistics 2021 census.



Shropshire has a population of 323,619, including 163,927 females, 159,692 males, and 48,000 children under age 15.



Approximately 57% of Shropshire's population is living in rural settlements (ONS).



In Shropshire 40.3% of the population are aged over 54 years. 20.0% (64,838) of Shropshire's population were aged under 19



139,583 Households in Shropshire. there 18,585 households with 2 or more children living in the property, equating to 14% of all households on Shropshire.



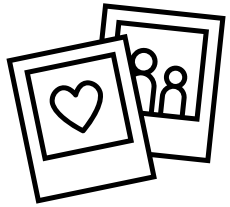
96.7% of Shropshire residents identified as White, compared to 81.0% in England. The Asian population was 1.3% in Shropshire versus 9.6% nationally.



In total approximately 800 people (0.3%) in Shropshire selected a gender identity different from birth compared to England and the West Midlands (0.5%).



36,594(26.2%) households had one person disabled under the Equality Act Similar to England

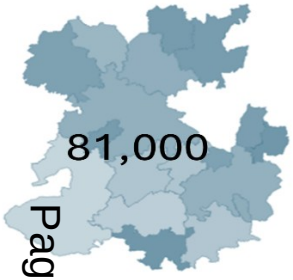


A total of 6,318 people (2.3%) in Shropshire described themselves as gay or lesbian, bisexual or all other sexual orientation.

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Shropshire Domestic Abuse Profile

Please note: This profile uses data from the 2024 Shropshire Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment, reflecting information provided by local services between 2022 and 2024. The DALPB is dedicated to reviewing domestic abuse data for an accurate understanding of need.



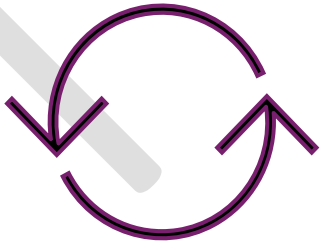
Taking the nationally recognised statistic that 1 in 3 females are subjected to domestic abuse in their lifetime and 1 in 6 men, it could be assumed that:
If 323,619 people lived in Shropshire, 54,000 women and 27,000 men in Shropshire are subjected to domestic abuse in their lifetime.
We can also assume based on national research, that if 1 in 10 families are affected by CPA then at least 13,958 families in Shropshire are affected by CPA.



At time of needs assessment, Shropshire had completed 2 Domestic Homicide Reviews. The Shropshire safeguarding community partnership have also released learning briefings around these reviews.



According to West Mercia Police between 2022 and 2024 a total of 6,379 domestic abuse offences and 8,277 incidents took place in Shropshire



Between 2022 and 2024, 577 referrals were received and accepted for MARAC. 232 of these, were repeat referrals



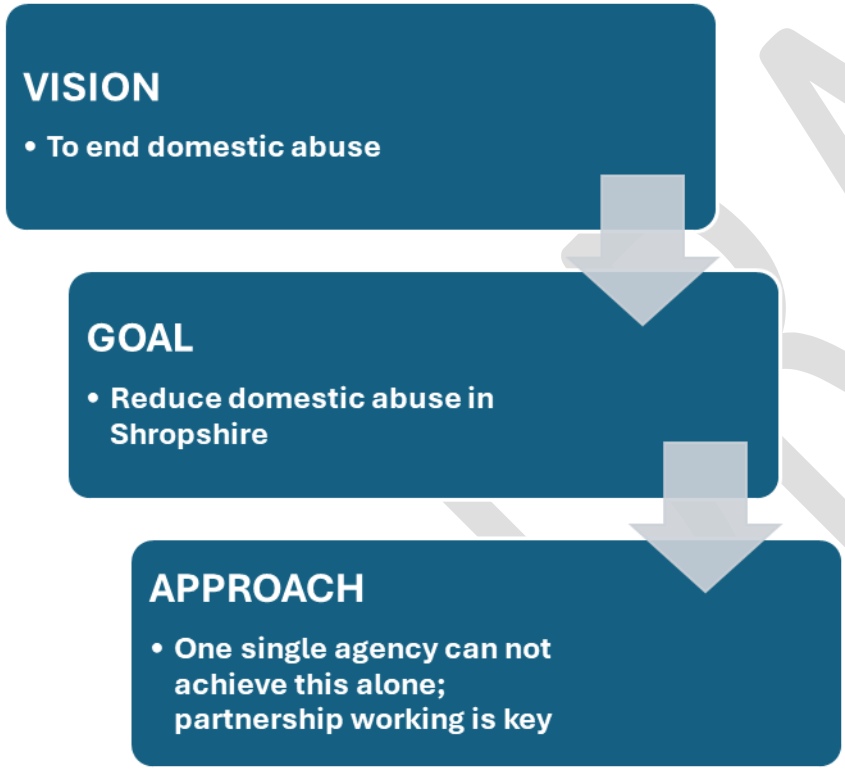
Between 2022 and 2024 a total of 3,299 Operation Encompass notifications were sent to schools regarding domestic abuse incidents reported to the police in which children are in the household

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Vision, Goal and Approach

This Strategy has been informed by stakeholder engagement from across the statutory, voluntary and community sectors as well as by public feedback but, most importantly, it has been informed by the voices and experiences of victim/survivors of domestic abuse.

We united around a shared inspirational vision. Together, we then determined the goal of our strategy over the next three years, along with outlining the approach we will use to achieve it. Vision: To end domestic abuse, Goal: Reduce domestic abuse in Shropshire,



Chosen Strategic Priorities



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What we mean by our strategic priorities

Our approach is built around four connected priorities. Together, they reflect a whole-system response that protects victims, prevents further harm, strengthens professional practice and builds safer communities.

- **By victims, we mean** anyone affected by domestic abuse, including adults and children, regardless of gender, age, background or circumstance. This includes those directly abused and children (including unborn children) who see, hear or are otherwise impacted by abuse.

- This priority focuses on ensuring victims are safe, believed and supported, through timely, trauma informed responses, access to advocacy and safe accommodation, and inclusive services that reduce harm, remove barriers to support and enable recovery.



- **By workforce, we mean** all paid and voluntary staff who may come into contact with domestic abuse through their roles, including those working across statutory services, health, housing, education, social care, criminal justice, and the voluntary and community sector.

- This priority focuses on equipping the workforce with the knowledge, skills and confidence to recognise domestic abuse early, respond safely and proportionately, manage risk effectively, and deliver consistent, trauma informed practice across services.

- **By perpetrators, we mean** individuals who use abusive, controlling or harmful behaviours within domestic or family relationships, whether or not they are known to the criminal justice system.

- This priority focuses on preventing further harm by holding those who abuse to account, reducing repeat offending, and supporting effective interventions that challenge and change abusive behaviour to improve safety for victims and communities.

- **By community, we mean** the people and places across Shropshire where individuals live, work and connect, including families, friends, neighbours, employers, faith groups, schools and local organisations.

- This priority focuses on building a coordinated community response that raises awareness, reduces stigma, encourages early help seeking and promotes shared responsibility for preventing domestic abuse and supporting those affected.

Framework for action – our priorities

Victims

Objective/Outcome:

Ensure victims and survivors—including children—quickly access trauma-informed support and strong advocacy. Provide clear, simple routes to information and services so people know exactly where to turn for safety, recovery, and ongoing support.

Our key areas of focus:
- Safe accommodation
- Lived experience
- Partner-wide promotion of support
- Accessibility and inclusivity
- Delivery of Family First Partnership including Multi-Agency Child Protection Teams

Desired Impact:

Fast, trauma-informed support and clear service pathways boost safety, wellbeing, and trust in local systems. These actions reduce long-term harm and strengthen confidence in how local partners respond to domestic abuse

Perpetrators

Prevent harm through targeted, evidence-based interventions while holding those who use harmful behaviours fully accountable. This includes legal action, behaviour-change programmes, monitoring, and requiring clear acknowledgment of the harm caused to victims and communities—reinforcing zero tolerance and driving meaningful

Our key areas of focus:
- Accountability
- Collaboration
- Promoting safety
- Accommodation
- Change

Desired Impact:

Stronger accountability and coordinated interventions that disrupt or prevent harm. A consistent, long-term approach that promotes genuine behaviour change and reduces ongoing risk to victims, families, and communities

Workforce

Objective/Outcome:

Equip the workforce—including professionals, volunteers, charities, and key partners—with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to spot domestic abuse early and respond effectively. Build a capable, trauma-aware workforce that knows how to act, support, and safeguard.

Our key areas of focus:
- Accountability
- Training
- Awareness raising
- Trauma-informed practice
- Intersectionality
- Accessible support

Desired Impact:

Stronger skills and better awareness mean earlier identification of all forms of domestic abuse and fewer gaps or duplicated services. Consistent training and preventative education reduce incidents and help build safer, healthier relationships across our communities

Community

Objective/Outcome:

Create a coordinated community response to domestic abuse by equipping communities with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to act. Clear and visible support pathways make it easier for people to seek help, reduce stigma, increase awareness, and drive earlier referrals for those at risk.

Our key areas of focus:
- Awareness raising
- Providing early support
- Community awareness
- Shared accountability
- Utilising by-and-for services
- Partnership working
- Training

Desired Impact:

A community-centred approach helps people spot abuse earlier, reducing isolation and improving access to support. By breaking down cultural barriers and increasing understanding of domestic abuse, communities become safer, more informed, and better able to support those affected

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Commissioning and resourcing

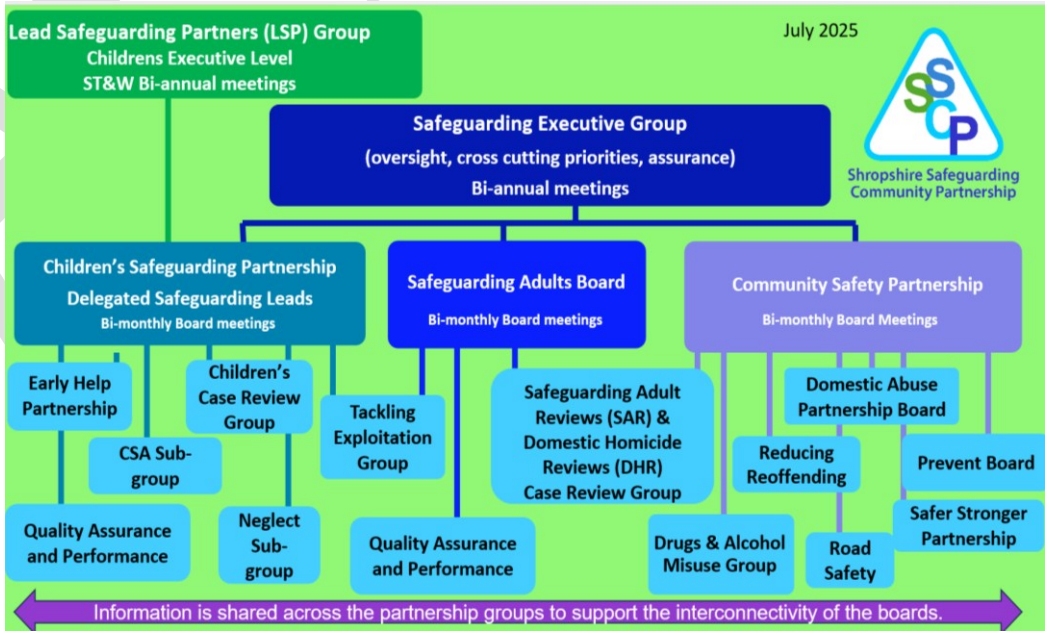
This strategy intentionally focuses on setting out our shared priorities and the impact we want to achieve them, rather than detailing specific actions at this stage. This approach is designed to ensure partners, professionals and communities clearly understand the direction of travel and the outcomes we are collectively working towards. A detailed action plan will sit alongside this strategy and will be developed, published and refreshed as we move through the three-year life of the strategy, allowing us to remain responsive to emerging evidence, learning and local need.

We have also taken this approach in recognition of the current financial climate, where commissioning and resourcing are increasingly challenging and funding is limited. Rather than setting out a fixed and ambitious action plan at the outset, this strategy allows us to be realistic and responsive about what can be delivered over time. This ensures we remain focused on our shared vision and priorities, while developing and sequencing actions in a way that is achievable, sustainable, and informed by available resources.

Governance and Accountability

The Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership brings together a wide range of statutory and voluntary partners to prevent and address child and adult safeguarding concerns and promote community safety, with independent scrutiny provided by the Independent Chair. Domestic abuse is a recognised priority within the Shropshire Community Safety Partnership, and the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board (operates within this governance framework and is overseen by the Community Safety Partnership.

The structure chart of the safeguarding community partnership:



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Next steps

This Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy will be in place for a three-year period. The Partnership will keep the strategy under continuous review to ensure it remains aligned with emerging evidence, statutory guidance, and local and national policy developments. Delivery of the strategy will be supported through a Joint Action Plan, developed collaboratively by all partners, including the Lived Experience Advisory Group.

For each of the four strategic priorities, the Joint Action Plan will set out clear actions, identifies the responsible partner(s), defines delivery timescales, and specifies the intended outcomes. The Joint Action Plan is a live, working document.

It will be overseen by the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board, with progress monitored regularly. Arrangements are in place to support transparent monitoring, shared accountability and public reporting of progress, ensuring that partners are collectively responsible for delivering meaningful and measurable change Collaboration Opportunities between the partnerships

Domestic abuse is everyone's business and is a shared concern across the partnership structure. There are a series of ways in which the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board have agreed to collaborate with the aim to improve collaboration at both a strategic and operational level:

1. Joint ongoing communications/advertising campaign
2. Operational/tactical leads task and finish groups
3. Agency/person led workshops

Scrutiny

Scrutiny will be delivered through a robust governance framework led by the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board and reporting into the community safety partnership. Progress will be monitored quarterly, with annual reports published for transparency. Survivor voices will be embedded in evaluation processes, and findings will inform continuous improvement and commissioning decisions.

Conclusion

The Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy 2026–2029 sets out a collaborative, evidence-based approach to tackle domestic abuse. By working with partners and centring survivors' experiences, the strategy focuses on accountability, ongoing improvement, and trauma-informed, inclusive support. Our Lived Experience Advisory Group will inform us at every step whether we are making a difference and heading towards our goal of reducing domestic abuse in Shropshire.

"Systems must adapt to reality, not expect survivors to adapt to them. If the priorities outlined in this strategy are implemented meaningfully, they can ensure that survivors and children are not only protected but empowered to rebuild their lives with dignity and hope"

– A quote from a domestic abuse survivor from the Lived Experience Advisory Group

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Lived experience Advisory Group statement

As Lead of the Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG), I submit this response on behalf of myself and Lived Experience Advisory Group members.

“We welcome the direction of the strategy and would like to express our appreciation to Shropshire Council for recognising the value of lived experience by supporting my role and the development of the Lived Experience Advisory Group. Employing a dedicated role to work alongside survivors and draw directly on lived experience expertise is a strong and positive step towards embedding best practice in responses to domestic abuse.

Through the Domestic Abuse Prevention Team, and through my role, we are actively working to ensure that lived experience voice is embedded across all aspects of our work – shaping decision making, influencing practice, and strengthening system responses rather than being limited to consultation alone.

Lived Experience Advisory Group members consistently highlight the importance of trauma informed, consistent responses that recognise non physical abuse, long term harm and the cumulative impact of systems. We would welcome clearer detail on how survivor feedback will continue to influence implementation and how lived experience will be meaningfully and safely involved going forward. The Lived Experience Advisory Group looks forward to continued collaboration and supports an ongoing commitment to treating lived experience as expertise central to improving outcomes for those subjected to abuse"



Kate Connor, Shropshire Councils Domestic Abuse Lived Experience Project Officer

Please visit Kate Connor’s blog and access information on how you can join the Lived Experience Advisory Group

“In LEAG we share, we care,

Our voices rise, our thoughts laid bare,

Together we plan, together we try,

To make things better, reaching for the sky”

-A poem written by a Lived Experience Advisory group member about the group

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Appendix

Legislative framework

Protecting victims and preventing domestic abuse are key aims of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. Part 4 of the Act is set out to ensure victims of domestic abuse and their children can access support in safe accommodation.

Section 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act requires local authorities in England to establish a multi-agency Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board. The board must be consulted whenever the authority carries out certain defined activities.

- Evaluating the need for accommodation-based support for all domestic abuse victims in their area, including those who may need help across local borders.
- Developing and publishing a strategy for delivering such support locally, with reference to the findings of the needs assessment.
- Implementing the strategy through decisions to commission or withdraw services.
- Reviewing and measuring how effective the strategy is.
- Reporting progress to central government.

The Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 includes that local policing bodies, authorities, and Integrated Care Boards in England must work together to support victims of domestic abuse, sexual assault, and violent crime. They are required to jointly assess needs and create a unified plan to improve services.

Relevant National Strategies/Plans

- Violence Against Women & Girls Strategy 2025-2030.
- Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan
- NHS 10-year plan
- A National Plan to End Homelessness
- Wellbeing and Schools Bill
- Multi-agency child protection teams: regulation-making powers - GOV.UK
- Working together to safeguard children
- Rural domestic abuse: The Paradox of community

Relevant Local documents/Strategies/Plans

- Shropshire Safe Accommodation Strategy
- Shropshire Child To Parent Abuse Policy
- Shropshire Community Safety Strategy
- Safeguarding process in Shropshire
- Shropshire Health and Wellbeing strategy
- Shropshire Suicide Prevention Strategy
- Shropshire Serious Violence Strategy

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Shropshire Council
Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA)
Stage One Screening Record 2026

Please note that part A and part B of this document should be completed.

A. Summary Sheet on Accountability and Actions

Name of proposed service change
Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy

Name of the officer carrying out the screening
Wendy Bulman

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 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.

Assessment of likely neutral, negative impact or positive impact of the service change in terms of equality and social inclusion considerations
The Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy was created by Shropshire Council, working alongside partners of the Shropshire Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board. The Board will agree priorities and objectives over the next three years to reduce domestic abuse in Shropshire. This collaborative effort ensures that the Council meets its duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. Central to the strategy is the provision of a clear and inclusive definition of domestic abuse. The Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy proactively addresses the needs of individuals in statutory Protected Characteristic groupings, as defined in the Equality Act 2010, as well as local communities that may require additional support. There are nine Protected Characteristic groupings defined in the Equality Act 2010: Age; Disability; Gender Reassignment; Marriage and Civil Partnership; Pregnancy and Maternity; Race; Religion or Belief; Sex; and Sexual Orientation. It is important to note that there is intersectionality between these groupings.

In Shropshire, there is an additional focus on those at risk of social exclusion, as well as inclusion health groups. This group also encompasses people who are homeless or have experienced rough sleeping, especially over extended periods as well as those with other overlapping risk factors such as substance misuse, poverty or trauma among others. While not a statutory protected characteristic, social exclusion is considered a crucial category to ensure the strategy is inclusive of vulnerable individuals and households, particularly those experiencing or fleeing domestic abuse, where relocation from support networks is a potential risk. Furthermore, the strategy considers all residents of Shropshire which includes Young People Leaving Care, Carers (including young carers), and Veterans and Serving Members of the Armed Forces and their families as local groupings requiring support.

To mitigate any negative impacts and enhance positive outcomes, the strategy completed a comprehensive consultation process involving feedback from a wide range of individuals and stakeholder organisations. This approach was intended to evaluate and address any potential negative consequences of the strategy, as well as to identify opportunities to strengthen its positive impact on the wellbeing of Shropshire residents.

Initial screening before the consultation indicated that the strategy would likely have a low to moderate positive effect on individuals and households within protected and local groups. By focusing on improving accessibility, reducing inequalities, and achieving better outcomes for everyone, the strategy aims to tackle and reduce rates of domestic abuse throughout Shropshire. It identifies four main priorities—victims, perpetrators, community, and workforce—to address domestic abuse locally and provide support for all protected and vulnerable groups. The public consultation for the draft Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy took place online between February 2 and March 2, 2026, and collected 73 responses. Of the 69 participants who clarified their role, most (50) responded as individuals, with the remainder (19) representing organisations. Of these organisational respondents, 40% (10) were from public service providers, 20% (5) from ‘Other’ categories, and 12% (3) from strategic or cross-boundary organisations and local partnerships. Most respondents had a Shropshire (SY) postcode, though some organisational representatives may reside outside the county.

Demographic Profile of respondents

- Gender (69 respondents): 81% female (56), 13% male (9), 6% preferred not to specify (4)
- Age (68 respondents): largest group 45–54 years (32%, 22), followed by 55–64 years (29%, 20), then 35–44 years (16%, 11)
- Gender identity: 91% (62 of 68) reported gender remained unchanged since birth; 9% (6) preferred not to say; no respondents indicated a change
- Sexual orientation (67 respondents): 84% straight or heterosexual (56), 15% preferred not to specify (10), 2% bisexual (1)
- Pregnancy status (66 respondents): 86% not pregnant (57), 8% preferred not to say (5), 6% not applicable (4)
- Disability (67 respondents): 60% no (40), 24% yes (16), 16% preferred not to respond (11)

- Condition details (26 respondents): 62% preferred not to specify (16), mobility concerns 15% (4), mental health concerns 12% (3)
- Neurodiversity (64 respondents): 77% no (49), 13% preferred not to say (8), 11% yes (7)
- Care leaver status: no responses, aspect unanalysed
- Religion (66 respondents): 49% no religion (32), 32% Christian (21), 15% preferred not to disclose (10), Buddhist, Agnostic, Muslim each 2% (1)

The impact assessment in the draft ESHIA remains unchanged, as the majority of respondents expressed satisfaction with the strategy's vision and priorities. Most participants agreed that the strategy is accessible and meets statutory duties, and no substantial concerns were raised requiring revision of the initial positive impact assessment.

While responses were captured from a diverse range of sectors, including data on gender, age, disability, neurodiversity, and care leaver status, some notable gaps emerged. Specifically, there were no responses from individuals who identify as transgender, those from ethnic backgrounds other than white or white British, or members of faith communities. This lack of feedback limits our understanding of these groups' perspectives, highlighting a risk that the strategy may not fully address the unique challenges faced by vulnerable populations.

To address these gaps, the action plan will incorporate targeted measures to improve engagement and support for underrepresented groups, ensuring their voices inform service development and delivery. Although the overall impact assessment did not change after consultation, feedback identified areas for further engagement. The strategy will proactively seek to reach and support groups whose perspectives were not reflected in the initial consultation—strengthening equality, social inclusion, and the effectiveness of domestic abuse services throughout Shropshire.

Assessment of likely neutral, negative or positive impact of the service change in terms of health and wellbeing considerations

It is recognised that there will be challenges of disruption and social isolation, which the Council and partners seek to address within the strategy, along with emphasising the need for further exploration to identify effective ways of mitigating potential negative impacts. Priority actions will incorporate health, wellbeing, economic, and wider community considerations, aiming to maximise positive outcomes for those affected by domestic abuse. Given the profound consequences of domestic abuse—including murder, suicide, physical injuries, chronic health conditions, trauma, anxiety, depression, and long-term emotional harm for both adults and children—the strategy seeks to address these issues holistically and promote resilience and recovery.

For example, some safe accommodation offers a significant positive impact for all individuals fleeing domestic abuse. By providing a secure environment, it enables those affected to escape from their perpetrators and relocate to a space where their whereabouts are unknown and inaccessible to those posing a risk. This transition reduces stress and anxiety and allows individuals to receive essential

support in a protected setting, leading to improvements in both mental and physical health and overall wellbeing.

Nevertheless, it is important to acknowledge the potential negative consequences associated with such displacement. Leaving behind their original location, individuals may become isolated from family, friends, and established support networks, which can adversely affect mental wellbeing and contribute to feelings of loneliness. This concern is particularly pronounced for children and young people, who may have to move school or college, lose contact with friends, and be separated from familiar social activities. These changes can make it difficult for them to express their feelings or discuss their challenges, potentially resulting in negative health and wellbeing outcomes. It should be noted however that the improvements in safety, and access to effective support services provide far greater positive impacts than the negative impacts resulting from remaining in a potentially dangerous situation. Where possible, suitable mitigations would be put in place against these negative impacts.

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

The development of the final strategy is shaped by the public consultation feedback and insights, as well as valuable insights from our Lived Experience Advisory Group. Recognising that domestic abuse impacts far more than just those directly involved, the strategy is designed with the broader community in mind. An action plan will underpin the strategy, with regular monitoring and annual reviews to ensure it remains effective. These reviews will incorporate feedback from individuals who have firsthand experience of domestic abuse, ensuring that lived experience continues to inform service development and commissioning.

As the strategy is implemented, the monitoring and review process will focus on identifying opportunities to increase positive outcomes for victims, perpetrators, staff, and the wider public. Ongoing engagement and evaluation will be central to this approach, enabling the strategy to adapt to emerging needs and insights.

Over the coming months and years, specific actions to review and monitor a range of impacts will be developed as the new strategy and commissioned service are rolled out. This process will remain responsive to any local changes arising from national developments, particularly the awaited publication of an updated Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) Code of Practice. The draft Code, still with the Minister for Women and Equalities following national consultation—where Shropshire Council contributed—reflects the Supreme Court ruling that Sex as a Protected Characteristic refers to the biological sex recorded at birth.

Associated ESHIAs

ESHIA re Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025.

Given the importance of addressing homelessness, rough sleeping, temporary accommodation, independent living, and specialist accommodation within the

context of domestic abuse, it is crucial that our Housing ESHIAs remain closely aligned with this strategy. Ensuring that these ESHIA documents are interconnected will help support individuals affected by domestic abuse and those experiencing housing instability.

After the public consultation period for the draft Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy concluded, a second screening ESHIA was undertaken. This allowed us to incorporate feedback received during the consultation, ensuring our approach remains responsive and effective.

Assessment of likely neutral, negative or positive impact, and actions to review and monitor overall impacts, with regard to climate change impacts and with regard to economic and societal impacts

The Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy is designed not only to support those directly affected by domestic abuse, but also to address its wider impacts across the community. This includes careful consideration of environmental, economic, societal, and human rights factors to seek to ensure an holistic and effective approach.

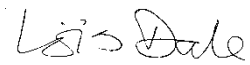
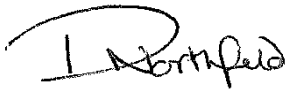
Climate Change
While the strategy has a minimal direct effect on climate change, its implementation can influence environmental outcomes through the way services are delivered. Activities such as outreach travel and building use contribute to carbon emissions and resource consumption. To minimise environmental impact, the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board will promote the use of safe digital meetings, and regular reviews of travel, energy consumption, and procurement practices. These measures are intended to keep the service's climate footprint as low as possible, in line with local commitments.

Economic and Societal/Wider Community Impacts
The consequences of domestic abuse extend far beyond individual households. Economically, it leads to lost employment, decreased productivity, financial instability, housing disruption, and heightened demand for public services, including health, policing, social care, and housing support. At the societal level, domestic abuse undermines community cohesion, increases feelings of fear and isolation, puts strain on both voluntary and statutory services, and perpetuates intergenerational cycles of harm. These factors establish domestic abuse as not only a personal crisis but also a significant public health, economic, and community issue.

Human rights considerations are also central to the strategy. For example, the right to family life may be raised by perpetrators of domestic abuse, particularly when their children are provided with safe accommodation. The strategy will address such issues as partnership work develops further, with a focus on minimising any potential negative impacts.

Taken together, the Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy is integral to creating positive change, addressing not only immediate safety needs but also broader economic, social, and environmental challenges within the community.

Scrutiny at Stage One screening stage

People involved	Signatures	Date
Wendy Bulman Domestic Abuse Strategic Lead	W BULMAN	3 April 2026
Officer carrying out the screening (if different from the above)		
*External support** **Mrs Lois Dale** **Senior Insights and Research Specialist** **Phil Northfield** **Public Health Integration & Inequalities Officer**	 	31st January 2026 2nd April 2026

This refers to support external to the service and within the Council, e.g., the Senior Insights and Research EDI specialist, the Integration & Inequalities Officer – Public Health, other Insights and Research or Public Health colleagues, the Feedback and Insight Team, Climate Change specialists, etc.

Sign off at Stage One screening stage

Name	Signatures	Date
Wendy Bulman	W BULMAN	3 April 2026

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

B. Detailed Screening Assessment

Aims of the service change and description
Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 ("the Act") sets out statutory duties for local authorities. In summary these are to: • appoint a multi-agency Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board (DALPB) (in line with core membership set out in the Act and statutory guidance), which will carry out a governance and consultative role as it performs certain specified functions;

- assess the need for safe accommodation-based domestic abuse support for all victims in their area;
- in consultation with the partnership board, develop and publish a strategy for the provision of such support to cover their locality – which is based on the needs assessment, is implemented through commissioning decisions, and includes monitoring and evaluation

The most recent Domestic Abuse Strategy was published in 2018 following consideration by members. The strategy overarching goals were to stop domestic abuse and address prevention, provision of services and partnership working.

The production and publishing of a Domestic Abuse Strategy every 3 years is a statutory duty of the Local Authority and as such there could be consequences for failing to deliver Part 4 of the Act.

As per our statutory duty, in 2024 Shropshire Council conducted a Needs Assessment to inform commissioning of accommodation-based support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in all forms of safe accommodation as defined in the Act. In addition to supporting the Council in meeting our statutory duty we delivered a full review which has informed the development of this wider strategy and the development of a coordinated community response to domestic abuse.

The Shropshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy overarching goal is to reduce domestic abuse within Shropshire. Developed in collaboration with the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board and individuals with lived experience, this strategy aims to address the needs of survivors and vulnerable populations across Shropshire. The framework is structured around four main priorities—victims, perpetrators, communities, and workforce—all aimed at reducing domestic abuse across Shropshire.

The Strategy outlines priority actions in the following areas:

- The '**Victims'** priority aims to ensure that victims and survivors, including children, promptly receive trauma-informed support and advocacy. Providing clear guidance to available information and services will facilitate access to further assistance, help mitigate long-term harm, and foster greater trust in local systems.
- The '**Workforce'** priority seeks to provide professionals with essential skills, knowledge, and confidence to respond effectively to domestic abuse. This approach will improve the identification of abuse, address gaps in service provision, and contribute to the reduction of domestic abuse incidents.
- The '**Perpetrators'** priority focuses on preventing harm through targeted interventions and holding individuals who engage in harmful behaviours accountable, thereby reinforcing a zero-tolerance approach and encouraging behavioural change.
- The '**Community'** priority is dedicated to equipping communities with the necessary skills, knowledge, and confidence to respond appropriately. By

promoting clear pathways to support, this objective aims to lower barriers to assistance, reduce stigma, raise awareness, and encourage early referrals for victims seeking help.

Intended audiences and target groups for the service change

- All those fleeing domestic abuse
- All those experiencing domestic abuse or at risk of domestic abuse
- Families and friends of those affected
- Support networks for those affected
- Agencies and providers involved
- Lived Experience Advisory Group
- Joint Commissioning Delivery Group.
- Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board (DALPB)
- Community Safety Partnership
- Government departments
- Neighbouring local authorities

Evidence used for screening of the service change

- 2018 Strategy
- 2024 Needs Assessment
- 2025 Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy
- Shropshire-wide Domestic Abuse Survey
- Statutory duties and guidance
- Safeguarding protocols and procedures

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

Workshops with the DALPB and lived experience advisory groups to ensure the strategy was co-produced and meets the needs of individual people and organisations.

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 for a grouping, through stating this in the relevant column, including if it is anticipated to be neutral (no impact).

Please also record in here your headline rationale for the ratings you have given.

Protected Characteristic groupings and other groupings locally identified in Shropshire	**High negative impact** *Stage Two ESHIA required*	**High positive impact** *Stage One ESHIA required*	**Medium positive or negative impact** *Stage One ESHIA required*	**Low positive, negative, or neutral impact (please specify)** *Stage One ESHIA required*
Age (please include children, young people, young carers, 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)			Low to medium positive impact	
Disability (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)			Low to medium positive impact	
Gender re-assignment (please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)			Low to medium positive impact	
Marriage and Civil Partnership (please include associated aspects: caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)			Low to medium positive impact	
Pregnancy and Maternity (please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)			Low to medium positive impact	
Race (please include ethnicity, nationality, culture, language, Gypsy, Roma, Traveller)			Low to medium positive impact	
Religion or Belief (please include Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism, Nonconformists; Rastafarianism; Shinto, Sikhism, Taoism, Veganism, Zoroastrianism, and any others)			Low to medium positive impact	

Sex (please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)			Low to medium positive impact	
Sexual Orientation (please include associated aspects: safety; caring responsibility; potential for bullying and harassment)			Low to medium positive impact	
Other: Social Inclusion (please include households in poverty or on low incomes; people for whom there are safeguarding concerns; people you consider to be vulnerable; people with health inequalities; refugees and asylum seekers; rough sleepers and those at risk of homelessness; and rural communities)			Low to medium positive impact	
Other: Carers (please include families and friends with caring responsibilities)			Low to medium positive impact	
Other: Veterans and serving members of the armed forces and their families (as per Armed Forces Act 2023)			Low to medium positive impact	
Other: Young people leaving care			Low to medium positive impact	

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, including if it is anticipated to be neutral (no impact).
Please also record in here your headline rationale for the ratings you have given.

Health and wellbeing: individuals and communities in Shropshire	**High negative impact** *Part Two HIA required*	**High positive impact**	**Medium positive or negative impact**	**Low positive negative or neutral impact (please specify)**
Will the proposal have a *direct impact* on an individual's health, mental health and wellbeing?			Low to medium positive, balanced in favour of positive	

For example, would it cause ill health, affecting social inclusion, independence and participation? .			impacts, with low negative of potential disruptions to pre-existing support networks	
Will the proposal *indirectly impact* an individual's ability to improve their own health and wellbeing? For example, will it affect their ability to be physically active, choose healthy food, reduce drinking and smoking? .			Low to medium positive, balanced with low negative of potential disruptions to support networks	
Will the policy have a *direct impact* on the community - social, economic and environmental living conditions that would impact health? For example, would it affect housing, transport, child development, education, employment opportunities, availability of green space or climate change mitigation?			Low to medium positive, balanced with low negative of potential disruptions to support networks. Positive impact on wider communities that experience neighbour incidences of domestic abuse.	
Will there be a likely change in *demand* for or access to health and social care services? For example: Primary Care, Hospital Care, Community Services, Mental Health, Local Authority services including Social Services? .			Medium positive as there should be a reduction in demand for access to health and social care services	

Initial health equity assessment
For the following categories, please complete with the expected impacts of this service change on wider inequalities, not just those that are health-related (whether positive, negative, or neutral) – include any additional information you feel is pertinent or useful. **Consider and record which you can control, which you can influence, and which may be out of your control**.

Which population groups/demographics will face health impacts as a result of this change (if any)? • Socio-Economically Deprived • Geographic Deprivation (inc. Rurality) – *if so, where?* • Inclusion Health & Vulnerable Groups[1] • Other	*Positive impacts expected on socio-economically deprived, and inclusion health and vulnerable groups, however domestic abuse occurs in any home environment.*
What mitigations/enhancements are already in place, or what mitigations/enhancements do you plan to include for the foreseeable consequences of these changes?	*Overall, the Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy is expected to have a **net positive impact on inclusion health groups**, particularly people experiencing homelessness, social exclusion, and multiple disadvantage. The strategy demonstrates strong alignment with health inequalities objectives through its focus on intersectionality, lived experience, safeguarding, and equitable access to support. Any potential negative impacts are recognised and actively mitigated through partnership working, consultation, and ongoing governance*

1- *Inclusion health is an umbrella term used to describe people who are socially excluded, who typically experience multiple overlapping risk factors for poor health, such as poverty, violence, and complex trauma. This includes people who experience homelessness, drug and alcohol dependence, vulnerable migrants, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, sex workers, people in contact with the justice system and victims of modern slavery. Health impacts for this wide grouping will therefore potentially be the same as those recorded under the Social Inclusion category in the equality impact table.*

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 national Protected Characteristic groupings and our additional local categories. 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.

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 high negative impacts for groupings within the community, the service area would need to take advice on whether or not to carry out a full report, or Stage Two assessment. This is resource intensive but 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 (ESHIAs) 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 or to Strategic Licensing Committee.
- What target groups and audiences you have worked with to date.
- What actions will you take in order to mitigate any likely negative impact upon a group or groupings, and enhance any likely positive effects for a group or groupings; and
- What actions you are planning to monitor and review the impact of your planned service change.

The formal template is there not only to help the service area but also to act as a stand-alone for a member of the public to read. The approach helps to identify whether or not any new or significant changes to services, including policies, procedures, functions, or projects, may have an adverse impact on a particular group of people, and whether the human rights of individuals may be affected.

There are nine Protected Characteristic groupings defined in the Equality Act 2010. The full list of groupings is: Age; Disability; Gender Reassignment; Marriage and Civil Partnership; Pregnancy and Maternity; Race; Religion or Belief; Sex; and Sexual Orientation. There is also intersectionality between these. Eg a young person with a disability would be in the groupings of Age and Disability, and if they described themselves as having a faith they would then also be in the grouping of Religion or Belief. We demonstrate equal treatment to people who are in these groups and to people who are not, through having what is termed 'due regard' to their needs and views when developing and implementing policy and strategy and when commissioning, procuring, arranging, or delivering services.

For the individuals and groupings who may be affected, ask yourself what impact do you think is likely and what actions will you currently anticipate taking, to mitigate or enhance likely impact of the service change? If you are reducing a service, for example, there may be further use you could make of awareness raising through social media and other channels to reach more people who may be affected.

Social inclusion is then a wider additional local 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, or people that we might consider to be vulnerable, such as refugee families or rough sleepers.

Please note that veterans and serving members of the armed forces and their families are a grouping to whom we are required to give due regard under Armed Forces legislation. In practice, we had been doing so for a number of years now.

We also identify two further distinct separate local groupings due to their circumstances: care leavers, as vulnerable individuals, and carers, due to the support they give and the support they need.

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 or reconfigure 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 and record your 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, we need to demonstrate a community leadership approach

3. Council wide and service area policy and practice on health and wellbeing

This is an area to record within our overall assessments of impacts, for which we ask service area leads to consider health and wellbeing impacts, 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.

Provision or change to a service that allows greater reach to those most in need, this can involve relocation, pooling of resource/efficiency changes, or digitisation of some provision. It may also involve greater opportunities for employment, decreasing socio-economic inequality. Physical alternatives to be made available (where practical) to be offered wherever possible to avoid digital exclusion and reduce social isolation. These changes can be either positive or negative depending on the proposal.

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. It could also involve virtual support sessions/appointments to avoid unnecessary travel and provide greater flexibility with individuals work schedules. It may involve greater internet connectivity, to improve remote working opportunities and air pollution concerns, or improved communications coverage through closer partnership working – targeting those most in need of specific information.

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 wellbeing.

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 or engage in active travel. Increasing physical activity and minimising the time spent sitting down helps to maintain a healthy weight and reduces the risk of cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, cancer, and depression. The UK Chief Medical Officers recommend that adults should do at least 150 minutes of moderate activity, or 75 minutes of vigorous activity, each week. At a wider level, reductions in vehicular emission lead to better air quality, and a reduction in NO_2 in the atmosphere.

An *indirect impact* could mean that a service change could indirectly affect living and working conditions and therefore the health and wellbeing 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. This can reduce the risks of cold related health effects, as well as reduce the financial burden on the population, whose ability to shoulder these costs can vary. 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.

Demand

Will there be a change in demand for or access to health, local authority and social care services?

For example: Primary Care, Hospital Care, Community Services, Mental Health and Social Services?

An example of this could be: a new housing development in an area would affect demand for primary care and local authority facilities and services in that location and surrounding areas. If the housing development does not factor in consideration of availability of green space and safety within the public realm, further down the line there could be an increased demand upon health and social care services as a result of the lack of opportunities for physical recreation, and reluctance of some groupings to venture outside if they do not perceive it to be safe.

For further advice: please contact Lois Dale via email Lois.Dale@shropshire.gov.uk
Or
Phil Northfield via email Phillip.Northfield@shropshire.gov.uk

Committee and Date

Council – 14th May 2026

Item

Public

Adoption of the Jo Cox Civility Pledge

Responsible Officer:	Tim Collard, Service Director – Legal and Governance		
email:	Tim.collard@shropshire.gov.uk	Tel:	01743 252756
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	Councillor Heather Kidd		

1. Synopsis

To encourage all members of the Council to sign up to the "Jo Cox Civility Pledge"

2. Executive Summary

2.1. This report does not address the increasing prevalence of the wider abuse and intimidation of councillors online and in person (please see the following link for information on Member Safety and what steps to take in those circumstances The Members' Gateway - Member safety - All Documents) but focuses on the internal activities of the Council and the work of the Jo Cox Foundation (members will be aware the MP Jo Cox was murdered in 2016) to promote the Jo Cox Civility Pledges which are designed to create a more respectful relationship between members. It is a commonly held view that if we are to expect decent standards of behaviour from members of the public when they engage with councillors, then good standards of behaviour need to be modelled within the council itself.

2.2. Whilst the behaviour of Shropshire Councillors when debating issues in Council meetings is generally very good, and the Council's Code of Conduct - which requires that all members treat other members (and officers) with respect – is generally complied with, the Leader believes that it would be beneficial if all members signed up to the Jo Cox Civility Pledge.

2.3. The Pledge is signed up to online and Ellie Taylor, Members Assistant will be located outside the Council Chamber on the 14th May to assist members with the process should you decide to sign up. Link to sign up: **Civility Pledge - The Jo Cox Foundation**

3. Recommendations

3.1. The Leader supports the Jo Cox Foundation and Compassion in Politics' Civility Pledge, and encourages all members sign up to the following commitments:

"to

- ***use a civil and constructive tone in debate;***
- ***act with integrity, honesty and compassion;***
- ***behave respectfully towards others, including those you disagree with."***

3.2. That the Pledge is referenced on all Cabinet and Committee agendas as a reminder to members.

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

4.1. Wide cross-Council support for the Civility Pledges will encourage respectful and civil debate which is clearly an appropriate way for the Council to conduct its business especially with public scrutiny.

4.2. If members do not sign up to the Civility Pledge it may undermine the public's confidence in the way in which the Council complies with the seven Nolan Principles of Public Life.

5. Financial Implications

5.1. There are no financial implications to adopting the Recommendation above.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

6.1. There are no Climate Change implications of adopting the Recommendation above.

7. Background

7.1. The Jo Cox Foundation was set up following the murder of Jo Cox MP in 2016. In January 2024 the Jo Cox Civility Commission launched a call for nationwide action

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to address the growing threat to democracy posed by abuse, harassment and intimidation of MPs and councillors.

7.2. As part of its campaign Jo Cox Civility Commission promotes the principle that all elected representatives, especially those in leadership roles, should model good behaviour. The underlying principle is that member behaviour, including towards each other, should model the respect with which they expect to be treated by the general public.

7.3. Member communication with each other, residents and officers is underpinned by the Code of Conduct, centred on the 7 Nolan Principles of conduct that apply to every holder of public office i.e. Selflessness, Integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Openness, Honesty and Leadership.

7.4. To reinforce these principles, the Leader recommends that all Members sign up to the Pledge set out above.

7.5. The recommendations in the report will support the Council to comply with its obligations under Section 27 of the Localism Act 2011 to promote and maintain high standards of conduct.

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

None www.jocoxfoundation.org/
Civility Pledge - Compassion in Politics

Local Member:	All

Appendices

Contact: Tim Collard – tim.collard@shropshire.gov.uk

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Committee and Date

Council – 14th May 2026

Item

Public

Adoption of Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan Review

Responsible Officer:	Kassandra Polyzoides, Service Director – Place Shaping		
email:	kassandra.polyzoides@shropshire.gov.uk	Tel:	01743 254797
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	Councillor David Walker		

1. Synopsis

This report provides the Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan Review referendum result and allows the Council to bring the Plan into force by 'making' (adopting) it as part of the statutory development plan under the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

2. Executive Summary

2.1. The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval for the Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan Review ('the Plan') to be brought into force by 'making' (adopting) it as part of the statutory development plan for the neighbourhood area and therefore be used in the determination of planning applications in that neighbourhood area. If made, the reviewed Plan should replace the made Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan (2013-2026).

2.2. The Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan Review has been produced by the Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan Review Steering Group, with Much Wenlock Review Town Council as the 'Qualifying Body'. Work on the Neighbourhood Plan Review

began in 2023 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 August 2025. Following the Examination, the Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan Review was brought to local referendum on 19th March 2026. The result was, of those who voted, 90% were in favour of Shropshire Council using the reviewed Neighbourhood Plan for Much Wenlock to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area.

2.3. 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 Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan Review 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 Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan Review (as set out in Appendices 1 and 2) 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 (referred to in this report as 'neighbourhood plans') provide the framework for their production and adoption. Whilst the preparation of neighbourhood plans is 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 Much Wenlock 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 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 Plan has been significantly reduced by both Much Wenlock Town Council and Shropshire Council following these regulations closely.

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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 Plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies of Shropshire's adopted development plan.

4.4. The steering group undertook community consultation which culminated in a consultation on a draft version of the Plan during June and July in 2025. The Plan was then submitted to Shropshire Council in August 2025 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 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; and
- 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 November 2025 concluding that the Plan could proceed to referendum, subject to a number of modifications to the Plan. The Examiner's Report is included as Appendix 3 of this report. The Examiner's 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 21st January 2026.

4.7. The referendum on the Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan Review took place on 19th March 2026 within the area defined as the Neighbourhood Area (Much Wenlock parish), where the following question was asked "Do you want Shropshire Council to use the Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan Review 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 Plan if more than half of those voting have voted in favour of the plan. In this case out of 747 who voted, 90% were in favour of the Plan being used to help decide planning applications. The turnout was 30%. Appendix 4 to this report provides the referendums full 'Declaration of Result 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 Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan Review will become part of the statutory planning framework applied in Shropshire. The 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 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 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

Risk	*Mitigation*	*Link to Strategic Risk*
Legal challenge to the process of 'making' (adoption) of the Neighbourhood Plan Review	This risk is significantly reduced by both Much Wenlock Town Council and Shropshire Council following the regulations set out within Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).	Failure of Officers and Members to adhere to Governance arrangements.
Legal challenge if the Plan were not 'made' (adopted) by the Council	The referendum result of 90% of those who voted were in favour of the use of the Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan Review as a decision-making tool for planning applications. This is clear and overwhelming public support for the Plan and it is recommended that the Council as the Local Planning Authority 'make' (adopt) this Plan.	Failure of Officers and Members to adhere to Governance arrangements.

5. Financial Implications

5.1. The costs of undertaking the Examination and Referendum are met by Government Funding. The robustness of the 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 Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan Review includes positively prepared policies seeking to achieve sustainable development and respond to climate change. Specifically, Policy MW19 'Energy efficiency and mitigating climate change' seeks to maximise opportunities to increase energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions. Policy MW26 'Renewable and community energy' encourages the use of renewable energy. Objective 7 of the Plan, 'Green and open spaces, local landscape and wildlife' identifies opportunities for green space in adaptation for climate change. The inclusion Policy MW10 'Flood prevention' and Policy MW11 'Sustainable drainage and design management' acknowledges future flood risk threat due to climate change. The Plan is also in general conformity with the current adopted development plan 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 Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan Review has completed the following regulatory stages of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012:

- The formal designation of the Neighbourhood Area (Regulation 6), September 2012;
- Consultation on a draft version of the Plan (Regulation 14), carried out by Much Wenlock Town Council between 11th November 2024 to 6th January 2025;
- Submission of the draft Plan by Much Wenlock Town Council to the Local Planning Authority (Regulation 15), August 2025;
- Consultation on final draft version of the Plan (Regulation 16), carried out by Shropshire Council between 13th June to 25th July 2025;
- Examination on the Final Draft Version of the Plan (Regulation 17), August to November 2025; and
- Publication of the Examiner's Report, November 2025, and decision to progress to referendum (Regulation 18), (21st January 2025).

7.3. Following the successful referendum in March 2026, the Council is now being asked to 'make' (adopt) the Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan Review to form part of the development plan for the area.

7.4. In accordance with the Regulations, once adopted, planning applications in the area covered by the plan must be considered against the Plan, as well as existing Local

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Plan policies in the adopted Core Strategy and Site Allocations and Management of Development (SAMDev) Plan as well as other material planning considerations, such as the National Planning Policy Framework.

7.5. It is considered the final version of the Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan Review, which covers the whole parish of Much Wenlock, provides an effective and positive planning framework for taking decisions on planning applications. Councillor Dan Thomas, Shropshire Council Member for Much Wenlock and Member of Much Wenlock Town Council, is in full support of the Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan Review and its adoption into the local development plan for Shropshire.

7.6. 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. The Plan contains policies relating to housing design in Much Wenlock and protection of the natural, built and historic environment. The final version of the Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan is attached to this report at Appendices 1 and 2.

8. Additional Information

8.1. Whilst Shropshire Council has helped to support the Plan through its statutory role as consultee and administrator, the Plan's inception and preparation has been led by Much Wenlock 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 Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan Review which went to referendum, the Examiner's report and results of the referendum.

9. Conclusions

9.1. Following a positive referendum result, this report seeks to 'make' (adopt) the Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan Review.

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

Recommendation for the Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan Review to Proceed to Referendum – 21st January 2026

Application by Much Wenlock to be considered as a Neighbourhood Area – 12th September 2012

Local Member: Cllr Dan Thomas

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan Review

Appendix 2 - Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan Review Design Guidelines

Appendix 3 - Examiner's report

Appendix 4 - Declaration of referendum results

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Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan

Our plan – Our future

Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan

2024 to 2038



Referendum Version

March 2026

Prepared by the Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group on behalf of Much Wenlock Town Council

Foreword

Much Wenlock is a town with a strong sense of identity, history and purpose, and it has embraced the opportunity to update its existing Neighbourhood Plan. Back in 2013, Much Wenlock created the first Neighbourhood Plan in Shropshire, leading the way for communities to shape development in their parishes.

The adopted plan runs until 2026, so it is appropriate to have an interim review. As in 2013, the level of engagement by residents has been remarkable, providing the steering group with a wealth of perspectives that has shaped every aspect of this plan.

At the heart of our approach has been the delicate balance between preserving Much Wenlock's unique character and heritage whilst ensuring our town remains vibrant and fit for purpose in the 21st century. Our steering group, comprising both members of the public and Town Councillors, has worked tirelessly to craft policies that reflect the aspirations and concerns of our community. Those whose families have been here for generations and those who have moved to our town and villages more recently.

Throughout our consultations, we have consistently heard about the importance of sympathetic development that respects our distinctive architectural legacy and rural setting, protecting those qualities that make Much Wenlock special. This document represents the culmination of listening carefully to residents, landowners, community groups and a range of local organisations. We have aimed to reach balanced, practical compromises that are both viable and achievable within the planning framework.

When adopted, this Neighbourhood Plan will provide Much Wenlock, through its Town Council, with greater significant influence over proposed developments. This means we can better ensure that future growth aligns with our community's vision and meets its genuine needs. It will also secure more substantial contributions from developers towards the infrastructure required to support new development. While the powers granted through a Neighbourhood Plan are not unlimited, they do provide our community with a stronger voice in shaping our future.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who has contributed to this process. Your passion for Much Wenlock and commitment to its future have made this plan possible.

Cllr Dan Thomas

Chairman, Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document is the Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan (MWNP). It replaces the 2013-2026 Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan.

1.2 It sets out planning and land-use policy for the town and wider parish, over the period 2024 to 2038, forming part of the development plan for Shropshire Council (SC). SC designated the Much Wenlock neighbourhood area on 12 September 2012. The neighbourhood area shares its boundary with that of the Parish (*Figure 1*).

1.3 The Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Town & Country Planning Act 1990, the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended). The Town Council, as the Qualifying Body, set up a Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group comprising local councillors and community volunteers to lead on the preparation of the Plan. In consultation with the community, local businesses and others, the Steering Group has reviewed the vision and objectives for the future of the designated area and set out how that vision will be realised through planning land use and development change over the period to 2038.

1.4 The MWNP policies form part of the development plan for Shropshire Council and must be considered by any interested parties wishing to submit planning applications for development within Much Wenlock parish. The policies also set out how land should be considered, in planning terms, locally, and alongside the policies of the local development plan, is a material planning consideration in the determination of applications.

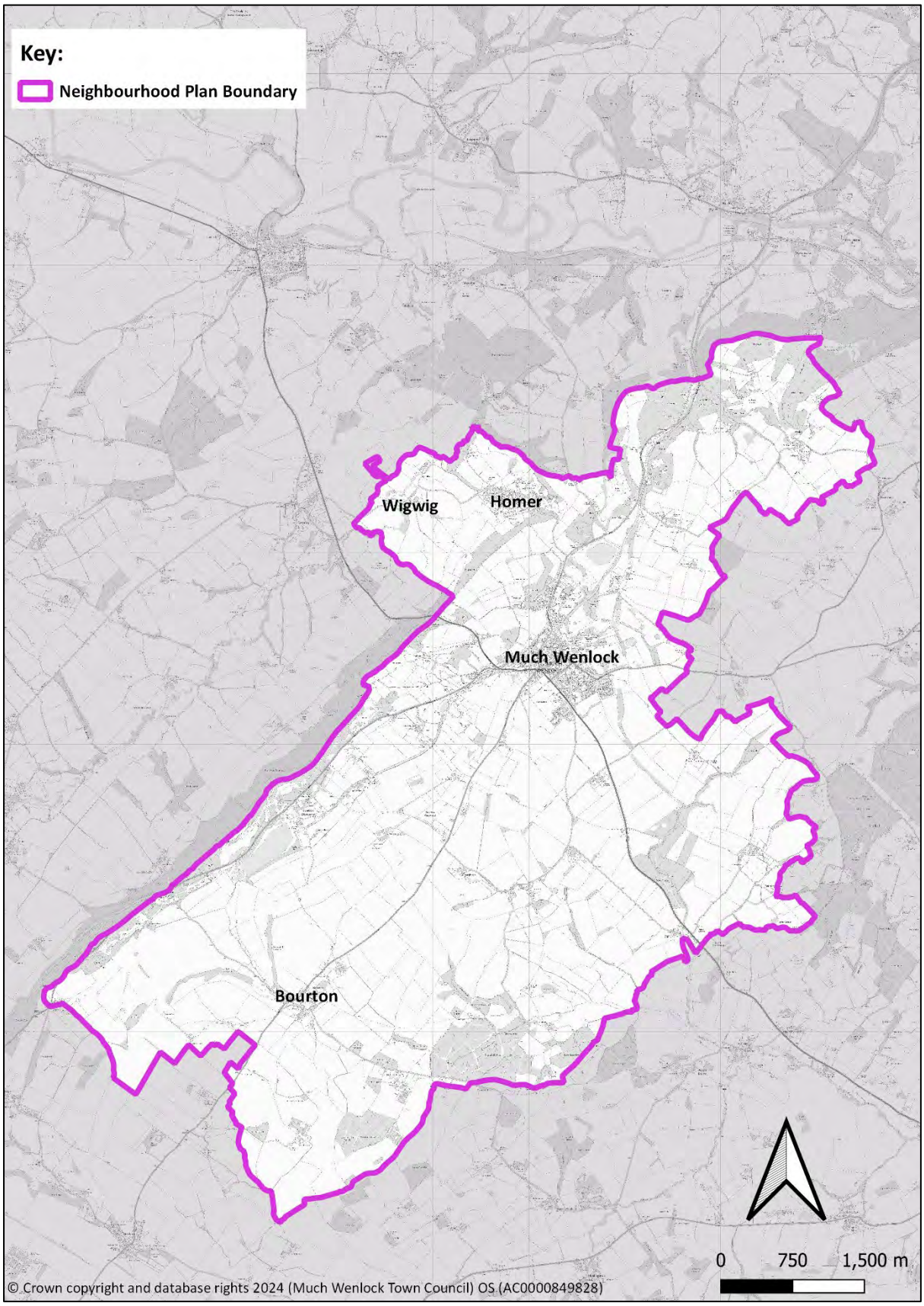
1.5 The process of reviewing the MWNP has sought to reflect matters that are of considerable importance to the local community. Within each section there is a summary of what the policy seeks to achieve and a justification, providing the necessary understanding of why the policy is needed and how it should be applied. The policies themselves are presented in the green boxes and these will be used to determine planning applications. To understand the full context for any individual policy, it should be read alongside the supporting text and evidence documents that have been compiled to underpin the MWNP.

1.6 Beneath each policy is a conformity reference. These list the relevant strategic policies in the adopted and emerging Shropshire Local Plan documents and the paragraphs of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (most recently updated in December 2024) to which the policy conforms to. Alongside some policies are Community Actions.

1.7 The MWNP also identifies local community projects that are not met through planning policy but which are important to the well-being of the community. Finally, the Plan sets out the Community Infrastructure Priorities and a framework for monitoring and implementation.

1.8 Note that the Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Area Design Guidelines (Appendix C) form part of formal policy for the MWNP.

Figure 1: Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan designated area



The Planning Policy Context

National Planning Policy

1.9 The MWNP has been prepared in accordance with the NPPF (most recently revised in December 2024). It states:

> *"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 policies*** *(Neighbourhood plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in any development plan that covers their area)."*
>
> "*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 subsequently."*

Local Planning Policy

1.10 The policies of the MWNP must be in general conformity with the adopted strategic policies of the Shropshire Core Strategy (adopted 2011) and the Site Allocations and Management of Development (SAMDev) Plan (adopted 2015).

1.11 The Shropshire Development Plan also comprises a series of 'made' neighbourhood plans and other supplementary planning guidance.

1.12 SC had been working on a review of their Local Plan, which had reached Examination stage. The Inspector wrote to SC on 17 February 2025 to set out concerns about the soundness of the plan. SC issued a letter on 13 March 2025, setting out their intention to withdraw the Plan from Examination. On 17 July 2025 SC's Full Council made the decision to withdraw the Plan and it was formally withdrawn from examination on 25 July 2025. On 12 February 2025 SC's cabinet agreed that the evidence base supporting the now withdrawn emerging Plan forms a material consideration in decision making on relevant planning applications, to support the implementation of the presumption in favour of sustainable development. This includes planning applications for new development on sites proposed to be allocated in the now withdrawn Plan.

1.13 The SC Cabinet Meeting held on 12 February 2025 notes agreement that "the evidence base supporting the draft Local Plan (2016-2038) is a material consideration in decision making on relevant planning applications, to support the implementation of the presumption in favour of sustainable development. This will include planning applications for new development on sites proposed to be allocated in the submitted version of the Local Plan (2016-2038). This evidence base has been drawn on to inform policies of the MWNP.

The Shropshire Hills National Landscape Management Plan

1.14 Part of the Shropshire Hills National Landscape (SHNL) falls within the parish, to the west and north. The remainder of the parish contributes to the setting of the SHNL. Local authorities with land in a national landscape are legally obliged under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to produce a Management Plan. The Shropshire Hills Management Plan 2019-2024 is used to guide environmental land management and assess the impact of development or other changes on the national landscape.

1.15 The objectives of the Management Plan have been considered in the development of this Neighbourhood Plan, as has the advice contained in the suite of documents, such as the Agricultural Building Design Guide.

1.16 It is noted that work on a Management Plan 2025-30 is underway.

Community engagement

1.17 Work on the MWNP Review (*Table 1)* has been guided by the need to engage with the local community. Apart from the statutory requirements for public consultation at various stages, measures to draw in a wider range of contributions included regular newsletter articles, a parish-wide survey, Plan Review exhibitions and discussions with groups and individuals in the parish. These were set out fully in the Consultation Statement, which accompanied the Submission Version Plan.

1.18 Table 1: Summary timeline of activity

Date	Milestone	Key activities
2023	Much Wenlock Town Council decides to review the MWNP	• Funding sought and consultancy support engaged • High level review of existing Plan undertaken to identify potential amendments and gaps
2024	Evidence and engagement Pre-Submission Version (Regulation 14) Plan published	• Dedicated webpage established • Steering Group established • Working groups established • Community Survey launched • Community exhibition on review of objectives • Housing Needs Assessment prepared • Design Guidance and Codes prepared • Initial draft plan prepared for Strategic Environmental Assessment / Habitats Regulations Assessment screenings • Regulation 14 consultation carried out
2025-2026	Regulation 16 Plan published Examination Referendum	• Submission Version Plan submitted to SC for second round of formal consultation • Plan independently examined • Plan finalised for Referendum • Plan 'made'

Sustainability of the Neighbourhood Plan

1.19 The MWNP has been screened by SC to ascertain whether a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required. The screening document was subject to consultation with Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency for five weeks from 18 September 2024 to 24 October 2024. The Screening Determination Statement has concluded that the MWNP is unlikely to result in significant environmental effects and therefore does not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment.

1.20 In addition, the screening determined that the 'appropriate assessment' stage of the HRA process, that ascertains the effect on integrity of any European Sites, does not need to be undertaken. This conclusion was sent to Natural England for consideration and their response is in agreement. A copy of the Screening Determination statements is available on the Town Council website.

2. ABOUT MUCH WENLOCK PARISH

2.1. Much Wenlock is a small historic Shropshire market town with a wider rural parish area which runs from the lip of the Severn Gorge down to the south west along Wenlock Edge. Part of the western and northern areas are situated within the Shropshire Hills National Landscape, with the remainder forming part of its setting. Some areas of the parish are nationally geologically important with a high number of Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

2.2. There are 2,907 residents in the parish living in 1,345 homes (2021 census, see also *Figure 2*). The main settlement is Much Wenlock itself, recognised as being associated with the origins of the Modern Olympic Games due to the meetings and correspondence between William Penny Brookes and Baron de Coubertin.

2.3. Smaller villages and hamlets include Bourton, Homer and Wigwig.

2.4. The market town has at its heart, the medieval Wenlock Priory (a Scheduled Monument) and Guildhall with several further medieval buildings in the High St. There are also numerous listed buildings including within the Conservation Areas of Much Wenlock and Bourton.

2.5. There is a healthy High Street, and a range of facilities including a health centre and two schools, alongside many community groups covering a wide range of interests.

2.6. Much Wenlock is also one of the most desirable places to live in Shropshire because of the town's qualities and especially its attractive rural location. It is convenient for the growth points of Telford and Shrewsbury and being within easy commuting distance of the West Midlands conurbation. It is split by the busy A458 and A4169 carrying rising numbers of commercial and heavy goods vehicle traffic.

2.7. The resulting development pressures and high house prices set a challenge to provide housing, supported by the necessary infrastructure, to meet local needs in a way that respects the quality of the town and its rural setting.



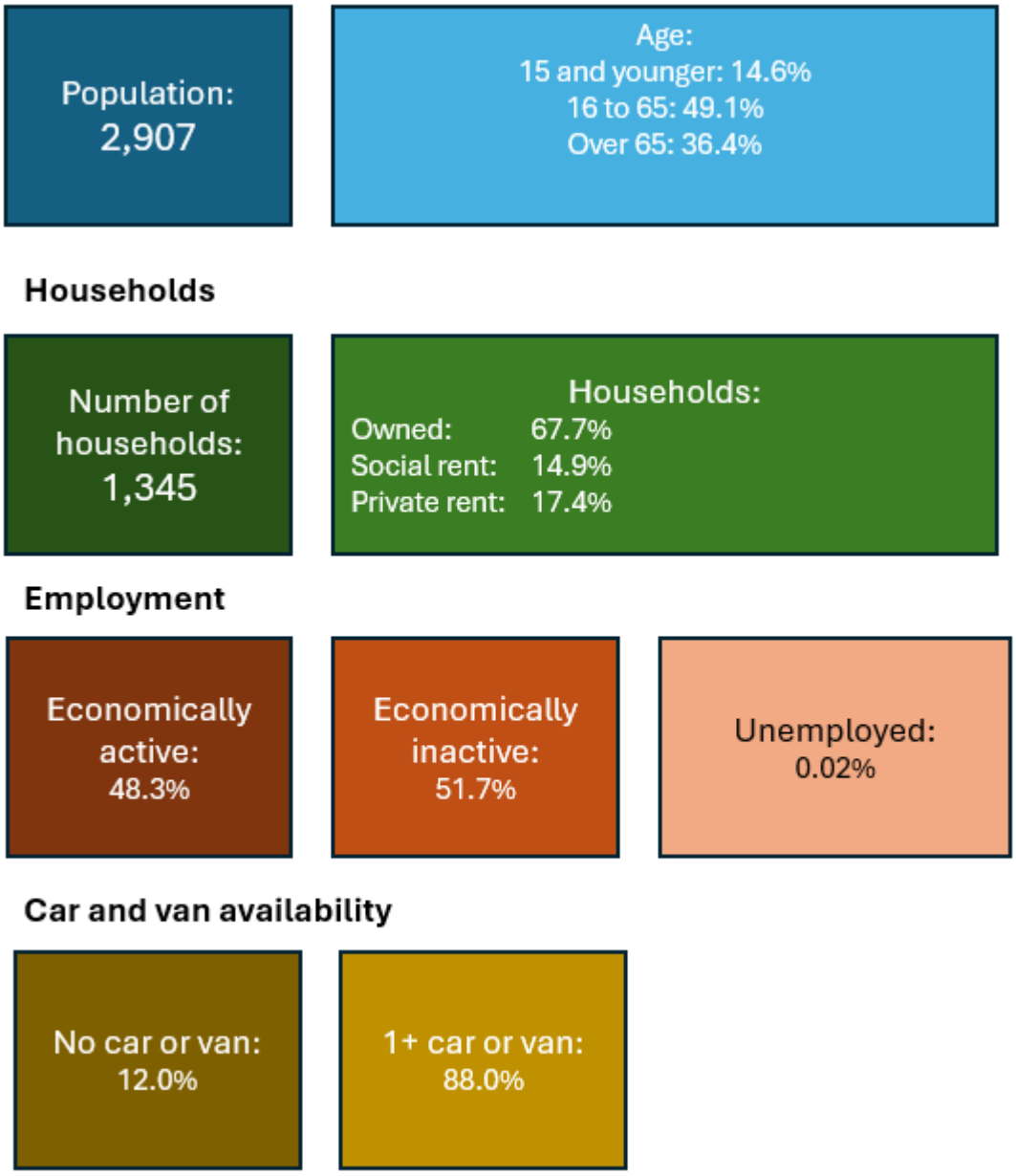
Issues and opportunities for Much Wenlock

2.8. In consultation with the community, including the town surveys and visioning and objectives workshop, the following issues and opportunities have been identified:

- There are approximately 2,900 people living in the parish. In terms of age profile, there is a higher percentage of those aged 65 years and over when compared to Shropshire as a whole. It will be important that the specific needs of older residents are considered in terms of housing provision and accessibility, access to services and local transport.
- The parish is attractive to families and there is also a high number of children aged between 5 and 18 years living locally. It will be important to ensure that there are adequate and affordable homes suited to the needs of young and growing families, and the provision of amenities required by this demographic.
- The parish suffers from significant flooding, from a range of sources, which impacts people's daily lives when it occurs. This is becoming an increasingly frequent event.
- House prices in the parish are high when compared to local incomes.
- The A458 cuts through the town, linking Shrewsbury to Bridgnorth. It meets the A469 and B4378 at the Gaskell Arms junction, which is problematic in traffic terms. This pinchpoint junction experiences heavy traffic at peaks times, including HGVs. Whilst the MWNP has limited influence over such strategic transport matters, it is something that needs to be considered carefully as the town grows.
- The parish is rurally located and there is no railway station in the parish, the nearest ones being at Shrewsbury and Telford. Bus transport is fairly good although concerns have been raised about frequency and reliability of services. This means that most residents are inevitably reliant on their car to get around and to access services and employment Inevitably this has led to a high car dependency, with 88% of residents owning at least one vehicle. Nevertheless, that leaves 12% of residents without a private car and therefore it will vital that they can access services either via public transport or by foot. This is particularly the case for the smaller, more isolated settlements in the parish. Much Wenlock is theoretically very walkable for those who are willing and able. Opportunities to optimise walking routes should be sought.
- The town centre and High Street play a central role in the life of residents and need to be supported in terms of its ongoing viability and offering a mixed set of uses.
- The majority of those in employment travel outside the parish to reach their place of work. Opportunities for locally based employment should be supported where possible to reduce the reliance on out-commuting. As space for commercial development is limited space, such uses should be safeguarded and where, necessary mixed-use developments may offer a suitable solution.
- The parish benefits from a very attractive landscape environment within the setting of the Shropshire Hills National Landscape. Safeguarding the landscape character, the habitats it supports and the important green spaces within it is critical.

- The parish comprises a number of settlements, each with their own identity and character. Maintaining their individuality is something that residents are keen to ensure.
- The parish is home to a wealth of heritage assets, both above and below ground. These need to be preserved and celebrated as they add to the story of the parish.
- Tourism is an important sector and should be managed in a sustainable way.

Figure 2: Some statistics about Much Wenlock parish (2021 census)



3. A VISION AND OBJECTIVES FOR MUCH WENLOCK

The Community Vision and objectives for the Neighbourhood Plan

3.1. The starting point for the review of MWNP was to ensure that the residents were given the opportunity to shape development and land use until the end of the Plan period in 2038. The existing vision, encapsulated by the line, **'Our Plan, Our Future'** continues to resonate locally having been defined by the desires, concerns and aspirations of local residents and other stakeholders of Much Wenlock parish.

3.2. The planning policies are couched within a series of overarching objectives that stem directly from the views and opinions expressed at the consultation events hosted by community volunteers and the on-line survey. The objectives are shown in *Table 2*:

Table 2: MWNP Objectives

Objective 1: Spatial strategy and housing ✓ developing collaborative partnerships with one or more Housing Associations to bring forward affordable housing on exception and other sites. ✓ supporting small-scale infill sites and conversions within the wider parish. ✓ actively supporting the redevelopment of brownfield sites. ✓ making sure that developments include a suitable mix of housing suited to local needs, including dwellings suited to older residents and those with disabilities. This should include good access and safe or green walking to facilities within the town.
Objective 2: The economy and jobs ✓ safeguarding existing commercial and employment land-uses. ✓ making sure that existing employment sites are kept for employment use wherever possible and appropriate. ✓ supporting new/expanded business premises in suitable locations. ✓ protecting the vitality of Much Wenlock town centre. ✓ supporting new mixed-use developments where an existing commercial site is demonstrated unviable, retaining an element of employment so that where appropriate, people can combine work and home life. ✓ encouraging appropriate and sustainable rural tourism activities.
Objective 3: Reducing flood risk ✓ recognising the significance of the designation of Much Wenlock as within a Rapid Response Catchment subject to the Highest Category of flood risk. ✓ minimising the impacts of flooding within the town's conservation area, implicit in a worst-case flood scenario, by a catchment wide flood attenuation strategy. ✓ making a prior assessment, of any impact on flood risk, a key element in preparing for the implementation of each of the council's policies.

- ✓ restricting new development to locations least likely to increase flood risk.
- ✓ encouraging the development of nature-based solutions throughout the catchment to reduce runoff and to slow the flow of surface water.
- ✓ keeping sufficient land that has the potential to be used to slow down the flow of surface water through engineering or natural means free from development that would prevent such use. making sure that developments minimise the impact on water quality and subsequent health risks particularly during flooding conditions.
- ✓ protecting and improving local water quality.

Objective 4: Transport and movement

- ✓ supporting plans to improve the infrastructure for local walking, cycling and equestrian transport, in line with the principles of the 20-minute neighbourhoods.
- ✓ making sure that new developments have enough associated off-street car parking to meet current and future needs.
- ✓ safeguard existing off-street public car parking and support additional car parking to alleviate pressure in the town centre.
- ✓ supporting local and strategic traffic management proposals which reduce the number of HGV/LGV vehicles travelling through the parish in order to minimise their adverse impact.
- ✓ managing new developments so that they do not have an unacceptable traffic impact on local residents.
- ✓ ensuring that traffic impacts at pinchpoint junctions and stretches of road are minimised.

Objective 5: Community well-being

- ✓ creating new facilities for families, the elderly and young people.
- ✓ supporting developments or uses associated with a positive visitor experience.
- ✓ protecting existing community buildings and services.
- ✓ providing new public toilet provision to cater for local and visitor needs.

Objective 6: Good quality design, local character and heritage

- ✓ respecting the scale, style and setting of the historic townscapes of Much Wenlock (in particular the unique characteristics of the ‘bowl’ setting) and Bourton.
- ✓ making sure that in Much Wenlock and Bourton, the use of building materials is in keeping with those used in their respective Conservation Areas. Elsewhere, new developments should use materials which respect their setting and rural environment.
- ✓ ensuring that any development or change be of the highest quality design.
- ✓ ensuring that new developments will include gardens of an appropriate scale to the property.

Objective 7: Green and open spaces, local landscape and wildlife

- ✓ protecting the existing areas of green space within the parish and ensuring that their quality and or multi-functionality is improved. It is important that existing spaces be considered for retrofitting in adaptation for climate change.
- ✓ creating extra areas of high-quality green space within new developments.
- ✓ taking opportunities taken to create linkages between sites, address green and pedestrian gaps in existing networks, create of new foot and cycle routes, and wildlife biodiversity corridors.
- ✓ ensuring that new accessible and inclusive green space should exceed or at least meet Shropshire Council's standards for green open spaces, play spaces and allotments. New designated spaces will be welcomed if they meet the required standards.
- ✓ identifying opportunities to increase potential new green and open spaces for enjoyment of the local landscape and countryside are identified.
- ✓ undertaking sympathetic management of the countryside and natural outdoor environment in and around the parish is undertaken to enhance the quality of the landscape, improve local biodiversity and provide other benefits to the community's quality of life.

3.3. Underpinning the objectives is the need to ensure that all policies contribute to mitigating the impacts of climate change.

4. THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN POLICIES

OBJECTIVE 1: SPATIAL STRATEGY AND HOUSING

The Plan will provide for a limited amount of housing to meet local needs. It will do this through:

- ✓ developing collaborative partnerships with one or more Housing Associations to bring forward affordable housing on exception and other sites.
- ✓ supporting small-scale infill sites and conversions within the wider parish.
- ✓ actively supporting the redevelopment of brownfield sites.
- ✓ making sure that developments include a suitable mix of housing suited to local needs, including dwellings suited to older residents and those with disabilities. This should include good access and safe or green walking to facilities within the town.

Policy MW1: Supporting sustainable development

Purpose

4.1. This policy seeks to ensure that any development within the parish is directed to the most appropriate, sustainable locations, where there is easy access to the main town services and facilities. This will help to protect the wider sensitive landscape of the parish and safeguard against the sprawl and coalescence of the individual parish settlements. The policy supports the re-use of previously developed (brownfield) land in preference to greenfield. It also supports the concept of compact and walkable neighbourhoods to address the potential additional strains of development in the parish on road systems, particularly for developments that are furthest away from the main facilities.

POLICY MW1: SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

A. Development proposals within the defined development boundaries (as shown in the most recent development plan) will be supported where they comply with other development plan policies. Development proposals must meet the following criteria:

i. it is of a scale and nature appropriate to the character and function of the area, with particular consideration given to how the proposal will mitigate any impacts on the character, and/or visual amenity, and/or tranquillity impact on the Shropshire Hills National Landscape and its setting; and
ii. new development must be designed to take full account of any existing flood risk, irrespective of the source of flooding in accordance with Policy MW10; and
iii. it maintains and, where possible, enhances the natural and built appearance and character of the area; and
iv. it is capable of connecting to the primary movement network hierarchy (see Policy MW12), to support the delivery of the 20-minute (10 minutes each way) walkable neighbourhood concept; and
v. it improves, where appropriate, the strategic linkages from the site to the town, focussing on pinchpoints in accordance with Policy MW14; and
vi. development growth must relate to and be in line with growth of infrastructure.

B. Development proposals outside the defined development boundary (as shown in the most recent development plan) will only be supported where appropriate consideration is given to the effect on designated sites and they involve:

i. development supported in such locations in national and local planning policies; or

ii. the proposal is a "rural exceptions scheme" delivered in accordance with Policy MW3; or

iii. where appropriate, it brings redundant or vacant agricultural or farm buildings or historic buildings of heritage value back into viable optimal use consistent with their conservation in a manner that does not cause harm in terms of additional traffic.

C. In determining development proposals, substantial weight will be given to the value of using suitable previously developed (brownfield) land within the development boundaries and, where relevant, in accordance with Policy MW5.

Conformity Reference: Shropshire Core Strategy (2011): CS1, CS3, CS4, CS5, CS8; SAMDev Plan (2015): MD1, MD7a, and b, S13; NPPF (2024): 7, 8, 29, 61, 73, 82, 83, 84, 96, 98, 111, 124, 125, 126, 129, 130, 135, 187

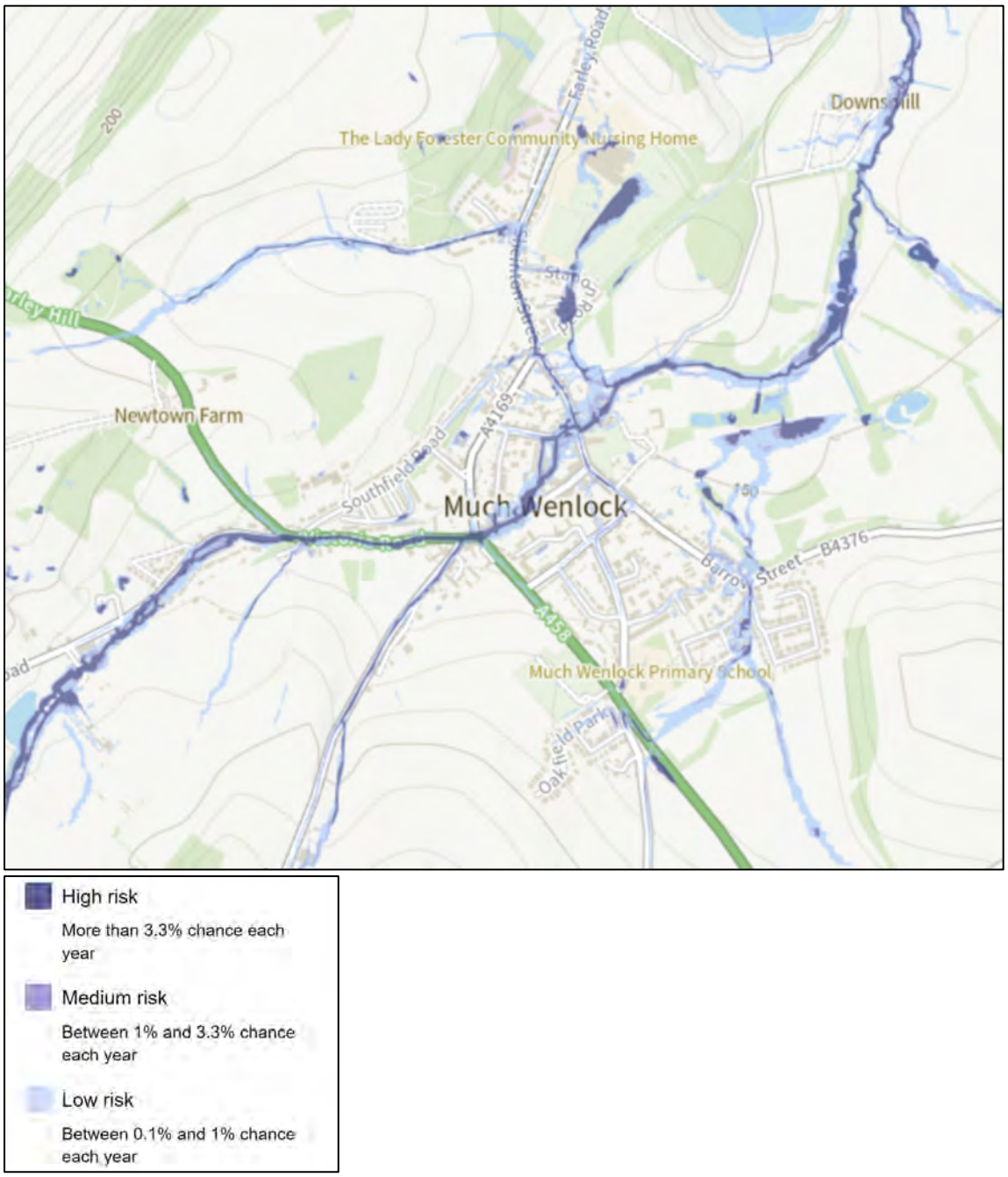
Justification

4.2. The Neighbourhood Plan does not seek to allocate sites for development, a position that has been agreed with SC.

4.3. Policy MW1, supported by other policies in this Plan, seeks to achieve the following in terms of sustainable development:

- focusing development to within the defined development boundaries - The adopted settlement policy boundaries are shown on *Figures 4 and 5* alongside the statutory designations in the parish. Note that minor amendments to the development boundaries may be identified in any future Local Plan Review. Much Wenlock, as the main settlement, is the focus for development. Within Bourton's development boundary, only limited infill is supported. Outside the development boundaries, new development will be strictly controlled in line with national policy and Core Strategy CS5 or its successor.
- avoiding flood zones – Flooding is a significant problem in Much Wenlock. Development should be directed to smaller sites within the development boundary avoiding known flood zones (*Figure 3*). Development outside the development boundary will be subject to Rural Exception Site assessment. Further detail on flooding and drainage is provided in Policies MW10 and MW11.

Figure 3: Flood Risk Map (surface water)



- <u>prioritising the use of previously developed (brownfield)land in preference to greenfield sites</u> - Brownfield sites, which may be existing sites that come for redevelopment, should be used to support mixed-use development, which could comprise small-scale commercial/light industrial uses, community-scale energy regeneration, housing (notably affordable housing) and/or those working from home (i.e. space to work within a residence). There is scope within the wider countryside to bring back into use any vacant sites, including agricultural sites to optimise their use.
- <u>a focus on smaller sites</u> - Large-scale development is less acceptable to the community and where new housing is needed, the consensus is that it should be delivered through smaller

sites and where it can be supported by adequate infrastructure. There is an overwhelming desire to maintain the scale, style and setting of Much Wenlock and to protect the rural settlements and surrounding countryside from development.

- conserving and enhancing the historic and natural environment - The parish is home to a wide range of natural features. To the west, and partially within the parish, lies the Shropshire Hills National Landscape. There are also a series of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and some significant areas of ancient woodland. Alongside these natural features, elements of the historic environment also need protecting, including Much Wenlock and Bourton Conservation Areas, the Scheduled Monuments (notably Wenlock Priory), plus the designated and non-designated heritage assets.
- ensuring that the overall quantum of development does not put an unacceptable strain on infrastructure capacity – Much of the core infrastructure planning (e.g. schools, GPs) sits outside the scope of the MWNP as it is the responsibility of other organisations. However, the Plan seeks to ensure that any new major development (as defined in the NPPF, see Glossary) is carefully masterplanned, with early community involvement, to ensure that adequate facilities and infrastructure that meets local requirements are provided.
- ensuring that new development is well-connected to the existing movement network - Improving and adding to this network where possible, to provide accessible, safe and pleasant pedestrian and cycle links. The Town and Country Planning Association supports Walkable Neighbourhoods and a 10 minute journey time (one-way from home to destination) is considered optimal. For the MWNP, the emphasis is on connectivity and ensuring that new major development improves the strategic links within the parish, to help unlock identified pedestrian and vehicular pinchpoints. These are described more fully in Policy MW14.

4.4. *Figures 4 and 5* show the parish, the adopted settlement policy boundaries and the extent of statutory designations that exist in the Parish.

Figure 4: Map showing development boundaries within the Parish and other key statutory designations

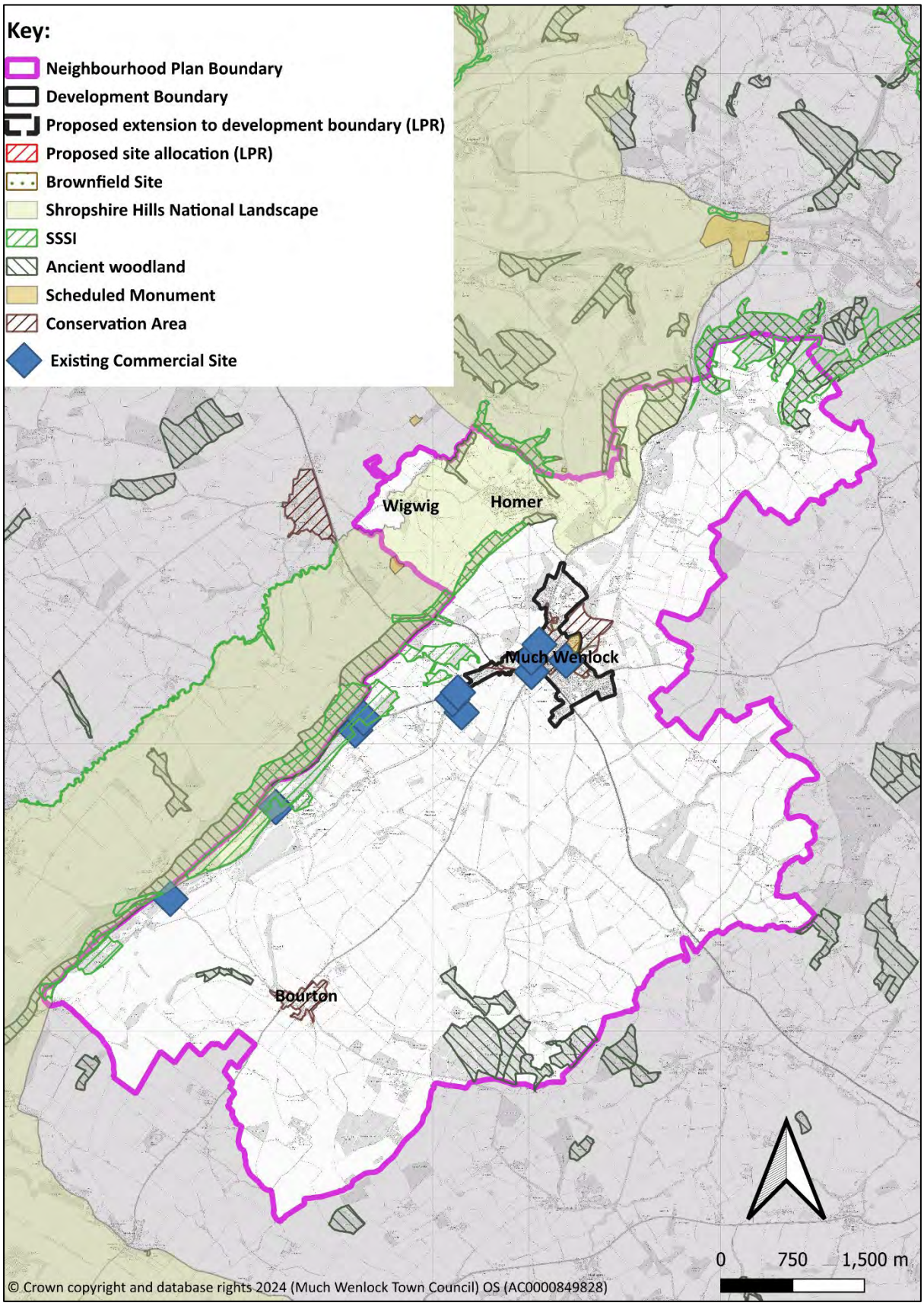
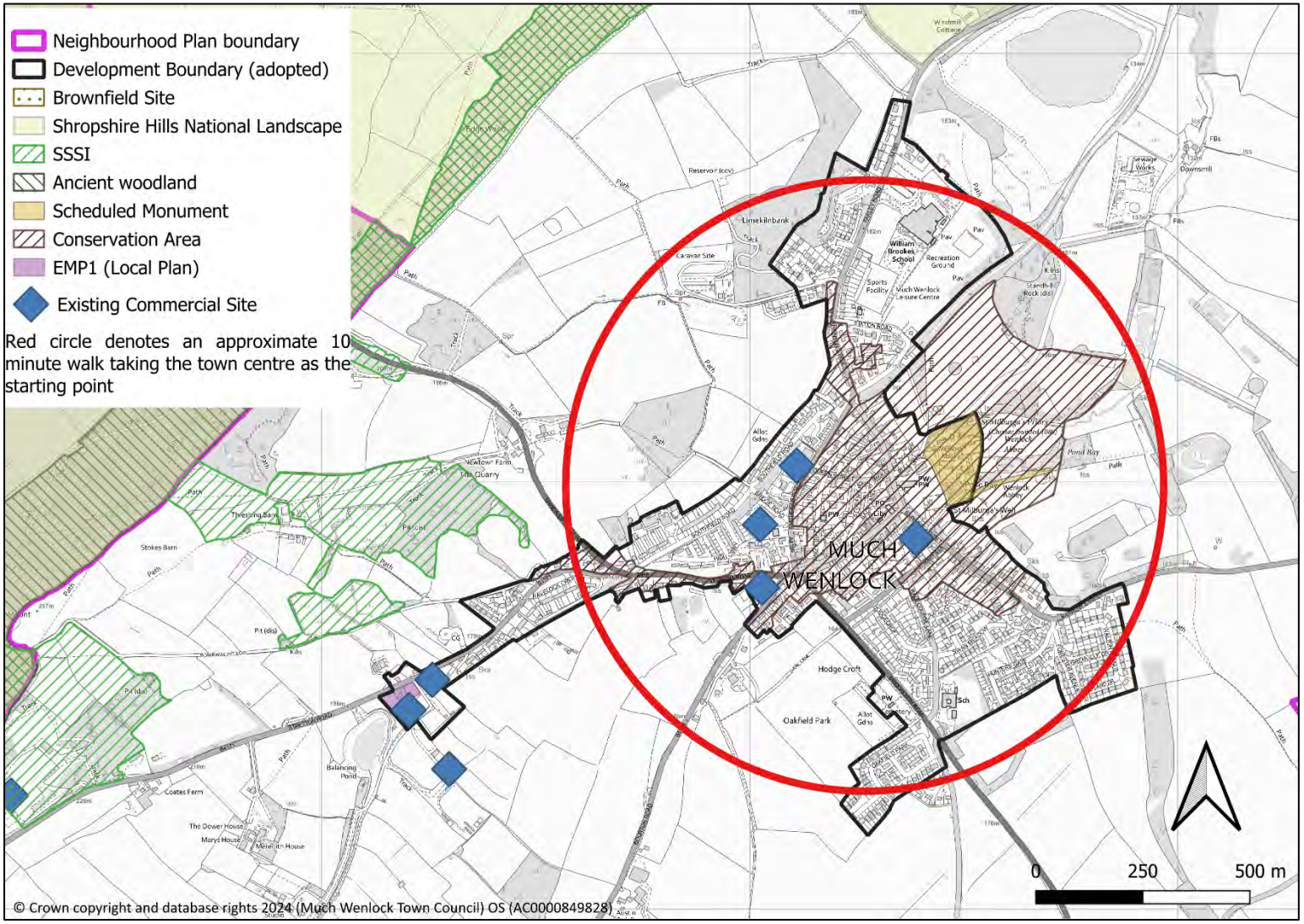


Figure 5: Map showing development boundaries within the Parish and other key statutory designations - Much Wenlock town



Policy MW2: Meeting local housing needs

Purpose

4.5. This policy seeks to ensure that housing delivered in Much Wenlock meets the specific housing needs of the parish in terms of size, tenure, affordability and the needs of people at different stages of their lives.

4.6. Definitions of the different types of affordable housing are contained in the Glossary.

POLICY MW2: MEETING LOCAL HOUSING NEEDS

A. Other than in development designed to meet an identified specialist housing need, the mix of housing sizes, types, tenures, and affordability in proposed development should, in so far as is reasonably practicable and subject to viability, assist in meeting needs identified in the most recently available Much Wenlock Housing Needs Assessment. As appropriate to their scale, nature, and location, development proposals for residential use should respond positively to the following principles:

i. new housing should focus on smaller and modest-sized dwellings (1-3 bedrooms) including accommodation that is arranged on a single level, suited to downsizers; and

ii. all new residential development within the neighbourhood area must provide a quantity of affordable housing in line with the requirements contained within the Shropshire Core Strategy or its successor. Affordable homes should be tenure-blind and well-integrated with market housing; and

iii. support proposals that enable greater affordability uplifts and prioritise those with a local connection to Much Wenlock Parish (see Glossary) and key workers (such as the use of First Homes); and

iv. the tenure of affordable units should meet the specific needs of the parish, reflecting a 70 (affordable housing for rent):30 (intermediate housing for purchase) tenure split.

B. Residential development that could reasonably be expected to meet the needs of older people (by virtue of its size and location) should demonstrate how it has reflected the Housing our Ageing Population Panel for Innovation (HAPPI) principles and the guidance contained in the RTPI's "Dementia and town planning: Creating better environments for people living with dementia".

C. All dwellings specifically designed for older people or those with disabilities or special needs will be built to the M4(3) (wheelchair user dwellings) standard within Building Regulations. On sites of 5 or more dwellings, at least 5% will be built to the M4(3) (wheelchair user dwellings) standard within Building Regulations and a further 70% of the dwellings will be built to M4(2) (accessible and adaptable dwellings) or higher standard within Building Regulations, unless site-specific factors indicate that step-free access cannot be achieved. Development proposals that support an uplift in this provision will be particularly supported.

D. Subject to the other policies of this plan, proposals for self- and custom build housing will be supported.

Conformity Reference: NP objectives: 1; Shropshire Core Strategy (2011): CS11; SAMDev Plan (2015): S13; NPPF (2024): 61-66, 71, 73, 74, 82-84

Justification

4.7. It is important that any new residential development within Much Wenlock parish addresses local housing needs. Policy CS11 (Type and Affordability of Housing) of Adopted Core Strategy (2011) states that *"an integrated and balanced approach will be taken with regard to existing and new housing, including type, size, tenure and affordability".*

4.8. To understand local housing need policy, a Housing Needs Assessment (HNA), contained in the Evidence Base, was prepared for Much Wenlock in March 2024, informed by the work of the Strategic Market Housing Assessment 2020 (Part 1; Part 2) at the strategic level as well as national datasets and population forecasts. In addition, feedback from local residents was gathered. The findings revealed the following:

4.9. **There is an imbalance of property sizes available within Much Wenlock.** Much Wenlock has a large proportion of detached homes (46.3% of the stock in 2021). Semi-detached homes account for around one quarter of the stock with terraces accounting for 20%. There is a smaller proportion of flats at 7.2%. There are approximately 190 single-level dwellings, which accounts for approximately 15% of dwellings locally or 1 in 7 homes. These represent an important resource for those wishing to downsize later in life.

4.10. The vast majority of dwellings within Much Wenlock have 3 or more bedrooms with 28.7% having 4 or more. Smaller 1- to 2-bedroom properties account for just over 30% of the stock, with just 7.7% 1-bedroom properties. This corresponds to a smaller stock of flats and terraces within Much Wenlock as discussed above.

4.11. Most households in the parish have more bedrooms than they need, notably amongst older households. This does not imply that these older households should downsize; many will be occupying homes that meet their lifestyles, including caring for grandchildren, having family stay, continuing to pursue their interests (and even working in later life and needing a space to work or study). However, some may be interested in downsizing so it is useful to consider whether there are suitable local options.

4.12. Equally, the lack of smaller homes makes it more difficult for first time buyers to purchase locally. This is evidenced by the fact that just 18.7% of households in Much Wenlock are families with dependent children. This compares to 21.8% in Shropshire and 25.8% in England as a whole. Much Wenlock has a relatively low share of families with children.

4.13. The HNA suggests that a range of dwelling sizes are needed in Much Wenlock over the plan period but with a focus on 2- to 3-bedroom sized homes (*Table 3)*. This aligns to the Shropshire SHMA 2020, which also anticipated that the largest proportion of homes over the projection period in the SHMA (2016-2038) would be for 3-bedroom properties.

Table 3: Indicative dwelling size mix for Much Wenlock (overall housing on site)

Number of bedrooms	Mix in 2011	Current mix (2021)	Suggested mix 2038	Balance of new housing to reach suggested mix
1	8.2%	7.7%	7.6%	7.3%
2	23.2%	23.2%	25.8%	34.1%
3	41.4%	40.5%	43.7%	53.9%
4+	27.2%	28.7%	22.9%	4.7%

4.14. The adopted Core Strategy (2011) Policy CS11 requires 33% affordable housing. In light of the historic shortfall in affordable housing delivery in Much Wenlock, the HNA finds there to be robust evidence of need for affordable housing in Much Wenlock, and every effort should be made to maximise delivery where viable.

4.15. The HNA's indicative tenure mix for Much Wenlock is shown in *Table 4.*

Table 4: Indicative tenure for Much Wenlock

Tenure	Indicative mix
Routes to home ownership, of which	**30%**
• First Homes	25%
• Shared ownership	0-5%
• Rent to Buy	0-5%
Affordable Housing for rent, of which	**70%**
• Social rent	To be set by Registered Providers
• Affordable rent	To be set by Registered Providers

4.16. The introduction of First Homes presents an opportunity for local authorities to require higher discounts on these affordable homes (intermediate housing) for sale, where the need can be evidenced locally and where viable. Within Much Wenlock, the HNA reveals that there would be a benefit to raising discounts (up to 50% where viable) on any First Homes delivered as part of the affordable housing on the sites, to enable those in single-person median and lower quartile earnings the opportunity to enter the housing market.

4.17. Opportunities to deliver affordable homes include bringing forward a rural exception site and Policy MW3 provides detail on this.

4.18. A higher percentage of older households is expected by the end of the Plan period. The older population (age 75+) is expected to make up 25% of the population of Much Wenlock in 2038 compared to 18% in 2021. A strong response from older residents who attended the community consultation events that sheltered or housing suitable for older residents was a high priority.

4.19. There is a total of 60 units of specialist housing in the parish at present, with the majority available for social rent (35 homes) and the remainder for ownership (25 homes). All are described as age exclusive or retirement housing and do not have onsite care.

4.20. In relation to accessibility, building regulations includes three categories of dwellings:

a. M4(1) Category 1: Visitable dwellings.

b. M4(2) Category 2: Accessible and adaptable dwellings.

c. M4(3) Category 3: Wheelchair user dwellings.

4.21. M4(1) is mandatory for all new dwellings unless one of the optional requirements M4(2) or M4(3) applies. M4(2) and M4(3) apply where a Local Plan introduces such a requirement. Evidence that had been prepared for the (withdrawn) Local Plan Review suggested proposed specific provision requirements for these, in response to the aging population in Shropshire as a whole.

4.22. It is considered that such needs will be more nuanced in Much Wenlock given the age profile here when compared to Shropshire as a whole, therefore Policy MW2 supports a more prescriptive approach, and an uplift to this where possible.

4.23. To best meet the needs of this demographic, it should be considered whether new homes are well tailored to older people's requirements in terms of space, flexibility, quality, location and accessibility. In addition, the "Housing our Ageing Population Panel for Innovation (HAPPI)" has, since 2009, developed a series of principles for good design of housing generally. Many of the principles are recognisable from good design generally - good light, ventilation, room to move around and good storage - but they have particular relevance to the spectrum of older persons' housing which needs to both offer an attractive alternative to the family home and be able to adapt over time to meet changing needs. The ten principles are:

- Space and flexibility
- Daylight in the home and in shared spaces
- Balconies and outdoor space
- Adaptability and 'care ready' design
- Positive use of circulation space
- Shared facilities and 'hubs'
- Plants, trees, and the natural environment
- Energy efficiency and sustainable design
- Storage for belongings and bicycles
- External shared surfaces and 'home zones'

4.24. Housing should be designed to support the needs of those living with disabilities. The Royal Town Planning Institute's guidance "Dementia and town planning: Creating better environments for people living with dementia" should inform planning applications.

4.25. The adopted Core Strategy (2011) policies also encourage the development of self-build properties for local need on suitable plots both within and adjacent to the development boundary and the MWNP supports this approach.

Policy MW3: Rural Exception Sites

Purpose

4.26. This policy provides the criteria against which rural exception sites should be considered.

POLICY MW3: RURAL EXCEPTION SITES

Proposals for small scale rural exception sites outside the development boundaries will be supported subject to the following criteria:

i. **they comprise up to 25 dwellings; and**
ii. **the proposals contribute to meeting the affordable housing needs of people with a strong local connection and in accordance with Policy MW2; and**
iii. **the development is subject to an agreement which will ensure that it remains as affordable housing for people with a strong local connection in perpetuity; and**
iv. **the proposals would not have a significant impact on the surrounding rural landscape and the landscape setting of any settlement in the plan area; and**
v. **the development is appropriate in terms of its scale, character and location with the settlement to which it is associated. Open market housing will only be permitted outside the Much Wenlock development boundary where this type of development can be demonstrated to be essential to ensure the delivery of affordable housing as part of the same development proposal. The exception would be cross-subsidy exception schemes, where 30% open market housing will be supported in order to enable 70% affordable housing.**

Conformity Reference: NP objectives: 1; Shropshire Core Strategy (2011): CS11; SAMDev Plan (2015): MD7a, S13; NPPF (2024): 61, 63-65,82-84

Justification

4.27. Historically, local Housing Associations have not bought sites or built homes in the parish, rather they have expanded their stock through acquisitions within market development sites. In order to meet identified affordable housing needs (as evidenced in the Much Wenlock HNA) the MWNP seeks a new way of working to bring forward small-scale social rented and affordable housing on exception sites through collaborative partnerships with local Housing Associations (or equivalent mechanisms) and Shropshire Council. This positive approach will provide greater certainty and local control over delivery to meet specific local needs.

4.28. To ensure that houses on exception sites meet local needs for people with a strong local connection, occupants will be expected to meet the requirements of Shropshire Council's SPD 'The Type and Affordability of Housing' (Dec 2012, para 5.34).

4.29. Since 2013, with the adoption of the original MWNP, 26 affordable social rented and shared equity homes have been brought forward on one exception site within the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Policy MW4: Infill development and conversions

Purpose

4.30. This policy sets out the criteria against which infill development and conversions of existing properties should be assessed.

POLICY MW4: INFILL DEVELOPMENT AND CONVERSIONS

Within the development boundary, and within Bourton, housing infill development will be supported where it contributes positively to local character and where it helps to meet local housing needs. Within the conservation areas of Much Wenlock and Bourton, infill development should conserve or enhance the special architectural and historic character of these settlements. Adequate off-road parking space must be provided, in accordance with Shropshire Parking Standards.

Conformity Reference: NP objectives: 1; Shropshire Core Strategy (2011): CS1, CS3, CS4; SAMDev Plan (2015): S13, MD3; NPPF (2024): 61, 73, 75

Justification

4.31. Infill involves the development of a small gap in an otherwise built-up frontage. It usually consists of a frontage plot only and often comprises the side gardens of existing houses.

4.32. In recent years, infill sites have provided a steady supply of housing. This trend is likely to continue but the MWNP allows for the numbers to be kept under review to ensure that sufficient development is coming forward to meet local needs. A review may also be triggered by national changes in policy, updated information on housing needs or issues raised by the public, private or third sector regarding the operation of the MWNP. Much Wenlock Town Council has resolved to review the Plan within five years.

OBJECTIVE 2: THE ECONOMY AND JOBS

The Plan will help business create jobs by:

- ✓ safeguarding existing commercial and employment land-uses.
- ✓ making sure that existing employment sites are kept for employment use wherever possible and appropriate.
- ✓ supporting new/expanded business premises in suitable locations.
- ✓ protecting the vitality of Much Wenlock town centre.
- ✓ supporting new mixed-use developments where an existing commercial site is demonstrated unviable, retaining an element of employment so that where appropriate, people can combine work and home life.
- ✓ encouraging appropriate and sustainable rural tourism activities.

Policy MW5: Commercial development

Purpose

4.33. Beyond retail provision, there is only a modest amount of existing commercial/industrial space within the town and wider parish. It is important that such employment land provision remains available, if needed. The policy seeks, ideally, to protect commercial activities and employment at these spaces. Where this does not prove sustainable, the policy prioritises mixed use redevelopment, to enable the delivery of housing to meet local needs, alongside compatible commercial/employment uses.

4.34. The policy notes that 0.75ha of land at site EMP1 (Stretton Road) is allocated for employment use in the Shropshire Core Strategy. Should such a use not be viable on this site, alternative commercial space will need to be considered in any the future Local Plan to ensure that adequate commercial employment land (up to 2ha as per the strategic requirement) is provided in the parish.

POLICY MW5: COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

<u>Protecting existing employment</u>

A. Insofar as planning permission is required, proposals for a change of use within Site EMP1, and/or an existing Employment Site and/or commercial premises (as shown on *Figure 7*) to a use and operation that does not provide any employment opportunities, will not be supported unless it can be demonstrated that the commercial premises or land:

i. has not been in active use for at least 12 months; and
ii. has no potential for either reoccupation or redevelopment for solely employment generating uses as demonstrated through the results of:

a. **marketing campaign lasting for a continuous period of at least 6 months and a supplemental report evidencing the marketing undertaken and the market response; and**
b. **a detailed valuation report assessing the viability of the land and buildings for employment use.**

Where these criteria are demonstrated, development proposals for housing on such sites (*Figure 7*) will be supported, in accordance with Policy MW2, only where this can be achieved as part of a broader package of compatible commercial and other uses, such as community and green space.

<u>Supporting new employment</u>

B. Development proposals to expand existing employment premises, and/ or provide new start-up business space – including office/workshop space and start-up units on flexible terms - will be supported, including in former agricultural buildings provided that:

i. **there is no adverse impact on the character and nature of the surrounding area from visual or operational impacts or on nearby occupiers of existing premises or residential properties; and**
ii. **the proposal would not have significant harmful impacts on the surrounding landscape and the wider setting of the town; and**
iii. **the proposal would not have any significant harmful impacts on the ecological setting of the site; and**
iv. **the proposal's forecast traffic generation would not have an unacceptable traffic impact on the wider town and the capacity and operation of its highway network, paying particular regard to HGVs; and**
v. **the site would not cause or exacerbate flooding.**

Conformity Reference: NP objectives: 1, 2; Shropshire Core Strategy (2011): CS13, CS14; SAMDev Plan (2015): MD9, S13; NPPF (2024): 85, 86, 88, 89, 96, 125

Justification

4.35. With no railway station in the parish, the majority of those out-commuting are doing so by car. Over a third (37.5%) of those in employment travel at least 10km to reach their place of work (2021 census). Many of these are driving to the nearby settlements of Telford, Shrewsbury and Bridgnorth, where work is more readily available.

4.36. Of those working in the parish, approximately 32% work from home, with others employed in agriculture and farming, retail and other service industries. It will be important to ensure that for those working locally, the infrastructure exists – particularly in terms of broadband and mobile availability – to serve their needs. Such provision falls outside the scope of the MWNP but work with partners including mobile and internet provides is included as a non-policy action in Section 7 of this Plan.

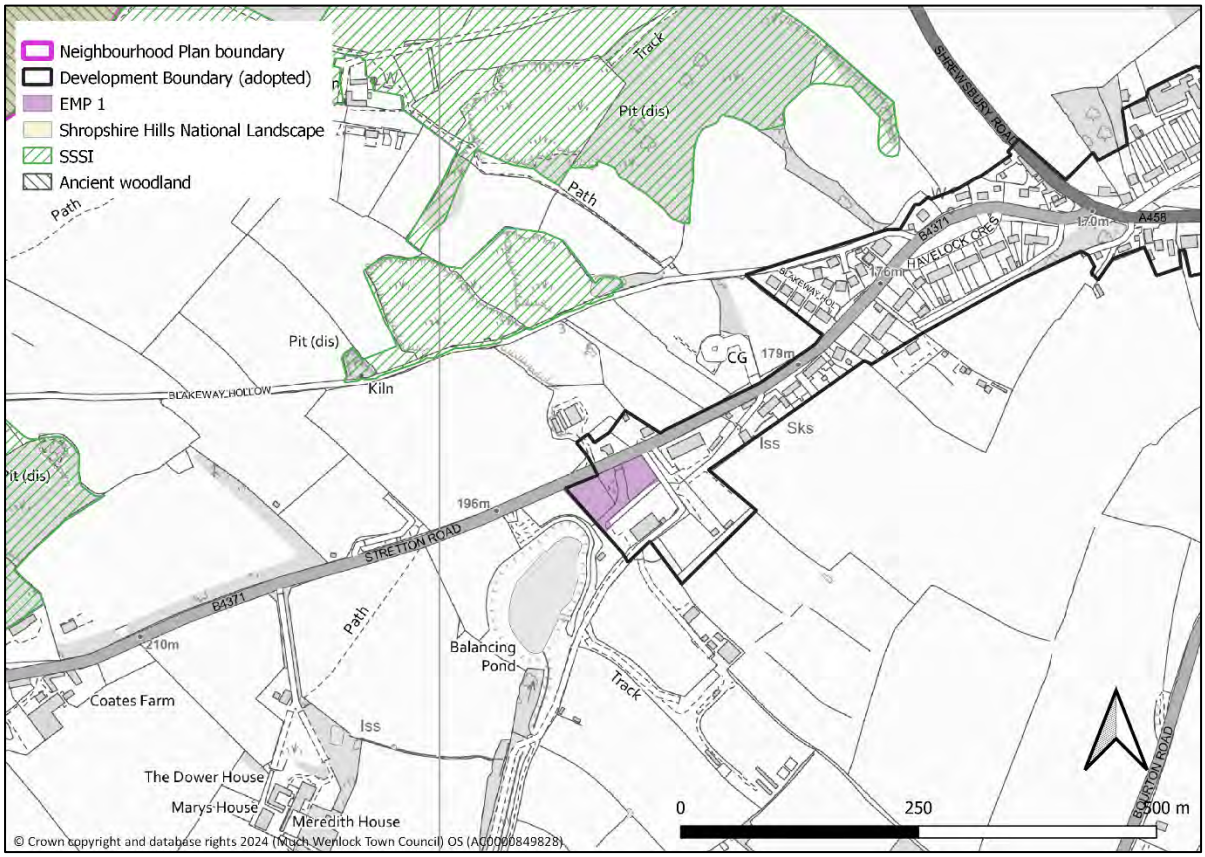
4.37. Protecting existing and providing new space for employment is considered important to ensure that there are opportunities locally for work.

4.38. **0.75 ha of land at Stretton Road:** One site of 0.75ha Land at Stretton Road, is identified in the Local Plan as commercial employment land (*Figure 6)*. This is also the only brownfield site in the

parish currently listed on SC's brownfield register. The site lies immediately adjacent to an arm of an environmentally sensitive area and care will be needed to ensure that there are no adverse effects (including through lighting) and that landscaping should enhance the network where possible in line with Shropshire Core Strategy Policy CS17. Any development on previously undeveloped (greenfield) land areas of this site would be subject to an Ecological Assessment.

4.39. Should the site be redeveloped into uses that do not comprise wholly commercial space, additional commercial land should be identified in the Local Plan to ensure that there is no overall net loss of commercial employment land in the parish. This would need to be at a site suitable for such development, as expressed in the Policy.

Figure 6: Employment Site - EMP1



4.40. **Other commercial sites:** There are few sites, beyond agricultural uses, within Much Wenlock which are dedicated to commercial activity (*Figure 7).*

4.41. Development proposals on all commercial sites will need to be able to demonstrate that they do not have an unacceptable impact on traffic movements in the town, paying particular regard to HGVs. A transport assessment would be the most appropriate way of doing so. It should be noted, however, that the site was previously included in a land allocation for employment use in the Bridgnorth Local Plan in 2005, since when there has been little interest in its development. It appears, therefore, that some up-front public or private investment will be required to facilitate its use and SC's statement of intent offers assurances that this will take place. Unless this investment is made, there will be a significantly increased risk of the Core

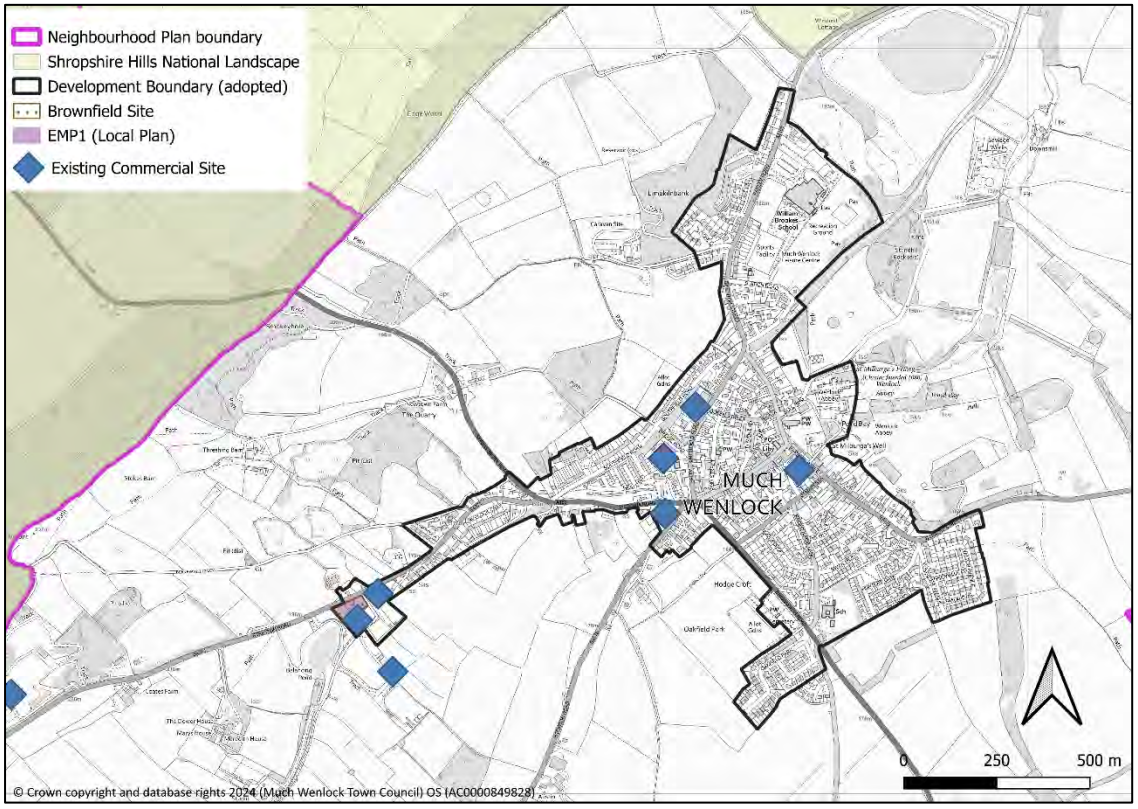
Strategy policy failing to provide for local employment to balance housing allocations and avoid creating a town increasingly dependent on commuting.

4.42. Given the limited availability of land within the development boundary, brownfield sites should be prioritised for employment uses. Redevelopment proposals should focus on retaining and enhancing the existing commercial and industrial character of these areas. Where appropriate, the intensification of employment uses on brownfield sites should be explored to maximize job opportunities within the existing settlement area. This approach will help to protect and create local jobs, reduce out-commuting, and promote a sustainable local economy

4.43. Given the relative lack of brownfield sites within the development boundary, special consideration should be given to proposals for mixed use (employment, residential etc.), where this would optimise brownfield land use and potentially negate the need to identify greenfield sites beyond the development boundary for such uses, as per Policy MW1 (Location of Development). Mixed uses should retain an element of commercial (see Appendix A) alongside residential (notably affordable residential), and other uses compatible with work-living. The protection of an element of employment within these sites and, where appropriate, support for new employment opportunities locally will not only provide greater prospects for residents to access jobs locally but will ensure that these are sustainable in terms of the patterns of commuting that they generate.

4.44. Outside the settlement boundary, there are agricultural businesses, and also a number of former quarry sites, which provide valuable employment now, such as Lime Green and Edge Renewables. These should be supported. The conversion of agricultural buildings to commercial properties is supported subject to Policy MW1 and where traffic generation, notably HGV, is at an acceptable level. Any such developments need to mitigate flood impacts, as per the policies in this MWNP.

Figure 7: Map showing allocated site EMP1 and other existing commercial sites



Policy MW6: Protecting and enhancing the role and setting of Much Wenlock town centre

Purpose

4.45. This policy seeks to support uses that will enable an economically vibrant, mixed-use town centre in Much Wenlock, attracting additional footfall, enhancing its historic setting, improving accessibility and improving overall the look and feel of the public area.

POLICY MW6: PROTECTING AND ENHANCING THE ROLE AND SETTING OF MUCH WENLOCK TOWN CENTRE

A. To secure the ongoing vitality of Much Wenlock town centre (High Street, Barrow Street and Wilmore Street: *Figure 8)*, proposals which protect, enhance and promote a diverse range of town centre uses (Uses C1, E, F1 and F2 and Sui Generis) – including retail, leisure, commercial, office, tourism, cultural and community - will be supported, subject to the other policies in this Neighbourhood Development Plan.

<u>Upper floor residential</u>

B. Proposals that offer opportunities for housing on otherwise underused upper floors will be supported, both where separate access can be achieved and where these are shown to be no longer suitable for commercial use.

<u>Existing retail premises</u>

C. The permanent change of use of Classes C1, E, F1, F2 and Sui Generis to other uses will only be supported where the following can be demonstrated:

i. the proposed use will maintain the vitality and viability of Much Wenlock Town Centre;

ii. the premises in question have not been in continuous active use for at least 12 consecutive months; and

iii. the Class E retail premises have no potential for either reoccupation as demonstrated through the results both of a full viability report and a marketing campaign lasting for a continuous period of at least 6 months.

<u>Temporary uses</u>

D. The use of Class E, F1 and F2 premises for temporary uses will be supported. Such uses include 'pop up' shops and cultural, creative and leisure uses introduced on a temporary basis or for specific events.

E. Such uses must demonstrate that they will not have a detrimental impact on the amenity of neighbouring uses, particularly residential through excessive noise and pollution.

F. Such uses will generally not be considered appropriate if the operation of the business requires such large amounts of vehicle parking in order to function unless sufficient off-street parking arrangements have been implemented.

Re-use of historic buildings

G. The reuse of historic buildings within Much Wenlock Town Centre for activities that will enhance the vitality and viability of the Town Centre will be particularly supported. This could include community uses, eating places, retail or business. Any associated physical alterations should be sympathetic to the historic and architectural significance and character of the building concerned.

Public realm

H. Development proposals to enhance the public realm in Much Wenlock Town Centre will be supported where this will not result in the demolition of or significant detrimental impact to existing heritage assets. Proposals which enhance the pedestrian experience will be supported including:

- **i. the widening of pavements;**
- **ii. the consolidation of street clutter and superfluous signage, including provision of signage that will improve pedestrian links between the retail areas along High Street and Barrow Street;**
- **iii. the inclusion of cycling facilities;**
- **iv. the reinforcement of the distinctive character of the area, as set out in Policy MW18 (Design and character of development) including through the use of planting, seating, and installation of public art, celebrating the heritage and history of the parish; and**
- **v. the confirmation that development proposals should contribute to improved wayfinding and signage for the parish, as appropriate to their scale, nature and location, provided that they can be satisfactorily integrated within their surroundings.**

Conformity Reference: NP objectives: 2; Shropshire Core Strategy (2011): CS15; SAMDev Plan (2015): MD10a, MD10b; NPPF (2024): 90, 96, 98, 101, 103, 131-141

Justification

4.46. Much Wenlock's popularity as both a local centre and a visitor destination/ stop-off point means that there is a fairly significant level of footfall in the town centre throughout the year, supporting a mix of uses including shops, cafes and visitor accommodation.

4.47. A meeting with local traders operating businesses in the town centre identified the following concerns:

- Car parking – There are only a few car parks serving the High Street and these are fairly small and also expensive. This makes it challenging to those people wanting to 'pop-and-shop' or visit for the whole day. It also makes it difficult for those arriving by car to attend town events, such as the Christmas Fayre, because of the inability for people to arrive by car. Whilst it is an aim of this MWNP to promote walking (and, where possible, cycling) locally, this is not an option for everyone and certainly the majority of visitors to the parish arrive by

car due to the lack of local railway station and reliable bus routes. Additional accessible and well signposted off-street car parking provision is supported in Policy MW13.

- Active promotion of the High Street– there was a feeling that more could be doing more to promote the High Street to both residents and visitors. The town is very quiet on bank holidays, for example.
- Challenges in employing staff, other than students, particularly on weekdays.
- Public toilets – The facilities located in St Mary's are often broken or vandalised. There is a need to ensure fully working, accessible toilets.
- Dog fouling.
- Inadequate signage in the car parks to the main local destinations.
- Competition from neighbouring larger settlements, notably Bridgnorth, Telford and Shrewsbury, where there is a greater choice of facilities including larger supermarkets.
- Competition from online retailers, such as Amazon.

4.48. Business owners felt that hosting markets – differentiated from those selling products already available in the High Street - could assist in raising footfall. The current Made in Shropshire Markets are considered to be helpful but could be better promoted. In addition, more events aimed at a broader range of people were cited in particular to draw in families and young people.

4.49. There was also a call more generally to improve the attractiveness of the High Street, for instance the use of bunting, attractive planting (for instance in eye-catching containers) and so forth.

4.50. Looking to the future, the following priorities have been identified:

4.51. Support uses that will enable an economically vibrant, mixed-use town centre: To protect the diverse architectural, historical and environmental qualities of the town centre in Much Wenlock and promote a mix of uses that will draw footfall and reinforce the town centre as the heart of the community. Priorities include:

- Resisting the change of use of retail units, public houses and other community uses to housing, which would gradually erode the core of Much Wenlock (see Appendix A).
- Continuing to focus residential uses at first floor level and above (where this is accessible and adaptable to changing needs) provided there is no adverse impact on the road.
- Ensuring that proposals for development or alteration to retail units in the High Street conserve or enhance its historic character.
- Supporting opportunities for new or replacement tree planting in the street scene, where it can be achieved without reducing sightlines. They should be selected to reflect native species, colour etc.
- Supporting the provision of additional off-street car parking spaces.
- Supporting temporary ("pop-up") shops, which can provide a service to the growing number of home-workers as well as discouraging long-term empty units.

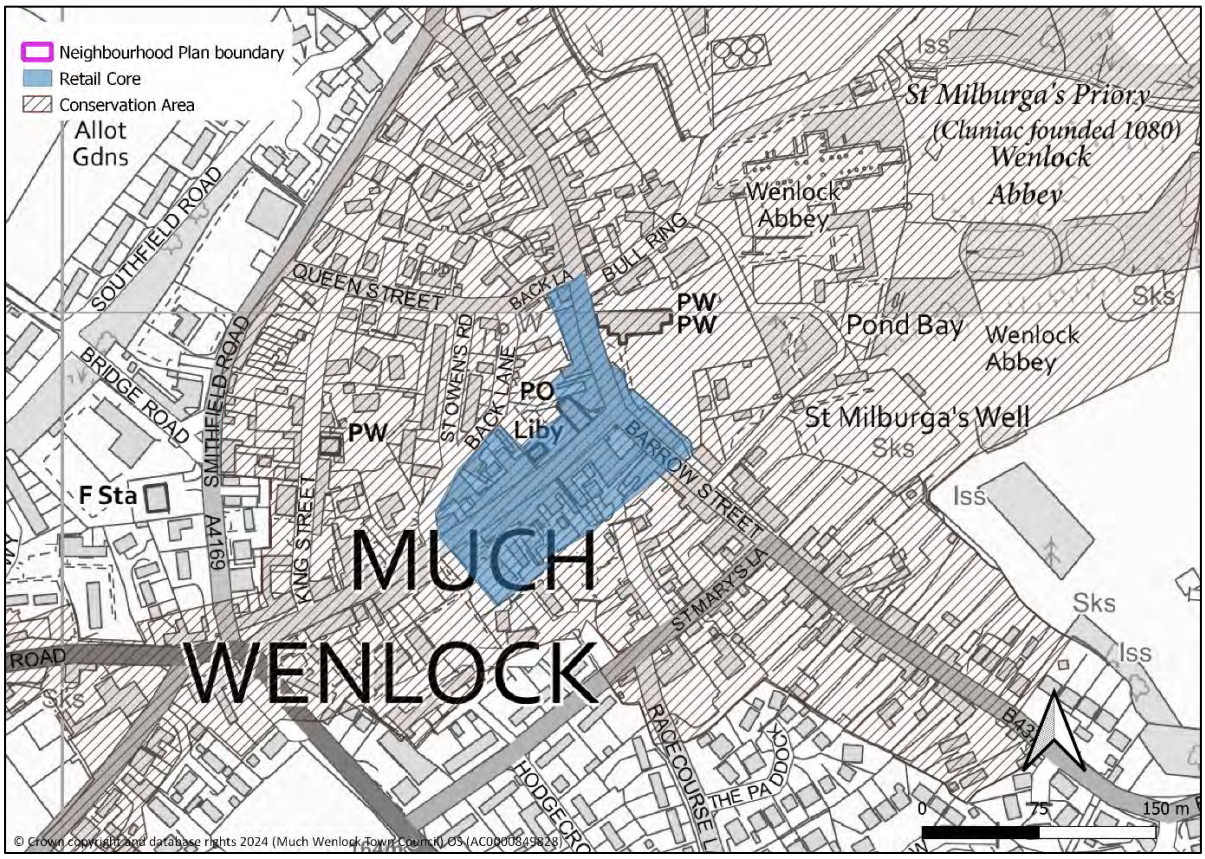
4.52. Improve the look and feel of the public areas: These need to be pedestrian-friendly, safe, accessible and attractive. Priorities include:

- Reducing the negative effects of car movements through the High Street, in partnership with Shropshire Council. This could incorporate traffic calming measures and to investigate feasibility for a "shared space" scheme to better prioritise space between cars and people.
- Provision of additional outdoor seating.
- Installing public art that reinforces the history of the parish.
- Reducing superfluous clutter in terms of bollards, bins etc. Where these are required, there needs to be a consistency in design to reflect the local character.
- Introducing additional markets to the town centre, potentially in conjunction with local suppliers, such as local produce.

4.53. Signage, accessibility and functionality: In order to encourage a pedestrian-first approach to the town centre and assist visitors arriving from further afield. Priorities would include:

- Restricting wayfinding signs to those which convey essential information.
- Signage designed to be accessible and reinforce local character. Further guidance is available from Historic England's booklet Streets for All: Advice for Highway and Public Realm Works in Historic Places.
- Promoting accessibility, for instance by applying the advice contained in the RTPI's guidance aimed at planning neighbourhoods for those living with dementia as well as measures to assist other disabilities.
- Considering restricting on-street parking along the High Street to disabled bays only, to improve safety along the narrow pavements here.
- Upgrading the existing public toilets to a design that would reduce vandalism. Supporting the upgrade of toilets to Changing Place requirements (see Policy MW17 and Appendix B).

Figure 8: Much Wenlock Town Core



Potential action: Shared space/ traffic calming in the town centre

In order to offer a more pleasant pedestrian experience for residents and the visitors to the town, the creation of a shared space, which would give equal priority to pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles in the lower part of the High Street, and the area by the Square, the Guildhall (*Figure 9)*, could be explored.

This could draw from the success of this idea in other places, for instance Dawley, Poynton in Cheshire, and in similar small historic towns to Much Wenlock further afield, for example the Netherlands.

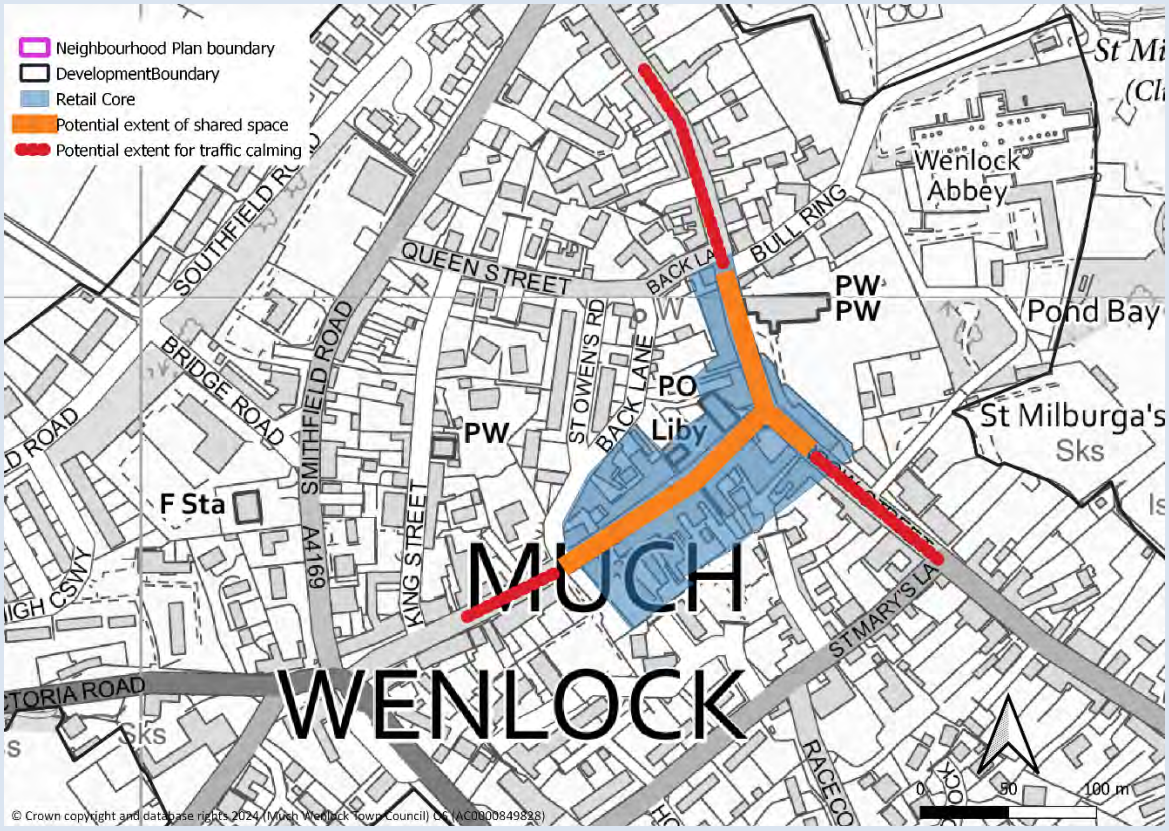
Altering the pavement and road surfaces slows vehicle traffic and ensures that all road users understand that they do not have priority and must show one another consideration.

Consideration also needs to be given to providing disabled parking in the town centre and secure, covered bicycle racks and other infrastructure for cyclists in the Square. Plans were drawn up in 2020 for cycle racks by the museum/Spar area, in space where they would not impede pedestrians and would not be visually intrusive. Such a scheme could be revisited.

To ensure road users appreciate the change in use of the road network on approach to the shared space, we suggest additional traffic calming on Barrow Street and Sheinton Street such as chicanes with traffic giving way e.g. Bridge Road. Planters and wider pavements with benches

would encourage more people to walk into town, especially from the Hunters Gate area where feedback has told us many older residents struggle with existing pavement surface, width and camber.

Figure 9: Potential for shared space and traffic calming



Policy MW7: Promoting sustainable rural tourism

Purpose

4.54. The attractive location of the parish, within the setting of the Shropshire Hills National Landscape and with its proximity to a great number of regionally and nationally significant visitor attractions, presents an opportunity for the parish to develop itself as both a destination and base for sustainable rural tourism.

POLICY MW7: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE RURAL TOURISM

A. Development proposals that support the aims of the Shropshire Destination Management Plan will be supported. This includes new or expanded sustainable rural tourism-related facilities, recreational enterprises, visitor accommodation (subject to Policy MW8), attractions, and activities to encourage day and staying visitors. The reuse of historic buildings for such activities will be particularly supported. Any associated physical alterations should be sympathetic to the historic and architectural significance and character of the building concerned.

B. As appropriate to their scale, nature and location, development proposals for tourism development (including Use Class C1 hotels and other built accommodation) should meet the following criteria:

- **i. the proposal should seek to support and provide sustainable employment;**
- **ii. the proposal should seek to promote the production and consumption of local produce and materials;**
- **iii. the siting, scale and design should be informed by, and positively contribute towards, landscape character, natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage and must not adversely affect the amenity, appearance, character, and historical significance of the area, including the Shropshire Hills National Landscape and its setting;**
- **iv. there are demonstrable economic and social benefits to the proposals;**
- **v. sufficient off-street car parking is provided, in line with Shropshire Parking standards; and**
- **vi. there is no significant detrimental impact on the existing community.**

C. Proposals that would result in the loss of all or part of tourism related facilities will not be supported unless it can be demonstrated that it is:

- **i. not viable, or unlikely to become commercially viable; and**
- **ii. it has been the subject of appropriate marketing for a period of at least 18 months and consideration has been given to other alternative commercial uses.**

Conformity Reference: NP objectives: 2; Shropshire Core Strategy (2011): CS16; SAMDev Plan (2015): MD11; NPPF (2024): 85, 88, 89

Justification

4.55. The Shropshire Destination Management Plan has the following Vision: ***"Shropshire will be a sustainably managed destination that welcomes the curious and the adventurous to explore its outstandingly beautiful natural landscapes and internationally recognised built heritage in a way that safeguards these precious assets now and for future generations. It is a place where world-changing ideas were born and are celebrated, and it continues to display a refreshing independence of thought and spirit. Its market towns and towns are alive with artisan producers, cultural practitioners and hospitality businesses that combine to create a quality environment in which visitors and residents alike are able to rethink, refresh and recharge."*** *(where cultural practitioners are defined as individuals/businesses operating in the culture, arts and crafts sector).*

4.56. As a visitor destination, Much Wenlock has an important role to play in delivering this vision, capitalising on its location within the Shropshire Hills, its culture and heritage and rich offering of facilities and attractions.

4.57. Approximately 200 people are employed in the tourism sector in Much Wenlock. Just over half of these are employed in accommodation and food services and the remainder in the arts, entertainment, recreation and other services. This is the equivalent of 20.3% of the total Much Wenlock workforce, which represents a higher share than for Shropshire as a whole (14.7%). 1.1% of total employment in the tourism sector in Shropshire is provided by Much Wenlock.

4.58. The town and wider parish is a popular destination with visitors attracted by its links to the modern Olympics, the Priory ruins and the geology of the surrounding Wenlock Edge.

Who is visiting Much Wenlock?

4.59. Domestic visitors to Much Wenlock come from all over the UK. A large proportion come from the West Midlands on a day trip. But there are also many visitors from overseas from a number of European countries and from as far as Australia, New Zealand and the USA. Most visitors are visiting for the first time, with 75% only visiting once. Some are passing through Much Wenlock to reach another destination and decide to stop for a break. There are also organised groups arriving, for instance walking groups.

4.60. Wenlock is seen as a pleasant day out with interesting buildings, shops, cafes and visitor attractions (including the Priory, Guildhall and Museum). For families the latter two provide free entry which visitors appreciate. Overnighters, usually couples as opposed to family groups, tend to stay at local camping and caravan sites and cottages. They use these as a base to explore Wenlock, Ironbridge, Bridgnorth, Shrewsbury, Ludlow and Church Stretton.

4.61. Much Wenlock has been featured in the national media, including the television programme, Escape to the Country, along with newspaper articles written by travel editors. Local events such as 'Made in Shropshire' increase visitor numbers as does the Christmas Fayre and Get a Word in Edgeways festival. There have been issues with availability of car parking, however, which has impacted the ability of visitors from further afield in attending these.

4.62. The majority of visitors arrive by car due to the lack of a railway station in the parish. Many are also stopping off at Wenlock on the way to somewhere else, making public transport linkages difficult to plan for in advance due to timings. Most visitors will have already looked online to find places of interest. Nevertheless, Much Wenlock Museum houses the Information Centre although their reduced opening hours (only certain days of the week) limits access. It would be helpful to have another venue that could provide visitor information during the intervening days.

4.63. A further suggestion would be for more signage relating to visitor attractions. For example the Olympian Trail map sign is very effective; a sign nearby that shows the locations of the Museum, Guildhall, and Priory would be helpful. Visitors themselves provide the following feedback:

Positive experiences	**Areas to improve**
• The wonderful carvings and the historic authenticity of the Council Chamber. • The list of Bailiffs and Mayors is appreciated along with the Display cabinets, information boards and the RAF Memorial. • Local people pop in each month to see the latest Art Exhibition. • The newly installed Children's activity table is very popular. • The Guildhall Story, Music and Poetry listening post provides another source of interest. • Visitors enjoy being able to purchase locally produced gifts, cards and books. • Generally, visitors comment on the considerable historic importance of Much Wenlock.	• Access for people in wheelchairs or with limited mobility. There is one local artist who has been unable to access the art exhibitions at all. • Increased opening of the Guildhall. • Additional cafes to be open on Sundays. • Additional car parking. • Better signage. • Provision of toilets. • Access to the Information Centre on all days. • Additional cycle parking – see Transport section

Potential Action: Visitor Strategy for Much Wenlock

Some of the opportunities to promote tourism locally sit outside planning policy and one of the actions for the Town Council, in partnership with others, will be to prepare a Visitor Strategy for the parish.

Policy MW8: Visitor accommodation in rural areas

Purpose

4.64. The policy seeks to limit the development of owner-occupied second homes outside the development boundary. Any tourism-related development in the countryside will only be accepted if the design is of exceptional quality, meaning that any subsequent change from holiday use would still result in exceptionally designed development. The policy reflects the NPPF by only allowing tourism and leisure developments which respect the character of the countryside.

POLICY MW8: VISITOR ACCOMMODATION IN RURAL AREAS

A. Proposals for new and extended touring caravan and camping sites should have strong regard to the cumulative impact of visitor accommodation on the natural and historic assets of the area, road network, or over intensification of the site.

B. Static caravans, chalets and log cabins are recognised as having a greater impact on the countryside. Therefore, in addition (to clause A) schemes should be landscaped and designed to a high quality and be at an appropriate capacity and scale.

C. Any holiday let development that does not conform to the legal definition of a caravan and is not related to the conversion of existing appropriate rural buildings, will be resisted in the countryside (unless it conforms to clause D below) and in accordance with Policy MW1.

D. Much Wenlock Town Council recognises the appeal of a holiday in a rural setting. Therefore, permanent holiday let development may be approved in countryside locations provided that it can be demonstrated that the design is of exceptional quality (as outlined in the NPPF) and in accordance with Policy MW19. Any subsequent changes to such holiday lets in these locations (such as change to residential occupation) will be resisted, as per E below.

E. To retain the benefit to the visitor economy, robust conditions will be applied to new planning permissions for visitor accommodation to ensure the accommodation is not used for residential occupation. Proposals for the conversion of holiday lets to permanent residential use should demonstrate that their loss will not have a significant adverse impact on the visitor economy and meet the criteria relating to suitability for residential use in Policy MW1.

F. For existing static caravan, chalet and log cabin sites in areas of high flood risk, positive consideration will be given to proposals for their relocation to areas of lower flood risk to ensure they are capable of being made safe for the lifetime of the development.

Conformity Reference: NP objectives: 2; Shropshire Core Strategy (2011): CS16; SAMDev Plan (2015): MD11; NPPF (2024): 85, 88, 89

Justification

4.65. There have been examples of visitor accommodation built within the rural parts of the parish that have, over time, been used and converted to permanent accommodation. Concerns have been raised by parishioners about such developments, once permanent, in terms of their impact on local infrastructure.

Policy MW9: Supporting flexible workspaces and opportunities for homeworking

Purpose

4.66. This policy recognises the growing contribution of home-based and small-to-medium sized businesses in Much Wenlock and seeks to encourage opportunities for them. This would include by supporting the provision of start-up and move-on business units as well as the provision of a shared office space. This would provide a greater incentive and opportunity for local people to work locally. Homeworking has become commonplace for many in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

POLICY MW9: SUPPORTING FLEXIBLE WORKSPACES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR HOMEWORKING

A. Proposals to provide working spaces that encourage homeworking, co-working and creative small industries, for instance through incubator/start-up business space on flexible terms, will be supported through:

- **i. the provision of new buildings or conversion of existing buildings, within the development boundary;**
- **ii. enabling extensions and garden offices to facilitate homeworking;**
- **iii. enabling microbusinesses;**
- **iv. supporting the diversification of farm and rural businesses, in accordance with Policy MW1;**
- **v. the provision of start-up businesses by enabling low-cost facilities in cooperative clusters; and**
- **vi. support for improved communications infrastructure (mobile, broadband) where this can be achieved sympathetically to local character.**

As appropriate to their scale, nature and location, proposals for new workspaces should demonstrate the way in which they can be incorporated within their immediate locality without generating any unacceptable impact on the amenity of residential properties and on the capacity and safety of the local highways network.

B. The reuse of historic buildings for such activities will be particularly supported. Any associated physical alterations should be sympathetic to the historic and architectural significance and character of the building concerned.

Conformity Reference NP objectives: 2; Shropshire Core Strategy (2011): CS13, CS14; SAMDev Plan (2015): MD9, S13; NPPF (2024): 85, 86

Justification

4.67. Much Wenlock has a well-qualified workforce, but its rural location in the setting of the Shropshire Hills National Landscape means that the parish is fairly limited in its ability to identify land for employment uses. A notable feature of the parish is the number of small businesses and sole traders operating locally, many from their own homes. Approximately 32% of those in employment work from home (2021 census). There is an opportunity, therefore, to explore ways to provide more space for early-stage businesses and start-ups, shared working space and opportunities to enable further homeworking. This would also potentially help to reduce number of vehicles commuting out.

4.68. To achieve, it is necessary to encourage appropriate buildings that can be rented out at sufficiently low rents to attract their use by business start-ups and existing home workers. A potential source of such space in Much Wenlock Parish is vacant farm and rural buildings, where this can be achieved in a sustainable way without compromising the landscape or adding to highway issues or flood risk.

OBJECTIVE 3: REDUCING FLOOD RISK

The Plan will aim to secure ways of reducing existing flood risk and avoiding any increase in flood risk, while also reducing water pollution throughout the parish by:

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- ✓ recognising the significance of the designation of Much Wenlock as within a Rapid Response Catchment subject to the Highest Category of flood risk.
- ✓ minimising the impacts of flooding within the town's conservation area, implicit in a worst-case flood scenario, by a catchment wide flood attenuation strategy.
- ✓ making a prior assessment, of any impact on flood risk, a key element in preparing for the implementation of each of the council's policies.
- ✓ restricting new development to locations least likely to increase flood risk.
- ✓ encouraging the development of nature-based solutions throughout the catchment to reduce runoff and to slow the flow of surface water.
- ✓ keeping sufficient land that has the potential to be used to slow down the flow of surface water through engineering or natural means free from development that would prevent such use. making sure that developments minimise the impact on water quality and subsequent health risks particularly during flooding conditions.
- ✓ protecting and improving local water quality.

Policy MW10: Flood prevention

Purpose

4.69. Much Wenlock and surrounds suffers from significant flooding. The two policies in the section seek to ensure that flood risk is minimised in Much Wenlock and that adequate drainage is in place.

POLICY MW10: FLOOD PREVENTION

A. Development proposals must be designed to take full account of any existing flood risk, irrespective of the source of flooding. Where a site, or its immediate surroundings, has been identified to be at risk of flooding, all opportunities to reduce the identified risk should be investigated at the masterplanning stage of design. The identified mitigations should be subsequently incorporated at the detailed design stage, during construction, throughout the lifetime of the development and in respect of other parts of the catchment when compared to current use, to reduce the overall level of flood risk. Sites which can deliver flood mitigation and reduce runoff to the Town alongside securing wider benefits, including but not limited to, residential development/net gains in Biodiversity/formal areas of open space, should be supported.

B. Existing watercourses (inclusive of all ditches and land drains) should remain open, and the land safeguarded for management of existing flood risk. Development will not be supported in existing or potential flood attenuation areas where development would reduce the ability of these areas to alleviate flooding by employment of either engineering or natural solutions.

C. It is essential that the drainage scheme proposed to support new development:

i. protects people and property on the development site from flooding; and

ii. does not create any additional flood risk outside of the development in any part of the catchment, either upstream or downstream; and

iii. the proposed scheme is future-proofed to take account of climate change projections.

D. For all developments, the following approach is supported:

i. no development shall commence until full details of the proposed drainage schemes for surface and foul water (including details of their routing, design, and subsequent management and maintenance) have been submitted to and approved by the planning authority; and

ii. no building shall be occupied until the drainage schemes have been implemented in accordance with the approved details; and

iii. parking spaces and driveways associated with new development will be encouraged to have permeable surfaces.

E. For major development, appropriate flood warning and evacuation plans must be in place.

F. Infrastructure provision or improvements shall be provided on-site as an integral part of the development and off-site (for instance via a S106), at the cost of the developer.

Conformity Reference: NP objectives: 3; Shropshire Core Strategy (2011): CS18; SAMDev Plan (2015): MD2; NPPF (2024): 161-164, 170-182

Policy MW11: Sustainable drainage design and management

POLICY MW11: SUSTAINABLE DRAINAGE DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT

A. Development proposals must demonstrate that the sewer network can accommodate the additional demand for sewerage disposal, both from the development itself and from permitted developments in the area where this can be accommodated within the sewer network, either in its existing form or through planned improvements to the system, in advance of the construction or occupation of the development.

B. In accordance with the NPPF, surface water drainage on any development must not add to the existing site run off or cause any adverse impact to neighbouring properties or the surrounding environment/wildlife habitat.

C. Development proposals creating new drainage requirements must demonstrate that Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) will be effective and incorporated in any proposed developments. This should allow for above surface water management on site taking account of the underlying geology and seasonally high ground water table affecting parts of

the parish. The concept of SuDS trains, incorporating two or three different surface water management approaches is supported.

D. Any drainage scheme must manage all sources of surface water, including exceedance flows and surface flows from offsite, provide for emergency ingress and egress and ensure adequate connectivity.

E. Development proposals must be supported by a drainage scheme maintenance plan which demonstrates a schedule of activities, access points, outfalls and any biodiversity and archaeological considerations. The maintenance plan must also include an indication of the adopting or maintaining authority or organisation and may require inclusion within a register of drainage features.

Conformity Reference: NP objectives: 3; Shropshire Core Strategy (2011): CS16; SAMDev Plan (2015): MD11; NPPF (2024): 161-164, 170-182

Justification

4.70. The NPPF states that, when determining planning applications, local planning authorities should, *"…ensure flood risk is not increased elsewhere. Where appropriate, applications should be supported by a site-specific flood-risk assessment. Development should only be allowed in areas at risk of flooding where, in light of this assessment (and the sequential and exception tests, as applicable) it can be demonstrated that: within the site, the most vulnerable development is located in areas of lowest flood risk unless there are overriding reasons to prefer a different location; the development is appropriately flood resistant and resilient; it incorporates sustainable drainage systems, unless there is clear evidence that this would be inappropriate; any residual risk can be safely managed; and safe access and escape routes are included where appropriate, as part of an agreed emergency plan."*

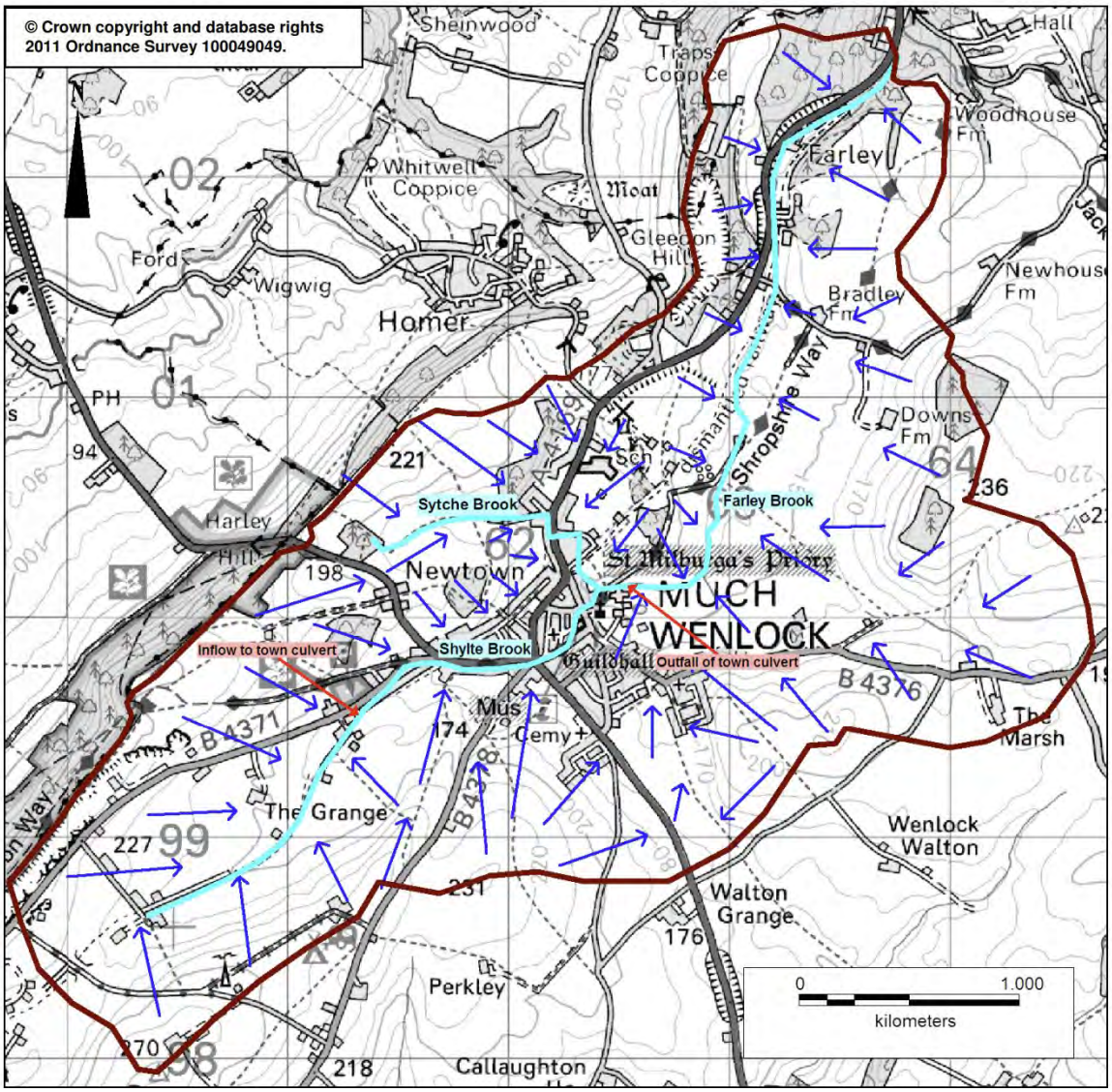
4.71. Flooding is a significant local issue. Much Wenlock and the surrounding areas are highly susceptible to flooding. The town and surrounding settlements, are effectively situated within a 'bowl' in the landscape, surrounded by higher hills, from which water run-off has frequently had devastating effects.

4.72. The most common cause of flooding is persistent rainfall over many hours, sometimes in a season which has been quite wet. Water running off the steep slopes surrounding Much Wenlock travels rapidly into the bowl of the town, causing significant flooding. The duration and intensity of rain, hail and snow is worsening with climate change and the situation is exacerbated by the increased use of hard (impermeable) surfaces. The intense storm of June 2023, for instance, lasted no more than 30 minutes but caused terrifying flooding. It is predicted that climate change will make such floods more frequent and also more intense and long lasting, causing immense damage.

4.73. As a consequence, Much Wenlock is designated as a High Category Rapid Response Catchment by the Environment Agency - the only one in Shropshire – notably in relation to the Shylte Brook, which runs through the town (*Figure 10*). This means that after heavy rain or rapid snowmelt, the flow of water is so rapid that it's not possible to prepare proper flood defences or to give adequate warnings to residents. Risk to life, livelihood and property is therefore high.

Extreme and fast flooding can occur with very little warning, and the depth and speed of flood water can increase quickly.

Figure 10: Main runoff paths (blue arrows), watercourses and whole catchment of the Much Wenlock and Farley (source: IUDMP, 2011)



4.74. Due to the frequency and severity of past flood events in Much Wenlock in 2010, SC commissioned an Integrated Urban Drainage Management Plan (IUDMP) to be prepared for the town, which explains the issues at hand. A combination of recommendations included the introduction of additional attenuation ponds and improved land practices, improved maintenance and increased number of gullies and changes to the drainage network in the Hunter's Gate area and additional attenuation ponds to avoid adverse effects downstream.

4.75. In November 2017, the Much Wenlock Flood Alleviation Scheme, which seeks to reduce flood risk to more than 140 properties, officially opened. The scheme has seen the construction of two ponds which catch and store water that could otherwise flood properties, businesses and roads in the town. One pond is on the Sytche Brook to the north west of the town and the other

is on the Shylte Brook to the south west. The ponds, which will usually be empty, fill during times of heavy rain. The collected water is then released in a controlled manner so that flood risk downstream is reduced. The ponds, which are now fully operational, will drain down sufficiently quickly so that repeat rainfall events can be stored in a similar manner. The scheme also includes the restoration of Westwood Quarry on Stretton Road. The Much Wenlock Flood Group, formed by a group of interested volunteers, has a vast knowledge of the Shylte Brook catchment and how it behaves, and will be a major part of work in the wider community regarding the flash flooding issue.

4.76. Despite the success of the scheme, flooding is still commonplace. The two most damaging recent floods both occurred during 2023. These floods had different origins. The first, in June 2023, arose following a sudden and relatively short period of geographically limited intense precipitation. While the attenuation ponds reduced the impact of the storm, properties in the High Street were badly flooded and traffic on the A458 was brought to a halt by the depth of the water. In October 2023 an even more extensive flood arose following a protracted period of persistent, though not intense, rainfall. Once again, it was properties in the High Street which were worst affected. Without the attenuation ponds, damage might have been even more serious. Those features were shown to be valuable though not sufficient.

4.77. The areas most badly affected by regular flooding lie at the heart of the Much Wenlock Conservation Area. Many of the homes are listed mediaeval buildings, central to the townscape. The Conservation Area forms an essential element in attracting visitors and its destruction would adversely affect the town's tourist economy. Changing weather patterns will only make matters worse and may require the existing IUDMP to be updated.

4.78. A careful analysis of the origins of the local flood risk was presented in February 2024 to the Town Council's Strategic Flood Advisory Group, at a meeting chaired by Philip Dunne MP. The findings were accepted as accurate by the representatives of the Environment Agency and SC. The nature of the landscape and geology play an important part as does the nature and distribution of existing development. While local action can aid marginally in reducing flooding, for example by regular drain clearance, the key to limiting future flooding lies in effective development management.

4.79. It is therefore considered critical that any new built development properly addresses the threat of flood risk and ensures, through good design, that it is capable of contributing towards the reduction of overall flood risk and can adapt the challenges posed by climate change. This would include the use of SuDS but also measures to retain water on site (both rain and grey water) to allow its reuse or subsequent release when peak flows diminish. Good design should incorporate such systems into new development.

4.80. The appropriate application of a Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) scheme to a specific development is heavily dependent upon the topography and geology of the specific site (and its surrounds). Careful consideration of the site characteristics must therefore be given to ensure the future sustainability of the adopted drainage system. Severn Trent Water notes that it is the responsibility of a developer to make proper provision for surface water drainage to groundwater courses or surface water sewers. It must not be allowed to drain to the foul sewer, as this is the major contributor to sewer flooding.



Flooding at The Pound and Gaskell Arms Junction

4.81. **Natural flood management and the use of SuDS:** Incorporating biodiverse SuDS into new developments would assist in reducing the amount of rainwater running off into the combined sewage system. *Table 5* identifies additional natural solutions that should be considered:

Table 5: Natural drainage solutions

	Planting additional trees and hedgerows in public green spaces and along verges. Soakaway crates can be installed beneath trees, which serve to capture excess water, slowing its movement until it soaks naturally into the earth or taken in by the tree. This chimes with the aspiration for a minimum 20% tree canopy across the area (Biodiversity policy). The Much Wenlock Tree Forum is heavily involved in supporting tree planting locally for this purpose.
	Small rain gardens along streets can be created to capture surface water before it enters the drain. The use of larger stone and cobbles can assist in removing sediment from the water.

	Diverting water courses in the higher hills to reduce flow speed and incorporating materials to naturally filter the water from materials that might otherwise enter the drainage network. This is an approach actively supported by the Severn Rivers Trust and can incorporate: installation of leaky dams to slow flow within the watercourses; development of wetland scrapes and similar features that can hold water during storm events and allow water to slowly seep out; reconnection of flood plain areas to the rivers to allow an increased area of land for temporary water storage; creation of woodland to increase absorption of rainfall; and development of a green finance model for nature based solutions to water resource management.
	The use of ponds as attenuation areas to capture surface water. Land in the surrounding area to the town could be actively safeguarded to act as attenuation areas. The Town Council will work with landowners and the Local Wildlife Trust to identify suitable locations.
	Parking spaces and driveways associated with new development should incorporate permeable surfaces. Existing residents will also be discouraged from contributing to increasing community flood risk by creating new hard or impermeable surfaces within their own properties.

	Supporting different ways of farming can encourage richer soils. This helps to preserve organic matter in the soil, which will help improve soil structure, water-holding capacity, and overall soil health. Soils with higher organic matter content can absorb and store more water, reducing the volume of water that runs off and contributes to flooding.

4.82. **Sewerage network capacity** – The current Much Wenlock Place Plan acknowledges the flooding problem immediately upstream of the main outfall sewer to the Wastewater Treatment. It is therefore recommended for SC to make any planning permission conditional upon the sewerage authority (Severn Trent Water) first taking any steps necessary to ensure that the public sewer will be able to cope with the increased load. This can be secured through the use of 'Grampian' style pre-commencement planning conditions. SC will then determine any details submitted pursuant to such conditions in accordance with any views expressed by Severn Trent Water. Such conditions would commonly be worded broadly as follows: '*No dwelling hereby permitted shall be occupied until works to improve the existing public foul sewerage network so that it is able to cope with the flows from the proposed development have been completed.'*

4.83. The use of Grampian-style pre-commencement planning conditions are considered to be particularly helpful in Much Wenlock, given the overall flooding issues, exacerbated by the combined sewer/drainage network. Their use by SC would therefore be welcomed. In order to inform the justification and application of such conditions, Much Wenlock Town Council will continue to work with Severn Trent Water and SC to review the capacity of the Sewage Treatment Works and assess whether applications, on an individual basis, require such a condition. This is not a policy matter but a non-policy action.

4.84. In parallel with the MWNP, it is imperative that the organisations responsible maintain drainage features, such as ditches, culverts and drains.

OBJECTIVE 4: TRANSPORT AND MOVEMENT

The Plan will support new ways of managing the traffic in and around the town of Much Wenlock and enabling active travel by:

- ✓ supporting plans to improve the infrastructure for local walking, cycling and equestrian transport, in line with the principles of the 20-minute neighbourhoods.
- ✓ making sure that new developments have enough associated off-street car parking to meet current and future needs.
- ✓ safeguarding existing off-street public car parking and support additional car parking to alleviate pressure in the town centre.
- ✓ supporting local and strategic traffic management proposals which reduce the number of HGV/LGV vehicles travelling through the parish in order to minimise their adverse impact.
- ✓ managing new developments so that they do not have an unacceptable traffic impact on local residents.
- ✓ ensuring that traffic impacts at pinchpoint junctions and stretches of road are minimised.

Policy MW12: Improving walking, cycling and equestrian opportunities

Purpose

4.85. This policy seeks to enhance opportunities for active modes of transport (notably walking and, where feasible, cycling, and equestrian) along routes which are most likely to encourage a shift away from the private car for short journeys in and around the parish.

POLICY MW12: IMPROVING WALKING, CYCLING AND EQUESTRIAN OPPORTUNITIES

A. As appropriate to their scale, nature and location, development proposals should ensure safe pedestrian, and where possible cycle, access to link up with the existing footpath network, as defined in *Figure 12*, and the public transport network.

B. The provision of new, or the enhancement of existing, cycle and pedestrian routes that are, where feasible, physically separated from vehicular traffic and from one another will be strongly supported. Such routes should be of permeable material and ensure that access by disabled users and users of mobility scooters is secured.

C. Insofar as planning permission is required, the design and layout of works related to the widening of footpaths or the provision of traffic-calming measures should enhance the rural character of the town and retain and/or provide hedgerows, trees and soft verges wherever practicable. The materials used in such works should be sympathetic to local character, in accordance with Policy MW18.

D. Proposals for new segregated bridleways will be supported wherever possible; in all new developments existing bridleways must be retained where they exist or, alternatively, new or amended bridleway links provided together with safe road crossing points that enable connectivity between the town and the wider countryside.

E. Proposals should enable or promote the provision of community transport and car share schemes that provide accessible, affordable and responsive transport choice.

Conformity Reference: NP objectives: 4; Shropshire Core Strategy (2011): CS7; SAMDev Plan (2015): MD8; NPPF (2024): 96, 105, 109, 110, 111, 115, 117, 135

Justification

4.86. The community has a high level of concern about the existing amount of traffic in the parish, notably into and through Much Wenlock town, where heavy congestion is experienced, particularly at peak times.

4.87. Many people rely on their car for a variety of reasons, for instance, they may have limited mobility, they may be transporting young children, carrying larger loads, or simply be short of time.

4.88. Whilst such journeys may be unavoidable, it is important that 'active travel' (i.e. walking and cycling) is enabled and encouraged, particularly for journeys within the Parish and to nearby settlements. Active travel – walking, cycling and recreational horse-riding - brings health benefits, both physical and mental, and can assist in reducing congestion and air pollution whilst freeing the roads for those who are less able to give up their cars for the reasons stated above.

4.89. Much Wenlock has no dedicated cycling routes, and the historic nature of the area will make it difficult to engineer the existing routes to create such routes. Nevertheless, there is scope to ensure that provision for cyclists is in place and this is considered in Policy M13 (Public parking provision). This includes provision for leisure cyclists that frequently visit and pass through the town.

Promoting Walking

4.90. There is greater scope when it comes to walking. An aspiration of the MWNP is to promote Much Wenlock as a 'walkable town'. This is a concept promoted by the Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) whereby developments are encouraged to be no more than a 10 minute walk from key facilities (*Figure 11*).

Figure 11: Principles of the '20 minute' neighbourhood (i.e. 10 minutes each way) (source: TCPA)



4.91. The concept is not intended to stifle development, rather to emphasise the importance of enabling and improving connectivity by foot and by bike. New development proposals in the parish, which may be allocated in a future Local Plan for instance, should take account of the walkable town concept and provide the infrastructure to link new homes to existing facilities to encourage active travel.

4.92. *Figure 12* shows the areas that are walkable (one-way from home) within 10 minutes of the town centre, as a central point in the town. The concept could be applied to other community amenities and leisure facilities, for instance, that are not necessarily located in the town centre.

4.93. Policy MW12 does not directly comment on the 20-minute neighbourhood. It takes a more general approach in advising that development proposals should ensure safe pedestrian, and where possible cycle, access to link up with the existing footpath and cycleway network, and public transport network, as defined in *Figure 12*. Nevertheless, proposals which meet the 20 minutes neighbourhood concept will be particularly supported. This approach overlaps with that taken in Policy MW1, which focuses on new development within the Development Boundary. Plainly this approach will provide convenient access to the town centre and to the main amenities and attractions.

4.94. *Figure 12* also identifies how and where the walking network as a whole can be improved and better connected within the town. These improvements could form the basis for funding priorities for any developer contributions received and should be considered in partnership with Shropshire Council as the Highways Authority. The improvements are summarised in *Table 6,* where numbering corresponds to the map, which also prioritises them in order of urgency.

Figure 12: Walkable map (10 minutes each way) taking the town centre as the central point and key improvement points

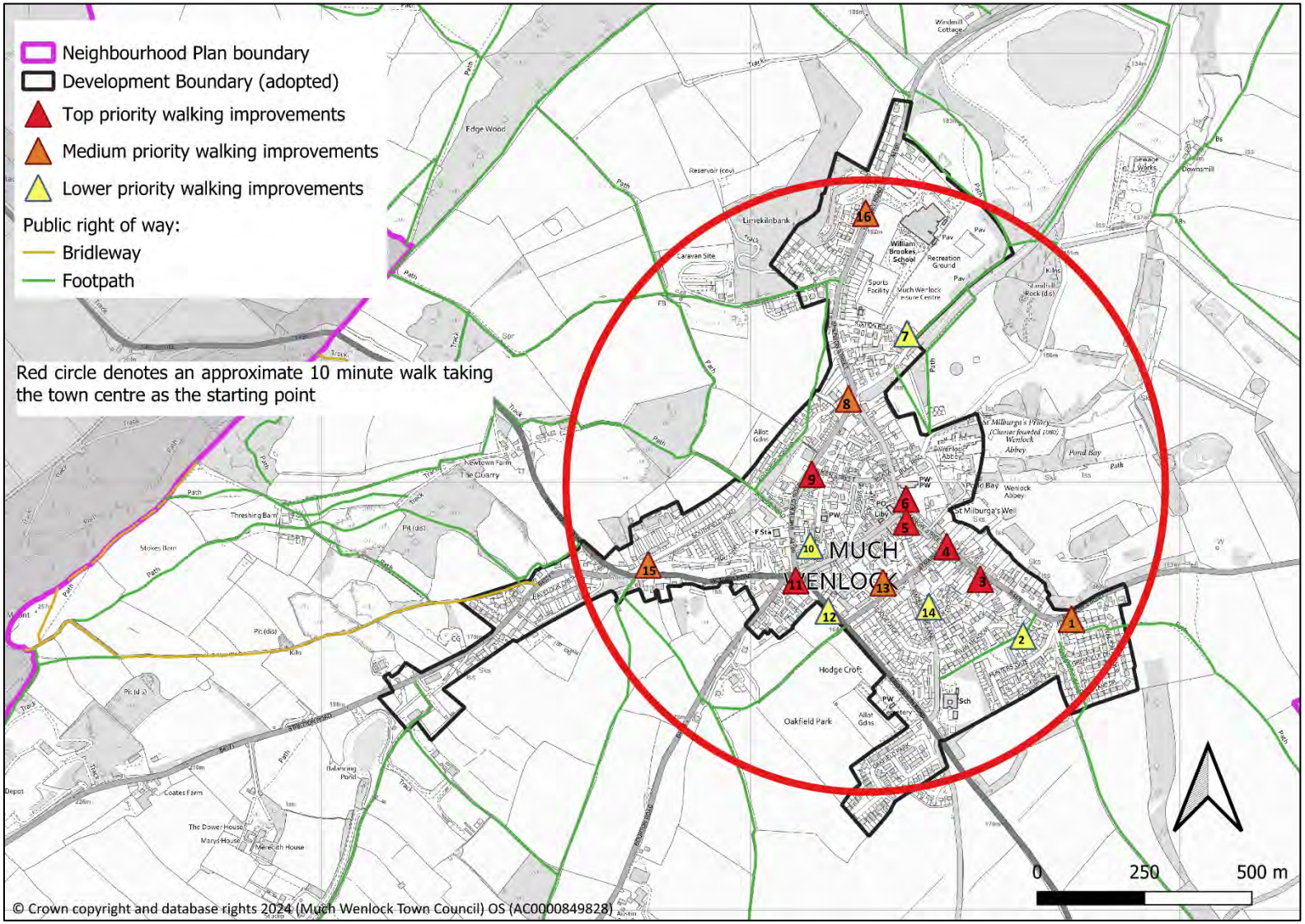


Table 6: Improvements to Much Wenlock's walking route network

	Location	Problem	Solution	Progress August 2023	PRIORITY LISTING
1.	Junction of Forester Avenue and Barrow St	Speed of traffic and poor visibility due to the bend, and in the summer vegetation growth can also obscure the view	Move 30 mph limit Cut back Vegetation	Undergrow th cut back	MEDIUM Priority
2.	Kissing Gates on Hunters Gate	Difficult for mobility scooter and buggies	*Open double gate for users, consider design in future*		LOW Priority
3.	Barrow Street	Pinch points on both sides of the road forcing people to use the road. Uneven surfaces prevent some people walking	*Consider design of road to create traffic calming e.g. chicanes located at pinch points to enable pavements to be widened*	*None*	TOP Priority
4.	Raven Junction – Barrow St / St Mary's Lane	Uneven and steep dropped kerbs. Cars and buses mount the kerb adding to the danger to pedestrians.	*Improvements to alignment of dropped kerbs as need to change angle of approach if on a mobility scooter.*	*None*	TOP Priority
5.	High St Junction and The Square	Limited dropped kerb crossing points often obliterated by parked cars	*Create raised table at junction, slowing traffic making it more a shared space and discouraging through traffic*	*None*	TOP Priority
6.	Wilmore St and Sheinton Street	Narrow pavement – pedestrians forced onto road	*As above*	*None*	TOP Priority
7.	Station Road	Uneven pavement surface	*Maintenance required*	*None*	LOW priority
8.	Smithfield Road (A4169)	Pavement switches sides with limited safe crossing places for school children or other vulnerable	*Install pedestrian refuges, carry out safety audit*	*None*	MEDIUM priority

	Location	Problem	Solution	Progress August 2023	PRIORITY LISTING
		pedestrians/scooter users.			
9.	Mardol Terrace (A4169)	Pavement tarmac is cracked No pavement from bus terminal Queen Street to Mardol Terrace	*Maintenance required carry out a safety audit.*	*None*	TOP Priority
10.	King St	No pavements to or from the Health Centre forcing disabled, vulnerable or people with small children to walk in the road.	*Consider road markings to demark safer pedestrian way*	*None*	LOW Priority
11.	Gaskell Arms Junction	No safe pedestrian access to the bus stop or across *Victoria Rd*.	*Further consideration to be given to improving pedestrian/cycle crossings at the Gaskell Arms junction.* *Improve safety for pedestrians*	*None*	TOP Priority
12.	Bridgnorth Road	Very narrow and uneven footpath on the cemetery side. At the safer crossing further down the hill you have to scramble up the bank on the garage side to reach the pavement.	*Improve surface of pavements.*	*Safe crossing at Oakfield Park proposed*	LOW Priority
13.	St Mary's Road	Poor pavement surfaces for mobility scooter users, an impassable step where the driveway from Falcons Court meets the road. Few dropped kerbs.	*Improve pavement surface and access*	*None*	MEDIUM Priority
14.	Racecourse Lane	Overgrown hedges	*Cut back*	*Needs monitoring all the time.*	LOW Priority

	Location	Problem	Solution	Progress August 2023	PRIORITY LISTING
15	Victoria Road / Shrewsbury Road A458	The pedestrian crossing from the walkway to the old petrol station on Victoria Road has often been damaged by vehicles in the past.	*Needs more safety measures*	*The Keep Left signs have been renewed.*	MEDIUM Priority
16.	A4169 outside Lady Forester	There is no pedestrian refuge. Vulnerable residents and visitors to the care home find it difficult to cross the road	*Install pedestrian refuge outside care home and implement 20mph zone outside school*	*None*	MEDIUM Priority

4.95. The only accessible recreational footpath in the area is around the Linden Field. A second heritage trail could be developed by continuing this path from the Linden Field and along the disused railway line. Currently the railway line is only accessible to confident walkers, due to mud and tree roots etc. but a heritage walk with an accessible surface could include information boards on the history of the area. This route leads to the road to the Cavalier Centre, which provides horse-riding for the disabled.

4.96. In terms of access beyond the town itself, most recreational walks start in Much Wenlock and use the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) network. Given Much Wenlock's topography, current PRoWs demand a high level of mobility to clamber up and down steep banks.

4.97. The local settlements of Bourton, Homer, Farley, Callaughton etc. have no pavements. Roads in these areas are narrow, and speed limits range from 30mph to 50mph and 60mph. This can be confusing and is not conducive to walking or cycling. Users of these recreational routes using PRoW are, at times, required to use sections of these roads, creating hazards for walkers. The worst spots are as follows:

- The top of Harley Bank on the A458
- Bourton Road (B4378) Perkley route by Bourton Westwood Farm.
- Merrywell Lane, part of a popular circular walk round the town. This increasingly busy route is an HGV and bus route and has two-way traffic on a single carriageway with passing spaces.
- The Broseley road from the town boundary to Bellhole Cottage (a fast road with no pavement and poor visibility in places).
- The road to Homer from Much Wenlock, which is used by William Brookes School students, but is steep, dark, fast and narrow with no pavements.

4.98. To create better connectivity to and between settlements and to other walking routes, there are a number of 'missing links' in the PRoW network as follows:

- a connecting safe footpath is needed to link the two PRoWs at the top of Harley Bank on A458. This could be achieved by acquiring the 2-metre strip of land adjacent to highway for a distance of approximately 100 metres.

- designate an informal footpath from Edge Wood to Homer Road at Hillcrest as a PRoW to help address safety concerns of people walking on Homer Road.
- formally divert the PRoW through Farley Quarry from Sheinton Road to Severn Springs Farm, which has been closed by the landowner, and reroute using a path along Gleedon Hill on the west of the quarry.
- address the closure of the PRoW through Lea Quarry, which has been shut by the landowner and provide a new link to the east of the quarry as previously discussed which would benefit the local caravan site users.

Public Transport in Much Wenlock

4.99. In addition to the proposals set out above, there is a general desire locally to improve access to, frequency and reliability of public transport in the parish, in particular buses. The Community Surveys revealed that the community have concerns about the frequency of buses, particularly in the evenings and at weekends.

4.100. Whilst such improvements sit outside the scope of the neighbourhood plan itself, they are noted within the Non-Policy Actions section as activities for the Town Council and wider community to pursue with private operators and the highways authority.

4.101. In parallel to improving the active travel network, there are a series of factors that may help to improve the environment for walkers, cyclists and horse-riders. Many are beyond the scope of the Neighbourhood Plan but are considered in Section 7 (Non-Policy Actions). They include:

- Using design to slow-down traffic – for example through the introduction of tighter bends into side-roads, as opposed to wide openings; the creative use of planters to narrow lanes; use of modal filters, which allow the passage of some modes of transport but not others. The Much Wenlock Design Codes and Guidance addresses some of these points.
- Introducing slower speed limits in part or all of the town.
- In order to enhance the attractive heritage / conservation centre of Much Wenlock, a shared vehicle/pedestrian/cyclist space could be created in the High Street / The Square/ Barrow Street / Wilmore Street to reduce vehicle speeds and rat running thereby enhancing the safety of all users.
- Redirecting HGVs away from rural lanes – a dialogue with Shropshire Council and National Highways would help to consider ways to re-route vehicles, for instance by altering SatNav guidance provided to private companies.
- Working with Shropshire Council Highways and private operators to improve public transport provision in the parish, in terms of routes served, timings and punctuality.

Policy MW13: Publicly accessible parking

Purpose

4.102. The policy seeks to safeguard existing public car parking and support new parking in areas where parking is a challenge.

POLICY MW13: PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE PARKING

A. Development proposals that would result in the loss of existing publicly available off-street car parking spaces will not be supported.

B. Proposals that enable the provision of additional, publicly accessible off-road car parking spaces will be supported subject to the policies of this Neighbourhood Plan. In particular proposals which:

i. provide parking that is accessible (by foot) to the High Street; and

ii. provision of parking spaces which are landscaped, ideally with native species, to minimise the visual impact of parked vehicles. They must also not exacerbate or cause additional surface-water runoff.

C. At existing locations and alongside any new public car parking provision, the following facilities will be strongly supported to be provided as part of that provision:

i. dedicated covered and secure bicycle parking facilities, preferably with e-bike charging points; and

ii. future-proofed four hour or faster electric vehicle charging points (or wireless charging facilities).

Conformity Reference: NP objectives: 3; Shropshire Core Strategy (2011): CS7; SAMDev Plan (2015): MD8; NPPF (2024): 109, 110, 112, 117

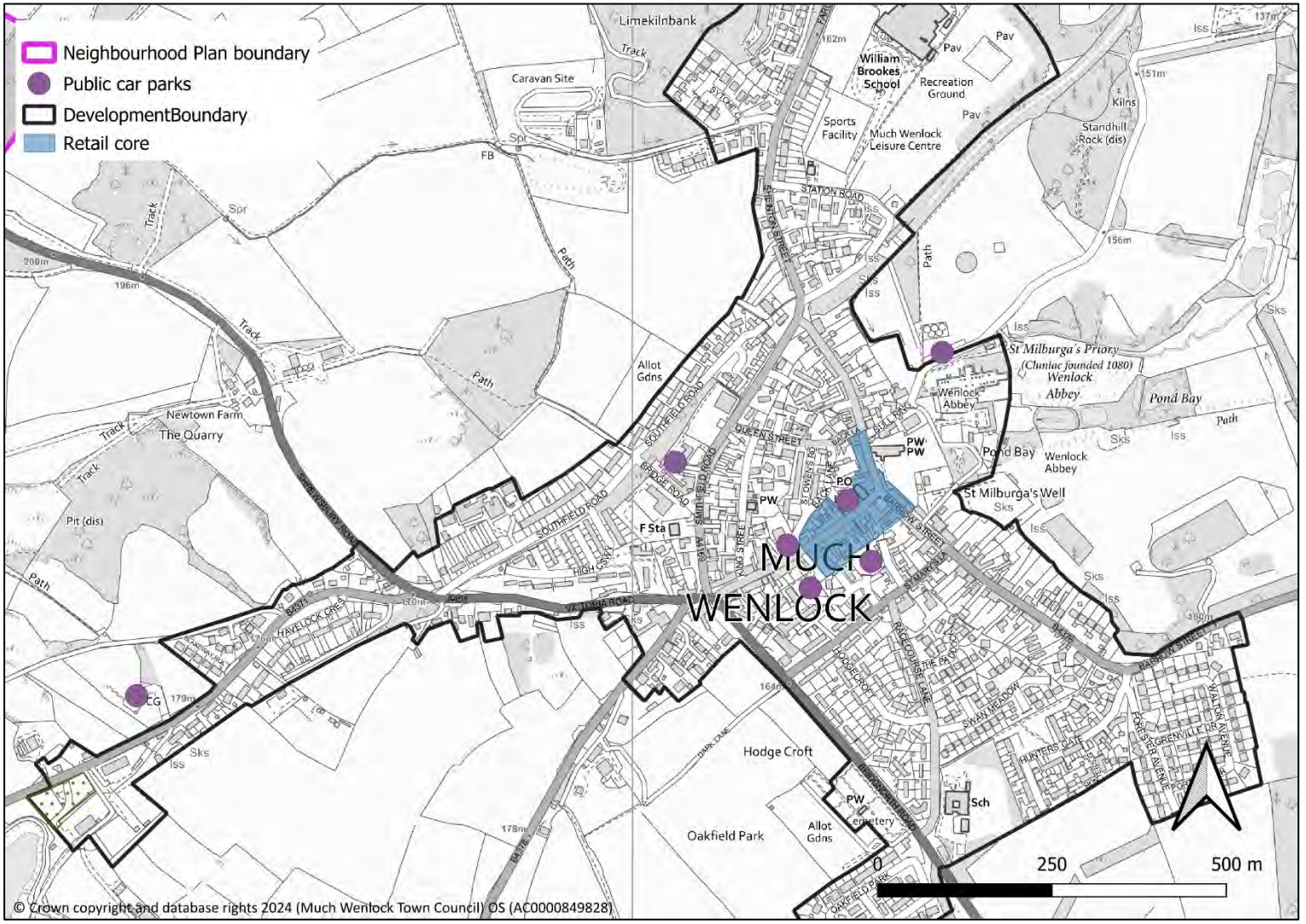
Justification

4.103. Whilst the MWNP promotes active travel (walking, cycling and equestrian), the rural location of Much Wenlock, combined with a lack of railway station and limited public transport provision, means that many residents are heavily car reliant. In addition, visitors to the town generally arrive by car, often as part of a larger journey.

4.104. There are only a few fully public car parks within the town itself (*Figure 13)*, in addition to some on-street parking along the High Street. Feedback from the community and local businesses revealed a desire to safeguard existing parking and, where possible, expand on this. All public car parking should be clearly signposted to aid visitors to the area.

4.105. The provision of publicly accessible electric vehicle charging points across the parish will be supported as will secure, covered cycle parking.

Figure 13: Public car parks in the town



Policy MW14: Mitigating vehicular impacts at junctions and pinchpoints

Purpose

4.106. This policy seeks to ensure that development proposals fully assess both their potential impact and their cumulative impact on the key roads and junctions in the parish that already experience congestion problems and actively seek ways to mitigate this.

POLICY MW14: MITIGATING VEHICULAR IMPACTS AT JUNCTIONS AND PINCHPOINTS

A. Development which provides new transport infrastructure or improves existing transport infrastructure should be supported and designed to maximise use by pedestrians, those with mobility impairments and cyclists.

B. Development proposals should ensure that they have no unacceptable direct or cumulative impact on the following junctions:

- **i. Sytche Close and the A4169 Farley Road**
- **ii. Sheinton Street junction with the A4169**
- **iii. B4371 with the A458 and Southfield Road**
- **iv. A458 with the A4169, the B4378 and the High Street (known as Gaskell Arms junction)**
- **v. A458 Bridgnorth Road and St Mary's Road**
- **vi. A458 Bridgnorth Road and Racecourse Lane**
- **vii. A458 Bridgnorth Road and Callaughton Lane**
- **viii. Barrow Street and the High Street**
- **ix. Barrow Street and St Mary's Lane**

C. Development proposals should be accompanied by Transport Assessments (for larger sites) or Transport Statements (for smaller sites) ('larger' and smaller' site size defined in the NPPF) and address the direct and cumulative transport impact on road junctions.

Conformity Reference: NP objectives: 3; Shropshire Core Strategy (2011): CS7; SAMDev Plan (2015): MD8; NPPF (2024): 96, 109, 110, 111, 115, 116, 117, 118

Justification

4.107. The town has a number of roads and junctions that experience regular congestion, particularly at peak periods. This not only delays journeys but increases emissions and associated air pollution. A particular issue is the large volumes of traffic, including heavy goods vehicles that travel through the Gaskell Arms junction leading to drivers choosing to rat-run through the Town to avoid the junction.

4.108. Approved major residential developments including in Ironbridge, Bridgnorth, Cressage and Shrewsbury will generate considerable additional traffic through the Gaskell Arms junction and this, in turn, will potentially increase the volume of rat-running through the town itself.

OBJECTIVE 5: COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

The Plan will protect existing community facilities and services considered important for a vibrant community and support the development of new ones which benefit local people and visitors by encouraging:

- ✓ creating new facilities for families, the elderly and young people.
- ✓ supporting developments or uses associated with a positive visitor experience.
- ✓ protecting existing community buildings and services.
- ✓ providing new public toilet provision to cater for local and visitor needs.

Policy MW15: Improving opportunities for community and cultural facilities, sport and recreation

Purpose

4.109. This policy seeks to ensure that those living in and moving to the parish are adequately served with a range of good quality facilities and activities and that there are opportunities for residents to shape this.

POLICY MW15: IMPROVING OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL FACILITIES, SPORT AND RECREATION

A. Development proposals for new community, recreational, cultural and leisure facilities, or the improvement of existing facilities - in particular to serve the identified needs of the community as set out in this neighbourhood plan and in the Much Wenlock Place Plan - will be supported where:

i. the proposal contributes to the setting of the National Landscape; and
ii. the proposal would not have significant harmful impacts on the amenities of surrounding residents and the local environment; and
iii. the proposal would not have significant adverse impacts upon the local road network; and
iv. the proposal would not have harmful impacts on the heritage aspects, including the setting, of the facility; and
v. the proposal does not contribute to or exacerbate flood risk.

Applicants are encouraged to engage with the community at the earliest opportunity to determine need.

B. The provision of new and upgraded play areas to serve the needs of children of all ages, in accordance with Shropshire Council's Local Plan/Open Space Study standards will be supported. Where possible, these should incorporate areas for 'natural play' (defined as play provision with natural environments as opposed to 'man-made' ones).

C. Proposals that would result in the loss of community, leisure and recreational facilities will only be supported if either the facility is surplus to requirements and there is no longer a proven need for such a facility or alternative and equivalent facilities are proposed which demonstrate by comparison to the existing facility that:

i. **the replacement will be of at least an equivalent scale, specification and located in an accessible location to the community to be served;**
ii. **the reprovisioning of these facilities will incorporate adequate safeguards for delivery; and**
iii. **satisfy all other relevant policy expectations of this neighbourhood plan.**

Conformity Reference: NP objectives: 5; Shropshire Core Strategy (2011): CS8, CS9; SAMDev Plan (2015): MD8; NPPF (2024): 96, 98, 101, 103, 104

Justification

4.110. Considering its size, Much Wenlock is well served for community facilities. The parish has traditionally had an active voluntary sector, and the community is keen that this continues. Providing good quality facilities will serve to encourage and sustain the voluntary sector.

4.111. Nevertheless, Much Wenlock's leisure and cultural facilities serve an area and population far greater and wider than the town itself and this needs to be considered in relation to the safeguarding of existing facilities and notably the provision of new or enhanced ones. This will contribute positively to physical and mental wellbeing and commercial viability within the town and surrounding areas.

4.112. The NPPF provides a clear framework for the promotion, retention and development of local services and community facilities in towns, such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship. The Core Strategy also includes policies to protect and enhance existing facilities and resist any inappropriate loss. In the Neighbourhood Plan area, there is a thriving community with education, health, social and leisure facilities which contribute greatly to the local quality of life.

4.113. A review of existing provision and future need by facility is provided in *Table 7*, drawing on local feedback and the Much Wenlock Place Plan, which is updated regularly.

Table 7: Audit of local facilities

Map ref.	Local Facility	Commentary
1	Much Wenlock Primary School	The school has a net capacity of 168 pupils with an approved annual admission of 24 pupils. Football: One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that has spare capacity discounted due to insecure tenure. Pitch is used by Wenlock Warriors FC. Action: Improve grass pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime Examining securing tenure for community users through a CUA.
2	William Brookes School Incorporating the Leisure Centre which is not available for public use during school hours, some evenings and public holidays.	The school has a net capacity of 948 students with an approved annual admission of 162. Provides a swimming pool, fitness suite and sports hall.

		"The Edge"; Adaptable and modern performance hall, used by the school and public, hosting many cultural and entertainment events. Football: One youth 9v9 pitch that has spare capacity discounted due to poor quality. Action: Improve pitch quality through an enhanced maintenance regime. Hockey: One standard quality full size, all-weather pitch which is not floodlit. Pitch was created in 2010. Action: Monitor pitch quality based on surface age and resurface as a hockey suitable surface when deemed necessary. Encourage use by public. Explore the feasibility of installing floodlights. Tennis/ Netball: Four good quality macadam courts which are floodlit. Action: Sustain court quality through appropriate levels of maintenance and seek to increase community use. Concerns have been raised about the possible closure of the Leisure Centre and this should be resisted.
4	Much Wenlock Medical Practice	Located in King Street.
5	Much Wenlock Parish Church of the Holy Trinity	The first church on this site was Anglo-Saxon, built probably about AD680. The present church dates from AD 1100. It is open for visitors during the day.
6	Holy Trinity Church, Bourton	A small but active congregation, which has recently spent much time and effort in refurbishing the interior.
7	Much Wenlock Methodist Church	The Church has a small but active congregation. A meeting room is available to hire for £10 an hour.
8	Gaskell Recreation Ground	Large, well maintained recreation area on the northern edge of the town, with good access providing a popular community space. Managed by a charitable trust. Used by several sports clubs and also William Brookes School. Football: large pitch that hosts Wenlock Warriors and occasional senior teams. Recently drained and supported by continual pitch improvements. Cricket: One good quality square with seven grass wickets and an NTP. Sustain square and outfield quality through appropriate levels of maintenance. Bowls: One standard quality bowling green rented by Much Wenlock Bowls Club. Explore opportunities to make

		continual improvements in order to sustain membership levels. Playground: Opportunities to improve the existing range of play equipment, including to meet the needs of those with disabilities should be sought. Additional undercover seating is supported. Continual demand for provision of public convenience and baby changing facilities. Identified as a town priority.
9	Much Wenlock Guildhall	Grade II* listed building dating from 1540 the Guildhall hosts meetings upstairs. A regular market takes place in the ground floor space. Plans are in development to refurbish the hall and bring it up to contemporary standards of comfort and accessibility There may be scope for it to be utilised more fully as a public space for meetings and events and also for occasions such as weddings and other celebrations. This is an asset with the highest level of community value. Priority to keep the Guildhall open and accessible to the public. Potential to weather-proof the ground floor.
10	Much Wenlock Museum	Housed in the Memorial Hall. Run by Shropshire Council, it is a priority to establish a long-term commitment to keep the museum properly resourced and open to the public.
11	Much Wenlock Allotments	Located on Bridgnorth Road, behind Much Wenlock Cemetery and off Southfield Road. Allotment space located by the cemetery is only temporary and subject to cemetery expansion. Explore availability of permanent allotment area. The Southfield Road Allotments are not all “taken” and there is no waiting list for them. However, some are steep and parking/access is very restricted.
12	Town Cemetery	Owned and run by Much Wenlock Town Council, is close to capacity and more land (currently allotments) will be required in the next few years.
13	Public toilets	These are owned and run by Much Wenlock Town Council and are available in two locations: St Mary’s Lane; modern, accessible and recently updated. Fees charged.

		Queen Street; functional, but dated. Access is limited. No fees charged. Town Council aspires to upgrade this facility. Public demand for provision of toilets on Gaskell Recreation Ground (see above).
14	The Corn Exchange	Grade II listed building and the Town Council's office and archive room. Mary Webb meeting room which can host up to eight participants.
15	Public Library	Run by Shropshire Council Library Services, funded by Much Wenlock Town Council. Priority to retain an essential community asset.
16	Scout Hut	Formerly a youth club, now home to Much Wenlock Scouts. Owned by Shropshire Council; the building and associated grass area should be retained as a community asset.
17	Public houses	There are a number of public houses in the parish, although some have closed over the last few years and The Raven has recently been sold.
18	Old Chapel	Feasibility Plan to establish sustainable future use. Identify as a Community Asset.
19	Priory Hall	Scope to upgrade facilities for those hard of hearing.
20	Pinefields Community Centre on the High Causeway	This is used by a number of groups for meetings and other activities.
21	Edge Arts Centre	A much-valued venue in the town.

4.114. Additional activities and facilities called for in the public engagement included:

- Facilities for youths/ young people: e.g. skate park, youth club/space
- Fitness trail along the former railway line
- A gym
- Undercover seating in the Gaskell play area
- Upgrade to the children's park

4.115. Notwithstanding Core Strategy policies, over the last decade, the town has seen the loss of a number of services and facilities, including the British Legion Hall, the Roman Catholic church and two banks. The community is concerned that there should be no further loss of facilities, in particular, health services, the Post Office and library, and there is strong support for the Neighbourhood Plan to seek the improvement and retention of these vital community assets in the interests of community wellbeing and sustainability.

4.116. Before granting planning permission for a change of use or redevelopment which would result in the loss of any of these facilities, therefore, Policy MW15 requires compelling evidence that the facility is both no longer needed by the local community and is no longer commercially viable in line with the guidance attached at Appendix A.

4.117. Much Wenlock itself also serves as a centre for a much wider rural catchment area and its facilities are of value to residents living well outside the parish boundaries. Through the safeguarding of local community facilities and services and the provision of new services the Plan aims to strengthen Much Wenlock's role as a Key Settlement in line with Shropshire policy.

Policy MW16: Protection of public houses

Purpose

4.118. This policy seeks to safeguard public houses from change of use. There are limited such facilities remaining in the parish. Planning applications to change the use of public houses will only be supported if they can no longer remain viable. Proposals to expand their use will be supported if it is to provide a similar community resource (e.g. restaurant).

POLICY MW16: PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HOUSES

A. Insofar as planning permission is required, proposals for the expansion of existing public houses in the neighbourhood area to develop appropriate community-based activities, such as a restaurant will be supported, subject to complying with other policies within the plan and provided the scale, design and materials are in keeping with the local character and reinforce the local distinctiveness of the surroundings and not having a detrimental impact on residential amenity.

B. Development proposals to change the use of public houses (Use Class sui generis) will only be supported if such a use is demonstrably unviable.

C. Development proposals which would result in the loss of a commercial use or facility will only be supported where the use is no longer viable and appropriate efforts have been made to secure an alternative commercial facility.

Conformity Reference: NP objectives: 5; Shropshire Core Strategy (2011): CS8, CS9; SAMDev Plan (2015): MD8; NPPF (2024): 88, 96, 98

Justification

4.119. Public houses have a significant positive impact, creating more community cohesion in rural areas, as recognised in the NPPF.). There are a number of public houses in the parish, including in the town itself and also the Wenlock Inn on the western boundary.

4.120. Recent years, however, have seen changes in the provision of public houses in the parish and others remain under threat of conversion.

4.121. Where a development proposal would result in the loss of a commercial use or facility such as a public house or local convenience shop, the application should be supported by a viability report, prepared by a relevant professional, including financial accounts and marketing information, illustrating that efforts to promote, improve, and market the facility/property, for sale or rent (for a minimum period of 18 months), at a reasonable value which reflects the existing use and condition of the building (a minimum of two independent valuations of the building will normally be required) have not been successful, and the use is no longer viable. For public houses, the CAMRA Public House Viability Test, or a similar objective evaluation method, is recommended to be employed to assess the viability of the business and the outcomes show that the public house is no longer economically viable.

Policy MW17: Provision of accessible public toilet facilities

Purpose

4.122. The policy supports the provision of adequate publicly accessible toilets to serve the town.

POLICY MW17: PROVISION OF ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC TOILET FACILITIES

Proposals which deliver a publicly accessible toilet facility and, where possible, a Changing Places facility, will be strongly supported. These should be designed in a way to reduce vandalism.

Conformity Reference: NP Objectives: 5; Shropshire Core Strategy (2011): CS8, CS9; SAMDev Plan (2015): MD8; NPPF (2024): 88, 96, 98

Justification

4.123. The need for accessible toilet facilities available for use by the public, which could ideally include a Changing Places facility, has been raised by residents, businesses and visitors to the area as a priority.

4.124. Current public toilet provision within Much Wenlock is considered inadequate and limited to facilities in St Mary's Road Car Park and at Queen Street. Provision at the Gaskell Recreation Ground was closed some years ago and many residents, via the community survey, have called for them to be reinstated. Locations identified as potentially useful for toilet provision include on the side of the town near the Linden Field or Bull Ring, or on the Stretton Road. Signage to public toilets should be in place.

4.125. A public toilet scheme, whereby local shops, restaurants and other facilities enable use of their facilities could be considered by the Town Council in partnership with local businesses, and where an existing community facility or business is able to provide an accessible public toilet facility (see Appendix B for definition of accessible toilets), this would be supported.

4.126. The design of such facilities should seek to minimise vandalism. It would be helpful to consider advice on this subject, for instance Designing Out Crime and Secured by Design.

OBJECTIVE 6: GOOD QUALITY DESIGN, LOCAL CHARACTER AND HERITAGE

All future development will be well designed with the aim of:

- ✓ respecting the scale, style and setting of the historic townscapes of Much Wenlock (in particular the unique characteristics of the 'bowl' setting) and Bourton.
- ✓ making sure that in Much Wenlock and Bourton, the use of building materials is in keeping with those used in their respective Conservation Areas. Elsewhere, new developments should use materials which respect their setting and rural environment.
- ✓ ensuring that any development or change be of the highest quality design.
- ✓ ensuring that new developments will include gardens of an appropriate scale to the property.

Policy MW18: Character and design of development

Purpose

4.127. Good quality housing design can improve social wellbeing and the quality of life by improving the built environment, reducing crime, improving public health, easing transport problems and providing supportive neighbourhoods. The policy seeks to encourage development proposals within Much Wenlock parish to comply with the highest design standards, support the principles set out for the Shropshire Hills National Landscape the locally specific Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Area Design Guidelines (Appendix C) prepared for the parish. Note that the Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Area Design Guidelines form part of formal policy for the MWNP.

4.128. The policy and its supporting text add greater detail to the Local Plan policies.

POLICY MW18: CHARACTER AND DESIGN OF DEVELOPMENT

A. Development proposals should incorporate a high quality of design, which responds and integrates well with its surroundings, meets the changing needs of residents and minimises the impact on the natural environment of the Shropshire Hills National Landscape and its setting. The scale, character, and siting of the proposal should respect the landscape and its features, valued views into and out of the settlement, the local streetscape and heritage assets. It should reflect the variety of architectural styles found locally, using materials that are in keeping with those used in existing buildings in the immediate locality. Innovation in design will be supported where this demonstrably enhances the quality of the built form in a local character area.

B. Where relevant, development proposals should demonstrate how they have sought to address the following matters as they are appropriate to their scale, nature and location:

i. conform to the Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Area Design Guidelines, the Shropshire Design Guide, the Shropshire Hills Design Guidance and the Much Wenlock and Bourton Conservation Area Appraisals;

ii. make a positive contribution to the visual appearance of the main highway approaches into Much Wenlock town (A4169, B4376, A458, B4371, B4378). Improvements and enhancements should include, where appropriate, additional tree planting, the

enhancement of roadside green spaces (for instance through planting), the reduction/consolidation of road signs and other street furniture and wider green infrastructure improvements that are identified as being necessary;

iii. incorporate soft landscaping and other boundary treatments including the retention and enhancement of established trees and hedgerows, or the replacement of these if not possible;

iv. provide adequate vehicular access and space for cycle parking and vehicular off-road parking for residents, visitors and service vehicles, in accordance with Shropshire standards;

v. respect and protect the buildings and environment of the Conservation Areas, listed buildings and the other heritage assets (including non-designated assets) of the parish;

vi. ensure that there is no unacceptable loss of amenity for neighbouring uses through the loss of privacy loss of light or visual intrusion on the views and surroundings that create the backdrop to an area;

vii. ensure that traffic generation and parking does not adversely affect vehicular and pedestrian safety;

viii. provide off-road and off-footway bin storage areas for new and subdivided houses, facilitated by ensuring that access to any 'shut'/external passageways is retained when a dwelling is subdivided.

C. Where development sites abut open countryside, development on the rural boundary edge should mitigate any detrimental visual impacts on the countryside. This should be achieved through the siting of lower density development at the rural boundary of the site in order to provide a gradual transition from the built form to open countryside, or by other means such as through a layout that clearly minimises the visual impact of any larger buildings on both the open countryside and existing town-scape.

Conformity references: NP objectives: 6; Shropshire Core Strategy (2011): CS6, CS17; SAMDev Plan (2015): MD12, MD13; NPPF (2024): 96, 109, 131-141

Justification

4.129. Past generations of people and development have created the features that give Much Wenlock its identity today. This process has been gradual, taking place over many centuries, and the settlement that exists today has a distinctiveness that derives from variety. The town and wider parish contain heritage assets of all kinds, including isolated farmsteads, characterful buildings, historic landmarks and archaeological features, both exposed and still beneath the ground.

4.130. The importance of good design has received renewed attention over recent years. In October 2019, a National Design Guide was launched, forming part of the Government's collection of Planning Practice Guidance. The document sets out the ten characteristics necessary for creating a well-designed place, contributing to its physical character, a sense of community and

addressing environmental issues affecting climate. The National Model Design Guide expands on the ten characteristics and was used in the creation of the Much Wenlock Design Guidance and Codes.

4.131. Furthermore, the guide Building for a Healthy Life 2020 is the Government-endorsed industry standard for the design of new housing developments. It is a tool for assessing the design quality of homes and neighbourhoods. The criteria also link to other standards for housing design, including Secured by Design. It should be used to inform development proposals along with other policies contained within this plan to achieve the industry standard's 'Building for a Healthy Life' commendation.

4.132. It is important that development is designed from a landscape-led perspective and the Shropshire Hills Management Plan provides overarching advice on how this can be achieved. The Shropshire Hills Agricultural Building Design Guide provides a comprehensive set of advice, specific to the continued use of farm buildings.

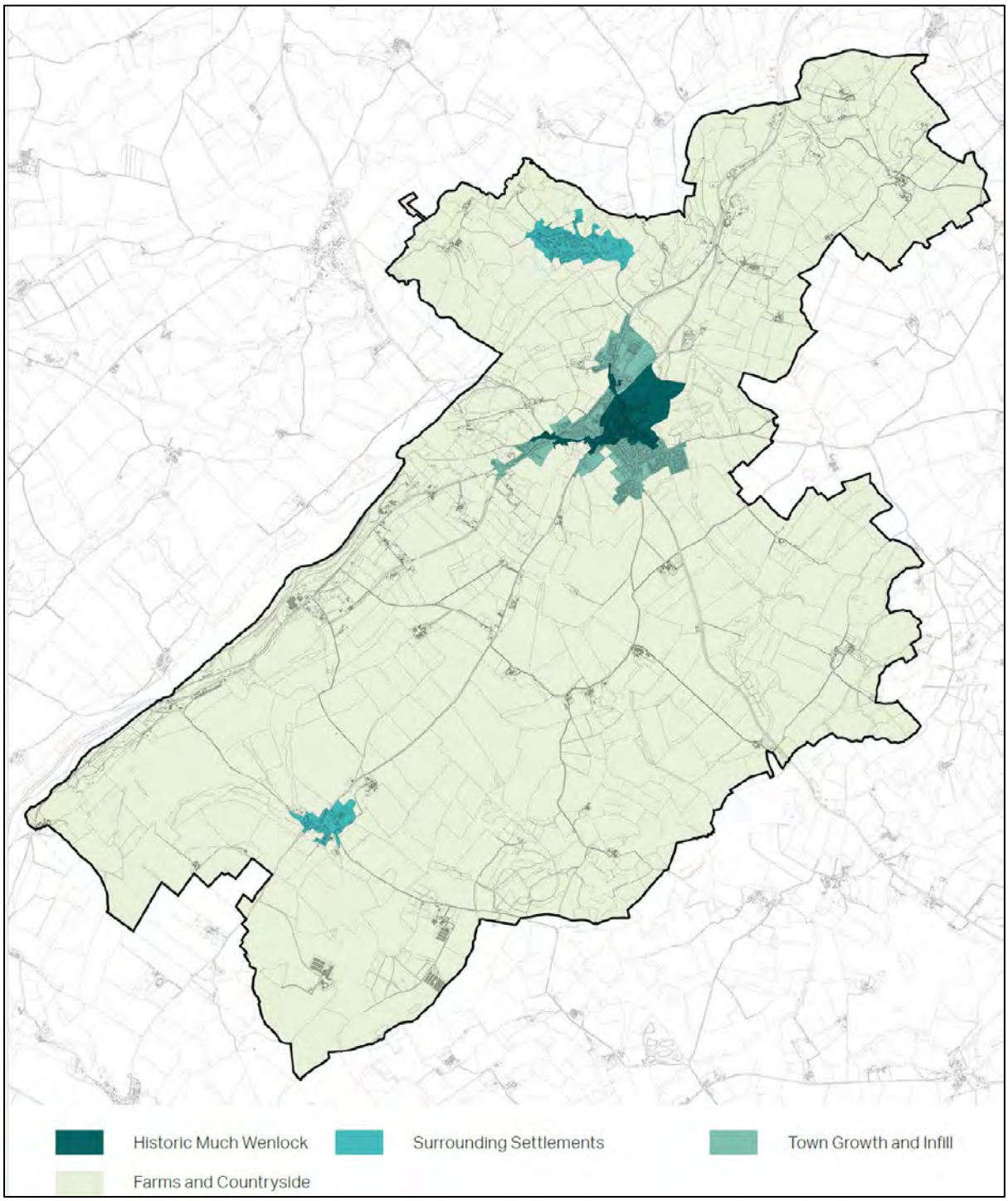
4.133. The Town Council commissioned consultants, AECOM, to develop a more localised set of design codes guiding future development in the town and wider parish.

4.134. The Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Area Design Guidelines form part of formal policy for the MWNP, to support the creation of distinctive places that are well-integrated with the existing settlement in Much Wenlock and to promote high-quality and popular built forms. The guidance draws on the other guidance available at the national, regional, and county level, and that which exists at the local level, such as the Much Wenlock and Bourton Conservation Area Appraisals. It was informed by local engagement in the form of a series of 'walkabouts' and feedback drawn from the community surveys and workshops.

4.135. The design guidance identifies four Character Areas *(Figure 14)* in the parish and defines the key characteristics of these in terms of factors such as prevailing buildings heights, architectural features, materials and use of space.

4.136. It should be applied to all development proposals in the parish including strategic site allocations.

Figure 14: Character Areas



Policy MW19: Energy efficiency and mitigating climate change

Purpose

4.137. This policy seeks to ensure that development meets the highest environmental standards in terms of its construction, materials and energy use. This will help to mitigate against climate change and contribute to achieving the national target of zero net carbon by 2050.

POLICY MW19: ENERGY EFFICENCY AND MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE

A. Proposals which incorporate design and environmental performance measures and standards to reduce energy consumption, to reduce carbon emissions and climate effects will be supported, subject to compliance with other policies in this Plan.

B. As appropriate to their scale, nature and location, proposals which incorporate the following sustainable design features will be strongly supported, where measures will not have a detrimental impact on character, landscape and views:

- **i. siting and orientation to optimise passive solar gain.**
- **ii. the use of high quality, thermally efficient building materials.**
- **iii. installation of energy efficiency measures such as loft and wall insulation and double glazing.**
- **iv. incorporating on-site energy generation from renewable sources such as solar panels/tiles/glass, ground source heating and energy generation etc.**
- **v. reducing water consumption using water re-use measures including rainwater harvesting, surface water harvesting and/or grey water recycling systems.**
- **vi. all new dwellings will be designed to have a predicted water discharge of no more than 80 litres of water per person per day.**
- **vii. providing low carbon sustainable design and avoiding or mitigating all regulated emissions using a combination of on-site energy efficiency measures (such as insulation and low energy heating systems), on-site zero carbon technologies (such as solar panels) and, only where necessary, off-site measures to deal with any remaining emissions.**

C. Proposals for the retrofitting of historic buildings, including listed buildings and non-designated heritage assets, to reduce energy demand and to generate renewable energy will be supported where they safeguard the character, appearance, features, interest, and setting of the building concerned.

D. Proposals for community-scale renewable energy schemes, for instance the installation of solar panels on community and public sector buildings, will be supported subject to the following criteria:

- **i. the siting and scale of the proposed development is appropriate to its setting and position in the wider landscape; and**
- **ii. the proposed development does not create an unacceptable impact on the amenities of neighbouring residents; and**
- **iii. the proposed development does not have an unacceptable impact on a feature of natural or biodiversity importance, or create/exacerbate flood risk.**

Conformity references: NP Objectives: 6; Shropshire Core Strategy (2011): CS6; SAMDev Plan (2015): MD2; NPPF (2024): 161-169

Justification

4.138. On 12 June 2019 the Government voted to amend the Climate Change Act 2008 by introducing a new target for at least a 100% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (compared to 1990 levels) in the UK by 2050. This is otherwise known as a net zero target. This is a demanding target, which will require everyone to be engaged, from households and communities to businesses and local and national government. As part of this, the government has set an interim target to cut the country's greenhouse gas emissions by 78% by 2035 compared to 1990 levels.

4.139. Being '2050 ready' means that new development will be required to have minimal energy use and net carbon emissions. Unlike Local Plans, Neighbourhood Plans are more limited in what they can dictate in terms of environmental standards, as they must confirm to the minimum requirements as set out by national policy and building regulations. The MWNP can, however, strongly encourage the design and layout of new development to maximise its potential to be as energy efficient as possible and to encourage the use of renewable energy.

4.140. The Future Homes Standard from 2025 will require CO_2 emissions produced by new homes to be 75-80% lower than those built to current standards. Homes will need to be 'zero carbon ready'. Fossil fuel heating (such as gas boilers) will be banned in new homes, with an expected shift to reliance on heat pumps and heat networks.





Examples of discreet solar panels (source: Historic England)

4.141. SC recognised the UK climate emergency in 2019 as a response to the need to act locally and in the context of climate change impacts being observed at the local level: dry riverbeds, reduced water supply, intense weather events, localised flooding and loss of habitats and species. It supports a range of projects designed to help adapt to climate change and these have informed the Neighbourhood Plan.

4.142. At the local level, feedback from the community has strongly supported measures that would contribute to mitigating the impacts of climate change. Opportunities to improve and promote sustainability in the parish, which would help to deliver the government's climate change targets, include:

- following basic Passivhaus (net zero) environmental design including use of efficient and insulative materials;
- integrating renewable energy systems into new development (including existing and new public buildings) such as photovoltaics, air and ground source heat pumps;

- reducing the risk of overheating in warmer months by designing in features such as trees and shutters for shading, appropriate fenestration, orientation of development and ventilation;
- reducing water consumption including through grey water systems – the 'made' neighbourhood plan policy stating that 'all new dwellings will be designed to have a predicted water discharge of no more than 80 litres of water per person per day' has been retained. This will contribute to the delivery of Severn Trent's Strategic Direction Statement to 2050 and reflects the Shropshire Council Water Cycle Study (2020), which seeks to embed policies for low-water consumption design in new buildings into spatial plans.
- promoting sustainable forms of transport through priority systems for pedestrians and cyclists;
- supporting individual and community scale energy schemes; and
- supporting the retrofitting of historic buildings to Historic England's Adapting Historic Buildings for Energy and Carbon Efficiency: Historic England Advice Note 18 provides advice on how to reduce carbon emissions and improve the energy efficiency of historic buildings whilst conserving their significance and ensuring they remain viable places to live in the future.

Policy MW20: Conserving heritage assets

Purpose

4.143. This policy recognises the important contribution that heritage assets – designated and non-designated – make to the local character and distinctiveness of Much Wenlock parish, both individually and collectively. Where possible, they should be conserved, enhanced and celebrated.

POLICY MW20: CONSERVING HERITAGE ASSETS

A. <u>Designated Heritage Assets</u>: Development proposals affecting designated heritage assets, either directly or indirectly, should conserve or enhance the significance of the asset and those elements of the setting that contribute to the significance. This could include, where appropriate, the delivery of development that will make a positive contribution to, or better reveal the significance of, the heritage asset, or reflect and enhance local character and distinctiveness with specific focus on the prevailing styles of design and use of materials in a local area. These details should be explained in a Heritage Statement.

In addition, development proposals should demonstrate that they have considered the potential impact on above and below ground archaeological deposits. Where a scheme has a potential impact on archaeological remains (below or above the ground) a Heritage Statement or similar should be prepared to address how archaeological deposits will be safeguarded.

B. <u>Non-designated Heritage Assets:</u> The following buildings and structures as shown on *Figure 16* are identified as non-designated heritage assets:

1. **Pavilion on the Bowling Green on Gaskell Recreation Ground**
2. **Much Wenlock Railway Station House**
3. **Gate Piers at the end of Station Road**
4. **Railway Abutment, Sheinton Street**
5. **Railway Goods Building, Station Wharf**
6. **Priory Hall**
7. **The Museum**
8. **Clock in the Square**
9. **Bus Shelter by Abbey Well House**
10. **Whymperis Well**
11. **Victorian Letterbox at Gaskell Arms junction**
12. **Victoria Road Railway Abutment**
13. **Railway Bridge off Stretton Road**
14. **Havelock Well**
15. **Birchfield Garage**
16. **The Cemetery Chapel**
17. **Gasworks House on Barrow Street**
18. **Railway Cottages, Stretton Road**
19. **Toll House on Stretton Road**
20. **Bridge on Bridge Road**
21. **Gaskell Ground Lodge at the entrance to the Gaskell Recreation Ground**

Proposals affecting the non-designated heritage assets will be determined based on national planning policy.

C. <u>Conservation Areas:</u> Development proposals in the Much Wenlock Conservation Area (*Figure 16*) and in the Bourton Conservation Area (*Figure 15*) should ensure that alterations and new developments contribute to the enhancement of the historic environment. Development within these areas and their settings should:

i. be designed to a high quality and preserve and enhance the character of the Conservation Areas and their settings; and
ii. retain those buildings and other features, including trees and hedges, which make a significant contribution to the character of the Conservation Areas; and
iii. protect open spaces and vistas important to the character and setting of the Conservation Areas; and
iv. where appropriate, make provision for the enhancement measures.

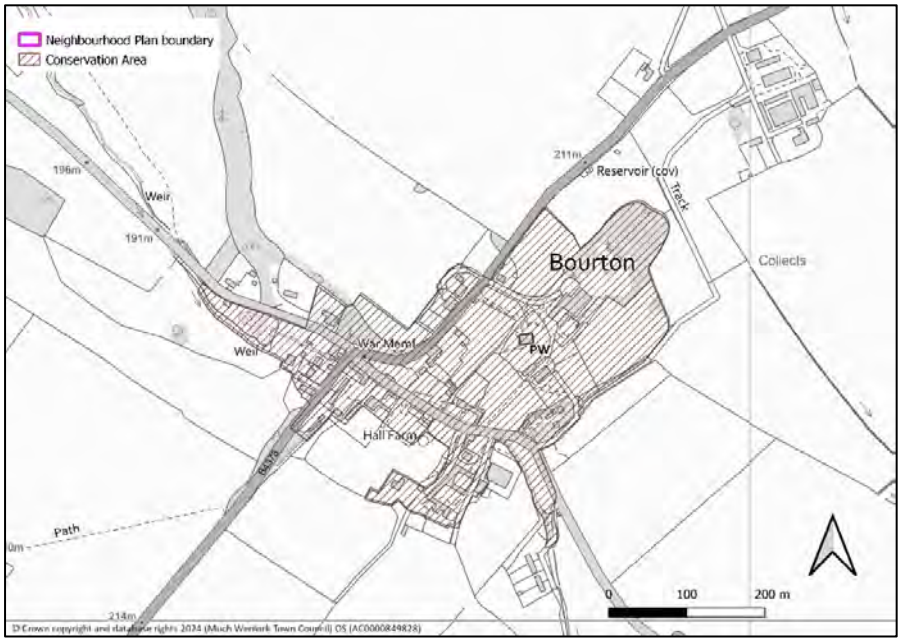
Conformity references: NP Objectives: 6; Shropshire Core Strategy (2011): CS17; SAMDev Plan (2015): MD13; NPPF (2024): 135, 202, 203, 207, 208, 121-216, 219

Justification

Designated heritage assets

4.144. The parish is home to a wealth of designated heritage assets (*Figure 15)* including: Wenlock Priory Scheduled Monument; 104 nationally listed assets in Much Wenlock: Three of these - Church Of Holy Trinity, Wenlock Abbey and the Priory Of St Milburga (Ruins) – are Grade I listed; Two Conservation Areas: The Much Wenlock Conservation Area (*shown on Figure 16*)was designated in May 1970 and covers a large percentage of Much Wenlock town. The Bourton Conservation Area (*Figure 15)* is located south-west of Much Wenlock town along the B4378. It was designated in October 1994 and includes six Listed Buildings.

Figure 15: Bourton Conservation Area



Non-designated heritage assets

4.145. The National Planning Practice Guidance supports the identification of non-designated heritage assets through the neighbourhood planning process (Paragraph 18a-005-20190723). These are buildings, monuments, sites, places, areas or landscapes identified by plan-making bodies as having a degree of heritage significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, but which do not meet the criteria for designated heritage assets.

4.146. Such assets can be recorded by a Local Authority within their 'Local List'. As Shropshire does not yet have a Local List, in combination with a local audit, the Steering Group invited local people to nominate buildings and assets they considered to be important locally from a heritage angle. The Steering Group drew on the advice contained in Historic England's Advice Note 7: Local Heritage Listing: Identifying and Conserving Local Heritage to review the nominated assets and decide which had merit to become a non-designated heritage asset. The 21 assets are listed in Policy MW20, shown on *Figure 16*, with descriptions and photographs provided in Appendix E.

4.147. In addition, Shropshire's Historic Environment Record contains details of additional assets, some of which are not nationally listed. The record should be consulted by prospective developers.

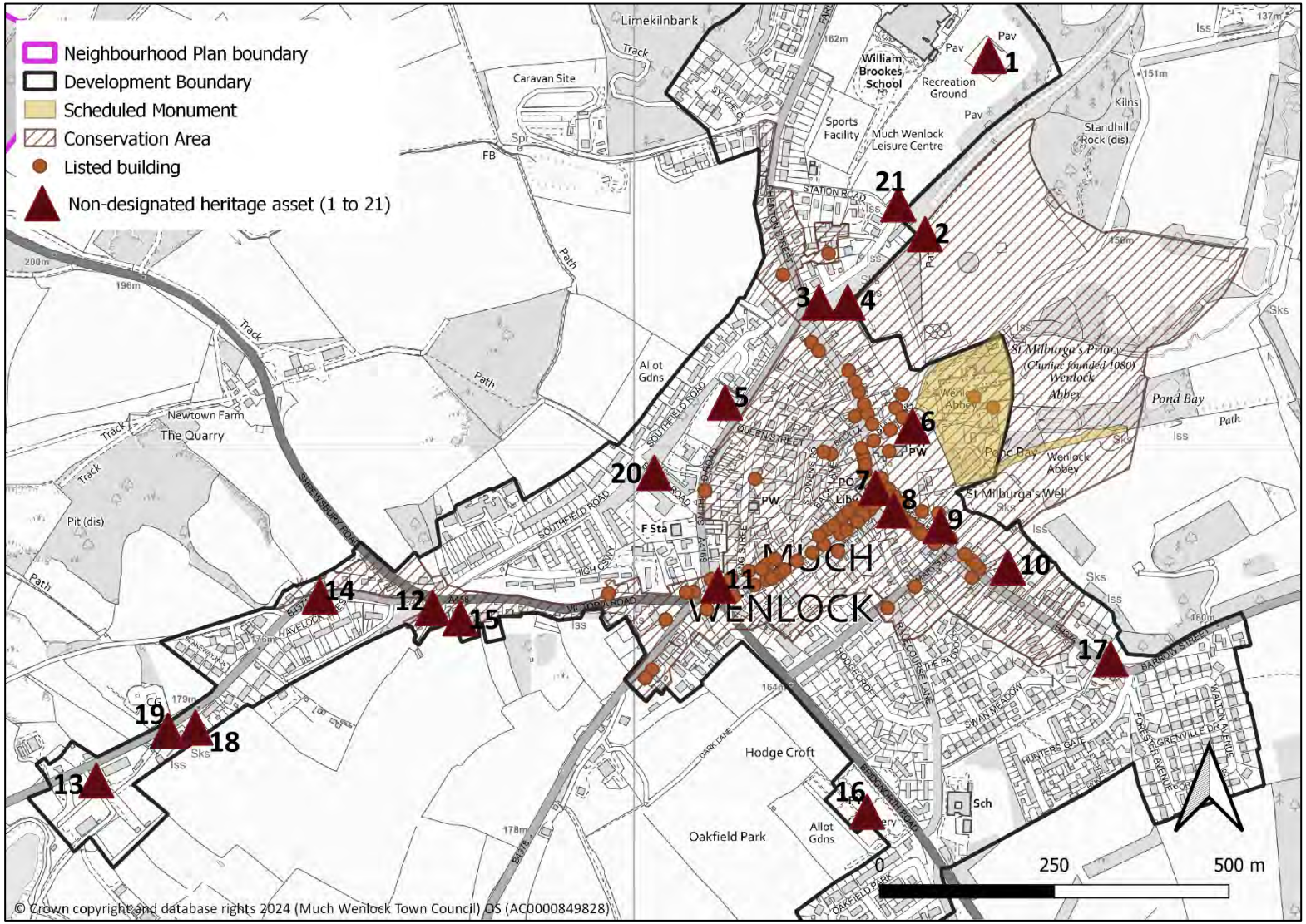
4.148. In parallel with this policy, it is proposed that the identified non-designated heritage assets are considered by Shropshire Council for inclusion on their list of local heritage assets. However, the inclusion of any building or structure on such a register is not necessary for the application of this policy.

Local Heritage at Risk

4.149. Historic England produces an annual Register of Heritage at Risk. Outside of London it does not include Grade II listings, apart from churches. There is one building in the parish on this list: the Prior's Lodging and infirmary, part of the Wenlock Priory.

4.150. Opportunities to restore assets should be taken when they arise, in partnership with the owner.

Figure 16: Heritage assets in Much Wenlock (NDHA numbering as per the policy)



OBJECTIVE 7: GREEN AND OPEN SPACES, LOCAL LANDSCAPE AND WILDLIFE

The Plan will make sure that:

- ✓ protecting the existing areas of green space within the parish and ensuring that their quality and or multi-functionality is improved. It is important that existing spaces be considered for retrofitting in adaptation for climate change.
- ✓ creating extra areas of high-quality green space within new developments.
- ✓ taking opportunities taken to create linkages between sites, address green and pedestrian gaps in existing networks, create of new foot and cycle routes, and wildlife biodiversity corridors.
- ✓ ensuring that new accessible and inclusive green space should exceed or at least meet Shropshire Council's standards for green open spaces, play spaces and allotments. New designated spaces will be welcomed if they meet the required standards.
- ✓ identifying opportunities to increase potential new green and open spaces for enjoyment of the local landscape and countryside are identified.
- ✓ undertaking sympathetic management of the countryside and natural outdoor environment in and around the parish is undertaken to enhance the quality of the landscape, improve local biodiversity and provide other benefits to the community's quality of life.

Policy MW21: Local Green Space

Purpose

4.151. The policy designates Local Green Spaces within Much Wenlock, that are demonstrably special to the local community.

POLICY MW21: LOCAL GREEN SPACE

The following are designated as local green space as shown on *Figure 17*:

1. **The Railway Walk**
2. **Windmill Hill**
3. **Gaskell Recreation Ground**
4. **Southfield Road green space**
5. **Havelock Crescent green space**
6. **Hunters Gate**
7. **Cemetery on Bridgnorth Road**
8. **Allotments on Southfield Road**

Conformity references: NP Objectives: 7; Shropshire Core Strategy (2011): CS17; SAMDev Plan (2015): MD12; NPPF (2024): 106-108, 153-160

Justification

4.152. Open space, including gardens, allotments, recreational space, open fields, woodlands and pathways are important to us all helping to ensure physical and mental wellbeing and to mitigate the effects of climate change. Natural and semi-natural open space is highly valued by local residents not just for its recreational value but also for its landscape character, quiet enjoyment and biodiversity.

4.153. Under the NPPF, Neighbourhood Plans can designate such spaces that are of particular importance to the community as local green spaces, protecting them from inappropriate development. The NPPF says that the Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green space is:

- in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and
- local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

4.154. Of the areas identified as open space in the previous MWNP, those assessed as suitable for designation as Local Green Space are:

1. **The Railway Line green space** (Railway Walks which are designated as Open Space under the Open Spaces Act. The Railway Walk has the additional designation of a QE2 field which means that it must remain a public open space in perpetuity)

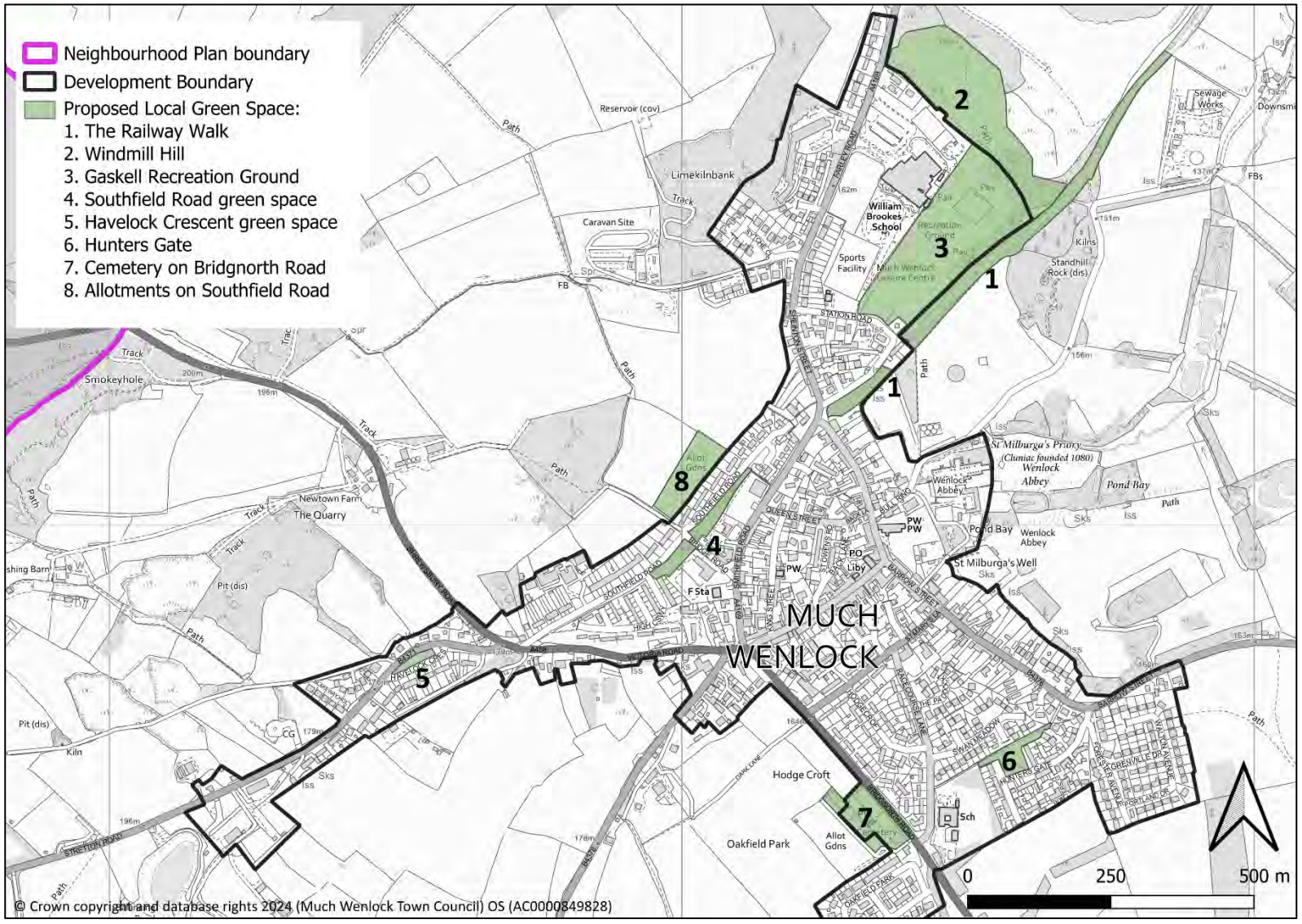
2. **The Windmill Hill** (is now a designated Local Nature Reserve under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949)
3. **Gaskell Recreation Ground**
4. **Southfield Road green space**
5. **Havelock Crescent green space**
6. **Hunter's Gate**

4.155. The following further areas are proposed for local green space designation:

7. Cemetery on Bridgnorth Road
8. Allotments on Southfield Road

4.156. *Figure 17* shows the location of each of the Local Green Spaces. Detailed maps of each space are shown in Appendix E along with details as to how they each meet the NPPF criteria.

Figure 17: Local Green Spaces



Policy MW22: Recreational open and play space

Purpose

4.157. This policy seeks to ensure that adequate provision of recreational open space is provided within development proposals as appropriate.

POLICY MW22: RECREATIONAL OPEN AND PLAY SPACE

Subject to its scale, nature and location, development proposals should include or contribute to ensuring delivery of and future maintenance of the provision of recreational open space, in line with or above the standards set out by Shropshire Council, that is:

i. **in usable parcels of land;**
ii. **safe, easily accessible and natural barriers would be preferred, where it is necessary for the space;**
iii. **accessible to the general public;**
iv. **creates a safe environment considering lighting and layout; and**
v. **where appropriate, complemented by high quality landscaping schemes.**

The provision/upgrading of additional play areas to serve the needs of children of all ages, in line with the Shropshire Council's Quantity Standard will be particularly supported. Where possible, this should incorporate areas for 'natural play'.

Conformity references: NP Objectives: 7; Shropshire Core Strategy (2011): CS8; SAMDev Plan (2015): MD8, MD12; NPPF (2024): 96, 98, 103, 104

Justification

4.158. Despite the rural setting of the settlements of Much Wenlock, Homer and Bourton, the parish is not well served by open space provision. Adding to the list of designated local green spaces (Policy MW21) in the town will extend the opportunity for play and outdoor activities. But more is needed.

4.159. A quantitative shortfall of play provision has been identified *(Figure 18)* in Much Wenlock and Policy MW22 seeks to address this. In particular, the MWNP endorses Shropshire Council's Open Space Interim Planning Guidance and is keen to make sure that residents, and notably children, have access to high quality outdoor space to suit all ages and abilities. Natural play space is supported, which comprises play space is that, instead of the standard, cookie-cutter metal and plastic structures that make up the bulk of today's playgrounds, incorporates the surrounding landscape and vegetation to bring nature to children's daily outdoor play and learning environments.

4.160. Where developers are not able to make provision for play provision on site, financial contributions to off-site play space may be used to meet local needs, with priority given to additional provision to the south of the town.

4.161. There is a need to ensure that the MWNP can be used to support better designed play provision whilst remembering that play is not just for children. To add new equipment that provides

greater variety of play experience, to make a space more inclusive or accessible – whether that is wheeled access friendly or suitable for neurodiverse users.

4.162. The location of play areas next to spaces like allotments, can develop into social hubs and promote natural surveillance, particularly for different age ranges, inclusion and accessibility for all.

Figure 18: Shortfall of open space in Much Wenlock (source: Shropshire Council Open Space Needs Assessment) (note this is extracted directly from the Open Space Needs Assessment. There are three spelling errors: Allbrighton should read "Albrighton", Bridgenorth should read "Bridgnorth", and Elllesmere should read "Ellesmere")

Provision (all typologies) relating to population by place plan compared with County Average

Place Plan	Provision (Hectares) per 1000 population	County Average	Surplus/deficit
Allbrighton	2.1038	6.842498	-4.738698
Bishops Castle	4.4075	6.842498	-2.434998
Bridgenorth	5.8417	6.842498	-1.000798
Broseley	11.0375	6.842498	4.195002
Church Stretton	5.4927	6.842498	-1.349798
Cleobury Mortimer	2.4772	6.842498	-4.365298
Craven Arms	2.9892	6.842498	-3.853298
Elllesmere	10.3367	6.842498	3.494202
Highley	14.2512	6.842498	7.408702
Ludlow	4.5564	6.842498	-2.286098
Market Drayton	3.8012	6.842498	-3.041298
Much Wenlock	4.351	6.842498	-2.491498
Oswestry	7.9636	6.842498	1.121102
Pontesbury and Minsterley	8.098	6.842498	1.255502
Shifnal	2.8382	6.842498	-4.004298
Shrewsbury	11.2159	6.842498	4.373402
Wem	10.2527	6.842498	3.410202
Whitchurch	11.1503	6.842498	4.307802

Policy MW23: Green and blue infrastructure and delivering biodiversity net gain

Purpose

4.163. This policy seeks to ensure that the multiple benefits of Much Wenlock's green and blue spaces – including their importance in combating pressure on wildlife, habitats, biodiversity and geodiversity and in off-setting the effects of air pollution - are recognised and enhanced. This applies particularly where individual spaces have a greater collective value as part of wider chains of green infrastructure. This will serve to support the requirement to conserve and, where possible, provide a net gain in biodiversity through planning policy whilst accommodating sustainable development.

POLICY MW23: GREEN AND BLUE INFRASTRUCTURE AND DELIVERING BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN

A. Proposals should be designed to create, conserve, enhance and manage green and blue spaces. They should connect chains of green and blue infrastructure, as identified on the Policies Maps, with the aim of delivering a measurable biodiversity net gain of 20%, where possible, but at a minimum, a net gain of at least 10%. Where biodiversity net gain units cannot be delivered on site, they should be prioritised for use within the parish, focusing on maintaining and improving the identified biodiversity opportunity areas.

B. Measures to achieve biodiversity net gain, mitigation or compensation involving the creation of habitat and/or relocation of species, should include sufficient funding to support at least 30 years of post-development habitat management or land use change.

C. Proposals that seek to improve the connectivity between wildlife areas and green spaces will be supported. Proposals that support the enhancement and management of identified Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (*Figures 20 and 21)* will be supported, including linking these to the wildlife corridors. Proposals which cause unacceptable harm to such connectivity will not be supported.

D. Insofar as planning permission is required, proposals for the planting of additional native, climate resilient trees and/or continuous hedgerows along streets to provide wildlife corridors and to offset the effects of air pollution and to provide cooling and shelter for people as well as habitat for wildlife will be supported.

E. Subject to their scale, nature and location, proposals that respond positively to the Building with Nature 12 Standards will be supported.

F. Disused quarry workings: Proposals for the restoration and the implementation of aftercare proposals for former quarries will be permitted where they deliver restoration for wildlife, biodiversity and public access and are consistent with other Plan policies. In particular, proposals for biodiversity restoration combined with commercial/leisure use and public access will be supported at the Lea North/Hayes/Coates quarry complex and at the Shadwell quarry.

G. New industrial and commercial uses will not normally be supported at Lilleshall, Coates, Westwood and Farley quarries as shown on *Figure 22*.

Conformity references: NP Objectives: 7; Shropshire Core Strategy (2011): CS5, CS17; SAMDev Plan (2015): MD12; NPPF (2024): 135, 136, 187-195

Justification

4.164. The parish is important from a landscape value, biodiversity interest and geology perspective.

4.165. The northern west boundary of the parish lies within the Shropshire Hills National Landscape with the prominent escarpment of Wenlock Edge providing both an important landscape feature but also affording stunning views northwards to the Wrekin and westwards to the Welsh Hills. Outside the designated National Landscape, landscape value is still high, demonstrating classic scarp and vale topography supporting traditional agriculture and woodland.

4.166. The Shropshire Landscape Typology document recognises three landscape types in Much Wenlock parish:

- **Principal Wooded Hills**, which includes the scarp slope of Wenlock Edge.
- **Wooded Hills and Estatelands**, which typically comprises medium to large scale agricultural enterprises mixed with blocks of semi-natural woodland and game coverts, as found on the dip slopes of Wenlock Edge.
- **Estate Farmlands**, which occupy the lowland valley floors.

4.167. Collectively, these provide a classic rural scene of high landscape value and an important backdrop to the settlements of the parish.

4.168. The area's importance for biodiversity is reflected by the designation of four Sites of Special Interest in the parish, notified for nationally important stands of mixed broadleaved woodland, neutral grassland and calcareous grassland. The woodlands support several species of national or regional rarity including Large-leaved and Small-leaved lime, Wild service tree, Fingered Sedge, Wood Barley and Violet Helleborine. Areas of limestone grassland are now rare along Wenlock Edge and many of the best remaining examples are found in the Much Wenlock area where they support many scarce lime-loving plants including Quaking grass, Pyramidal Orchid and Yellow-wort. The disused quarries are particularly important for grassland and scrub communities, supporting plants such as Autumn Gentian and Common Gromwell, scarce butterflies including Dingy Skipper and Wall Brown and providing breeding sites for Peregrine Falcon.

4.169. Overall, the MWNP area supports at least 25 animal and plant species that are designated as Species of Principal Importance in England under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 (see Appendix F).

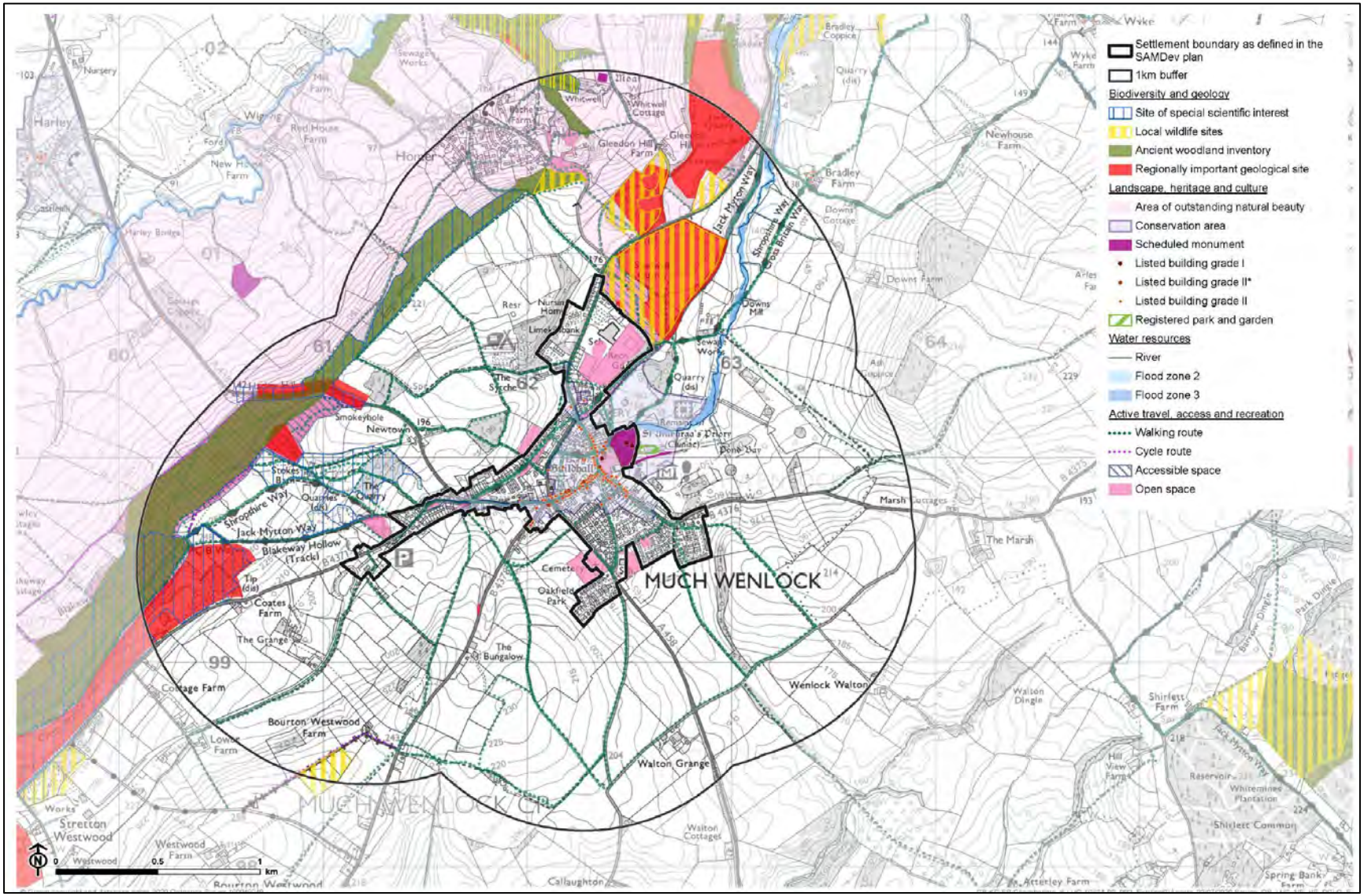
4.170. Surface water bodies include the Shyte/Farley brook, Sheinton brook and a number of ponds, many located in the old quarries, which support populations of Great Crested Newt.

4.171. The Much Wenlock area is internationally important for its geology, being the Type Locality for rocks of the Wenlock Series, i.e. these rock types were first described here and all rocks of the same age across the planet are referred to as being of Wenlockian age. The rocks which underlie the Parish are generally limestones and shales formed from sediments deposited in a warm, tropical sea approximately 430 million years ago in a period of geological time, known as the Silurian Period. They are rich in fossils of sea creatures which lived at that time, including corals, crinoids and trilobites. Three of the four SSSIs in the plan are also notified for their

geological importance. These provide good representation of the varying rock types and are all included in the Geological Conservation Review, a document which identifies all earth science sites of national or international importance in Britain.

4.172. The existing green and blue infrastructure assets of the Parish are shown on *Figure 19*. This is take from SC's Green Infrastructure Strategy for Much Wenlock.

Figure 19: Existing Green Infrastructure Assets and Key Constraints



4.173. **Biodiversity opportunity areas (BOAs):** The MWNP encourages development proposals to deliver in excess of the minimum 10% Biodiversity net gain requirement , as endorsed by the Wildlife Trusts. Whilst developments are encouraged to deliver their biodiversity net gain on site, this is not always possible; equally there may be opportunities to enhance other parts of the Parish in need of attention. It is therefore useful to consider where Biodiversity Opportunity Areas might exist locally.

4.174. *Figure 20* is an extract from the Green Infrastructure Strategy for Much Wenlock identifying the following opportunities for improving and enhancing biodiversity in the parish. This is illustrated on the map at *Figure 21*.

Figure 20: Opportunities for biodiversity improvements in Much Wenlock

Summary of key opportunities	Biodiversity & Geology	Landscape, Heritage and Culture	Water Resources	Active Travel, Access & Recreation	Health & Wellbeing	Climate Change
SSSI management improvements at Whitewell Coppice to improve condition	✓	✓				✓
Link key habitats to create more contiguous network around Wenlock Edge	✓	✓				✓
Habitat creation / enhancement around Farley Quarry	✓	✓				✓
Retain and enhance visual links towards AONB (National Landscape)	✓	✓			✓	
Increase local accessibility to Much Wenlock Priory				✓	✓	✓
Include new open space (children's / teenager facilities) within proposed allocation				✓	✓	
Improve infrastructure along the long-distance footpaths to create sustainable, greened corridors through Much Wenlock	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Reinforce existing GI habitat surrounding Muck Wenlock Priory with a particular emphasis on flood risk mitigation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Extension and / or enhancement of existing allotment site				✓	✓	✓
Provision of a new circular walk around the attenuation pond at Stretton Road				✓	✓	✓
Enhancements to Gaskell Park, including a new perimeter path, outdoor exercise equipment and a new pavilion				✓	✓	✓
Enhanced habitats along key transport routes including the B4371 and B4378	✓	✓	✓			✓

4.175. In addition, the consultation on the MWNP revealed the following additional opportunity areas for improving biodiversity:

- Protection of existing sites of biodiversity and geodiversity interest, as shown on *Figure 20.*
- Encouragement of new initiatives to improve biodiversity in the following locations:
    - Old cemetery
    - Whitwell Coppice, Gaskell Recreation Ground
    - Other areas of existing green space within the town
    - Green space created as part of new developments
- Appropriate management of road verges.
- Creation of a bee corridor through the town and into the wider countryside, encouraging flowering plants along footways and within public spaces.

- Offering marginal farmland for BNG which could be used to create new areas of woodland, limestone grassland and scrub, complementing existing high biodiversity areas but also assisting with soil protection, carbon storage and flood prevention.
- Encouragement of regenerative farming to protect groundwater, improve soil health (with implications for water and carbon storage)
- The planting of trees to contribute to tree canopy coverage of a minimum of 20% of the parish.
- Identification of new corridors which could potentially provide both public access and wildlife, in dialogue with local landowners.
- Reviewing and revising guidance on future management/uses of quarries.

4.176. **Disused quarry workings:** The policy offers special protection from re-use to older disused small quarry workings where no commercial activity has taken place for more than 15 years and also to Lilleshall, Westwood and Farley quarries (*Figure 22*) because of the richness of their habitats.

4.177. The aim is to improve and enhance local biodiversity and encourage improved access to allow more local people and visitors to enjoy the unique landscape and natural environment of Wenlock Edge. This biodiversity reflects the length of time since these quarries were last worked and the natural regeneration already underway.

4.178. Note that part of the Plan area falls within an Environment Agency Surface Water Nitrate Issues Priority Area. Sub-surface water resources are also important, and part of the Plan area falls within the Shropshire Severn, Tern and Roden Drinking Water Safeguard Zone. Both have a bearing on the type of permissions allowed for quarry infilling as the porous nature of the substrate means than groundwater could easily become contaminated.

Figure 21: Green Infrastructure Opportunities

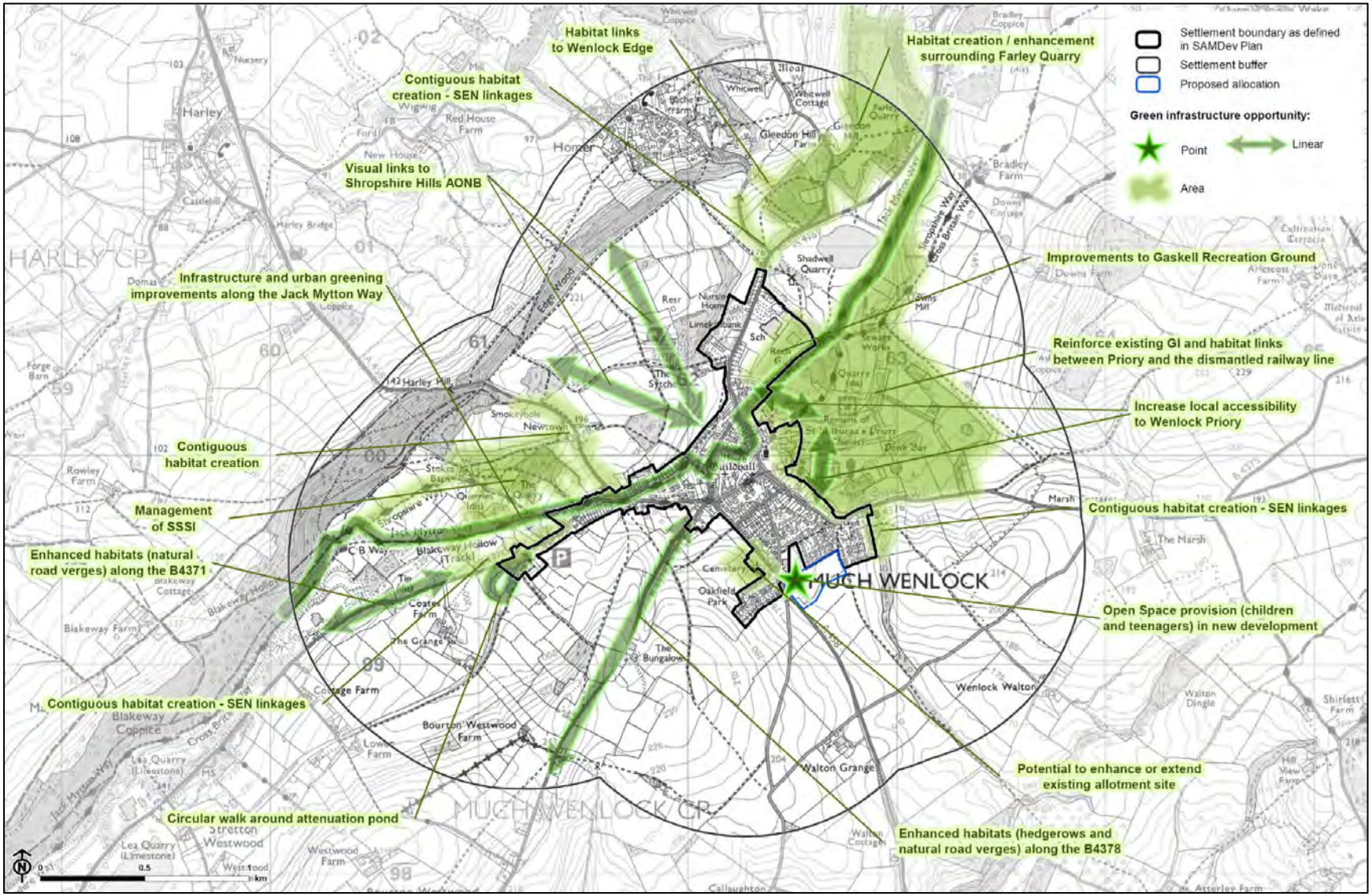
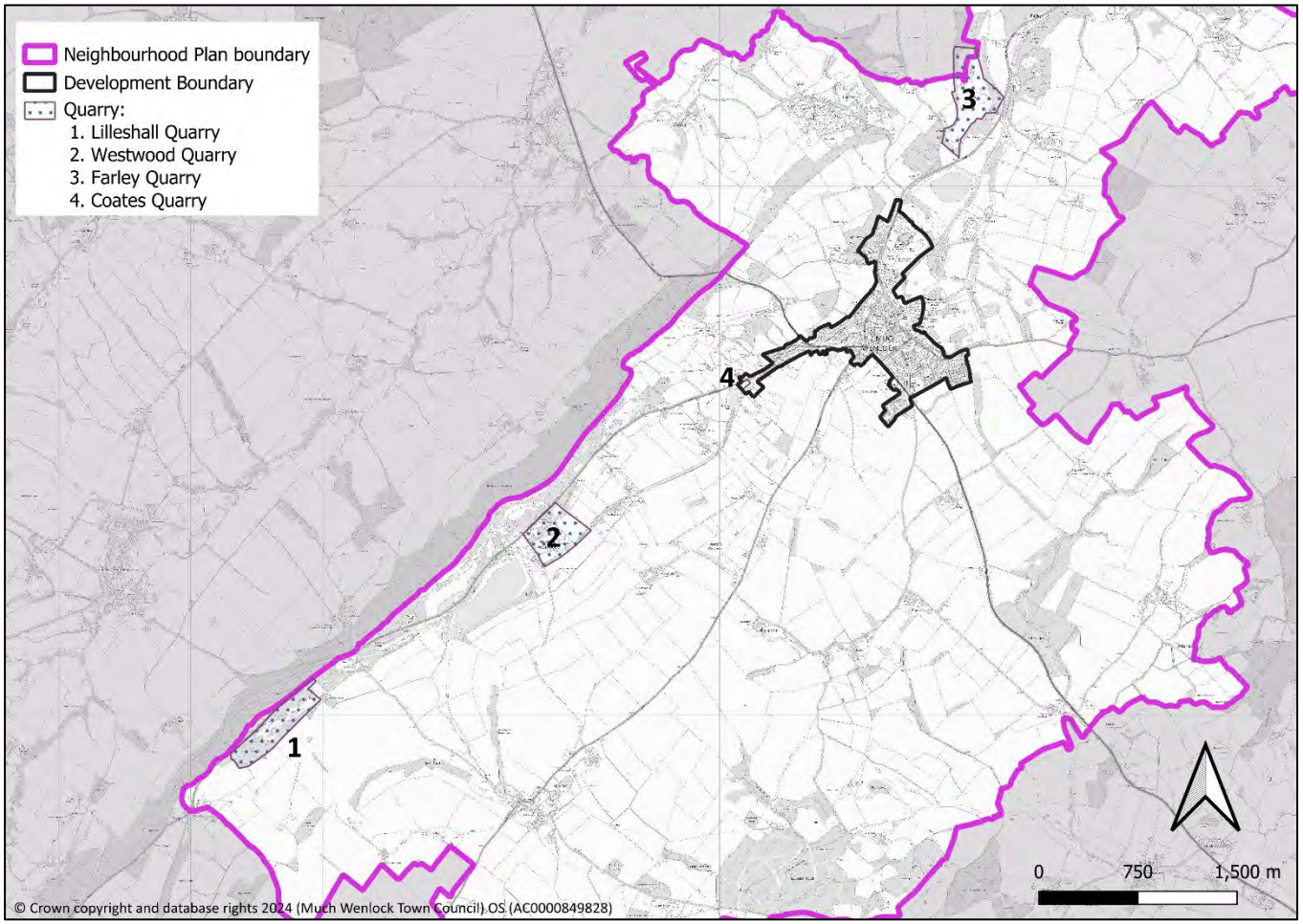


Figure 22: Map showing quarries subject to Clause G of Policy MW23



Policy MW24: Landscape and environment

Purpose

4.179. This policy seeks to ensure that development proposals have considered how they can enhance the natural environment – both flora and fauna – including the features of it that are particularly distinctive to Much Wenlock. It also seeks to ensure that development proposals contribute to the provision of wildlife friendly features within development.

POLICY MW24: LANDSCAPE AND ENVIRONMENT

A. Development proposals should maintain, enhance the natural environment, landscape features and the rural character and setting of the neighbourhood area. Where possible, development proposals should seek to incorporate natural features typical of the parish, for instance ponds, hedgerows and trees.

B. As appropriate to their scale, nature and location, development proposals should demonstrate that they have addressed the following matters:

<u>Trees and woodland:</u>

- **i. contribute to the provision of a Much Wenlock town-wide minimum 20% tree canopy, with the planting of additional native trees, with a specific focus in areas with public access.**
- **ii. there should be no unacceptable loss of, or damage to, existing trees or woodlands during or as a result of development. If notable trees must be removed, they should be replaced with trees of a similar potential size and native species elsewhere on the site, unless this is clearly not possible.**
- **iii. where trees and/or shrubs are replaced with new plantings, native or locally appropriate varieties attractive to insects, birds and other wildlife must be used.**
- **iv. all priority habitats and mature trees must have a minimum buffer of complimentary habitat of 10m, and more if required (for instance ancient woodland or veteran trees require a minimum buffer of 15m).**
- **v. appropriate management measures will be required to be implemented to protect newly planted and existing trees, woodlands and/ or hedgerows.**
- **vi. where arboricultural work is required to a veteran/mature/notable tree (as defined by the Woodland Trust), the tree should be safeguarded and maintained in a way which responds positively to the condition of the trees and its location within the overall development.**

<u>Hedgerows</u>

- **i natural boundaries (i.e. hedgerows in preference to fencing) are supported.**
- **ii avoid the loss of, or deterioration in the quality of, hedgerows. Where access points to new developments involve the loss of a section of hedgerow, the access should include trees at either end of the retained hedgerow to aid wildlife to cross overhead from crown to crown.**

<u>Wildlife-friendly features:</u>

- **iii provide suitable wildlife-friendly features (such as hedgehog holes in new residential fencing and bird and bat nesting boxes).**

Conformity references: NP Objectives: 7; Shropshire Core Strategy (2011): CS5, CS17; SAMDev Plan (2015): MD12; NPPF (2024): 135, 136, 187-195

Justification

4.180. The NPPF stresses that planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural environment including requiring net gain in biodiversity. The local community too place a high importance on this, with a majority agreeing that the natural environment and its features should be protected. Natural assets afforded a level of protection in the Parish (*Figure 19*) are:

Table 8: Environmental designations in the parish

Designation	Sites
Shropshire Hills National Landscape	Wenlock Edge
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Wenlock Edge: Biological & Geological Whitwell Coppice: Biological & Geological Farley Dingle: Geological Tickwood and Benthall Edge: Biological & Geological
Geological Conservation Review sites (GCR)	Wenlock Edge Whitwell Coppice Farley Dingle
Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)	Details available from Shropshire Council/ Local Wildlife Trust
Local Nature Reserves	Windmill Hill
Ancient woodland	Areas of Ancient Woodland
Local Green Spaces	As set out in Policy MW21 (Local Green Space)

4.181. There are other distinctive natural features particular to Much Wenlock that, whilst not protected through statutory designations, provide vital habitats for flora and fauna. This includes veteran and mature trees and established woodland, hedgerows, fruit orchards, ponds and streams, mature planted gardens, and green verges alongside roads. Such features form vital corridors for many animals and birds, especially those migrating, to safely navigate around their domains. In addition, they support a wide range of small mammals, amphibians, insects, and birds that make their homes in this area.

4.182. These habitats, and the species they house, have evolved in response to local geology and land use, and can take many hundreds of years to establish. As such they are difficult, often impossible, to replace in any meaningful way. Although they have no statutory protection, they need to be considered in the planning process. Notable features in Much Wenlock are shown below.

4.183. Development proposals are expected to retain, protect, and enhance these and, where appropriate, include a landscape and ecological management plan including a list of trees and native shrubs to be planted to ensure the rural and green character of the parish is enhanced and which should involve the planting of new trees and hedgerows of native species in gardens, communal areas or on roadsides where practical.

Policy MW25: Dark skies

Purpose

4.184. Parts of Much Wenlock parish provide ideal locations from which to enjoy dark skies and stargazing. These dark skies also support both nocturnal and diurnal wildlife. This policy seeks to ensure that development does not encroach on this valued aspect of parish.

POLICY MW25: DARK SKIES

Proposals for development will be supported where it is demonstrated that, if external lighting is required, it protects the night sky from light pollution, where:

i. **the lighting is necessary for operational, safety or security reasons;**
ii. **any light spillage beyond the application site is eliminated, or reduced by measures such as timing and proximity controls, orientation, screening, shielding or glazing;**
iii. **impact on nearby residential properties, wildlife, local heritage assets or the wider landscape is minimised; and**
iv. **the guidance on lighting provided in the Institution of Lighting Professionals (ILP) Guidance Note GN01: The Reduction of Obtrusive Light (and any subsequent revisions) is adhered to. Proposals should consider carefully, and provide details of, the light source and intensity being used, the luminaire design, height, and angle, adding baffles and cut-off shields where required, and details of control mechanisms to dim or switch off lighting schemes when not required. Where appropriate, lights should be controlled by passive infrared detectors so that they only come on when needed.**

Conformity references: NP Objectives: 7; Shropshire Core Strategy (2011): CS17; SAMDev Plan (2015): MD12; NPPF: 96, 131, 135, 187, 198

Justification

4.185. Pockets of the parish remain largely unlit (*Figure 23*) for instance the significant areas of woodland away from the town. The dark night skies in these areas are predominantly unspoilt, and it is important that they are kept that way.

4.186. The benefits derived from the prevention of light pollution include:

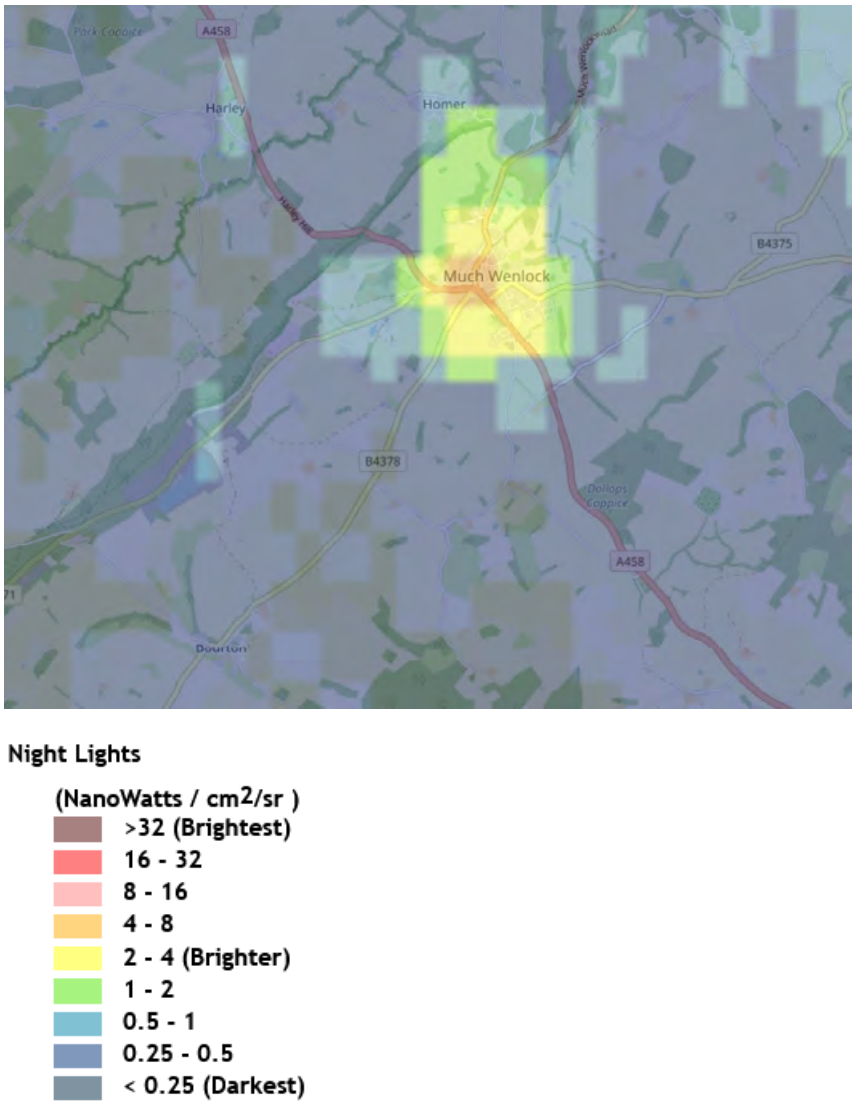
- Enjoyment and appreciation – improving quality of life and providing creative inspiration
- Health – promoting better sleep patterns and reducing stress
- Wildlife – supporting a more natural environment for both nocturnal and diurnal animals
- Energy efficiency – reducing wastage from unnecessary or excessive lighting, thus reducing the parish's carbon footprint

4.187. The impact of light pollution is particularly harmful in the open countryside where rural character is eroded. Light pollution can also compromise the architectural and historical character of conservation areas and listed buildings or their settings. Artificial lighting has an impact on biodiversity especially for nocturnal animals and invertebrates can be seriously

affected by artificial light at even very low levels, adversely affecting their ability to feed and reproduce.

4.188. The Institution of Lighting Professionals (ILP) produces guidance on light pollution, and this should be consulted when preparing development proposals. In particular the Guidance Note 01 The Reduction of Obtrusive Light, and Guidance Note 08 Bats and artificial lighting in the UK, which was updated in 2023. This guidance is summarised in criterion iv of Policy MW25.

Figure 23: Dark Skies map for the Parish and surrounding areas (Source: CPRE)



Policy MW26: Renewable and community energy

Purpose

4.189. This policy sets out the criteria against which proposals for renewable energy projects should be considered.

POLICY MW26: RENEWABLE AND COMMUNITY ENERGY

A. Development proposals to generate energy from renewable and low carbon sources at a medium to large scale will only be supported where it meets the requirements of the adopted Local Plan and:

- **i. the applicant can demonstrate that any harm to the local landscape (including the setting of the Shropshire Hills National Landscape) and heritage (including the Conservation Areas and their settings) will be minimised and, where necessary, mitigated. Applicants should use the relevant landscape descriptions contained within the Shropshire Landscape Typology to inform their landscape and visual impact assessment; and**
- **ii. the applicant can demonstrate that the proposals do not adversely affect residential amenity through noise generation or overbearing visual impact. Proposals should seek to screen installations naturally, taking into account the setting of Much Wenlock and smaller settlements within the landscape and long-distance views of Wenlock Edge and Dales, in particular the Corvedale; and**
- **iii. existing rights of way are retained. Where not possible, redirection within the site will be considered. Opportunities will be sought to enhance access for walking, cycling and equestrianism within and across the site to provide linkages to local amenities and neighbouring settlements; and**
- **iv. there are opportunities to provide a net gain in biodiversity in accordance with Policy MW13; and**
- **v. the benefits of renewable energy can be proven to outweigh the landscape and environmental impacts; and**
- **vi. it demonstrates in particular how land beneath or surrounding the panels will be managed and how the applicant has avoided land with high potential for agriculture ('Best and Most Versatile Land'). Proposals should prioritise low yield agricultural land and rooftops, where appropriate.**

B. Proposals for individual and community-scale energy from hydroelectricity, solar PV panels, local biomass facilities, anaerobic digestion and wood fuel products will be supported subject to the following criteria:

- **i. the siting and scale of the proposed development is appropriate to its setting and position in the wider landscape; and**
- **ii. there is suitable road access, and traffic generated is appropriate for the rural setting; and**
- **iii. the proposed development does not create an unacceptable impact on the amenity of local residents; and**
- **iv. the proposed development does not have an unacceptable impact on a feature of natural or biodiversity importance.**

Conformity Reference: NP objectives: 7; Shropshire Core Strategy (2011): CS1, CS6, CS17; SAMDev Plan (2015): MD8; NPPF (2024): 105, 161–169, 187

Justification

Renewable energy

4.190. Renewable energy is a source of power that comes from clean and natural resources. This means that it does not harm the environment around it, nor will it ever run dry. The parish is starting to attract interest from renewable schemes.

4.191. The parish is located partially within the Shropshire Hills National Landscape. It is important that the scale of any proposed renewable energy developments does not detract from nor negatively impact the setting of the villages and expansive views towards Wenlock Edge, the Dales and wider landscape.

4.192. From a solar perspective, the Shropshire Hills Landscape Management Plan provides broad guidance. Particular attention will need to be paid to proposals for field-scale renewable and low carbon initiatives such as solar farms in order to prevent a significant adverse effect on this designated landscape. From wind power, generally speaking, large scale wind turbine developments will be unacceptable in the National Landscape and its setting.

4.193. The challenge for larger schemes is that not all will be decided using the policies of the local development plan. Above a threshold (set out in Section 15 of the *Planning Act 2008*) of more than 50MW for onshore and more than 100MW for offshore generation, solar installations will be treated as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (these thresholds are under consultation), for which a DCO must be sought from the Secretary of State. Below this threshold, schemes are determined by local plan policies.

4.194. Regardless of which planning route is used to determine such schemes, the following (where relevant) should be considered in parallel with the advice contained in the Shropshire Hills National Landscape Management Plan and the Shropshire Landscape Typology:

- The local community should be fully engaged to assist in shaping proposals.
- Schemes that offer direct community benefits, for instance community energy schemes or contributions to electric bus schemes, would be welcomed.
- The height, scale, orientation, and density of the panels should be designed to optimise solar gain while minimising impacts on the grazing capacity within a site, on biodiversity (if for instance less light can filter through) and on the visual impact from neighbouring properties and viewpoints further afield.
- Natural screening should be used to minimise visual and noise impacts. This could include the planting of trees and hedgerows and also the provision of green buffers to the edges of installations. Consideration should be given to how the site will be viewed from all parts of the parish, notably within the landscape and long-distance views of Wenlock Edge and Dales (in particular the Corvedale). If fencing is to be used, it should be camouflaged with natural planting to blend into the natural environment, where possible using natural materials and suitable colours if man-made. Industrial fencing will not be acceptable.
- Public Rights of Way (PRoW) are the responsibility of SC. Where they cross proposed sites, they must be safeguarded. Rerouting of PRoWs (suitable for use by those on foot,

bicycle or horseback) or the creation of additional new PRoWs (ideally as bridleways) would be supported where this offers benefits in reaching community facilities, nearby villages and the wider countryside. SC's Countryside Access Improvement Plan provides an opportunity to enshrine these routes in policy and ensure that they are safeguarded and well maintained.

- Opportunities to improve biodiversity must be taken and, where possible, to create and improve connectivity of habitats. Improvements should be accompanied by a management plan for the lifespan of the scheme and a system to measure that the improvements have happened over that period.
- Renewable schemes which involve the loss or degradation of productive agricultural land (BMV) should be avoided in preference to long-term local food security.

Community energy

4.195. Community energy refers to the delivery of community-led renewable energy, energy demand reduction and energy supply projects, whether wholly owned and/or controlled by communities or through partnership with commercial or public sector partners. Community energy puts people at the heart of the energy system.

4.196. There could be scope for some community renewable energy projects, for example utilising waste from farming and land management together with local food waste to power an anaerobic digester, producing gas to power a community heat facility. This would be most cost-effective when a residential or small industrial development is being designed and built. Exemplar renewable energy projects in the neighbourhood area, which would benefit the community, relate well to its character and complement existing economic activities, would be supported.

5. IMPLEMENTATION AND PLAN REVIEW

5.1. Much Wenlock Town Council is the qualifying body responsible for the Neighbourhood Plan.

5.2. Once the Plan has been 'made', there will be a series of actions that need to be undertaken to ensure that the policies within the MWNP are being interpreted and used in the way intended. It will also be necessary to maintain a watching brief on changes to the planning policy landscape, both at the national and local planning authority levels, which may have an impact on the Plan's policies. Finally, any non-planning-related projects and activities that were identified will need to be prioritised for delivery, in partnership with other organisations.

5.3. Specific actions to be undertaken are as follows:

- Pursuing the projects and activities that are not policy-based, but nevertheless contribute to the delivery of the Plan - these are set out in Section 7, divided into priorities towards which developer contributions may be directed and broader, community projects, which have been collated throughout the process, but which sit beyond planning policy. A range of organisations may be involved in delivering these projects and there will be a need for a co-ordinated approach. Many will require funding and therefore it would be helpful to consult with the community to understand the potential costs and achievability of each. Funding may be sourced from developer contributions or tailored funds, such as the Big Lottery Fund.
- Commenting on planning applications or consultations relating to the neighbourhood plan area – the Town Council has a role in ensuring that the MWNP policies are being adequately considered, where relevant, in decisions to determine the outcome of planning applications in the Parish. A meeting between local councillors, planning committee members and the supporting planning officers at SC would be a useful step in ensuring that the purpose and application of the policies is fully understood by all parties. This will assist in ensuring that policies are interpreted and applied in the way intended.
- Monitoring the application of the MWNP policies to ensure they have been applied consistently and interpreted correctly in response to planning applications – there is scope to identify indicators to measure the effect that each policy is having and the extent to which this is delivering against the associated objective. As a minimum, the Town Council would wish to maintain a log of planning applications relating to the neighbourhood area, detailing which Neighbourhood Plan policies have informed the Town Council response and the outcome of the decision. This will assist in understanding whether the policies have been used in the manner intended or whether changes may be required, for instance in any future review of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- Maintaining a dialogue with SC regarding the timing and content of the new Local Plan – it will be important to consider the policies in the emerging document and how these may impact the MWNP policies. The adoption of a new Local Plan may trigger a light-touch review of the MWNP.
- Maintaining a dialogue with SC and the promoter/developers of the strategically allocated sites.

5.4. Maintaining a watching brief on the national policy landscape – changes at the national level may impact on the policies contained in the Development Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan. It is therefore important to keep abreast of this, as this could also provide a trigger to undertake a light-touch review of the Neighbourhood Plan.

- Maintaining a dialogue with neighbouring parishes on cross-boundary projects.
- Maintaining a dialogue with the local community on the plan implementation – ensuring that all records of how the plan has been used should be made public. It is also recommended that a regular update – for instance at the Annual Town Meeting – is provided, to feed back to the community on progress about both the effectiveness of the policies and the pursing of the projects.

5.5. Considering gaps in the Neighbourhood Plan – local issues, concerns or opportunities may arise during the lifespan of the Plan that trigger the need for the inclusion of a new policy. Such issues can be most effectively understood by maintaining open dialogue with the community and other partners.

5.6. Whilst it is not a legislative requirement to review a Neighbourhood Plan, it is good practice to do so periodically. This may be because of any of the points noted above. A light-touch review will enable the Town Council to keep the Neighbourhood Plan up to date in general terms, and to ensure that it remains in general conformity with the wider development plan. Any review should be undertaken in partnership with and ensuring the engagement of the wider community.

5.7. The Town Council will consider how best to progress these actions.

6. INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS AND PROVISION

6.1. The Town Council is keen to influence the way in which developer contributions are spent in the neighbourhood area to the full extent of their powers under national legislation and planning guidance.

6.2. There are different types of contributions arising from section 106 agreements, section 278 agreements and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL):

- A section 106 agreement (based on that section of the 1990 Town & Country Planning Act) or planning obligation is a private agreement made between local authorities and developers and can be attached to a planning permission to make acceptable development which would otherwise be unacceptable in planning terms.
- A section 278 agreement refers to a section of the Highways Act 1980 that allows developers to enter into a legal agreement with the local authority to make alterations or improvements to a public highway as part of a planning application.
- The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), if adopted by SC, would be a non-negotiable charge on development based on a fixed rate per square metre of net additional development on a site, and levied by the Borough Council. Different charge rates would apply for different types of uses and in different areas. The levy is intended to fund the provision, improvement, replacement or maintenance of infrastructure required to support development in an area as set out in its local plan. With a 'made' (adopted) Neighbourhood Plan, the local community would benefit from an uplift in the level of CIL received, from 15% (capped at £100 per existing property) to an uncapped 25% of CIL receipts from neighbourhood area.

6.3. Spending and infrastructure priorities for Much Wenlock Parish are included within the SC Infrastructure Delivery Plan, and within the emerging SC Local Plan.

6.4. The Town Council intends to regularly review its spending priorities. Any proposed changes to spending principles or priorities will be published for comment by the community and other interested parties. Once finalised, any updated list will be published on the Town Council website and in relevant literature.

7. NON POLICY ACTIONS

Ref.	Issue	Possible Actions	Lead agencies / partners
	Spatial Strategy and Housing		
1.	Understanding local housing need	• Commit to undertaking a regular review of the Housing Needs Assessment prepared for the parish. This provides a long-term perspective on likely housing needs.	MWTC
2.	The need for additional affordable homes	• Consider commissioning a Housing Needs Survey, which provides a 'snapshot' of housing need, including those seeking affordable homes locally. • Pursue a rural exception site. • Explore merits of setting up a Community Land Trust.	MWTC, local community, landowners
	The economy and jobs		
3.	Supporting sustainable tourism	• Develop a visitor strategy and marketing plan for the town and wider parish. • Initiate a local Welcome Host scheme to improve visitor skills and customer service. • Establish a local guide scheme to provide local tours and advice to visitors.	MWTC, SC, visitor attractions, accommodation, retailers, residents, regional tourist board
4.	Communications infrastructure	• Work with providers to ensure good coverage (mobile, broadband) across the parish.	MWTC, providers
	Reducing flood risk		
5.	Monitoring risk	• Prepare update to the Integrated Urban Drainage Management Plan.	MWTC, Flood Action Group
6.	Natural solutions	• Work with landowners to identify ways to deliver activities suggested in *Table 5.*	MWTC, SC, Severn Trent Water, landowners

Ref.	Issue	Possible Actions	Lead agencies / partners
	Transport and Movement		
7.	Traffic management in the town centre	• Explore the pros and cons of designing a shared space/ traffic calming measures within the High Street. Seek funding as appropriate.	MWTC, SC, local businesses
8.	Traffic speed	• Encouraging any major schemes to use design to slow-down traffic, for example through the introduction of tighter bends into side-roads, as opposed to wide openings; the creative use of planters to narrow lanes; use of modal filters, which allow the passage of some modes of transport but not others. • Introducing slower speed limits in part or all of the town. • Redirecting HGVs away from rural lanes.	SC, Satnav providers
9.	Public transport	• Work with SC Highways and public transport providers to explore ways to improve the overall provision.	MWTC, SC, private operators, schools
10.	Pavement safety for school children	• Carry out audits for the Primary and Secondary Safe Routes to School, in terms of provision of footpaths, crossing points, safe parking provision for drop-off, lighting etc.	MWTC, SC, schools
11.	Dropped kerbs	• Undertake a review of dropped kerbs in the town, which enable disabled access.	MWTC
12.	Pavement quality	• Repair uneven surfaces and pavements.	SC
13.	Inconsiderate car parking	• Work with SC to ensure that adequate parking enforcement is in place.	SC
14.	Wayfinding	• Undertake a local signage audit to ensure that local facilities and key routes (walking) are well-marked and easy to find.	MWTC
	Community well-being		
15.	Additional youth facilities	• Work with youth groups locally to understand specific needs that might be delivered, for instance, through a strategic allocation or funded via developer contributions	MWTC, schools, youth groups
16.	Utilities traffic	• Work with SC to explore ways to minimise impacts (noise) from utilities traffic, for instance refuse lorries.	MWTC, SC

Ref.	Issue	Possible Actions	Lead agencies / partners
17.	Support local community events and activities	• Identify relevant community facilities as "Assets of Community Value". • Encourage successful businesses to continue to "give back" to community. • Promotion of additional events/ markets.	MWTC, businesses, residents
	Design, Character, heritage		
18.	Celebrating local heritage	• Explore funding available to those with heritage at risk. • Extend the Olympian Trail to include disabled access.	MWTC, SC, Historic England
19.	Supporting high quality design	• Establish a Local Design Panel to advise the Town Council on the 'technical' aspects of planning applications of all types, using the Design Guidance for Much Wenlock. • Provide advice to parishioners about lighting of homes and how this can be achieved without compromising dark skies or impacting neighbour amenity.	MWTC, residents
	Wildlife and environment		
20.	Biodiversity opportunity areas	• Work with landowners and SC to identify potential areas to 'bank' as biodiversity opportunity areas within the parish. • Supporting and inputting into the work of the Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Nature Recovery Network.	MWTC, SC, landowners, residents
21.	Wildflower planting	• Encourage homeowners and others to plant wildflowers to attract pollinators.	Residents, landowners, MWTC
22.	Tree canopy	• Identify the locations for tree planting to enhance the road scenes throughout the Parish. • Consider an 'Adopt a Tree' scheme.	MWTC
23.	Supporting local producers	• Explore opportunities to set up a Community Supported Agriculture Scheme in the Parish.	MWTC, agricultural businesses

8. POLICIES MAPS

Key to Policies map:



Figure 24: Policies Map - parish-wide

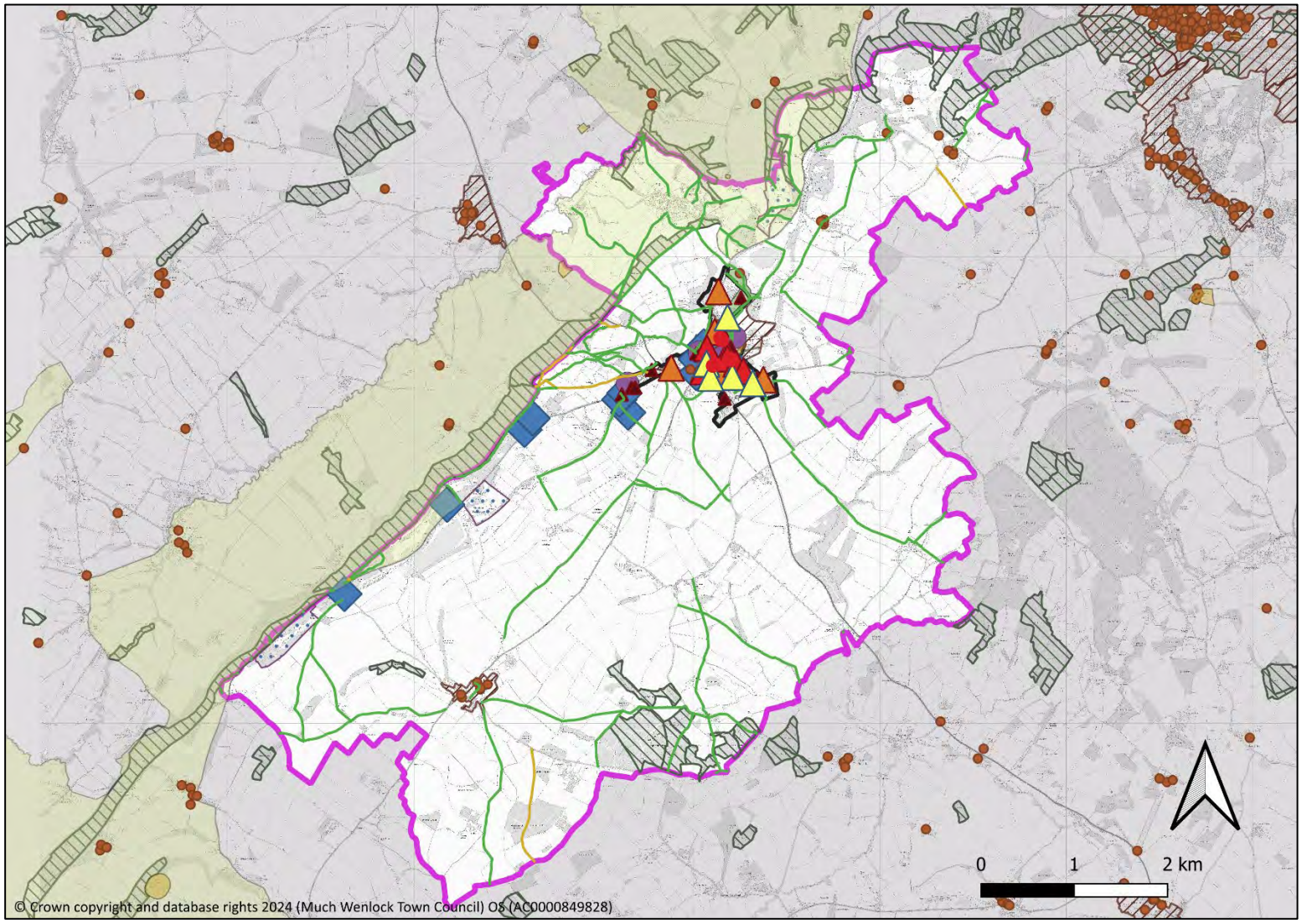


Figure 25: Policies Map - Much Wenlock town

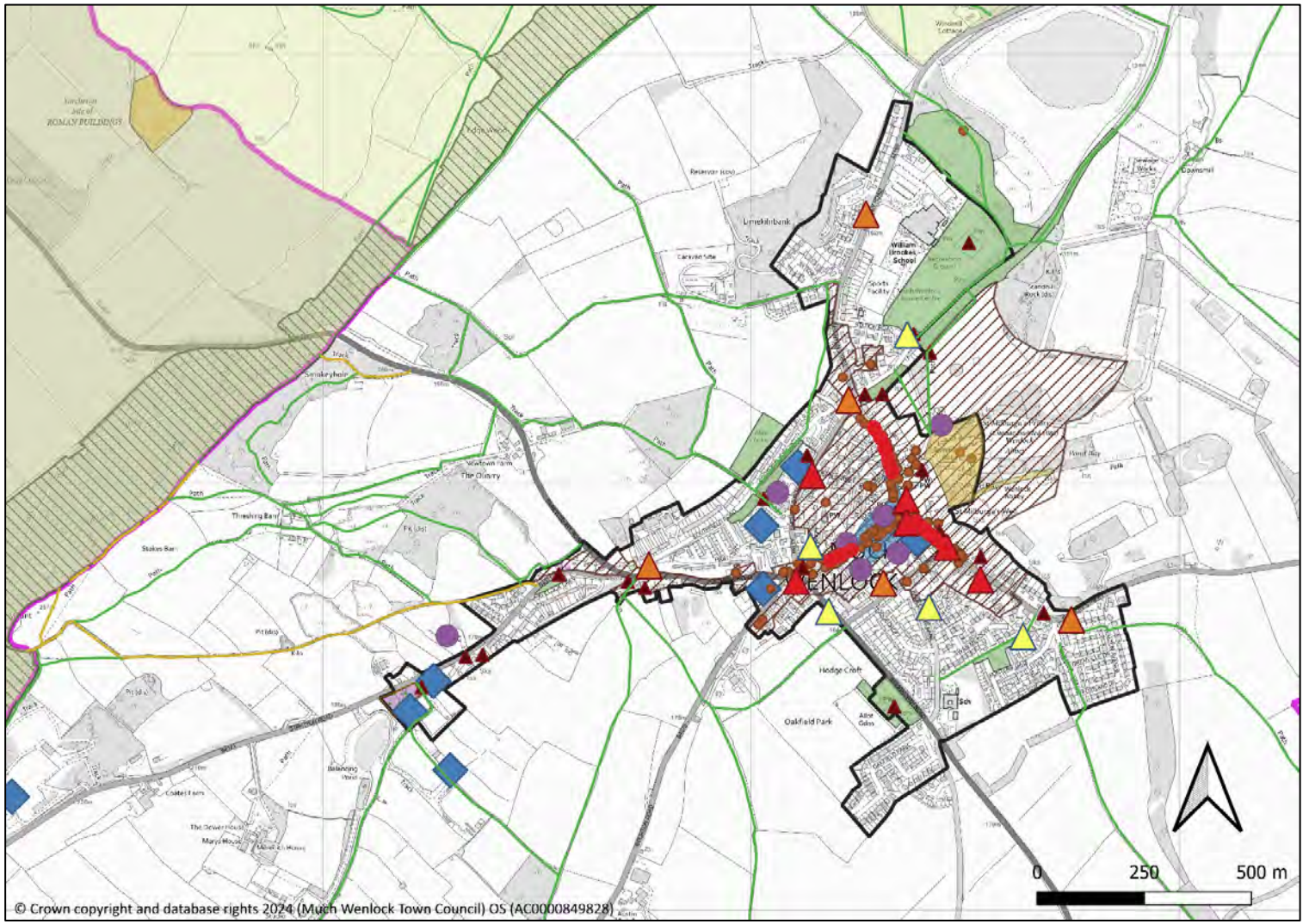


Figure 26: Policies Map - centre of Much Wenlock

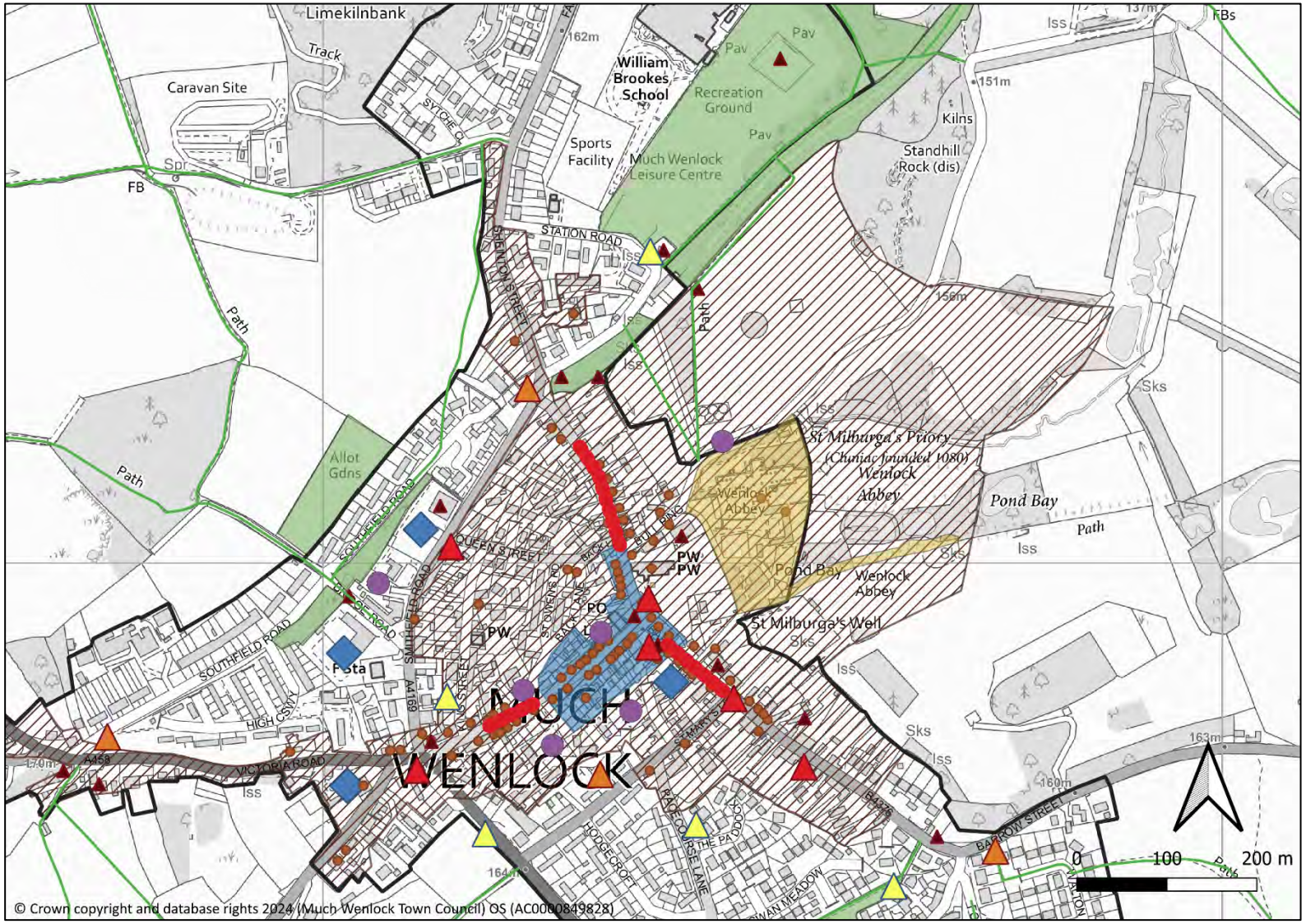


Figure 27: Policies Map - south Much Wenlock

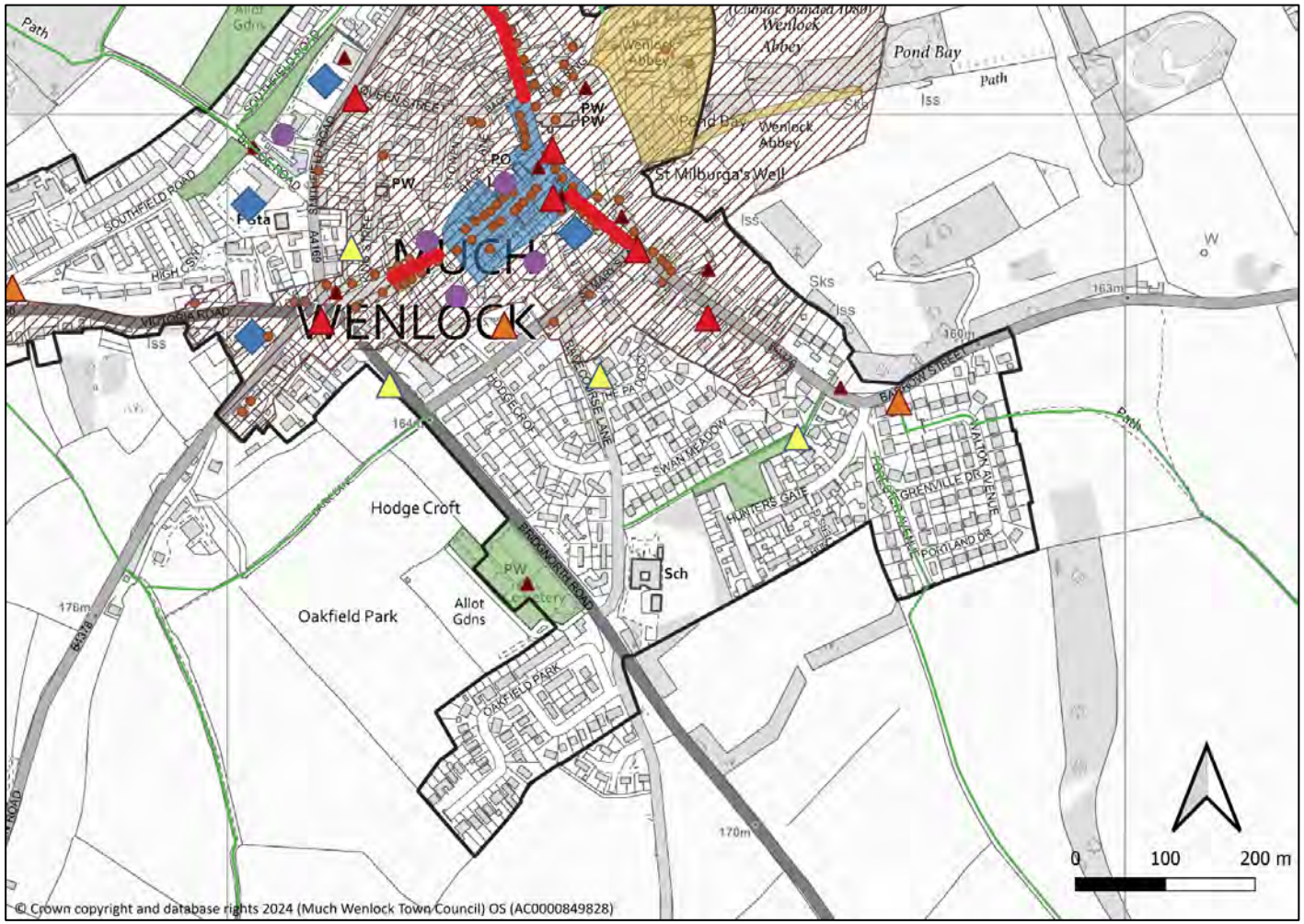
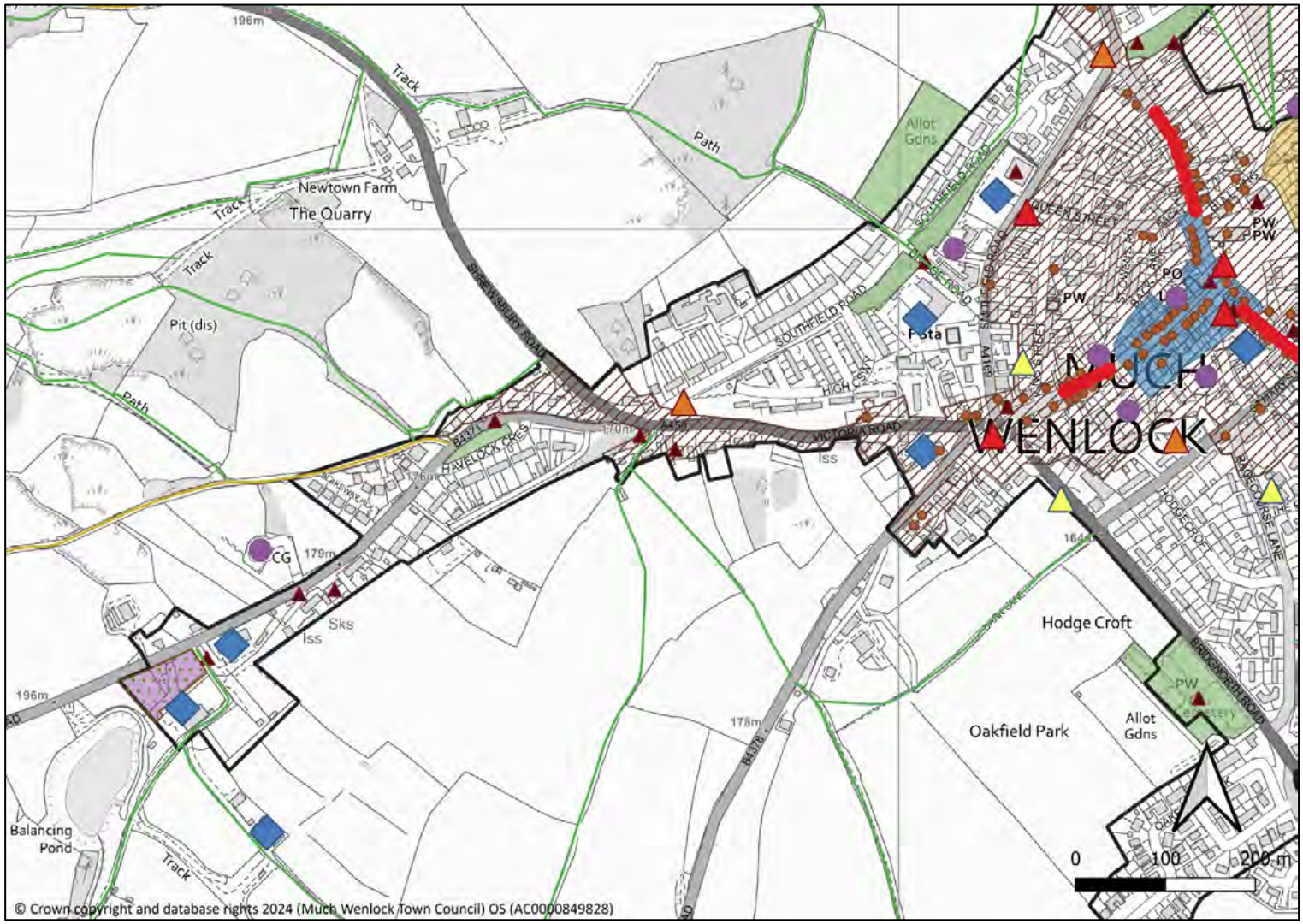


Figure 28: Policies Map - west Much Wenlock



9. GLOSSARY

- **Active travel:** Walking or cycling as a means of transport, in order to get to a particular destination such as work, the shops or to visit friends. It does not cover walking and cycling done purely for pleasure, for health reasons, or simply walking the dog (Welsh Government (2014) Active Travel: Walking and Cycling www.gov.uk.government/statistics/ active-travel-financial-year-ending-march-2015)
- **Affordable housing:** housing for sale or rent, for those whose needs are not met by the market (including housing that provides a subsidised route to home ownership and/or is for essential local workers); and which complies with one or more of the following definitions:
    a) **Affordable housing for rent**: meets all of the following conditions: (a) the rent is set in accordance with the Government's rent policy for Social Rent or Affordable Rent, or is at least 20% below local market rents (including service charges where applicable); the landlord is a registered provider, except where it is included as part of a Build to Rent scheme (in which case the landlord need not be a registered provider); and (c) it includes provisions to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households, or for the subsidy to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision. For Build to Rent schemes affordable housing for rent is expected to be the normal form of affordable housing provision (and, in this context, is known as Affordable Private Rent).
    b) **Starter homes**: is as specified in Sections 2 and 3 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016 and any secondary legislation made under these sections. The definition of a starter home should reflect the meaning set out in statute and any such secondary legislation at the time of plan-preparation or decision-making. Where secondary legislation has the effect of limiting a household's eligibility to purchase a starter home to those with a particular maximum level of household income, those restrictions should be used.
    c) **Discounted market sales housing**: is that sold at a discount of at least 20% below local market value. Eligibility is determined with regard to local incomes and local house prices. Provisions should be in place to ensure housing remains at a discount for future eligible households.
    d) **Other affordable routes to home ownership**: is housing provided for sale that provides a route to ownership for those who could not achieve home ownership through the market. It includes shared ownership, relevant equity loans, other low cost homes for sale (at a price equivalent to at least 20% below local market value) and rent to buy (which includes a period of intermediate rent). Where public grant funding is provided, there should be provisions for the homes to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households, or for any receipts to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision, or refunded to Government or the relevant authority specified in the funding agreement.
- **Ancient or veteran tree/tree of arboricultural value:** A tree which, because of its age, size and condition, is of exceptional biodiversity, cultural or heritage value. All ancient trees are veteran trees. Not all veteran trees are old enough to be ancient but are old relative to other trees of the same species. Very few trees of any species reach the ancient life-stage.
- **Archaeological interest:** There will be archaeological interest in a heritage asset if it holds, or potentially holds, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point.
- **Blue infrastructure:** Blue infrastructure refers to water elements, like rivers, canals, ponds, wetlands, floodplains, water treatment facilities, etc. Green infrastructure refers to trees, lawns, hedgerows, parks, fields, forests, etc. These terms come from urban planning and land-use planning.
- **Change of Use:** A change in the way that land or buildings are used (see Use Classes Order). Planning permission is usually necessary to change a "use class".

- **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL):** a fixed, non-negotiable contribution that must be made by new development. It is chargeable on each net additional square metre of development built and would
- **Conservation area**: an area of notable environmental or historical interest or importance which is protected by law against undesirable changes.
- **Designated heritage asset:** A World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Protected Wreck Site, Registered Park and Garden, Registered Battlefield or Conservation Area designated under the relevant legislation.
- **Development boundary:** These identify the areas of primarily built form, rather than countryside. They identify areas within which development of brownfield land may normally be appropriate, including infilling, redevelopment and conversions in accordance with Government Policy and Guidance (NPPF and NPPG). They do not include a presumption for the development of greenfield land such as playing fields and other open space. Identified built-up area boundaries do not necessarily include all existing developed areas.
- **Disability:** There is no single definition for 'disability'. Under the Equality Act 2010, a person is defined as disabled if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a 'substantial' and 'long-term' negative effect on their ability to do normal daily activities.
- **Grampian Condition**: A Grampian condition prohibits development from commencing until a specified action is taken on other land.
- **Green and blue infrastructure:** A network of multi-functional green (land) and blue (rivers, ponds, streams etc.) space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities.
- **Heritage asset:** A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. It includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing).
- **Local connection:** For the purposes of allocating affordable homes, housing shall be occupied in accordance with Shropshire Council's standard allocation procedures with priority given to applicants who can demonstrate that they have a local connection to the parish of Much Wenlock at the time of occupation.
- **Local housing need:** The number of homes identified as being needed through the application of the standard method set out in national planning guidance.
- **Local Plan:** Local Plans set out a vision and a framework for the future development of the area, addressing needs and opportunities in relation to housing, the economy, community facilities and infrastructure – as well as a basis for safeguarding the environment, adapting to climate change and securing good design for the area they cover. They are a critical tool in guiding decisions about individual development proposals, as Local Plans (together with any Neighbourhood Development Plans that have been made) are the starting point for considering whether applications can be approved. It is important for all areas to put an up-to-date Local Plan in place to positively guide development decisions.
- **Major Development:** For housing, development where 10 or more homes will be provided, or the site has an area of 0.5 hectares or more. For non-residential development it means additional floorspace of 1,000m^2 or more, or a site of 1 hectare or more, or as otherwise provided in the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015.
- **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**: the national planning policy document which sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied.
- **Nature Recovery Network:** An expanding, increasingly connected, network of wildlife-rich habitats supporting species recovery, alongside wider benefits such as carbon capture, water quality improvements, natural flood risk management and recreation. It includes the existing

network of protected sites and other wildlife rich habitats as well as and landscape or catchment scale recovery areas where there is coordinated action for species and habitats.

- **Non-strategic policies:** Policies contained in a neighbourhood plan, or those policies in a local plan that are not strategic policies.
- **Older people:** People over or approaching retirement age, including the active, newly retired through to the very frail elderly; and whose housing needs can encompass accessible, adaptable general needs housing through to the full range of retirement and specialised housing for those with support or care needs.
- **Permitted development:** Permitted development rights are an automatic grant of planning permission which allow certain building works and changes of use to be carried out without having to make a planning application. Most houses have permitted development rights, but flats and maisonettes do not, so planning permission is required. A further example is the conversion of offices, for instance to flats, without the need for planning permission.
- **Previously developed land/ brownfield land:** Land which is or was occupied by a permanent structure, including the curtilage of the developed land (although it should not be assumed that the whole of the curtilage should be developed) and any associated fixed surface infrastructure.
- **Section 106 agreement**: A mechanism under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 which makes a development proposal acceptable in planning terms that would not otherwise be acceptable.
  Shropshire Council: The county-wide authority has responsibility for strategic matters including waste and minerals planning, maintaining the public rights of way network, education, libraries and roads.
- **SMEs (Small to medium-sized enterprises):** The UK definition of SME is generally a small or medium-sized enterprise with fewer than 250 employees. While the SME meaning defined by the EU is also business with fewer than 250 employees, and a turnover of less than €50 million, or a balance sheet total of less than €43 million. Within this umbrella there are three different categories: medium-sized, small, and micro-businesses. These categories are defined by turnover and number of employees.
- **Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD):** Supplementary Planning Documents may cover a range of issues, both topic and site specific, which may expand policy or provide further detail to policies contained in a Development Plan Document, where they can help applicants make successful applications or aid infrastructure delivery.
- **Use Classes Order**: The Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (As amended in 1995, 2005 and 2013) puts uses of land and buildings into various categories. Planning permission is not needed for changes of use within the same use class.

10. LIST OF EVIDENCE DOCUMENTS

All links correct at November 2024. Evidence documents relating to the engagement activities that took place are also available on the Much Wenlock Town Council website.

Document/ Evidence	Author	Year
The 20 Minute Neighbourhood	Town and Country Planning Association	ongoing
Adapting Historic Buildings for Energy and Carbon Efficiency: Historic England Advice Note 18	Historic England	2024
Advice Note 7: Local Heritage Listing: Identifying and Conserving Local Heritage	Historic England	2021
Ancient tree guide 4: What are ancient, veteran and other trees of special interest?	Woodland Trust	2008
Agricultural Building Design Guide	Shropshire Hills National Landscape	2010
Allocations Policy and Scheme	Shropshire Council	2023
Biodiversity metric	Defra	2021
Building for a Healthy Life 2020	Design for Homes	2020
Building with Nature	Building with Nature	ongoing
CAMRA Public House Viability Test	Campaign for Real Ale	2019
Census	Office for National Statistics	2011
Climate Change Act 2008	HM Government	2008
Designing Out Crime: A Designer's Guide	Design and Technology Against Crime	2011
Environment Act 2021	HM Government	2021
Green Infrastructure Strategy	Shropshire Council	2020
Heritage at Risk Register	Historic England	ongoing
Historic Environment Record	Historic England in partnership with ALGAO and IHBC	ongoing
Housing our Ageing Population Panel for Innovation (HAPPI)	Housing LIN	2012
Housing Standards Review	HM Government	2012 (and amended)
Integrated Urban Drainage Management Plan	Shropshire Council	2010
Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill: reforms to national planning policy (Consultation)	Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities	Published December 2022
Localism Act 2011	HM Government	2011
Much Wenlock and surrounding area Place Plan	Shropshire Council	2019
Much Wenlock Housing Needs Assessment	Much Wenlock Town Council	2024
National Design Guide	Department for Levelling Up, Housing &	2021

Document/ Evidence	Author	Year
	Communities and Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government	
National Heritage List for England (NHLE)	Historic England	ongoing
National Model Design Code	Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities and Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government	2021
National Planning Policy Framework (amended July 2021)	HM Government	Amended 2021
Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act	HM Government	2006
Neighbourhood Development Planning Regulations 2012 (as amended)	HM Government	2012
Much Wenlock Local Housing Needs Assessment	AECOM	2024
Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004	HM Government	2004
Secured by Design	UK Police Service	various
Shropshire Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD)	Shropshire Council	2011
Shropshire Council's Strategic Housing Market Assessment: Part 1 and Part 2	Shropshire Council	2020
Shropshire Hills Management Plan 2019-2024	Shropshire Hills National Landscape	2019
Shropshire Council Water Cycle Study (2020)	Shropshire Council	2020
Shropshire Landscape Typology	Shropshire Council	2006
Shropshire Destination Management Plan	Shropshire Council	2022
Site Allocations and Management of Development (SAMDev) Plan	Shropshire Council	2015
Strategic Direction Statement to 2050	Severn Trent	No date
Streets for All: Advice for Highway and Public Realm Works in Historic Places	Historic England	2018
Submission Local Plan 2020 to 2038	Shropshire Council	Submitted October 2021
Town and Country Planning Act 1990	HM Government	1990
Type and Affordability of Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)	Shropshire Council	2012
Urban Air Quality	Woodland Trust	2012
Use Classes	Planning Portal	2021

Appendix A - Demonstrating Viability

Viability: Community facilities

The release of any community facilities to other uses must be fully justified in terms of their contribution and viability. Shropshire Council will require any application involving the loss of a facility to be supported by written evidence that the facility is no longer needed and/or no longer viable.

The level of evidence required to be submitted will vary according to the level of access to alternative facilities in the area and the extent to which the facility contributes towards sustainable communities, but would be expected to include such evidence as:

- The current and projected patterns of community use;
- The nature and condition of the building and the cost of repairs, renovations
- or improvements needed to allow the facility to continue in operation;
- The extent of the local catchment including the location of the premises in
- relation to the local settlement pattern and accessibility;
- The nature and location of comparable facilities;
- The potential to relocate the use into other premises in the community;
- Evidence of the marketing of a site should include sales literature, details of approaches and details of offers and show that it has been offered as a whole and that parts have not been identified for separate sale;
- Evidence that the local community has been notified of the intention to close the facility and has not, within a period of one year come forward with a realistic proposal to assume operation of the facility, including proposals to finance and operate the facility.

The importance of particular facilities will vary, and it is essential that the community is involved in considering the merits of any facility and the suitability of any proposals for alternative forms of community use should their continued viability of operation be in doubt. Applicants proposing to redevelop or convert facilities valued by the community will be expected to consult local communities about the relative importance of the facilities which could be lost.

Not all facilities satisfactorily meet the needs of local communities, and it may be that combining or rationalising facilities might be more appropriate.

Support will be given to the provision of new facilities where these will enhance the sustainability of community life and will meet the needs of an existing or growing and changing population.

Viability of employment sites and retail premises: Evidencing non-viability

It is important that the potential for all employment uses is considered on the site before planning applications are made for non-employment uses. Where a business is coming to the end of its economic life or has ceased trading altogether, applicants will be expected to submit a Viability Statement as part of the planning application. The Viability Statement should provide proof of marketing and demonstrate that there is no realistic prospect of retaining or re-using the site in its current use. The viability case will be considered along with other policy considerations. Proof of marketing should include all of the following criteria:

i. The land/premises has/have been widely marketed through an agent or surveyor at a price that reflects its current market or rental value for employment purposes, and no reasonable offer has been refused. The period of marketing should be 18 months for commercial / industrial, 6 months for retail.
ii. The land/premises has been regularly advertised in the local press and regional press, property press, specialist trade papers and any free papers covering relevant areas. This should initially be weekly advertising for the first month, followed by monthly advertising for the remainder of the marketing period. Advertisements should be targeted at the appropriate target audience.
iii. The land/premises has been continuously included on the agent's website, the agent's own papers and lists of commercial/business premises for the marketing period.
iv. There has been an agent's advertisement board on each site frontage to the highway throughout the marketing period.
v. Evidence that local property agents, specialist commercial agents and local businesses have been contacted and sent mail shots or hard copies of particulars to explore whether they can make use of the premises.

The Viability Statement should also detail the following information:

i. Details of current occupation of the buildings and where this function would be relocated;
ii. Details as to why the site location makes it unsuitable for existing uses.
iii. Any physical constraints making the site difficult to accommodate existing uses;
iv. Environmental considerations/amenity issues; and
v. Consideration, firstly, for a mixed-use scheme involving the existing use and other compatible uses, secondly, for other employment generating uses such as those relating to tourism, leisure, retail and residential institutions and, thirdly, of the viability of providing affordable housing on the site, which could meet a specific local need, before consideration of market housing.

In certain cases, for example, where a significant departure from policy is proposed, the Council may seek to independently verify the Viability Statement, and the applicant will be required to bear the cost of independent verification.

APPENDIX B – Definitions of accessible toilets

Definitions taken from: https://www.independentliving.co.uk

Changing Places are designed so that they are completely accessible and provide sufficient space and equipment for people who are not able to use the toilet independently. They must be an extra facility, in addition to the accessible toilets for independent use.

To start, there must be adequate space in a Changing Places: three metres by four metres is the recommended minimum, with a ceiling height of at least 2.4 metres.

Equipment that should be included:

• **Changing bench**, adult sized (minimum 1800 mm long by 800 mm wide). This should be height adjustable and can either be freestanding or wall-mounted.

• **Hoist** providing access between changing bench, basin and toilet. Ideally, ceiling or wall mounted, but a mobile hoist is acceptable if a track-mounted lifter is not possible. Hoist should comply with BS EN ISO 10535.

• **Toilet** must be a peninsular installation, with at least one metre of clear space on each side. It can be an automatic wash and dry toilet or a standard manual one, and in either case, the seat height should be 480 mm.

• **Washbasin**, which can be a standard model, or height adjustable. If it can't be adjusted in height, it should be fitted at between 720 and 740 mm from the floor.

• **Curtain or screen** to provide privacy for the user and carer(s)

• **Non-slip flooring**

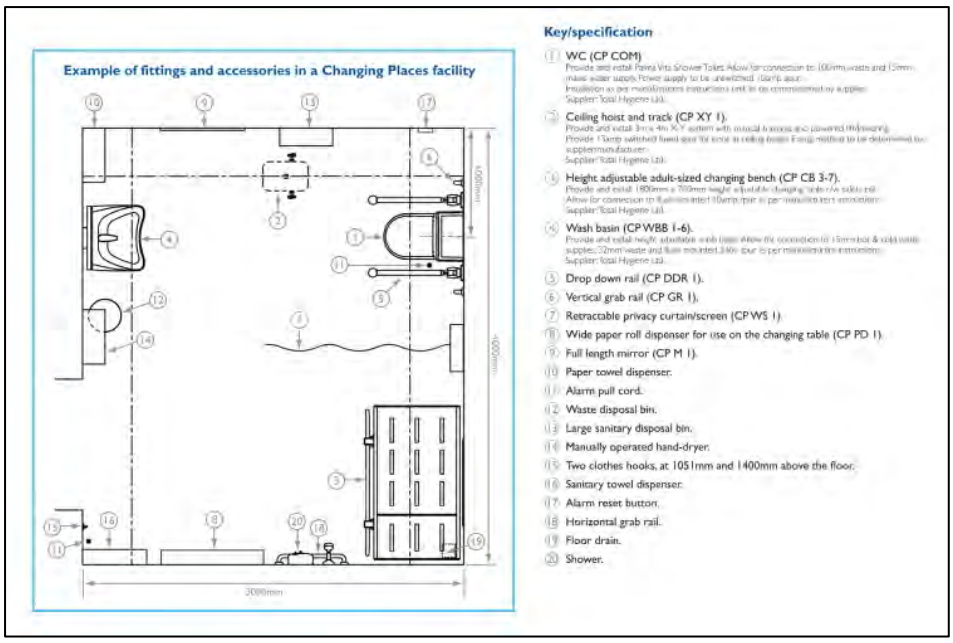
• Wide tear-off **paper roll** in a dispenser close to the changing bench

• Large **waste bin** for disposing of pads, etc

These features are to be included with those of a standard accessible toilet:

• **Grab rails** where appropriate to provide necessary support

• **Emergency alarm** to summon help if necessary. Make sure that the red cord always hangs loose so that it can be used immediately.



Relevant British Standard for Changing Places: Update July 2020: Changing Places to be compulsory, rather than simply desirable

Building Regs and British standards updated at the beginning of 2018

A Changing Places toilet is 'desirable' under Building Regulations Approved Document M and BS8300:2009 for all new build and refurbishment projects involving buildings to which numbers of the public have access.

A new clause has been added to the guidance, concerning the types of buildings that should include these facilities. This specifies visitor attractions, such as theme parks, monitored beaches and parks. Faith centres have been added, and the retail clause has been extended to include large commercial retail premises. The standards say that "Changing Places toilets should be provided in larger buildings and complexes, such as:

a. major transport termini or interchanges, e.g. large railway stations and airports
b. motorway services
c. sport and leisure facilities, including large hotels
d. cultural centres, such as museums, concert halls and art galleries and faith centres
e. stadia and large auditoria
f. large commercial retail premises and shopping centres
g. key buildings within town centres, e.g. town halls, civic centres and main public libraries
h. educational establishments
i. health facilities, such as hospitals, health centres and community practices
j. other visitor attractions, such as theme parks, monitored beaches and parks"

The Changing Places Standard is based on the BS8300:2009. The requirements listed above should not be regarded as a substitute for the comprehensive information included in the British Standard.

Information on standard features needed in an accessible toilet is published in Approved Document M (England), Document T (Scotland), Document R (Northern Ireland) of the Building Regulations.

Appendix C – Much Wenlock Design Guidance and Codes

The Design Guidance and Codes for Much Wenlock form an integral part of the MWNP Neighbourhood Plan, underpinning a number of the policies.

Due to its size, the document is in a separate appendix and can be accessed on the Town Council website.

Appendix D - Non-Designated Heritage Assets

The following buildings and structures are identified as non-designated heritage assets.

Ref	Name and why important
1	**PAVILION ON THE BOWLING GREEN - ORIGINAL TEMPORARY RAILWAY STATION TICKET OFFICE BOWLING GREEN CLUB HOUSE** **Address**: Linden Field, Much Wenlock **Ownership:** Much Wenlock Bowling Club **Age:** 1860s **Type**: Public building **Description:** Decorated wooden single-story building. **Historic Significance:** Original temporary Railway Station ticket office from the Much Wenlock Railway Company Goods Yard resited onto the Linden Field for the use of Much Wenlock Bowling Club **Architectural Significance:** **Social and Economic Significance:** Community asset for sport and recreation. **Townscape Significance:** Landmark on the Linden Field. 

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Ref	Name and why important
2	**MUCH WENLOCK RAILWAY STATION HOUSE** **Address**: Station Road, Much Wenlock **Ownership:** private **Age:** 1864/66 **Type**: private dwellings **Description:** Private dwellings previously the Station Building for the Much Wenlock and Severn Junction Railway Company and Much Wenlock Railway Company. **Historic Significance:** The Railway Station for the town of Much Wenlock for 100 years until the line closure in 1963. Spectators and competitors alighted to attend the historic Wenlock Olympian Games on the nearby Linden Field. **Architectural Significance:** Victorian building housing the "WEN" inside a lock logo, the only one on the external facade of a building in the town. Designed by engineer Joseph Fogerty CE in Gothic Revival style. In an article published in The Engineer January 1868 it was extolled for its attractiveness, adaptability and comparatively low cost. **Social and Economic Significance:** **Townscape Significance:** A marker for the existence of a railway in the town and the public footpath on the nearby redundant railway track. 

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Ref	Name and why important
3	**PAIR OF GATE PILLARS** **Address**: Station Road, Much Wenlock **Ownership:** unknown **Age:** 1860s-70s **Type**: Street furniture **Description:** Pair of brick pillars marking the entrance to Station Road leading to the Station Building for the Much Wenlock and Severn Junction Railway Company and Much Wenlock Railway Company. **Historic / Townscape Significance:** Mark the approach to the Railway Station of the town of Much Wenlock. 

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Ref	Name and why important
4	**RAILWAY ABUTMENT SHEINTON STREET** **Address**: Corner of Sheinton Street and Station Road **Ownership:** Highways **Age:** 160 years old **Type**: Remaining abutment of railway viaduct with inscriptions

	Description: Large machine cut limestone retaining wall built at the end of a raised section of the former railway line. It was built as the East side of the viaduct carrying the railway over Sheinton Street between the later passenger station and the goods yard. **Historic Significance:** 23rd OCTOBER 1861 the first unofficial passenger train ran over this abutment to the temporary platform in what became the goods yard between New Road and Southfield Road. On the same occasion Miss Wayne and others assembled NW of the temporary platform to cut the first sods of the extension of the railway to Craven Arms. The passengers had come to the Olympian Games held on the Linden Field. The railway opened officially on 11th February 1862. **Architectural Significance:** It defines the entrance to the town from the Telford direction **Social and Economic Significance:** Stone now indistinct on top left corner laid by Lt Col. Benjamin Edwards 4th November 1860. "SUCCESS TO THE RAILROAD AND STRENGTH TO THE BRIDGE MAY MONEY PASS OVER HEAVILY TIME LIGHTLY AND MEN AND WOMEN SAFELY". **Townscape Significance:** Prominent landmark at the entrance to the central area of the town 

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Ref	Name and why important
5	**RAILWAY GOODS TRANSHIPMENT BUILDING** **Address**: Flats Station Wharf Southfield Road Much Wenlock **Ownership:** Housing Association **Age:** 160 years. It was built between the building of the first part of the line from Buildwas to Much Wenlock in 1860 and the completion of the adjacent Engine Shed, now demolished, and the permanent passenger Station by the Linden Field in 1866 **Type**: Building – now flats - belonging to housing association.

Description: Railway goods transshipment building now flats. Rectangular limestone building with brown painted bricked in entrance to each end. Prominent lintel. Four windows set in a square. Formerly this was the route a section of rail track in the goods yard took through the building. See below

Historic Significance: Dr William Penny Brookes and his brother Andrew were closely involved in bringing the railway to Much Wenlock in an effort to boost the local economy. The goods platform began in front of this building and continued inside it. A section of track went straight through the building so that trucks could be easily accessed from the internal platform aided by a 30cwt crane. Local businesses like coal merchants, animal feed suppliers and builders' merchants would have had wharves in the goods yard. The exterior platform as it continued to the west of the building was the location of the temporary wooden waiting room and ticket office used when the railway first opened. After the brick station was built in 1866 the temporary waiting room was relocated to the Gaskell Recreation Ground and finally to the Bowling Green. Large amounts of bark for the local tanning industry was offloaded at the wharves.

Architectural Significance: Good example of reuse rather than demolition and rebuild of an industrial building. Original openings respected in the conversion to indicate previous use.

Townscape Significance: A lone reminder in the town of the economic importance of the railway to the commercial rather than passenger traffic carried on the Wellington, Much Wenlock and Craven Arms Railway.



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Ref	Name and why important
6	**PRIORY HALL** **Address**: Bull Ring, Much Wenlock **Ownership:** The building is owned by Wenlock Estates. The building is managed by the charity. **Age:** 1847 **Type**: Public building **Description:** Stone Victorian School originally **Historic Significance:** Built to house Much Wenlock National School 1847. Linked to the work of Dr William Penny Brookes on the benefits of physical education for children. **Architectural Significance:** ARCHITECT: S. Pountney Smith. **Social and Economic Significance:** Much Wenlock Community Centre hosting a variety of meetings and events. **Townscape Significance:** Sits in the curtilage of Much Wenlock Priory behind the remaining 13c gate tower. 

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Ref.	Name and why important
7	**MUCH WENLOCK MUSEUM AND TOURIST INFORMATION** **Address**: High Street, Much Wenlock **Ownership:** Much Wenlock Town Council **Age:** 150 years (1870s) **Type**: Building, publicly owned **Description:** Built in limestone with a prominent central mock timber framed dormer window, 2 smaller dormers with open front below, originally used as market hall. Later extended to the front and closed in as 1914-1918 war memorial. Ground floor windows and door are arched with hood moulds above. **Architectural Significance:** "Market Hall (now tourist information) 1879 by S. Pountney Smith as the Guildhall's little brother" (Newman J Pevsner N (2006) The Buildings of England Shropshire, p.430). One of several buildings commissioned by the then Borough to provide improvements in the public realm. (The Corn Exchange and former School also by Pountney Smith are Listed Buildings). **Historic Significance:** Built as Market Hall, extended and dedicated as a War Memorial, later used as Cinema and then used as a museum. **Social and Economic Significance:** Museum exhibiting the connection of the town with the reestablishment of the Olympic Games as well as the geologically significant Wenlock Edge. Part of the tourist offer in the town. **Townscape Significance:** Prominent position opposite the town square and the Guildhall. 

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Ref	Name and why important
8	**CLOCK IN THE SQUARE** **Address**: The Square, Much Wenlock **Ownership:** Much Wenlock Town Council **Age:** 125 years old **Type**: Street furniture **Description:** Small rusticated limestone clocktower approximately 3.5 meters high. Clock faces on three sides. Clock in painted black and gold metal topped by delicate gold crown and small orb finial. Includes polished marble drinking fountain, two niches at ground level maybe drinking stations for small animals - defunct. Several stone plaques. Small door under blank face to access the mechanism – now electrified **Historic Significance:** Given by Mayor Thomas Cooke who had the shop opposite – now Spar. Plaques below the clockface commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1897 and the clocks restoration for the 40th anniversary of the succession of Queen Elizabeth in 1993 **Architectural Significance:** Prominent structure at the centre of the town **Townscape Significance:** Very prominent position on corner of the square facing the Museum and the Guildhall.

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Ref	Name and why important
9	**BUS SHELTER** **Address**: Next to Abbey Well House Barrow Street, Much Wenlock **Ownership:** Ownership not yet clarified. (If it belongs to Abbey Well House might be more suitable registered with SCC as asset of community value). Age: Approx. 50 years (1970s) **Type**: Building. Built as part of the planning conditions when Abbey Well House was built so that an adjacent bus shelter could be demolished.

	Description: A square pavilion built in the local vernacular coursed rubble limestone, tile roof with finial. Open on two adjacent sides, slatted wooden seat. The asset is still in use. **Architectural Significance:** Built as part of the prominent architect designed Abbey Well House in the 1980s. A modern building of its time but built from traditional local materials. **Social and Economic Significance:** Built as a bus shelter but now rarely used for that purpose. It provides an attractive shelter with a seat for visitors to the town as well as townsfolk taking a rest. **Townscape Significance:** A small attractive pavilion which enhances its site. St. Milburga's Well is immediately behind it. The driveway beside it leads to the entrance to the Priors Lodging. 

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Ref.	Name and why important
10	**<u>WHYMPERIS WELL</u>** **Address**: St Milburga Row, Off Barrow Street Much Wenlock (between the road and the front of a private house). **Ownership:** Not known **Age:** 150 years plus (1870s or earlier) **Type**: Well and superstructure above it **Description:** It is a small stone structure covering a well. The walls and roof are built in stone. It has a wooden door set in an pointed/two-centre arched surround. **Architectural Significance:** Distinctive freestone rather than course rubble limestone building

	with two-centre arched doorway. **Historic Significance:** It is one of a number of wells in the town, apparently the one with the most complete superstructure. **Social and Economic Significance:** Wells provided water before it was piped to the town. An adequate water supply facilitated an active tanning industry in the 19th century. **Townscape Significance:** St Milburga Row is an attractive small cul de sac off Barrow Street. There is a converted building on one side used as a factory during WWII. A terrace of brick cottages on the other. At the end the well features in front of the final house. 

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Ref	Name and why important
11	**<u>VICTORIAN LETTERBOX</u>** **Address**: Gaskell Arms junction, top of High Street **Ownership:** Royal Mail **Age:** Pre-1900 **Type**: street furniture **Description:** Victorian letterbox encased in wall of No 42 High St **Historic Significance:** The only letterbox of this age in the town **Social and Economic Significance:** As above **Townscape Significance:** Contributes to streetscape character

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Ref	Name and why important
12	**RAILWAY VIADUCT ABUTMENTS** **Address**: Junction of Victoria Road (A458) and Southfield Road **Ownership:** Shropshire Highways **Age:** c1865 **Type**: former infrastructure **Description:** Large machine cut limestone retaining walls built at the end of the facing raised sections of the former railway line. They carried the railway line from the end of Southfield Road towards Church Stretton. **Historic Significance:** It marks the final stage of the railway to be built towards Craven Arms in 1865. **Architectural Significance:** It defines the entrance to the town from the Shrewsbury direction. **Social and Economic Significance:** The main function of the final section of the railway was to carry goods traffic. There was a goods yard at Longville in the Dale which continued in use after passenger traffic ceased. **Townscape Significance:** Prominent feature at the entrance to the town.

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Ref	Name and why important
13	**<u>RAILWAY BRIDGE</u>** **Address**: Off Stretton Road by industrial units **Ownership:** unknown **Age:** 1860s **Type**: Bridge carrying unmade but well-used road over former railway **Description:** The arched limestone structure carries vehicular access to an industrial unit, the attenuation pond, Cuan Wildlife Rescue and residential properties. The underside of the arch is blocked by a metal fence and the structure itself is almost entirely covered by ivy. **Historic Significance:** Railway relic. **Architectural Significance:** The bridge is of a type widely used in the midlands and elsewhere to carry road traffic over railways. **Social and Economic Significance:** The railway formed part of the critical infrastructure of Wenlock in the 19th century. **Townscape Significance:** Lying on the very edge of the town this attractive structure still performs an essential function.

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Ref	Name and why important
14	**HAVELOCK WELL** **Address**: Set in retaining wall at No 3 Stretton Road. **Ownership:** unknown **Age:** Thought to be 17th century. **Type**: Ancient structure embedded in wall **Description:** The well-head is constructed within a limestone retaining wall and has an covering arch with keystone. **Historic Significance:** The location of Much Wenlock in a bowl surrounded by hills creates outlets for water runoff. In pagan times wells were considered sacred and therefore spiritual significance has accrued to several of these springs **Social and Economic Significance:** Linked to the social history of the town as a water source. **Townscape Significance:** Contributes to and emphasizes the historic limestone infrastructure of the town. 

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Ref	Name and why important
15	**BIRCHFIELD GARAGE** **Address**: Victoria Road **Ownership:** private **Age:** thought to be 1950s **Type**: Extant 1950s petrol pumps outside former garage. **Description:** The petrol pumps have recently been cleaned and re-painted by the owners. **Historic Significance:** This assemblage, at what remains the entrance to the town, is a charming remnant of mid-20th century motoring. **Townscape Significance:** As above. 

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Ref.	Name and why important
16	**THE CEMETERY CHAPEL** **Address**: Bridgnorth Road, Much Wenlock **Ownership:** Much Wenlock Town Council **Age:** 150 years (1870s) **Type**: Building, publicly owned. **Description:** Chapel built out of Much Wenlock Limestone, tile roof, with pairs of two light shallow ogee leaded light windows, pointed arch entrance door. Stone trefoil arch on roof line for bell (not present) the arch has castellated finials. Elaborate stone and timber porch with gabled roof. Well-built stone and tile lean to at the rear.

	Architectural Significance: Stone built mortuary chapel with prominent porch in the Arts and Crafts style. Architect well known Shrewsbury Architect Lloyd Oswell. From article in Wellington Journal about Bishop of Hereford consecrating the Burial Ground. **Historic Significance:** One of several buildings commissioned by the then Borough to provide improvements in the public realm. **Social and Economic Significance:** The chapel is the centrepiece of a typical 19th century town cemetery. Publicly accessible open space is limited in the town (Report Appendix C by LUC 2020 for Shropshire Council). The now closed cemetery is looked after by a small group, who seek to improve its biodiversity whilst keeping it tidy and attractive to people who still visit family graves or sit and enjoy the view over the town. **Townscape Significance:** It has a prominent position on the Bridgnorth Road. 

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Ref	Name and why important
17	**MANAGERS HOUSE GASWORKS** **Address**: Barrow Street, Much Wenlock **Ownership:** Private **Age:** Gasworks est. 1856 **Type**: Private building **Description:** Brick built house on site of the Much Wenlock Gas Works **Historic Significance:** Only remaining structure on the site of the town's Gas Works since 1856.

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Ref	Name and why important
18	**BLOCK OF FOUR HOUSES BUILT FOR RAILWAY STAFF** **Address**: Nos 20 -23 Stretton Road Much Wenlock **Ownership:** Private **Age:** 1860 **Type**: Private houses **Description:** The four houses are built of brick with yellow brick dressings, the two end ones facing away from each other and projecting slightly. **Historic Significance:** Built for employees of the railway, which until the 1960s ran on raised ground to the rear of the houses **Architectural Significance:** The block is comparable to other groups of houses built for public officials. It has some architectural pretension with yellow brick quoins and corbel table under the eaves. All four retain their sash windows. **Social and Economic Significance:** Connection to the railway.

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Ref	Name and why important
19	**TOLL HOUSE** **Address**: 26 Stretton Road **Ownership:** Private **Age:** 1800 **Type**: private house. **Description:** The limestone cottage faces east and has a 'gothick' style window **Historic Significance:** Much Wenlock has several remaining toll houses located on routes out of/into the town. They date from the end of the nineteenth century when Shropshire roads were 'turnpiked'. **Architectural Significance:** This cottage represents a type found elsewhere in the county from a period when the Picturesque Movement favoured revival of gothic features. Like the others it faces oncoming traffic and would have controlled a barrier. **Social and Economic Significance:** Tolls were collected to cover costs of highway maintenance. **Townscape Significance:** This building forms part of a group of late eighteenth-century early nineteenth century limestone cottages at the western edge of the town.

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Ref	Name and why important
20	**BRIDGE OVER THE FORMER RAILWAY** **Address**: Bridge Road **Ownership:** Highways. **Age:** c. 1865 **Type**: Infrastructure **Description:** Bridge over the course of the former railway. Abutments in stone, brick parapet on iron lintel carries the road up to Southfield Road. **Historic Significance:** Some years ago, there was a proposal to demolish it. Dr Mark Horton a resident and an archaeologist much involved with Coast and Time Team (The first episodes were made around Wenlock) made a case to the Council to keep it. The viaducts at the top of Sheinton Street and across the A458 had already been demolished. He argued it was the last bridge over the railway in the town itself and one of the last remaining remnants of The Wellington Much Wenlock and Craven Arms Railway. From the former viaduct across Sheinton Street to the houses below this bridge was the goods yard and the site of the first passenger platform. **Social and Economic Significance:** Once a short cut to Southfield Road from the town. **Townscape Significance:** It adds context to the long narrow grass strip which runs along the south side of Southfield Road. It is a reminder this neatly mown stretch of grass and trees was once a railway line running immediately opposite the houses.

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Ref	Name and why important
21	**GASKELL RECREATION GROUND LODGE** **Address**: Station Road, Much Wenlock **Ownership:** Much Wenlock Town Council as Trustees of the Playing Field **Age:** c.1935 **Type**: House belonging to the Gaskell Recreation Ground **Description:** Double fronted brick and tile one and a half storey lodge with a prominent central dormer and lead roofed porch the latter resting on decorative wooden supports. Brick relieving arches over the ground floor windows. A commemorative plaque towards the top of the dormer.

	Historic Significance: The plaque on the house records the gift of the playing fields to the town. Playing Fields Presented by Mrs Mary Wardl To Commemorate The Silver Jubilee of HM George V 1935. **Architectural Significance:** Small house with architectural detail to reflect its location and purpose. **Social and Economic Significance:** Rent contributes to Town Council income including for the upkeep of the playing field. **Townscape Significance:** Prominent position at the entrance to the Gaskell Location of the Much Wenlock Olympian Games and opposite the former Railway Station building. 

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APPENDIX E – Local Green Spaces

The list of Local Green Spaces (LGS) has been developed and tested following the Locality guidance "Making local green space designations in your neighbourhood plan".

LGS1: Railway Walk

Address and location	Railway Walk. Beginning Station Road, South West of the Gaskell Recreation Ground ending some 200 yards along the old railway line.
Ownership details	Shropshire Council
Description and purpose / current use	Part of the old railway line which ran from Much Wenlock to Ironbridge. It is a flat tree lined walk which cuts through rocky out crops. It is well used by local residents as it also forms part of a circular walk with the Windmill Hill and the Gaskell Recreation Ground. It is a disabled access space with benches for resting.
Any designations	It is designated as Open Space under the Open Spaces Act. The Railway Walk has the additional designation of a QE2 field which means that it must remain a public open space in perpetuity, it also forms part of the Jack Mytton Way.
Site allocations in Local Plan	The location forms part of the Green Infrastructure strategy within the Key Centre of Much Wenlock.
Planning permissions?	No
Access & proximity including how close to the community it serves	There is public access at several points from the base of the Windmill Hill and the Gaskell Recreation Ground Linden Walk. Station Road is situated at the northwest end of the conservation area and is in close proximity to those who live in or around the town centre but less so to residents in the south of the town.
Demonstrably Special?	**Recreation:** Quiet, flat walking and used by disabled carriages and push chairs, dense surrounding woodland habitat with mosses on rocky outcrops. **Wildlife:** Habitat which attracts many species of bird with the attendant birdsong in spring.
Local in character?	Yes, part of the old railway line.

Photo	

Location map	

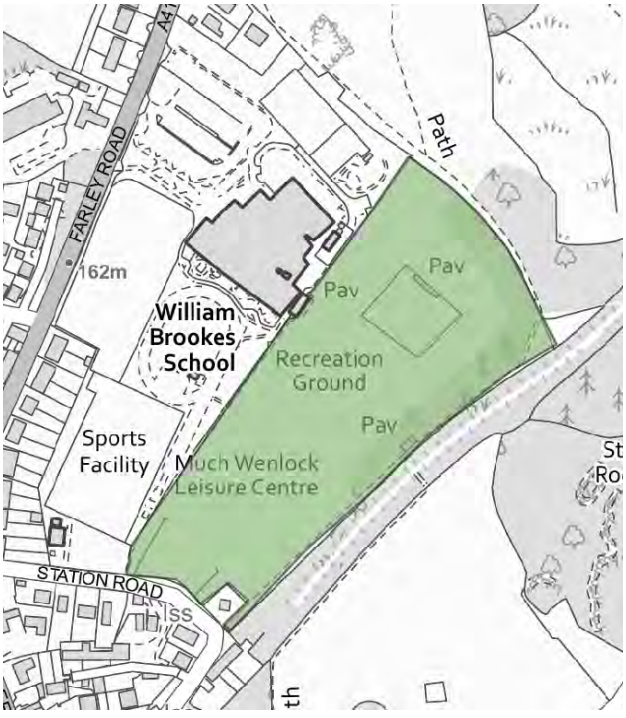
LGS2: Windmill Hill

Address and location	Windmill Hill, North end of the Gaskell Recreation Ground with access from the Farley Road, the Railway Walk, the Gaskell Recreation Ground and the Railway Walk.
Ownership details	Leased by the Windmill Hill Trust from Wenlock Estates.
Description and purpose / current use	Limestone hill with Victorian windmill at summit, surrounded by grass land formed as the final rise of Wenlock Edge. Woodland habitat at base. Open space for walking.
Any designations	Designated Local Nature Reserve under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.
Site allocations in Local Plan	The space is identified as an Open Space Green in the infrastructure strategy within the key centre of Much Wenlock
Planning permissions?	No
Access & proximity including how close to the community it serves	There is access at several points from the Gaskell Recreation Ground and Railway Walk. Station Road is situated at the northwest end of the town and is in close proximity to those who live in or around the town centre but less so to residents in the south of the town.

Demonstrably Special?	**Wildlife:** Nationally important geology and fossil record. Limestone wildflower and grassland area with several species of orchid.
Local in character?	Yes. Locally part of the historic quarrying for limestone in the area.
Photo	
Location map	

LGS3: Gaskell Recreation Ground

Address and location	Gaskell Recreation Ground, Station Rd.
Ownership details	Much Wenlock Town Council
Description and purpose / current use	Large open green space with bowling green, football and cricket pitches, and children's play area. Surrounded by trees including the Linden Walk which are nationally rare in public spaces. Picnic areas at the north end. Regularly used by many people in the town. Is the home of the Wenlock Olympian Games which are staged every year and go back to the 1860s and William Penny Brookes, internationally important because of this link.
Any designations	Tree Protection Orders on all trees. Given in trust to the Much Wenlock Town Council for the people of the town in perpetuity by Mrs Mary Ward
Site allocations in Local Plan	The space is identified as Open Space Green in the infrastructure strategy in the key centre of Much Wenlock.
Planning permissions?	No
Access & proximity including how close to the community it serves	There is access at several points from the Windmill Hill and Railway Walk. Station Road is situated at the northwest end of the town and is in close proximity to those who live in or around the town centre. It is the only recreation ground in the town and is farther than the recommended walking distance from residents at the south side of the town.
Demonstrably Special?	**Historic**: Is the home of the Wenlock Olympian Games and go back to the 1860s and William Penny Brookes, internationally important because of this link. Many historically important trees planted for or by William Penny Brookes. **Recreation:** For informal and formal play.
Local in character?	Yes, the ground provides something for everyone in the town.

Photo	
Location map	

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LGS4: Southfield Road Green Space

Address and location	Southfield Road
Ownership details	Shropshire Council
Description and purpose / current use	Long strip of green running the length of Southfield Road on the North side of town, in some areas it is a narrow strip in others it widens out to become suitable for play by young residents. It is the home to the community orchard.
Any designations	None
Site allocations in Local Plan	Included in the Green infrastructure strategy in the key centre of Much Wenlock.
Planning permissions?	None
Access & proximity including how close to the community it serves	Access from any point along Southfield Road, serves all residents along Southfield Road but not used much by other residents.
Demonstrably Special?	**Recreation:** The space is used for informal play by nearby residents. **Wildlife:** The space houses the community orchard. Overall, the space is an important part of the local green infrastructure network.
Local in character?	Yes, it is formed from the embankment of the old railway line.

Photo	
Location map	

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LGS5: Havelock Crescent Green Space

Address and location	Havelock Crescent, west of the town centre
Ownership details	Shropshire Council
Description and purpose / current use	Green space in front of housing forming a crescent with some trees.
Any designations	None
Site allocations in Local Plan	Features in the Green infrastructure strategy in the key centre of Much Wenlock.
Planning permissions?	None
Access & proximity including how close to the community it serves	Open access to all, close proximity to Havelock Crescent residents.
Demonstrably Special?	**Recreation:** The space is used informally by local residents.
Local in character?	Yes.

Photo	
Location map	

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LGS6: Hunters Gate

Address and location	Hunters Gate, south of Town Centre
Ownership details	Shropshire Council
Description and purpose / current use	Open space with trees shrubs and benches in centre of housing development. Used primarily by residents of Hunters Gate, sometimes for social occasions.

Any designations	None
Site allocations in Local Plan	Yes, Green infrastructure strategy key centre Much Wenlock
Planning permissions?	None
Access & proximity including how close to the community it serves	Access from all properties on the housing estate.
Demonstrably Special?	**Recreation:** The space is used by local residents in Hunters Gate as a space for informal recreation and social gatherings.
Local in character?	Yes
Photo	

Location map	

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LGS7: Cemetery on Bridgnorth Road

Address and location	Old Cemetery, Bridgnorth Road
Ownership details	Much Wenlock Town Council
Description and purpose / current use	Large open space for burials with headstones dating from 1868, no new burials. Wildlife and ecology friendly management, mature and new tree planting. Open space for visiting and walking the paths. Quiet and tranquil with benches to look at the view or contemplation. War graves with small peace garden planting. Chapel currently used for storage.
Any designations	None
Site allocations in Local Plan	Identified within the Green infrastructure strategy in the key centre of Much Wenlock
Planning permissions?	None
Access & proximity including how close to the	Open access to all, close only to south side of the town, one of only two open spaces in that part of the town the other being Hunters Gate.

community it serves	
Demonstrably Special?	**Historic:** The space contributes to the social and community history of the town. **Wildlife:** The space provides an important habitat supporting a range of flora and fauna. **Tranquillity:** A quiet space for reflection away from the more built up areas of the town.
Local in character?	Yes
Photo	

	
Location map	

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LGS8: Allotments on Southfield Road

Address and location	North of Southfield Road
Ownership details	Wenlock Estates
Description and purpose / current use	Community use land used for allotments by consent of owner. Not open access, open only to allotmenteers.
Any designations	None

Site allocations in Local Plan	Yes - Green infrastructure strategy key centre Much Wenlock
Planning permissions?	None
Access & proximity including how close to the community it serves	One access behind Southfield Road, users can be resident anywhere in the town
Demonstrably Special?	**Recreation:** The allotment provides an important space for those wishing to grow food and other plants. It can also be a sociable space. **Wildlife:** The space has been used as an allotment for some years and as such provides an important habitat for a range of flora and fauna.
Local in character?	Yes
Photo	

Location map	

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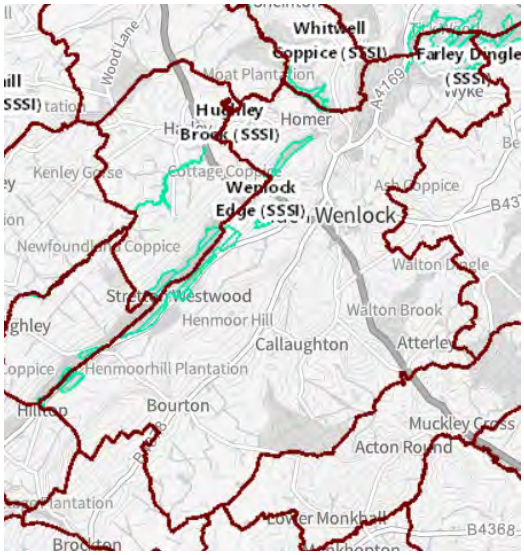
APPENDIX F - Landscape, Biodiversity and Earth Science Designations

National Landscape

Shropshire Hills



SSSIs



Wenlock Edge SSSI (pt)
Total area: 139 ha
SSSI Features: Broadleaved, mixed & yew woodland; calcareous grassland; earth heritage
Whitwell Coppice SSSI (pt)
Total area: 15.44 ha
SSSI Features: Broadleaved, mixed & yew woodland; earth heritage
Farley Dingle SSSI
Total area 0.24 ha
SSSI Features: Earth heritage
Tick Wood & Benthall Edge SSSI (pt)
Total area: 145.3 ha
SSSI Features: Broadleaved, mixed & yew woodland; neutral grassland

Nature Conservation Review sites
Tick Wood & Benthall Edge
Geological Conservation Review sites
Wenlock Edge SSSI
Whitwell Coppice SSSI
Farley Dingle SSSI
Ancient Woodland Inventory sites
Novers Coppice, Bourton
Blakeway Coppice
Spoonhill Woods
Wigwig Wood
Whitwell Coppice
Traps Coppice
Farley Coppice
Tick Wood
Benthall Edge Wood
Local Nature Reserves
Windmill Hill

Local Wildlife Sites
These are held by the Local Wildlife Trust. Their boundaries can change so please contact the Wildlife Trust for further information

Drinking Water Safeguard Zone
Shropshire Severn Tern & Roden

Species of Principal Importance in England
As designated under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act.

Species of Principal Importance in England
As designated under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act.

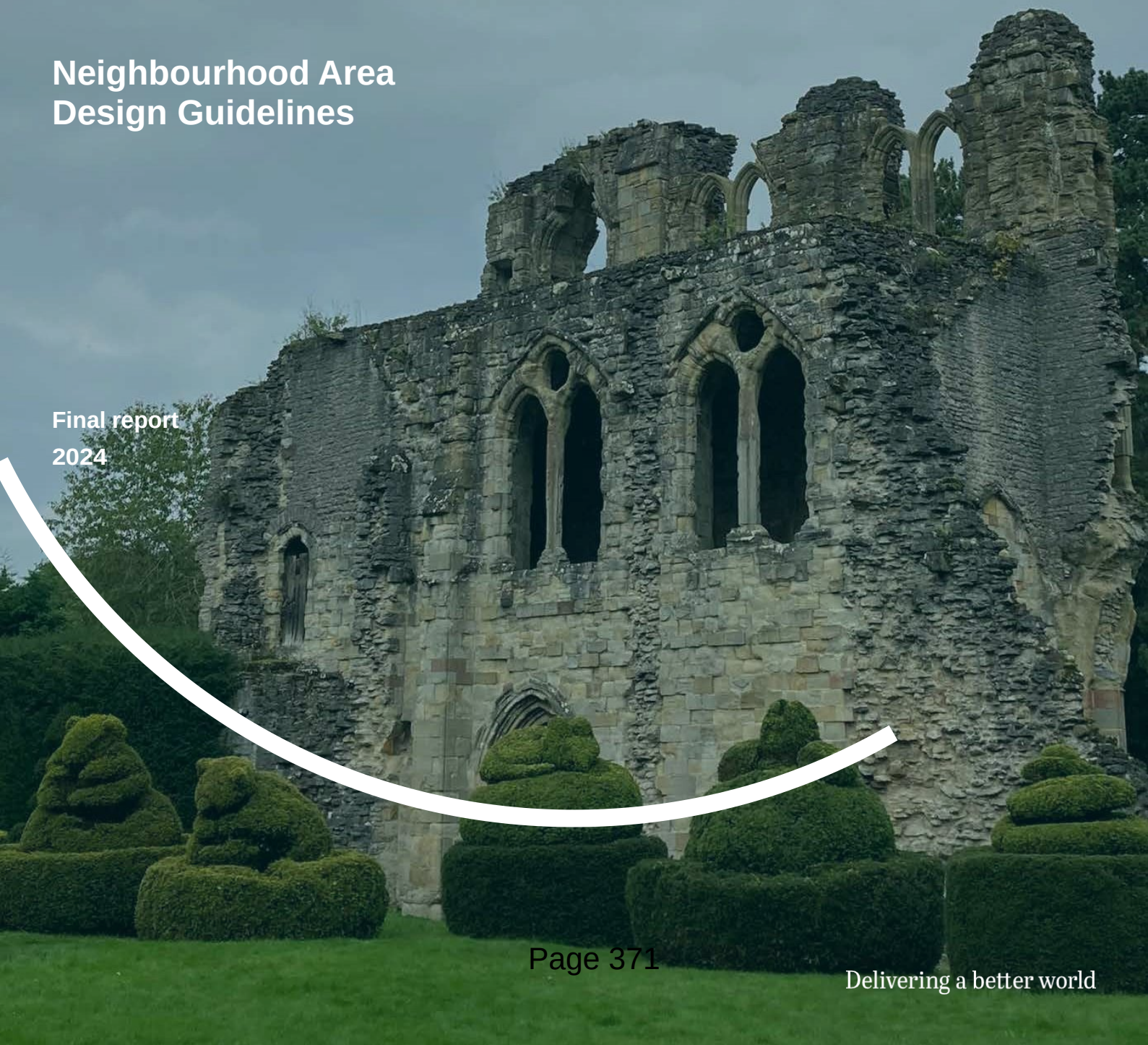
Common Toad	Bufo bufo	
Great Crested Newt	Triturus cristatus	
Sky Lark	Alauda arvensis	
Common Cuckoo	Cuculus canorus	Not recent
Yellowhammer	Emberiza citrinella	
Reed Bunting	Emberiza schoeniclus	
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	
Tree Sparrow	Passer montanus	
Dunnock (Hedge Accentor)	Prunella modularis occidentalis	
Bullfinch	Pyrrhula pyrrhula pileata	
Starling	Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris	
Song Thrush	Turdus philomelos clarkei	
Dingy Skipper butterfly	Erynnis tages	
Wall butterfly	Lasiommata megera	
Hedgehog	Erinaceus europaeus	
Brown Hare	Lepus europaeus	

Otter	Lutra lutra	
Dormouse	Muscardinus avellanarius	
Noctule bat	Nyctalus noctula	
Soprano Pipistrelle bat	Pipistrellus pygmaeus	
Brown Long-eared bat	Plecotus auritus	
Ghost Moth	Hepialus humuli	
Cinnabar Moth	Tyria jacobaeae	
Slow-worm	Anguis fragilis	
Common Lizard	Zootoca vivipara	

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Much Wenlock

Neighbourhood Area Design Guidelines



Final report

2024

Delivering a better world

Quality information

Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by
Davide Colombo	Elliot Joddrell	Ben Castell
Consultant Urban Designer	Senior Urban Designer	Director

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Revision History

Issue no.	Issue date	Details	Issued by	Comments received	Version approved by
1	21/11/2023	First draft	Davide Colombo	02/02/2024	Trudi Barrett, Town Clerk
2	06/02/2024	Second draft	Davide Colombo	21/03/2024	Trudi Barrett, Town Clerk
3	02/04/2024	Final draft for Locality review	Elliot Joddrell	11/04/2024 (no comments)	Annabel Osborne, Neighbourhood Planning Officer

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Introduction

01

1. Introduction

The aim of this document is to help empower the local community to influence the design and character of the Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Area, which comprises the Parish - including the town of Much Wenlock itself and surrounding villages - and to deliver attractive, sustainable development that meets the needs of local people.

1.1 Background

Much Wenlock Town Council has requested support through Locality to establish a design code and guidance document to influence the character and design of any new development within the neighbourhood area. With “the Neighbourhood Area” and “Much Wenlock”, this document refers to Much Wenlock town and the key settlements of Bourton, Homer, Wigwig, Farley, Wyke, Atterley, Callaughton, Stretton Westwood and Hilltop. It coincides with the Parish area.

In setting out design codes and guidance, this document aims to aims to help empower the local community to deliver attractive, sustainable development that meets the needs of local people.



Figure 01: High Street, Much Wenlock

It should be noted that the Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Area Design Guidelines form an part of the Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan underpinning policy.

1.2 Aims and objectives

The overarching aim of the Neighbourhood Plan is to enable the Much Wenlock community to set out design standards and policies for development in the neighbourhood area, within the context of national and local policy.

This document forms part of the evidence base for the Neighbourhood Plan on design-related issues. This document is locally specific and sets clear requirements that relate to Much Wenlock and its character areas.

Much Wenlock Parish is home to an established community with considerable green space and heritage. The overarching aim of this document is to protect and enhance Much Wenlock's urban and rural character via the following objectives:

- To ensure that the unique heritage and history of the area are preserved and passed down to the future.
- To positively influence the character and design of new development within the neighbourhood area.
- To enhance the sense of place and quality of the existing built and natural environments.
- To preserve the special character of the two Conservation Areas within the neighbourhood area.
- To ensure that development is made future proof to help mitigate against the impacts of climate change.
- To present a detailed appraisal of the area's urban and landscape character context.
- To protect and enhance green spaces, views and biodiversity within the area.
- To ensure that new development contributes through its design to enable 'a sense of community' - safe, attractive, accessible, green, enabling engagement.



Figure 02: Much Wenlock Parish Church and Guildhall.



Figure 03: Holly Grove, Sheinton Street



Figure 04: Dwellings on Barrow Street

1.3 Using this document

This document is a valuable tool for securing context-driven, high quality and landscape-led development. It will be used differently by different people in the planning and development process (see Table 01 below).

Also, it will be effective when used as part of a co-design process, actively involving key partners, to establish local preferences and expectations of design quality. Through active participation and conversation, key stakeholders can use the guide to shape the key issues and ways to adequately respond to them in future development.

This document alone will not automatically secure quality design outcomes, but it will help to prevent poor outcomes by creating a rigorous process that establishes expectations. It raises the standards and expectations for design quality.



Figure 05: Bourton

Potential users	How they will use the design guidelines
Applicants, developers, and landowners	As a guide to highlight community and Local Planning Authority expectations on design which creates a degree of certainty. They will be expected to follow this document as planning consent is sought.
Local Planning Authority	As a reference point, embedded in policy, against which to assess planning applications. This document should be discussed with applicants during any pre-application discussions.
Town council or neighbourhood plan group	As a tool to help structure comments on planning applications, ensuring that this document is complied with.
Community groups and local residents	As a tool to promote community-backed development, to inform comments on planning applications and home-owner developments.
Statutory consultees	As a reference point when commenting on planning applications.

Table 01: User groups and how they will use the guidance.

1.4 Planning policy and guidance

This section outlines the national and local planning policy and guidance documents that have informed this document.

1.4.1 National planning policy and guidance

National Planning Policy Framework (Revised December 2023)

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) outlines the UK Government's overarching economic, environmental and social planning policies for England. It is a high-level document that attempts to make good design pivotal and to put communities at the heart of planning. The policies within the NPPF apply to the preparation of local and neighbourhood plans, and act as a framework against which decisions are made on planning applications.

The NPPF states that a key objective of the planning system is to contribute to balancing the impacts that development has on the economy, environment and community.

The parts of the NPPF which are of relevance to this document are:

- Part 2: Achieving sustainable development;
- Part 5: Delivering a sufficient supply of homes;
- Part 7: Ensuring the vitality of town centres;
- Part 8: Promoting healthy and safe communities;
- Part 12: Achieving well-designed places;
- Part 15: Conserving and enhancing the natural environment; and
- Part 16: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment.

Part 12 (Achieving Well-designed Places) emphasises the need to create high-quality buildings and places as fundamental to what the planning and development process should achieve.

It sets out several principles that planning policies and decisions will consider ensuring that new developments are well-designed and focus on quality.

The NPPF notes that "development that is not well-designed should be refused, especially where it fails to reflect local design policies and government guidance on design, taking into account any local design guidance and supplementary planning documents such as design guides and codes".

This is supported by the National Design Guide, which sets out the 10 characteristics of a well-designed place.

National Design Guide (2019)

The National Design Guide (NDG) sets the 10 characteristics of a well-designed place and demonstrates what good design is in practice. The characteristics are: Context; Identity; Built Form; Movement; Nature; Public Spaces; Uses; Homes & Buildings; Resources; and, Lifespan.

This document should be used as an overarching reference for new development where topics are not covered in local guidance. The NDG characteristics were used in the initial analysis to understand local demands and challenges.

The NDG notes that a well-designed place is unlikely to be achieved by focusing only on the appearance, materials and detailing of buildings.

National Model Design Code (2021)

The National Model Design Code (NMDC) sets a baseline for quality and practice. It provides detailed guidance on the production of design codes and the outlining of character areas.

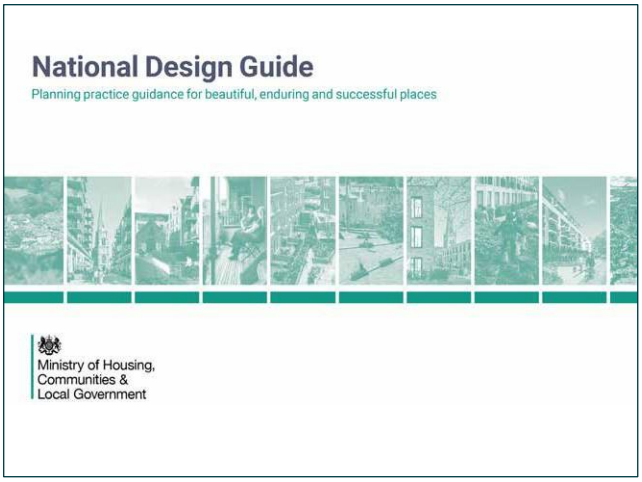
The NPPF is the foundation stone to good design and the NDG sets out the 10 characteristics of well-designed places. This is developed further by the NMDC, which creates the baseline for analysing and visioning places. Design codes help development achieve the requirements of good design and for community benefit.

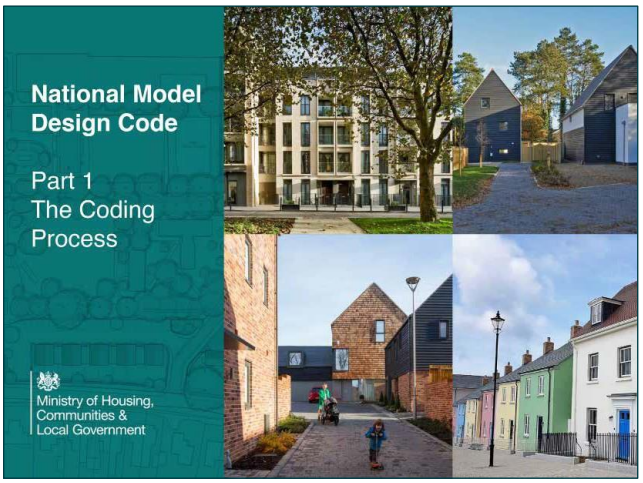
Building for a Healthy Life (2020)

Building for a Healthy Life (BHL) is the new name for Building for Life, the Government-endorsed industry standard for well-designed homes and neighbourhoods. The new name reflects the key role that the built environment has in promoting wellbeing.

The BHL toolkit sets out principles to help guide discussions on planning applications and to help local planning authorities to assess the quality of proposed schemes, as well as useful prompts and questions for planning applicants to consider during the different stages of the design process.









1.4.2 Local planning policy and guidance

The Neighbourhood Plan is required to be in conformity with the Local Plan and as such the key adopted documents and policies from the Local Plan are set out below. These are key references for developers to address alongside this document.

1.4.3 Shropshire Local Development Framework: Adopted Core Strategy (2011)

This document was adopted by Shropshire Council in March 2011. The Core Strategy sets out the Council's vision, strategic objectives and the broad spatial strategy to guide future development and growth in Shropshire during the period to 2026. Key policies include:

Policy CS3: The Market Towns and Other Key Centres

This policy identifies Much Wenlock as a Key Centre which offers a range of services and facilities. The area is earmarked for limited development reflecting its important service and employment centre role whilst retaining its historic character.

Policy CS6: Sustainable Design and Development Principles

This policy states that development will be designed to a high quality using sustainable design principles, to achieve an inclusive and accessible environment which respects and enhances local distinctiveness and which mitigates and adapts to climate change.

Policy CS7: Communications and Transport

This policy identifies how the maintenance and improvement of integrated, accessible, attractive, safe and reliable communication and transport infrastructure and services will be achieved. This includes protecting and enhancing strategic and local cycling, footpath, bridleway networks as local transport routes and for recreation and leisure use.

Policy CS16: Tourism, Culture and Leisure

This policy commits to the delivery of high quality, sustainable tourism, and cultural and leisure development. This includes promoting connections to the natural, cultural and historic environment as well as promoting and preserving the heritage brand and values of market towns and rural areas.

Policy CS17: Environmental Networks

This policy requires development to identify, protect, enhance, expand and connect Shropshire's environmental assets, to create a multi-functional network of natural and historic resources.

Policy CS18: Sustainable Water Management

This policy requires developments to integrate measures for sustainable water management to reduce flood risk, avoid an adverse impact on water quality and quantity within Shropshire, including groundwater resources, and provide opportunities to enhance biodiversity, health and recreation.

Draft Shropshire Local Plan (2016-2038)

Shropshire Council submitted a draft Local Plan to the Secretary of State on 3rd September 2021 for independent examination.

The Local Plan is still under review and will replace the existing policies set out in the adopted Core Strategy.

The following 'emerging' policies were considered when developing this document:

Policy SP3: Climate Change

This policy, upon adoption, will outline how development in Shropshire will support the transition to a zero-carbon economy.

Policy SP5: High-Quality Design

This policy, upon adoption, will ensure that new development will deliver high quality design by ensuring the creation of better places in which to live and work, improving sustainability, supporting active and healthy lifestyles and ensuring individual and community well-being.

The policy also states that development must maintain and enhance the character, appearance and historic interests of settlements, streetscenes, groups of buildings, individual buildings and the landscape and, reinforce the hierarchy of networks and spaces

Policy SP6: Health and Wellbeing

This policy, upon adoption, will require new development to ensure the health and well-being of individuals, communities and places. This will be achieved by ensuring the quality of life and delivery of community well-being, through the use of land; type of development; the safeguarding, maintenance and improvement of community facilities and services; and by ensuring that the form, design, location and layout of new development enhances community wellbeing.

Policy DP3: Affordable Housing

This policy, upon adoption, will ensure that the affordable housing is indistinguishable from the open market housing, including by way of character, design, location and size.

Policy DP10: Tourism, Culture and Leisure

This policy, upon adoption, will place emphasis on the delivery high quality, sustainable tourism, and cultural and leisure development. Key aspects of this include promoting opportunities for accessing Shropshire's landscape and historic environment.

Policy DP11: Minimising Carbon Emissions

This policy, upon adoption, will influence development to reduce its impact on climate change through design measures including building orientation, window and door orientation, on-site energy generation, and targeting net zero carbon emissions.

Policy DP12: The Natural Environment

This policy, upon adoption, aims to avoid harm to Shropshire's natural assets and encourages their conservation, enhancement and restoration

Policy DP14: Green Infrastructure

This policy, upon adoption, requires development in Shropshire to improve and expand the green infrastructure network and form an integral part of open space provision.

Policy DP15: Open Space and Recreation

This policy, upon adoption, will state that accessible and well-maintained open space is an essential part of new development to ensure people have sufficient opportunities to play, walk and generally stay healthy.

Policy DP16: Landscaping of New Development

This policy, upon adoption, will require development proposals to provide well-designed, attractive and maintained on site landscaping unless otherwise agreed with the Council.

Policy DP17: Landscape and Visual Amenity

This policy, upon adoption, will require development proposals to respect, safeguard and where possible, restore or enhance landscape character and visual amenity in Shropshire.

Policy DP21: Flood Risk

This policy, upon adoption, will direct development to areas at least risk of flooding. Where development is permitted, the causes and impacts of flooding as well as residual flood risk, will be reduced through design measures.

Policy DP22: Sustainable Drainage Systems

This policy, upon adoption, will require developments to integrate measures for sustainable water management to reduce flood risk, avoid adverse impacts on water quality and quantity within Shropshire (including groundwater resources), and provide opportunities to enhance biodiversity, health and recreation.

Policy DP23: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment

This policy, upon adoption, will provide measures to protect, conserve, sympathetically enhance and restore Shropshire's heritage assets. This includes avoiding harm or loss of significance to designated or non-designated heritage assets, including their settings.

Policy DP24: Shropshire Hills National Landscape

This policy, upon adoption, will state that great weight will be given to conserving and enhancing the landscape and scenic beauty of the Shropshire Hills National Landscape (NL) by limiting the scale and extent of development in the designated area.

DP28: Communications and Transport

This policy, upon adoption, commits to improving Shropshire's communications and transport networks and supporting the infrastructure and services to widen travel and transport choices and to improve connectivity and accessibility whilst moving towards reduced car dependency. A key aspect of this will be the protection, extension or improvement of footways, cycleways, public rights of way and bridleways for active travel.

Settlement Policies S13: Much Wenlock Place Plan Area

This policy, upon adoption, outlines the key focuses for development in Much Wenlock. This includes a commitment to deliver around 200 dwellings and around 2 hectares of employment development.

The policy includes a preferred residential allocation in Much Wenlock on the land adjoining the Primary School and Hunters Gate for 120 dwellings. Design guidelines are also provided in the policy.

Sustainable Design SPD (2011)

This Supplementary Planning Document provides standards and guidance for water management, energy efficiency and generation, waste management and resource efficiency. The document also provides a sustainability checklist to support development to meet the outlined requirements.

1.44 Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan (2013-2026)

The Neighbourhood Plan was adopted in July 2014. The document covers key policy areas including development design, housing mix, development in the Conservation Area, flood risk and parking.

This document also reflects on the Much Wenlock Design Statement (2000) , bringing forward key design principles relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan.

At the time of writing the Neighbourhood Plan was under review. When adopted the renewed plan's policies will replace the existing policies set out in the adopted Neighbourhood Plan.

1.5 Site visits and engagement

An inception call between AECOM and representatives of Much Wenlock Town Council was undertaken on 09 October 2023 to introduce the teams, to explore the working group's key aims and objectives and to address any initial concerns.

A site visit was then conducted on 18 October 2023 led by members of the working group. The visit commenced at Much Wenlock Town Council Offices and covered the whole neighbourhood area including the Town of Much Wenlock, surrounding settlements and the surrounding countryside.

The visit allowed AECOM to gather an extensive photographic survey and undertake a comprehensive place analysis which has formed the basis of this document. This document has resulted from a collaborative effort reflecting the priorities of the local community.

An engagement event was held in early March to allow the local community to see the emerging design guidelines and provide feedback.



Figure 06: The Corn Exchange building, which houses the Library and Town Council Office



Table 02: Design code production process



Place analysis

02

2. Place analysis

Much Wenlock is a historic market town surrounded by picturesque countryside. Its origins as a rural centre remain visible in its working farms, historic civic buildings and town square. It also has an important history associated with quarrying limestone both along The Edge and close to the town.

2.1 Context and identity

Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Area is located within the Shropshire ceremonial county in the West Midlands. The area has a strong rural vocation and it neighbours the Shropshire Hills National Landscape.

The Neighbourhood Area has a population of 2,900 according to the 2021 Census. Most of this is contained within Much Wenlock, Bourton and Homer.

High Street, Barrow Street and Wilmore Street/ Sheinton Street radiate from Much Wenlock's centre. The town's organic growth has resulted in non-uniform streets with a varied built form. The landmarks of Much Wenlock Parish church and Wenlock Priory are located close to the centre of the town.

The Neighbourhood Area is steeped in history. Many of the older buildings in the centre are built with or faced with limestone evidence of a less-than-rich agricultural heritage. Town farms by enlarge were not rebuilt in the surrounding countryside after the enclosures. These small farms continued to be operated from the town centre through to the second half of the 20th century.

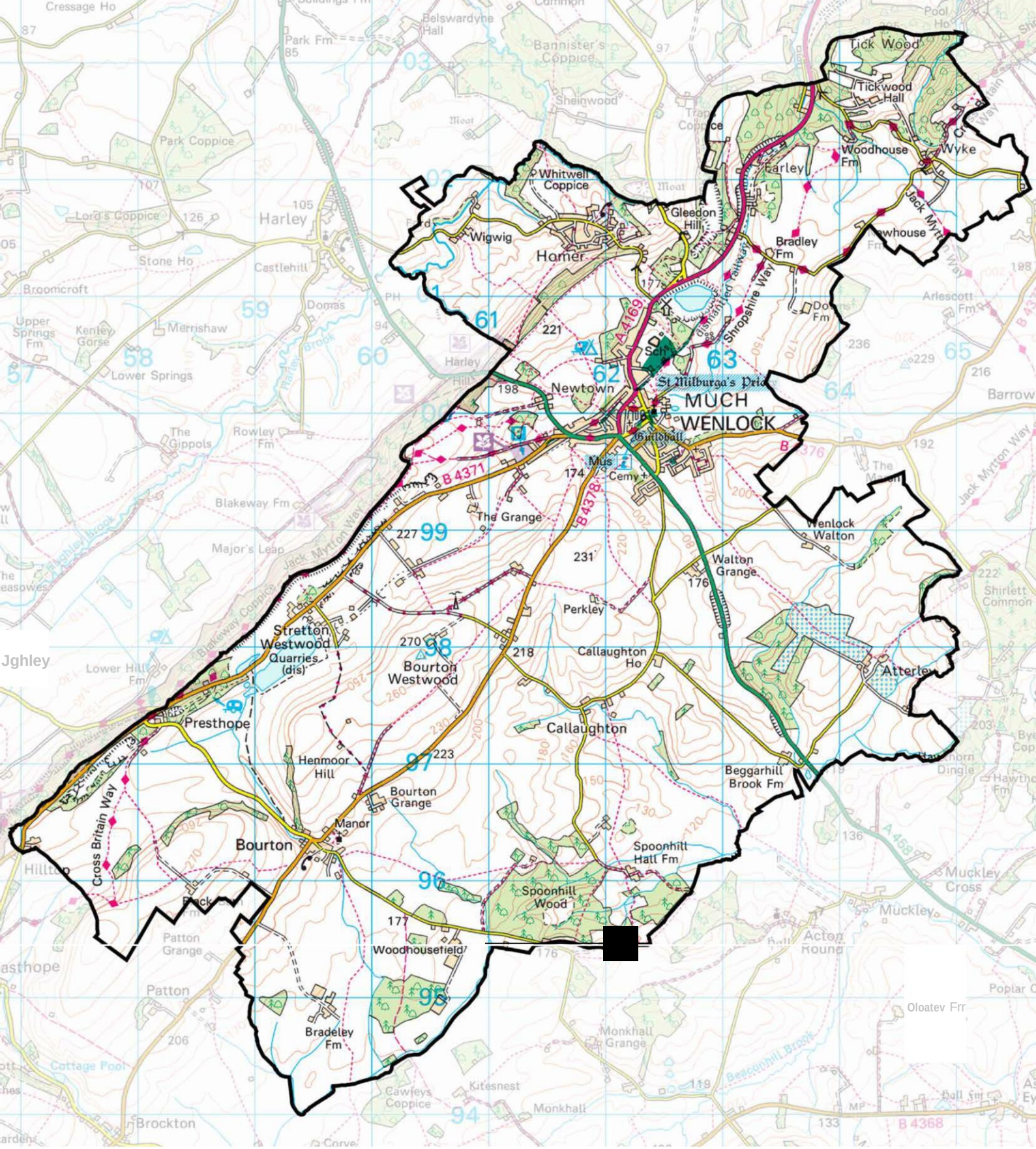
The town has a strong visual aesthetic arising from its stone, brick and timber framed façades and red clay tile, slate, and stone roofs. Building styles are varied and include a mix of historic cottages, large Georgian houses, Victorian villas as well as modern housing and bungalows. A few of the buildings have gable ends facing the street. This variety of building styles creates a visually satisfying streetscape.



Figure 07: Traditional shop front, Barrow Street



Figure 08: Pound Cottage, Victoria Road



N

1 km

Figure 09: Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Area, which shares its boundary with the Parish

2.2 Settlement origins

Wenlock Edge is a limestone escarpment near Much Wenlock which originates from a part of a coral reef that was undersea 430 million years ago. This left a ridge just west of the Neighbourhood Area, which has resulted in a unique landscape context. Since pre-roman times, limestone quarrying covered an essential economic and social role in the history of Much Wenlock.

There is evidence of Roman occupation from the first century AD In 680 the Anglo-Saxon princess, later saint, Milburga arrived as abbess of a double monastery. Much Wenlock's role as a trading centre developed around it. Following the Norman Conquest, in 1080, Cluniac monks were granted the monastic lands and began to build their priory, and the parish church, Holy Trinity. A charter granted in 1486 by Edward IV made the town a borough, with the prior as landowner and 'first burgess'. This continued until the priory closed in 1540. Construction of the Guildhall consolidated secular authority over what was the largest English borough. For decades Much Wenlock was represented by two MPs. The Industrial Revolution developing locally shifted trade away from the town although it administrative control. The story of Much Wenlock is strongly related to the modern Olympic movement, as its founding father Dr William Penny Brookes was born in the town in 1809. Also, the first Shropshire Olympian Games were held in 1860.



Figure 11: The Guildhall



Figure 12: 19-21 Barrow Street



Figure 10: Wenlock Priory

In the 19th Century Much Wenlock town was arranged around the High Street, Barrow Street, The Bull Ring and Wilmore Street/Sheinton Street. Fine grain and traditional development along these routes were predominant. Wigwig and Homer are ancient hamlets located north of Much Wenlock and were still small in the 19th century. Wenlock railway was officially opened in 1862. In 1878 the Market Hall (now the town museum) was built.

After WWII Much Wenlock town expanded to the north along A4169 and to the south along Bridgnorth Road and St Mary's Road. Also, new development occurred at the hamlet of Homer. In 1962, the Much Wenlock railway station was closed. Some of the railway routes have provided footpaths as well as extensive sections of the Jack Mytton long-distance bridleway.

The limestone quarrying industry continued to be economically central until at least the 1970s, when it contributed significantly to road construction for Telford New Town. Incidentally, the grossly uneven muscle-development of young quarrymen was a trigger for the introduction of athletics by Dr Brookes.

Forester Avenue and Oakfield Park developments were built at the end of C20, while Hunters Gate development was built in the early 2000.



Figure 13: The former Much Wenlock railway station building, now a private dwelling



Figure 15: Monks Cottage, Barrow Street



Figure 14: Modern development at Hunters Gate

2.3 Settlement today

Much Wenlock town today preserves its inner compact core development along High Street, Barrow Street and Wilmore Street/ Sheinton Street. Developments generally spread out from the town centre along some key roads (Stretton Road, The Crescent and Barrow Street). There are some more recent developments to the west and to the south-east of the town centre that are less dense and have a more regular layout.

Many other settlements can be found throughout the Neighbourhood Area:

- Bourton is still predominantly included within its conservation area, preserving an informal and organic layout mostly arranged along the B4378 and the two perpendicular roads.
- Homer is currently a village with its distinct character, positioned entirely in the Shropshire Hills National Landscape. The village features '60s developments, with a predominance of detached houses and an organic layout.



Figure 17: Bridgnorth Road



Figure 18: Barrow Street



Figure 16: Detached house in Homer



Figure 19: New development off Victoria Road

2.4 Layout and built form

The adjacent map shows the relationship between built and unbuilt space in the Neighbourhood Area. The layout of buildings can highlight interesting urban patterns and help to identify different elements of character. Using this method, the Neighbourhood Area's urban spaces can be roughly divided into the following categories:

Dense and informal urban grain

The compact layout of Much Wenlock town centre creates a fine urban grain. Buildings generally face the streets with no setbacks and plots are narrow and deep. Gables often face the street contributing to the local streetscape and create a good level of enclosure.

Low-density and informal urban grain

These areas still have an informal urban grain, but less dense than Much Wenlock town centre. Homer and Bourton can be included in this category.

Formal urban grain

The 21st century development has been more linear in nature with numerous buildings built in a uniform style by single developers. Layout is generally more repetitive and regular in these more recent developments.

Standalone farms

Much Wenlock parish has vast open landscape areas that are dotted with smaller settlements and isolated farms.



Figure 20: Bull Ring



Figure 21: High Street from Gaskell corner



Figure 22: St Mary's Lane

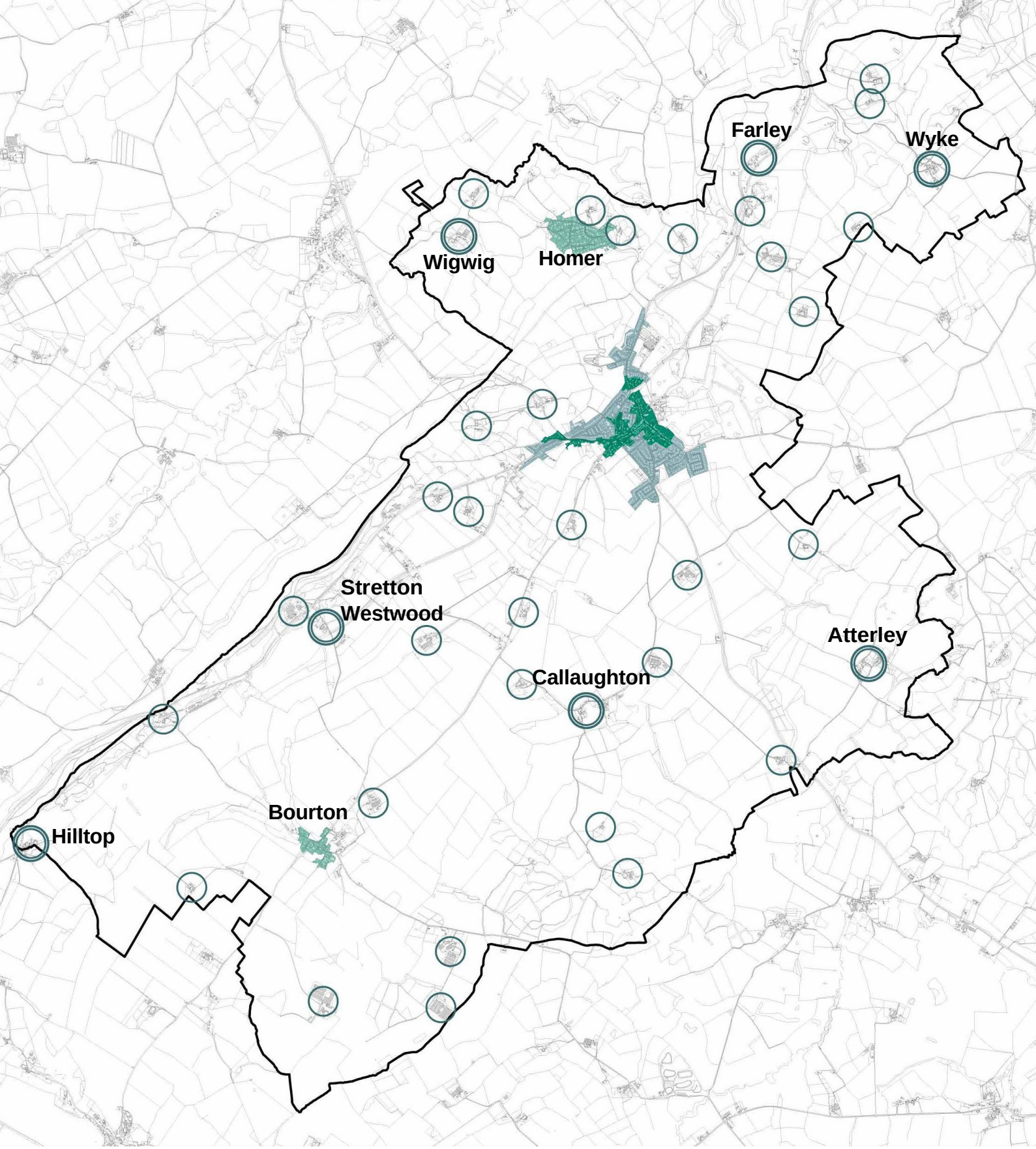


Figure 23: Settlements and farmsteads across the Neighbourhood Area

2.5 Historic assets

The Much Wenlock Conservation Area was originally designated in May 1970 and covers a large percentage of Much Wenlock town. The majority of buildings within the Conservation Area are residential, however many businesses are located at the ground floors and civic buildings can also be found. The Conservation Area contains many listed buildings, which are distributed along High Street, Barrow Street and Wilmore Street/ Sheinton Street in particular. One Scheduled monument, namely Wenlock Priory, can be found just off Bull Ring.

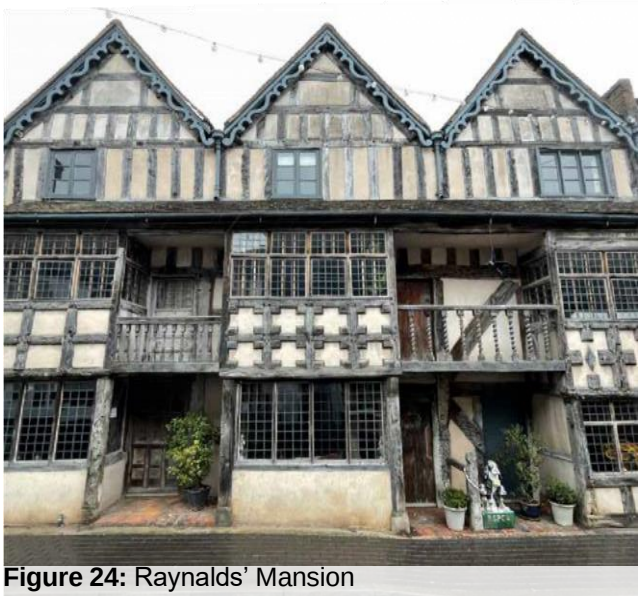


Figure 24: Raynalds' Mansion

The Bourton Conservation Area is located south-west of Much Wenlock town along the B4378. This Conservation Area was designated in October 1994 and includes six Listed Buildings. A medieval cross in the churchyard of the Holy Trinity church is also identified as a Scheduled Monument.

The parish includes 3 Grade I, 6 Grade II* and 94 Grade II Listed Buildings. In addition to the listed buildings, there are many high-quality examples of non-designated buildings such as imposing townhouses, modest cottages and terraces.



Figure 25: 47 High Street



Figure 26: Wenlock Abbey



Figure 27: Much Wenlock Conservation Area



Figure 28: Bourton Conservation Area

GRADE	HISTORIC ASSET	
Grade I Listed	CHURCH OF HOLY TRINITY WENLOCK ABBEY PRIORY OF ST MILBURGA (RUINS)	
Grade II* Listed	GUILDHALL GASKELL ARMS HOTEL 48, HIGH STREET 55 AND 56, HIGH STREET CHURCH OF HOLY TRINITY ASHFIELD HALL	
Grade II Listed	24, SHEINTON STREET 50, SHEINTON STREET 55-57, SHEINTON STREET 1, SMITHFIELD ROAD 6, WILMORE STREET THE STONE HOUSE 6, WYKE BOURTON MANOR LODGE OF BOURTON MANOR BOURTON HALL FARM HOUSE DOVECOTE AT BOURTON HALL FARM 1, BOURTON ROAD 2, BOURTON ROAD PRIORY COTTAGE THE PRIORY 7-10, BULL RING GEORGE AND DRAGON INN 5, HIGH STREET NOS. 10 AND 11, HIGH STREET 21 AND 22, HIGH STREET 41, HIGH STREET 44 AND 45, HIGH STREET 59 AND 60, HIGH STREET 61, HIGH STREET 63, HIGH STREET RAILINGS, GATE PIERS AND GATES OF MARDOL COTTAGE NO. 11 BARROW STREET 13 AND 14, BARROW STREET	22, BARROW STREET 27 AND 28, BARROW STREET RAVEN HOTEL 34, BARROW STREET OUTBUILDING AT REAR OF NUMBER 24 ST OWENS WELL 5, ST MARYS LANE ST MILBURGAS WELL 1-5, SHEINTON STREET 12, BARROW STREET 2 AND 3, WILMORE STREET 3 AND 4, HIGH STREET POST OFFICE 14, HIGH STREET 33 AND 34, HIGH STREET THE OLD VICARAGE 42 AND 43, HIGH STREET 57 AND 58, HIGH STREET CORN EXCHANGE 23, BARROW STREET THE POLICE STATION 6 AND 7, SMITHFIELD ROAD 23, HIGH STREET 47, HIGH STREET THE WOODHOUSE LODGE OF TICKWOOD HALL 16 AND 17, HIGH STREET 1, HIGH STREET 2 AND 3, VICTORIA ROAD

GRADE	HISTORIC ASSET
Grade II Listed	5, WILMORE STREET 1, WYKE 24, BARROW STREET 29, BARROW STREET 7 AND 8, BARROW STREET NOS. 5 AND 6, QUEEN STREET CHURCH HOUSE 19-21, BARROW STREET THE OLD WINDMILL TO WEST OF SHADWELL ROCK QUARRY 9, BARROW STREET 17 AND 18, BARROW STREET 25 AND 26, BARROW STREET 51-54, SHEINTON STREET 58 AND 59, SHEINTON STREET THE RED HOUSE 4, WILMORE STREET BURFORD HOUSE TICKWOOD HALL SCHOOL HOUSE PRIORY TOWER 11, BULL RING 6, HIGH STREET TALBOT INN 18-20, HIGH STREET 26-32, HIGH STREET 40, HIGH STREET FOX HOTEL 53 AND 54, HIGH STREET THE MANOR HOUSE 19, SHEINTON STREET STABLE AND CARTSHED RANGE EAST OF BRADLEY FARMHOUSE BARN IMMEDIATELY SOUTH EAST OF BRADLEY FARMHOUSE BRADLEY FARMHOUSE 24 AND 25, HIGH STREET 15 HIGH STREET 3, ST MARYS LANE BOURTON WAR MEMORIAL



Figure 29: Gaskell Arms Hotel



Figure 30: 48 High Street



Figure 31: Dovecote at Bourton Hall Farm

2.6 Landscape

Much Wenlock is fully included within the Shropshire Hills National Character Area. The area is characterised by bare-topped hills which contrast with mixed agriculture in valleys and dales. Upland and lowland heathland, wet woodland and lowland mixed deciduous woodland are the key habitats in the area. The sheep and beef cattle industry is strong in the area.

The primary landscape designation in Much Wenlock is Shropshire Hills National Landscape, which partially falls in the Neighbourhood Area to the north and borders it to the west. However, four SSSI can be found in the area, namely Wenlock Edge SSSI, Whitwell Coppice SSSI, Farley Dingle SSSI, and Tick Wood and Benthall Edge SSSI.

Views of the surrounding landscape are available from the main settlement of Much Wenlock and the routes that connect all the settlements of the Neighbourhood Area.

Much Wenlock is Shropshire Hills National Landscape

Key features of the National Landscape:

- A landscape of diversity and contrast created by varied geology, the Shropshire Hills provide a dramatic link between the Midlands and the Welsh mountains.
- Of the hills themselves, the craggy Stiperstones and Wrekin, the moorland plateau and valleys of the Long Mynd, the quarried Clee Hills, the wooded Wenlock Edge and the rolling Clun Forest all have their own character.
- Centuries of farming have shaped the landscape. 70% of the National Landscape is grazing land, and below the moorland and rough grass hilltops and commons lies a patchwork of fields rich in hedgerows and veteran trees. Ancient woodlands, wildflower meadows and orchards also survive, each habitat with its characteristic wildlife plants and invertebrates. Red grouse, skylark and dormouse are among the great variety of birds and mammals.
- The Rivers Clun, Teme and Onny, along with many smaller rivers and streams, are very unspoilt. Many are lined with alder, and home to important species such as freshwater crayfish and otter.
- A rich heritage of hillforts, castles, mottes and Offa's Dyke tell of centuries of border strife. Much of the pattern of dispersed settlement and small fields is very ancient. Stone, brick and timbered buildings combine with the industrial relics of lead mining, quarrying and charcoal burning. Off the beaten track, unspoilt and remote in the context of the West Midlands, the Shropshire Hills are a haven of tranquillity – peace and quiet, dark skies, and of high scenic and environmental quality.
- From the market towns to remote villages, strong and active communities are maintaining rural culture and traditions while adapting to changes. Opportunities for enjoyment and wellbeing are open to both locals and visitors through walks and outdoor activities which respect the area's qualities.

Wenlock Edge Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Wenlock Edge is a scarp of Silurian limestone which runs for over thirty kilometres (18.6 miles) from Craven Arms to Much Wenlock. It is a prominent and well-known feature, and is of interest for its extensive exposures of rocks of the Wenlock series (Silurian) and for the woodland, scrub and grassland that occur along the ridge. The site consists of several separate localities in the northern part of the Edge west of Much Wenlock.

Whitwell Coppice SSSI

As well as being an outstanding woodland this site has important geological exposures of Silurian age along the stream banks.

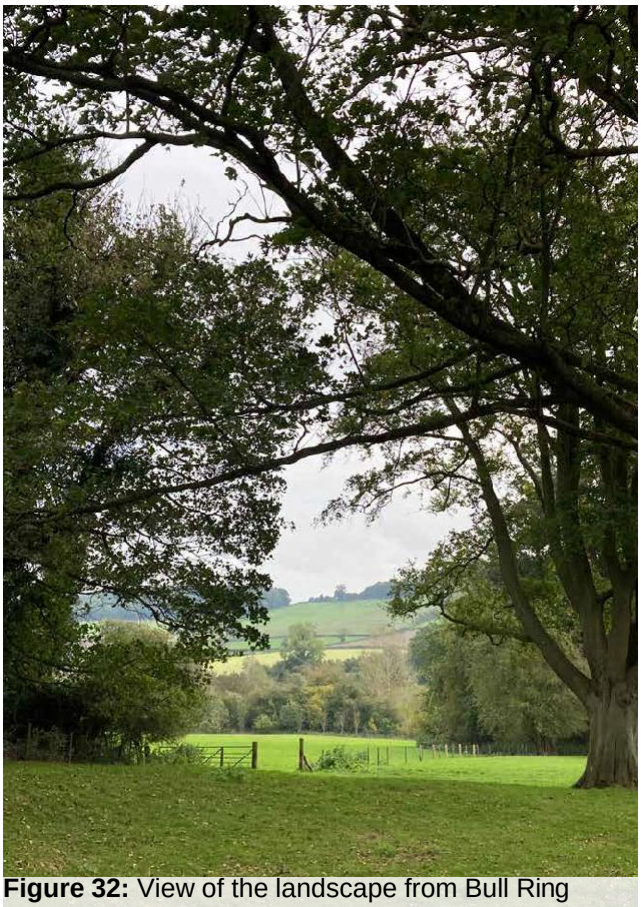


Figure 32: View of the landscape from Bull Ring

Farley Dingle SSSI

This site provides the best exposures of the Farley Member of the Wenlock Series, composed of alternating layers of shale and nodular limestone. The Farley Member represents the transition between the Coalbrookdale Formation (Wenlock Shale) and the overlying Wenlock Limestone. Farley Dingle shows the typical development of this transitional rock unit, which is thus named after it. This is the characteristic area for the Wenlock Series of rocks and this section is of outstanding importance because of the international significance of the standard sequence of Wenlock rocks which occurs here.

Tick Wood and Benthall Edge SSSI

An extensive area of ancient native mixed deciduous woodland on north and west facing scarp slopes overlooking the Severn Gorge. Most of this woodland lies on soils derived from Wenlock Limestone and Wenlock Shale of the Silurian Period, but an area at the eastern end of Benthall Edge wood is underlain by the clays and sandstones of the Coal Measures.



Figure 33: View of the landscape looking towards Callaughton from the B4378



Figure 34: View of the landscape from Bull Ring

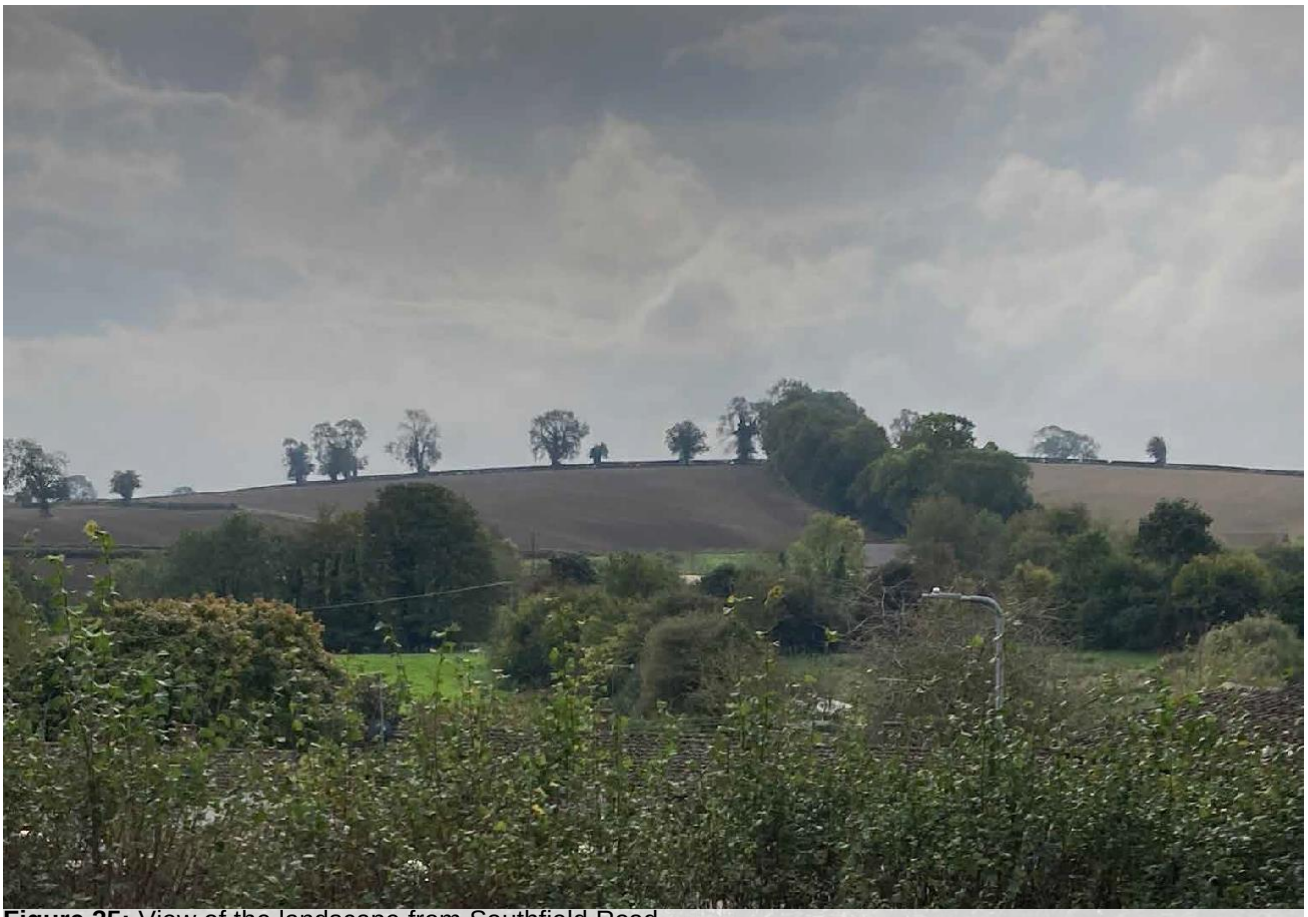


Figure 35: View of the landscape from Southfield Road

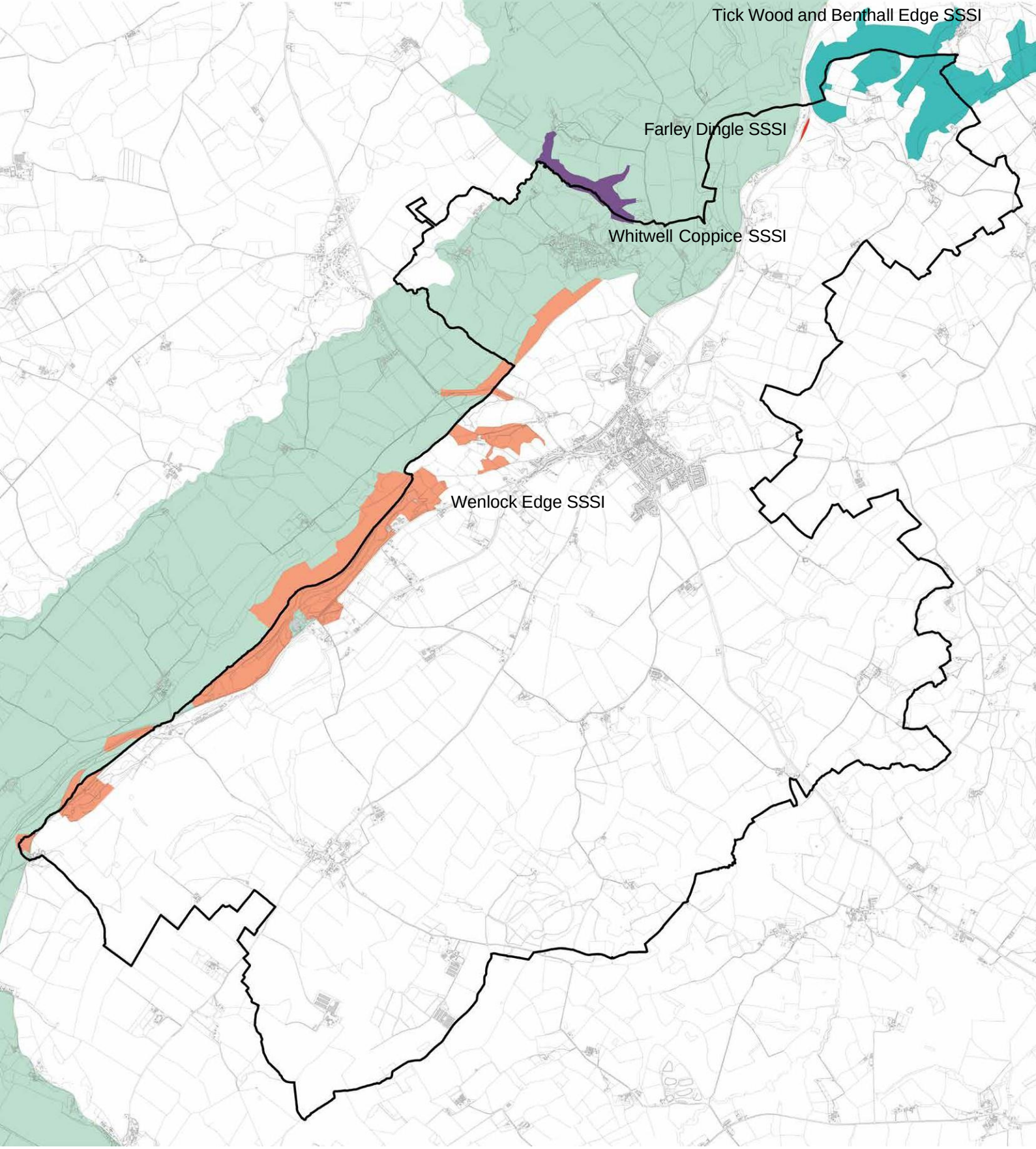


Figure 36: Landscape designations in the Neighbourhood Area

2.7 Movement networks

2.7.1 Non-vehicular Movement

The neighbourhood area has an attractive landscape setting with wooded areas and rolling hills. The area also forms part of the Shropshire Hills National Landscape. Access to these landscape features is made possible with numerous footpaths and public rights of way. This includes a number of long-distance footpaths such as the Cross Britain Way, Shropshire Way and Jack Mytton Way.



Figure 37: Sheinton Street

2.7.2 Vehicular Movement

Much Wenlock is located approximately 10 miles south-east of Shrewsbury and 7 miles south-west of Telford. The large village of Ironbridge is located approximately 4 miles to the north-east.

Much Wenlock is located on the A458. The A458 is a route on the UK highway network that runs from the edge of Snowdonia, in Wales, to the outskirts of Birmingham, in England. On the way it passes through Welshpool, Shrewsbury, Much Wenlock, Bridgnorth, Stourbridge and Halesowen. Victoria Road and Bridgnorth Road form part of this route within the town.



Figure 38: Barrow Street

The A4169 leads to the north of the town, crossing the River Severn and provides access to Ironbridge and Telford.

The B4371, B4378 and B4376 are more minor routes comprising country lanes, connecting Much Wenlock to the surrounding landscape and settlements.



Figure 39: Bridgnorth Road

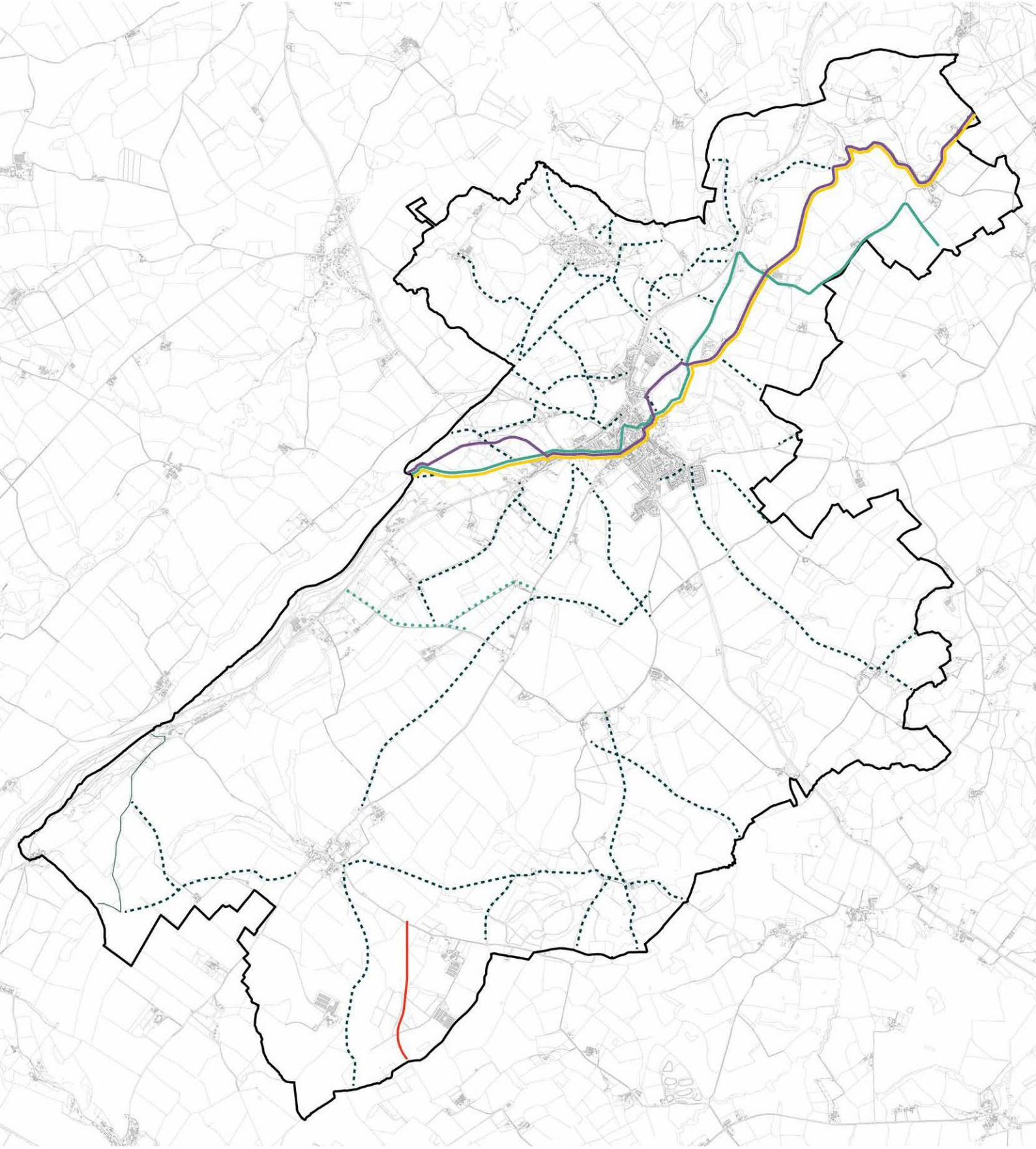


Figure 40: Much Wenlock's non-vehicular Movement Network

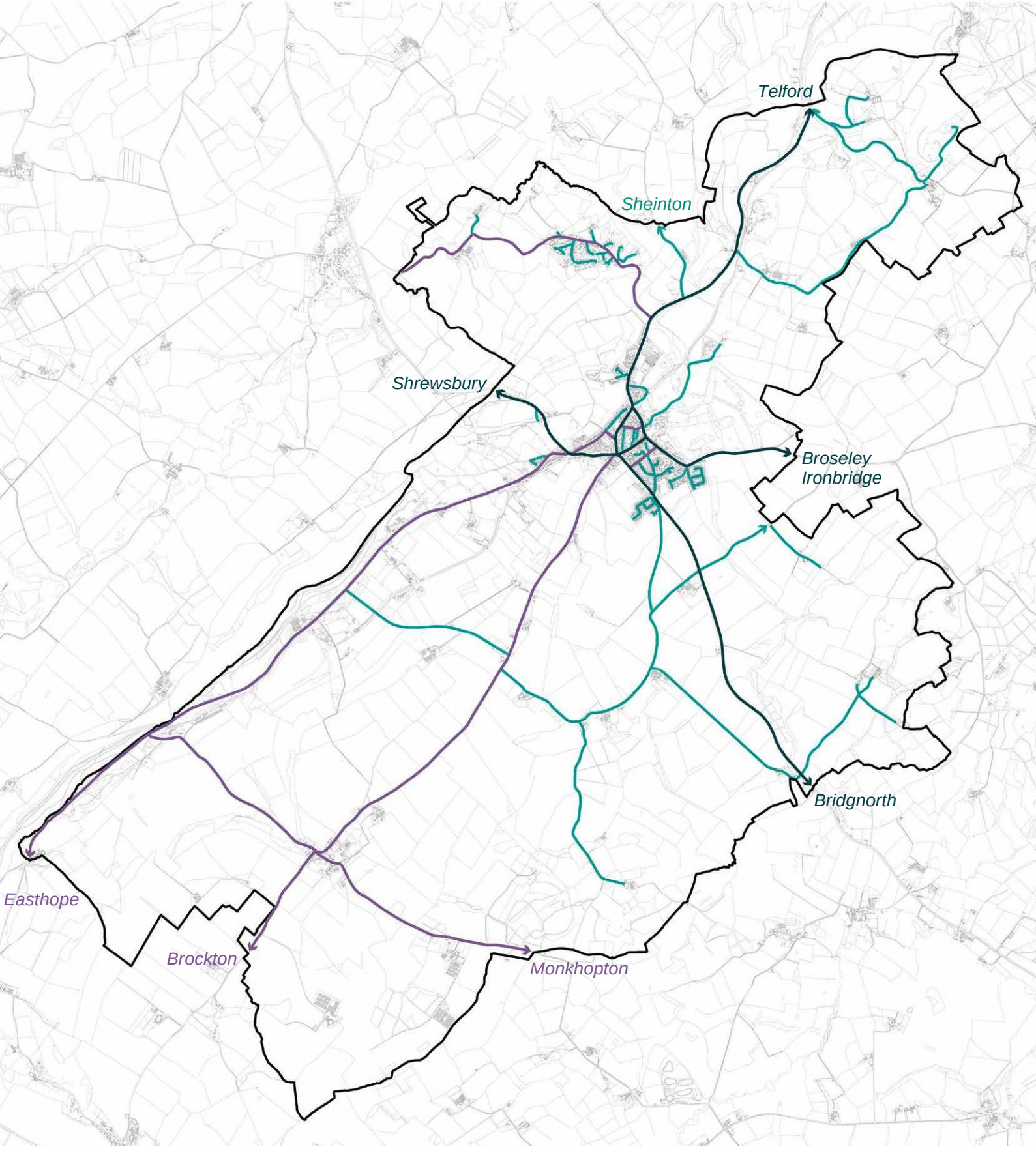


Figure 41: Much Wenlock's vehicular Movement Network

2.8 Water and Flood Risk

Much Wenlock lies to the south west of the ridge of Wenlock Edge, in a bowl surrounded by rising ground on three sides.

Surface water flooding is a major issue in the town with many of the streets affected when heavy rainfall events occur. The site allocation adjacent to Hunters Gate is an area that is particularly affected by surface water running from the higher ground across Bridgnorth Road.

Despite the commendable practice of ploughing horizontally behind residential areas, during heavy rainfall quantities of water now pour down into gardens from fields. This has impacted on the Hunters Gate development with surfaces suffering from water damage. Also, for the first time in twenty years this has affected dwellings on the south side of the Stretton road four times in the last twelve months.

After the severe flash flooding in the Cornish town of Boscastle in 2004, the Environment Agency was tasked to look at other catchments around the country that would behave in a similar manner should conditions prevail. A number of other catchments have been identified and the Shylte Brook, running through Much Wenlock, is one of them.



Figure 42: Dwellings with sand bags and flood gates on High Street

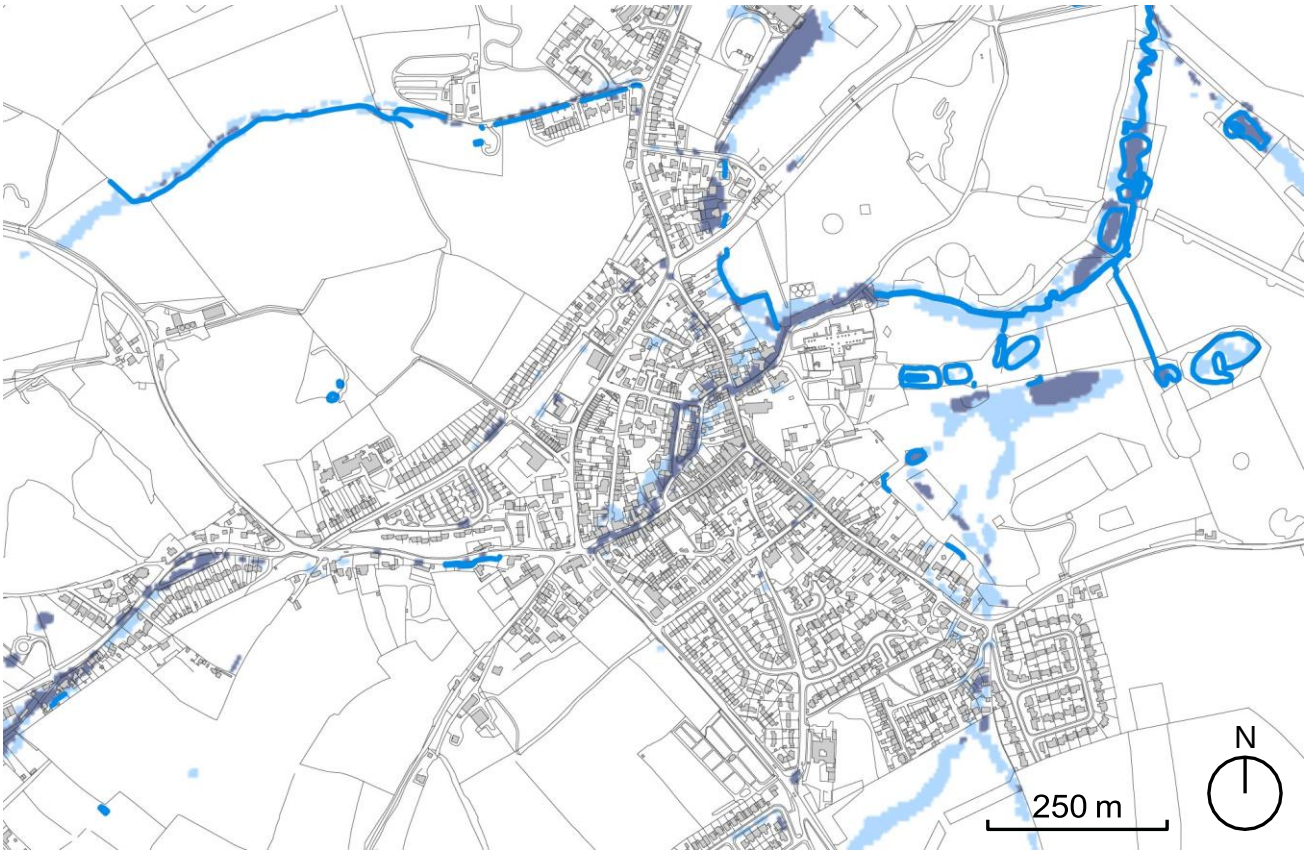


Figure 43: EA Surface Water flood risk map for Much Wenlock town

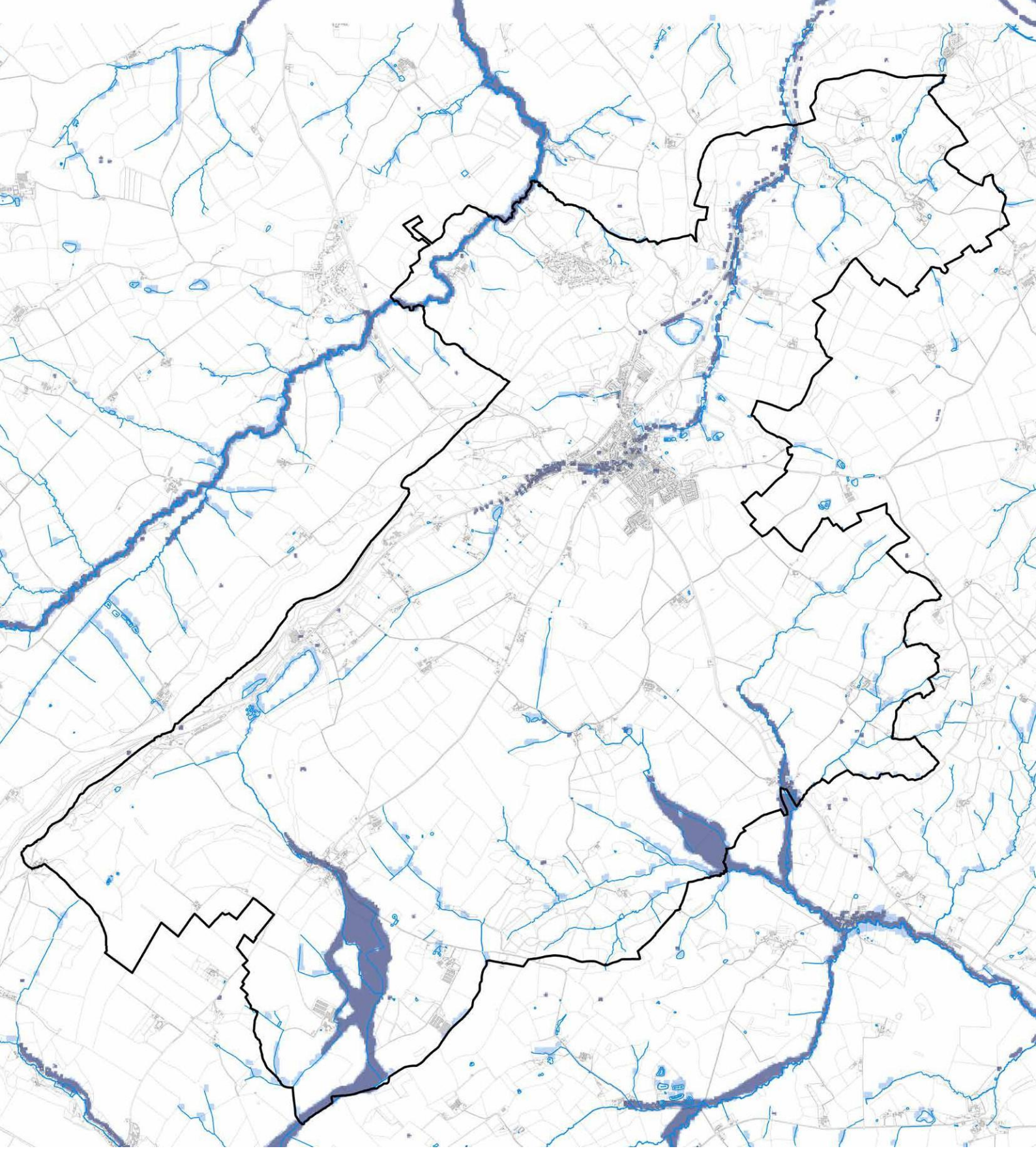


Figure 44: EA Flood from rivers Risk map for the Neighbourhood Area

2.9 Open space

Natural and informal open spaces are widely available in the Neighbourhood Area thanks to its rural character. However, formal open spaces can also be found, particularly in Much Wenlock town.

These spaces include local green spaces, such as Gaskell Recreational Ground to the north of the settlement that includes a football pitch. Next to it, a local green space called Windmill Hill surrounds the Old Windmill, a historical landmark of the Neighbourhood Area. The Church Green is another key local green space, located right in the core of the town. A series of other green spaces are found in the settlement, for example in Hunters Gate development to the south. There are also an Old Cemetery with a mortuary chapel and a New Cemetery. The Old Cemetery is an actively tended community open space.

Another key open space is the public square located at the core of the town where the Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee Clock is located. The square offers seating for the public and is enclosed by the historic buildings of the Conservation Area.

Two allotments can be found on Southfield Road and Bridgnorth Road.



Figure 46: Gaskell Recreation Ground



Figure 47: Church Green



Figure 45: Dr Brookes memorial at Gaskell Recreation Ground



Figure 48: View of the public square at the centre of the town with the Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee Clock



Figure 49: Key open spaces in Much Wenlock town



Character analysis

03

3. Character analysis

This section analyses the Neighbourhood Area according to a series of character areas. A study of each character area highlights examples of what makes that character area distinctive. These attributes can inform infill development and can serve as lessons (good and bad) for future developments.

3.1 Character analysis

A primary purpose of this document is to help generate sensitive and characterful design responses to existing settlements and their landscape settings.

Across the Neighbourhood Area, this includes a range of contexts including the Shropshire Hills National Landscape, wider countryside, rural hamlets, farms, and Much Wenlock's town centre.

This character analysis helps understand both the landscape setting and the detailed pattern of settlement growth that underpins the variety of character features across the Neighbourhood Area.

This analysis has been cross-checked on-site as part of this study with walking tours and photographic studies guided by local residents.

Each character area may require subtly different design detail responses regarding infill sites, regeneration or nearby growth that will be in keeping with each specific local context within the Neighbourhood Area.

Alternatively, the Neighbourhood Area may continue to acquire new layers with design approaches and concepts that are innovative and look to meet the future challenges of sustainability and biodiversity net gain. However, these responses must still seek to tie in with the landscape and townscape appeal that help give the Neighbourhood Area its distinctive character.

3.2 Character areas

The following character areas are illustrated on the map on the next page. These are defined in this study based on an analysis of the land use, layout, built form, and materials.

1 Historic Much Wenlock

This area covers Much Wenlock's conservation area and includes the historic core of the town as well as streets radiating from the centre.

2 Surrounding Settlements

These areas cover the settlements of Bourton, to the south-west of Much Wenlock town, and Homer, to its north-west.

3 Town Growth and Infill

This area comprises the development outside Much Wenlock Conservation Area but within the Town's main settlement area.

4 Farms and Countryside

This area comprises the landscape surrounding Much Wenlock and the smaller settlements of the Neighbourhood Area.

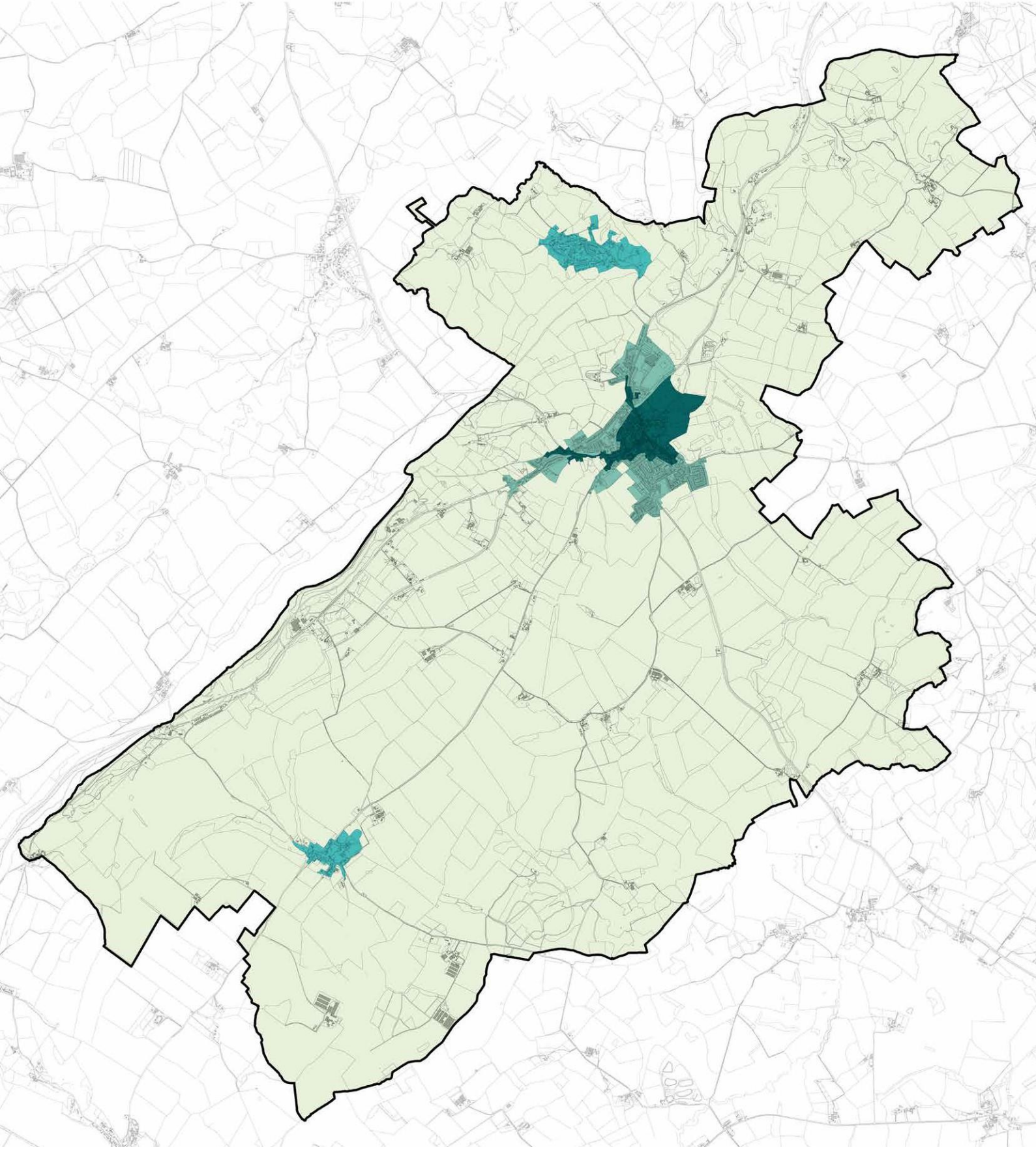


Figure 50: Character Areas within the Neighbourhood Area

1 Historic Much Wenlock

This area includes Much Wenlock's Conservation Area and contains the main retail and civic functions within the Neighbourhood Area with cafes and shops including High Street, Barrow Street and Wilmore Street as well as civic buildings such as the Corn Exchange and Guildhall. The area has a strong character dictated by the historical buildings and the traditional enclosed streetscape. This area also encompasses Wenlock Priory and its surrounding landscape.



Figure 51: Historic Much Wenlock character area

Factors	Appearance characteristics
Building types	Terraces (often joined-up to create a continuous façade); semi-detached houses; detached houses.
Building height	Dwellings range between 1 and 3.5 storeys. However, 2 and 3 storeys are the prevailing building heights.
Public realm	Pavements are located on most roads and are generally 1.5 or 2 metres wide. A public square is located at the intersection of Barrow Street and High Street, where the Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee Clock is.
Façade	Red brick; timber; limestone; render.
Roofing	Natural slate; Rosemary tiles.
Boundary treatments	Stone walls; iron fences; hedgerows; red brick walls.
Windows	Sashes; casements (various types); bay windows; oriel windows; dormer windows.
Doorways	Doorway with no canopy; shopfront doorway; gabled doorway.
Architectural features	Lintels; architraves; gables; dentillation; chimneys; floor fascias; quoins; decorative columns and arches; roof fascias.
Parking and setbacks	Parking: on-street, on-plot (side and back of the building); garages; communal car parks. Setbacks: from 0 metres to 15 metres.

Table 03: Character features table for Historic Much Wenlock character area

Key characteristics

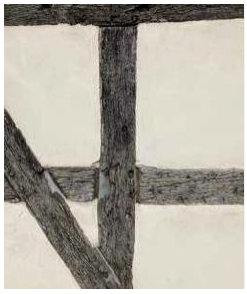
Colours and materiality

Façade

Red brick



Timber



Limestone



Render



Roofing

Natural slate



Rosemary tiles



Boundary treatments









Windows









Doorways







12 Surrounding Settlements

Bourton is a historic settlement to the southwest of Much Wenlock. The built form of the hamlet comprises Bourton Manor, Holy Trinity Church, farm buildings and a small number of dwellings.

Homer was historically an area of common land called Homer Wood. The settlement developed from squatters' cottages encroaching on the common during the 17th century. During the 19th century it served as accommodation for quarrymen and farm labourers. The village expanded in the later 20th century with the construction of small cul-de-sac developments.

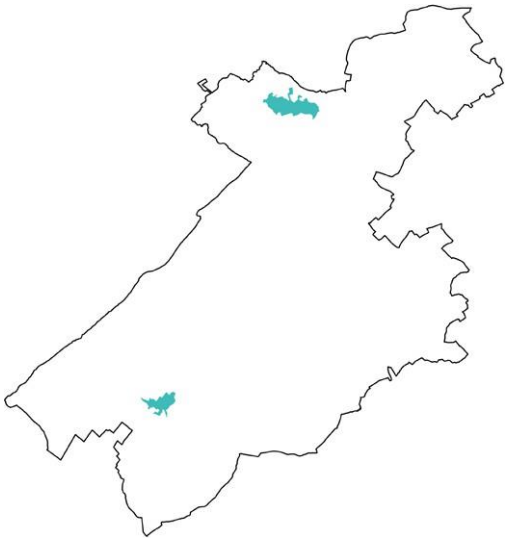


Figure 52: Surrounding Settlements character area

Factors	Appearance characteristics
Building types	Detached houses; semi-detached houses; farmhouses; farmsteads; barns.
Building height	Dwellings range between 1 and 3.5 storeys. However, 2 and 2.5 storeys are the prevailing building heights.
Public realm	Pavements are located on Vineyard Road and the Glen in Homer. The remaining roads are rural and generally have green verges.
Façade	Red brick; limestone; timber; render.
Roofing	Natural slate; concrete tiles; Rosemary tiles.
Boundary treatments	Hedgerows; timber fences; stone walls; red brick walls.
Windows	Casements (various types); bow windows; dormer windows.
Doorways	Doorway with no canopy; gabled doorway.
Architectural features	Lintels; architraves; gibbs surrounds; gables; dentillation; chimneys; quoins; decorative arches; roof fascias.
Parking and setbacks	Parking: on-plot (front and side of the building); garages. Setbacks: from 0 metres to 15 metres.

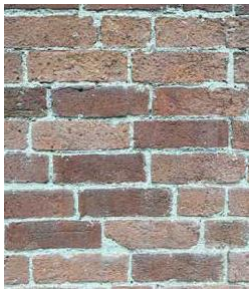
Table 04: Character features table for Surrounding Settlements character area

Key characteristics

Colours and materiality

Façade

Red brick



Limestone



Timber



Render



Roofing

Natural slate



Concrete tiles



Rosemary tiles



Boundary treatments









Windows









Doorways





3 Town Growth and Infill

These areas of more modern development include areas of social housing, small scale infill development and small urban extensions to the town. Development forms such as cul-de-sacs / estate forms as well as ribbon development along the roads at the extremities of the town are found here. The key developments in this area are Oakfield Park, Hunters Gate, Forester Avenue, Racecourse Road, Stretton Road and Station Road. Southfield Road and Havelock Crescent are examples of high quality social housing in terms both of architectural quality and domestic amenity.



Figure 53: Town Growth and Infill character area

Factors	Appearance characteristics
Building types	Detached houses; semi-detached houses; bungalows; townhouses; terraces.
Building height	Dwellings range between 1 and 3.5 storeys. However, 2 and 2.5 storeys are the prevailing building heights.
Public realm	Pavements are located on most roads, sometimes on both sides. Wide green verges are located on High Causeway, Stretton Road, Station Road, the A4169 and Swan Meadow. Two local green spaces are found at Hunters Gate and Havelock Crescent.
Façade	Red brick; timber; limestone; render.
Roofing	Natural slate; concrete tiles; Rosemary tiles.
Boundary treatments	Red brick walls; hedgerows; stone walls.
Windows	Casements (various types); bay windows; dormer windows; sashes.
Doorways	Doorway with no canopy; gabled doorway.
Architectural features	Lintels; architraves; gibbs surrounds; gables; dentillation; chimneys; roof fascias.
Parking and setbacks	Parking: on-street; on-plot (front, side and back of the building); garages; communal car parks. Setbacks: from 0 metres to 15 metres.

Table 05: Character features table for Town Growth and Infill character area

Key characteristics

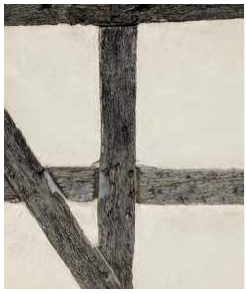
Colours and materiality

Façade

Red brick



Timber



Limestone



Render



Roofing

Natural slate



Concrete tiles



Rosemary tiles



Boundary treatments







Windows









Doorways





4 Farms and Countryside

This area has a significantly rural character as it is mostly covered by landscape. The area also includes numerous country lanes leading to small clusters of buildings associated with farms. These include Wenlock Edge as well as Hilltop, Callaughton, Wyke, Wig Wig, Farley, Atterley, and Stretton Westwood, as well as other farms and buildings scattered throughout the Neighbourhood Area.



Figure 54: Farms and Countryside character area

Factors	Appearance characteristics
Building types	Detached houses; semi-detached houses; farmhouses; farmsteads; barns.
Building height	Dwellings range between 1 and 2.5 storeys. However, 2 and 2.5 storeys are the prevailing building heights.
Public realm	No pavements can be found in these settlements, however green verges are widely observed.
Façade	Red brick; limestone; render.
Roofing	Natural slate; Rosemary tiles.
Boundary treatments	Hedgerows; stone walls; timber fences.
Windows	Casements (various types); bay windows; dormer windows; sashes.
Doorways	Doorway with no canopy; gabled doorway.
Architectural features	Lintels; architraves; gibbs surrounds; gables; dentillation; chimneys; roof fascias.
Parking and setbacks	Parking: on-plot (front and side of the building); garages; communal car parks. Setbacks: from 0 metres to 35 metres.

Table 06: Character features table for Town Growth and Infill character area

Key characteristics

Colours and materiality

Façade

Red brick



Limestone



Render



Roofing

Natural slate



Rosemary tiles



Boundary treatments







Windows









Doorways







Area-wide design guidelines

04

4. Area-wide design guidelines

The design codes and guidance set out in this section prioritise the character and quality of new development, responsive design for infill development and sustainable design approaches. These design codes should be read in conjunction with the Character study in section 3.

4.1 Introduction

This section provides guidance on the design of development, setting out expectations that relevant planning applications in the neighbourhood area will be expected to address.

The guidelines developed in this section focus on new housing. However, development should not be viewed in isolation and the design and layout of rural form must respond to the wider development pattern and landscape context.

The design codes and guidance set out in this section will provide that context and direction for infill development sites and provide guidance of relevant topics such as sustainable design and climate change. Wider lessons can be inferred from these for ecology and inclusive design.

The local pattern of streets and spaces, building traditions, materials and the natural environment should all help to determine the character and identity of a development. It is important for any proposal that full account is taken of the local context and that the new design embodies the ‘sense of place’, both in terms of local character and distinctive features such as listed buildings.

Responding to the context means recognising existing positive design solutions or using existing cues as inspiration (see chapter 3). Proposals for a new scheme could adopt a traditional approach or a contemporary design that is innovating with purpose, whilst being in harmony with the landscape. It is acknowledged that there is not always agreement on aesthetic issues and architectural taste but using appropriate design precedents and a clear design process will give results that are less subjective and do represent good design.

Contemporary design must improve and enhance the setting and sustainability of the neighbourhood area whilst not detracting from the appearance of the landscape characteristics of the Shropshire Hills National Landscape and its habitats.

The following topics are addressed by design codes in this section:

A - Character & Quality in New Development

B - Responsive Design for Infill Development and Extensions

C - Sustainable Design & Climate Resilience



Figure 55: Limestone building in Much Wenlock town

A Character & Quality in New Development

4.2 Character & Quality in New Development

The design codes below set out how to respond to the local features defined in the previous section. These responses must help formulate and review design proposals in line with local preferences for high-quality design.

A1 - Preserve and Enhance Character Features

- Development must be respectful of local character features, that must be preserved and enhanced within the town/villages. These include:

- The use of local materials for elevations: limestone, red brick and render create the varied character of Much Wenlock
- Roofs: natural slate, Rosemary tiles, red pantiles
- Fenestration: casements and sashes with lintels and quoins are reflective of the local character. Also, timber should be preferred over UPVC
- Doorways (unsheltered / with porches). Unlisted houses and other buildings if not replacing exterior front doors like for like should consider timber or wood composite doors, not UPVC.
- Boundary treatments (low limestone and red brick walls and hedgerows)
- Quoins, dentillation, street-facing gables;

- Design of details and features must respond to the settlement in which it is sited or adjacent to (including the surrounding landscape) to enhance the positive qualities of the area; and
- Designers must consider landscape and the rural character of the villages as a key feature to be preserved and enhanced.
- Naturally coloured lime mortar is a sustainable material which can be used for new builds as well as to repair traditional buildings.Its use can reduce erosion to brick and stone.

A2 - Massing and Layout

- Development must reflect the massing and arrangement of surrounding buildings, including height, depth and setbacks;
- Development layout should respect Much Wenlock Parish Council's historic and traditional character by creating an intimate streetscape with buildings facing the road and creating a continuous façade. Hunters Gate development can be considered a positive example.



Figure 56: Hunters Gate development



Figure 57: Key set of materials to be used in new developments

A3 – Local Economy

- Promote and support local green power generation for community benefit, using sustainable methods;
- Public-facing businesses are encouraged. However they must not disrupt the distinctive rural character of the area when located in rural settlements or at the edge of the settlement;
- Small rural enterprise projects, such as local shops and craft workshops are encouraged to bring vitality to the rural settlements of the Neighbourhood Area. Co-working and flexible working spaces should also be considered;
- Improve circular walks and permissible walkways in the area to connect the different settlements, as they are an essential feature and contribute to strengthening the relationship between Much Wenlock and the numerous settlements in the Neighbourhood Area;
- Upgrade existing footpaths, pavements and crossings to enhance connections to the surrounding towns, villages and the Shropshire Hills National Landscape to create an improved network; and
- Consider the rural character of the area as a distinctive feature and strengthen the relationship with the Shropshire Hills National Landscape to promote tourism.

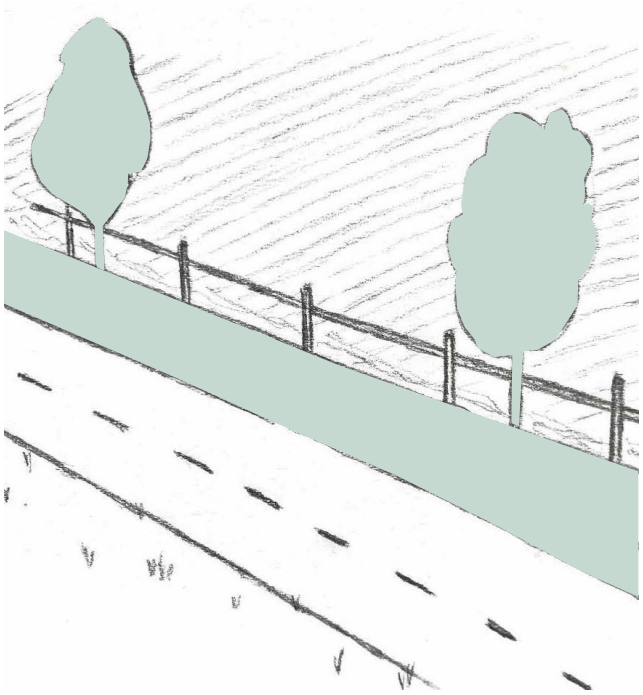


Figure 59: Footpath improvement



Figure 58: Barrow St. Cafe', Barrow Street

A4 – Car Parking

- Designers should consider different parking solutions, including:
  - On-plot car parks located at the front or side of the building;
  - Garages. Refer to local examples in the area.
- Service areas provided at the back of the building avoid visual impact on the rural character of the area. This solution should be particularly considered where car parks can have a major impact on the character of the streetscape;
- Integrate car parking sensitively within the streetscene. Where parking is required at the front of the plot it should be afforded sufficient space and utilise hedgerows to screen cars from the street. A series of unscreened car parks at the front of the building could have a detrimental impact on the streetscape;
- On-street parking, apart from visitor parking, will not be permitted. Single garages will not be considered to be a parking space. Electric vehicle charging points should be accessible for cars on driveways, garages or carports;
- Car parking spaces should comply with standards set out in the Shropshire Local Transport Plan and the respective accessibility requirements;
- Porous surface and green parking spaces (for example grass-crete) are preferable to impermeable parking spaces; and
- Garages are sometimes used for storage rather than for parking and should be set to the rear of the plot in an internal service area if possible.

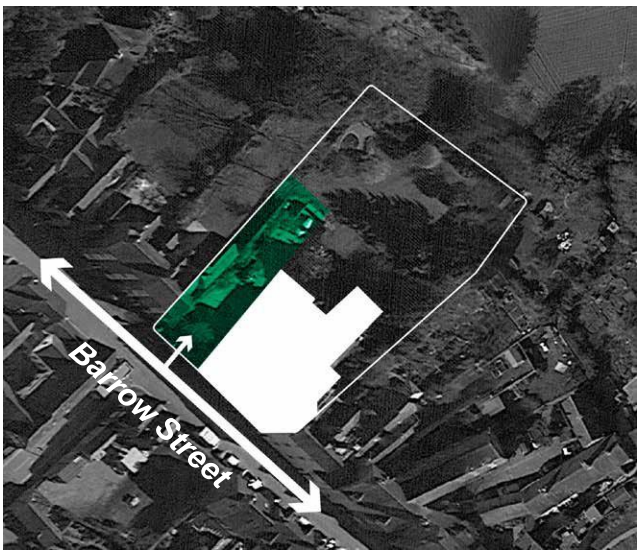


Figure 60: On-plot parking on Barrow Street



Figure 61: Garage in Sheinton Street

B Responsive Design for Infill Development and Extensions

4.3 Responsive Design for Infill Development and Extensions

Infill development is smaller scale development (Historically 1 or 2 homes within the NP area) within an existing developed context. This type of development commonly consists of three main types:

- Gap site development within a street frontage;
- Backland development; and
- Site redevelopment (for example, replacement of existing building/s).

Every future development should include environmental and social benefits, consider natural habitats, and include measures to combat climate change.

B1 – Overarching Aims

The overarching aim of these guidelines is to promote context-sensitive infill housing and extensions of a high quality. This should improve the street scene and locate new homes close to and in support of existing amenities. The following are key aims of the guidance:

- Protect residential amenities, both of new and existing occupiers;
- Contribute to the creation of distinctive and sustainable communities, places and spaces;
- Respect local vernacular architecture;
- Be of good design and encompass sustainability principles; and
- Respond to the context and character of the area.

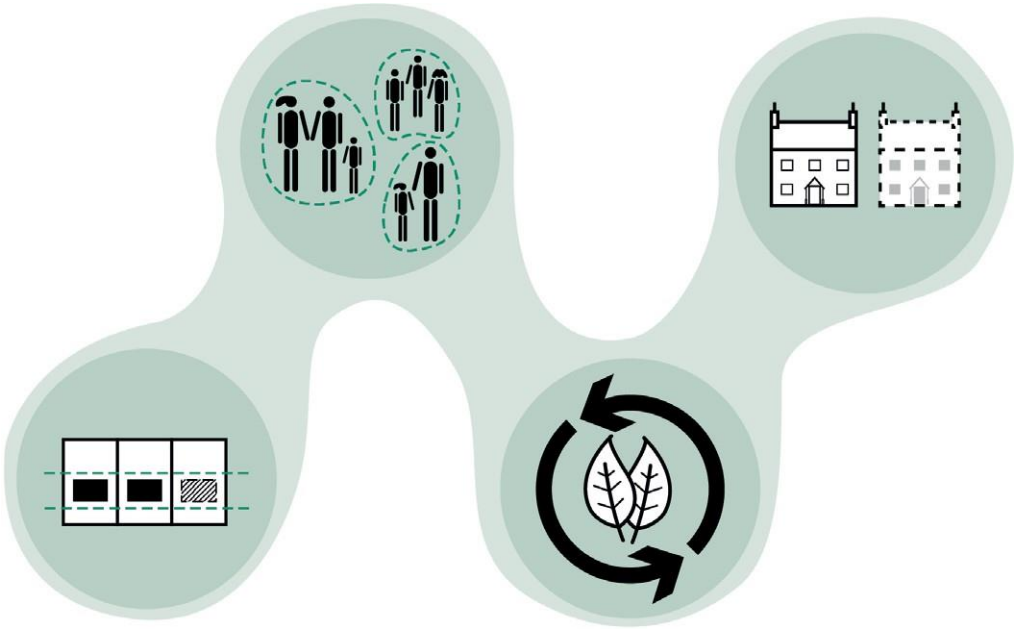


Figure 62: Infographic about Infill development overarching aims

B2 – Design Principles

The following design principles apply to infill development and extensions that may come forward via applications within the neighbourhood area:

- Artificial architectural features will not be permitted (for example, fibreglass and chimneys);
- Side extensions within the built environment will not normally be permitted but should be limited to a single-storey;
- Building scale and massing should be in keeping with the prevailing development pattern and not be overbearing on existing properties or deprive them of light, including over-looking or over-shadowing of both windows and amenity space;
- The building line should reflect the street and be set back no more than a maximum of 1.5m from adjacent buildings unless additional landscaping or tree planting is being introduced to the street scene;
- Where buildings are set back from the street a boundary should define the plot and link up to adjacent buildings / plots (for example hedgerows or low stone walls);
- Materials should reflect positive local characteristics and harmonise with adjacent buildings with matching or complementary materials. Limestone, red brick and render for elevations, and natural slate and Rosemary tiles for roofs are the predominant materials in the Neighbourhood Area and should be reflected in new development. Refer to the character study in the previous chapter;
- New and subdivided houses need off road bin storage. To facilitate this, the access to any shut/external passage should be retained when a house is subdivided.
- Building fenestration and pattern should be in keeping with the predominant buildings' character in the neighbourhood area or harmonise with adjacent buildings of positive character. Casements and sashes with lintels and quoins are recurrent in the area and new development should seek to include them. Timber should be preferred over UPVC;
- Building entrances will address the street with a main access and main fenestration. Corner buildings should address both streets with fenestration but the main entrance could be on either subject to access requirements. Unsheltered doorways or doorways with sandstone or timber porches and quoins are recurring in the Neighbourhood Area and should be reflected in new development. Refer to the character study in the previous chapter;
- Building façade design should respect the horizontal rhythm of plots and building subdivisions on the street in order to integrate and maintain visual continuity or add to the visual interest where required;

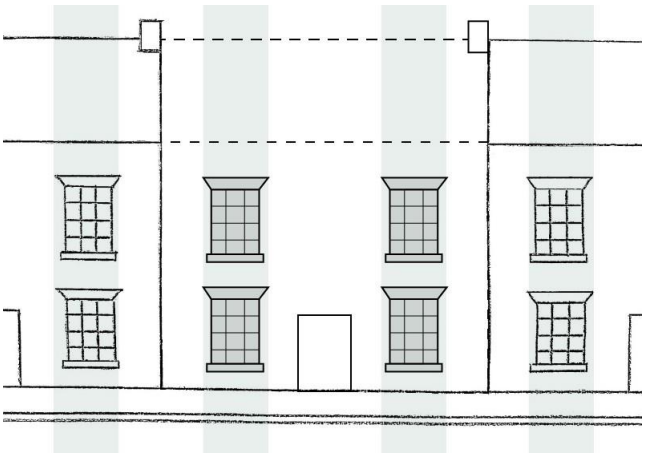


Figure 63: Good practice diagram: the window typology and fenestration pattern match the ones of neighbouring properties

- Building heights should vary between 1 - 2 storeys depending on adjacent plots. A variable eaves line and ridgeline is allowed to create interest but variation between adjacent buildings should be a maximum of 0.5 storeys in general;
- Front of plot areas and rear gardens should be of sufficient size and landscaped appropriately to fit in with prevailing planting pattern or to enhance the rural and natural character of the area;
- Rear or side plot boundaries which face public spaces must be hedgerows, stone walls or red brick walls to match adjacent plots and add to the streetscene quality. These boundary treatments should also be low to reflect the surrounding character of the area and allow natural surveillance;
- Access and storage for bins should be designed to accommodate 4 wheelie bins and be located at the rear of dwellings;
- Gaps between gables should be retained to preserve views of the surrounding countryside. Side extensions should also be limited to a single storey to presere gaps between buildings. Extensions should never result in the loss of an on-plot parking space; and
- The 25/45˚rule illustrated in Figure 62 should be used to ensure that there is no blocking of light or overbearing mass to adjoining properties when designing extensions or new dwellings.
- Access and storage for bins should be designed to accommodate 4 wheelie bins and be located at the rear of buildings. To facilitate this access to any shut/external passage should also be retained when a house is subdivided and or extended.

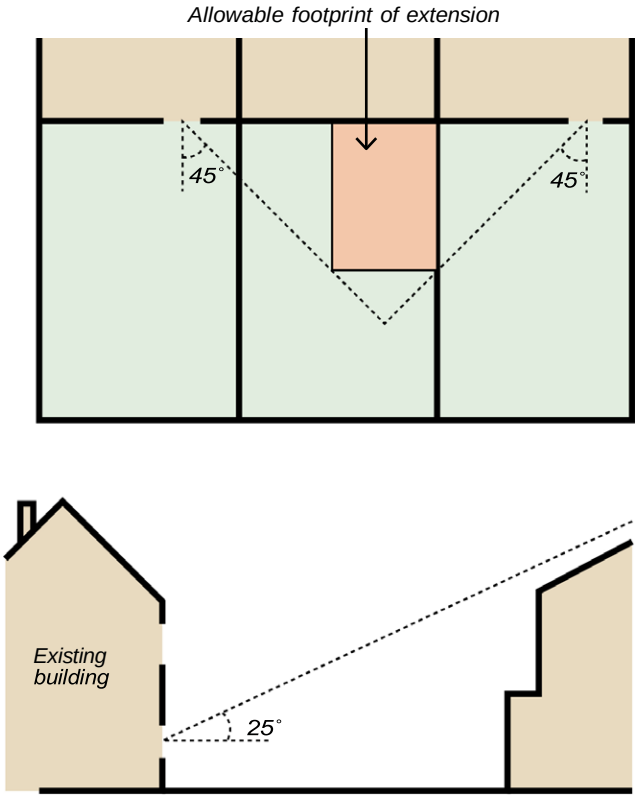


Figure 64: 25˚ / 45˚ rule

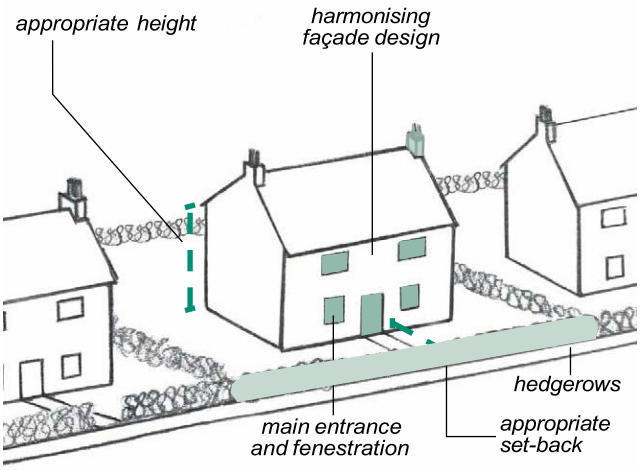


Figure 65: Positive example of infill development design

4.4 Sustainable Design & Climate Resilience

Climate change has created the need to decrease our carbon footprint towards net-zero by providing innovative solutions to transportation (electrification) and the energy use of buildings. Sustainable design incorporates innovative practices at all scales of design to achieve less impactful development footprints, whilst future-proofing homes, settlements and natural environments. Reducing the use of limited natural resources whilst increasing the utilisation of local resources and sustainable natural resources can help to achieve this.



C1 - Resilience to Climate Change

All new development should work to moderate extremes of temperature, wind, humidity, local flooding and pollution in the neighbourhood area:

- Homes should not be sited in high-risk flood areas nor in areas at high risk of surface water flooding. New developments must demonstrate how they intend to mitigate the risk of flooding with sustainable drainage systems (SuDS). These reduce the amount and rate at which surface water reaches sewers/watercourses. Often, the most sustainable option is collecting this water for reuse, for example in a water butt or rainwater harvesting system. This has the added benefit of reducing pressure on valuable water sources;
- Ecosystems cannot adapt as fast as the climate is changing leading to loss of biodiversity. Protecting and enhancing Much Wenlock's extensive natural landscape, including woodlands and watercourses, as well as making it more accessible for pedestrians and cyclists (for example upgrading existing footpaths and cycleways or adding further seating in parks) can combat this; and
- Use street trees and planting to provide shading and cooling and moderate and improve micro-climate for streets and spaces.

Figure 66: Protecting and enhancing the neighbourhood area's natural elements can combact loss of biodiversity

C2 – Assessing Alternative Energy Sources

Key considerations in the assessment of alternative energy sources for development may include (but are not limited to):

- Optimise solar orientation of buildings. Aim to increase the number of buildings on site that are oriented within 30’ of the south (both main fenestration and roof plane) for solar gain, solar energy (solar panels) and natural daylighting;
- Ground conditions to accommodate loops for ground source heat and space for air source heat pump units;
- Links to local estates for sustainable coppicing, harvesting or recycling of biomass fuels; and
- Local wind speed and direction in Much Wenlock for micro-generation wind turbines. Consider the visual impact of the flash of rotating blades on existing properties.

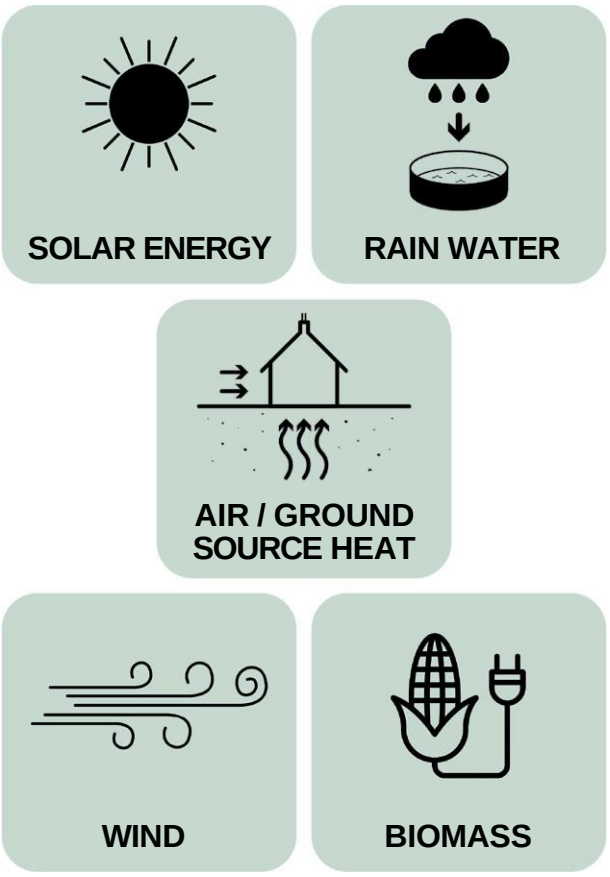


Figure 68: Key alternative natural energy sources



Figure 67: Micro-generation wind turbines can be discreetly applied on top of roofs

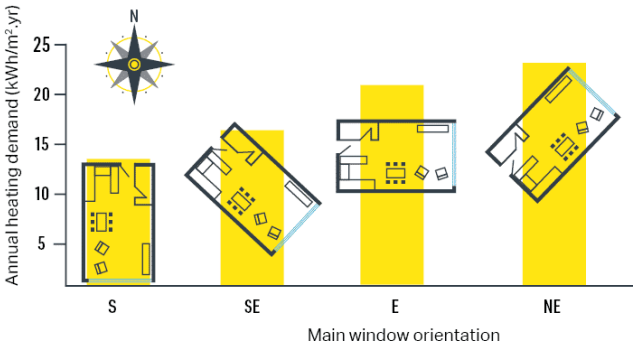


Figure 69: Building orientation influences the annual heating demand

C2 – Sustainable Drainage

The term SuDS stands for Sustainable Drainage Systems. It covers a range of approaches to managing surface water in a more sustainable way to reduce flood risk and improve water quality whilst improving amenity benefits.

- Form a ‘SuDS train’ of two or three different surface water management approaches;
- Integrate into development and improve amenity through early consideration in the development process and good design practices;
- SuDS are often as important in areas that are not directly in an area of flood risk themselves, as they can help reduce downstream flood risk by storing water upstream; and
- Some of the most effective SuDS are vegetated, using natural processes to slow and clean the water whilst increasing the biodiversity value of the area; and
- The location of SuDS features will respond to the topography on site.



Figure 71: Roadside SuDS

C3 – Electric Vehicle Charging

The current transition to electric vehicle technology and ownership comes with related issues that must be addressed by new development.

Design issues to address for Parking at the home:

- Convenient parking provided in internal service areas with charging points;
- Need to consider visitor parking / charging needs;
- If providing parking in service areas is not possible:
  - Potential to incorporate charging points under cover within car ports and garages;
  - Still need to integrate car parking sensitively within the streetscene. For example, parking set behind the building line or front of plot spaces lined with native hedgerow planting; and
  - Existing unallocated / on-street parking areas and feasibility of providing an on-street public vehicle charging infrastructure.



Figure 70: Home electric vehicles charging point

C4 - Energy Efficiency Measures Towards Net-Zero Carbon

By default, new development should adopt a fabric-first approach in line with the government's emerging Future Homes Standard, to attain higher standards of insulation and energy conservation.

- Reducing energy demand further by employing passive design principles for homes is desirable and can make some forms of development more acceptable to the community (window orientation, solar gain, solar shading, increased insulation, ventilation with heat recovery);
- Maximise on-site renewable energy generation (solar, ground source, air source and wind-driven); and
- Consider building form and thermal efficiency: terraces, semi-detached and detached all have different energy efficiency profiles. This must be balanced with local design preference and character considerations to ease acceptance for development.

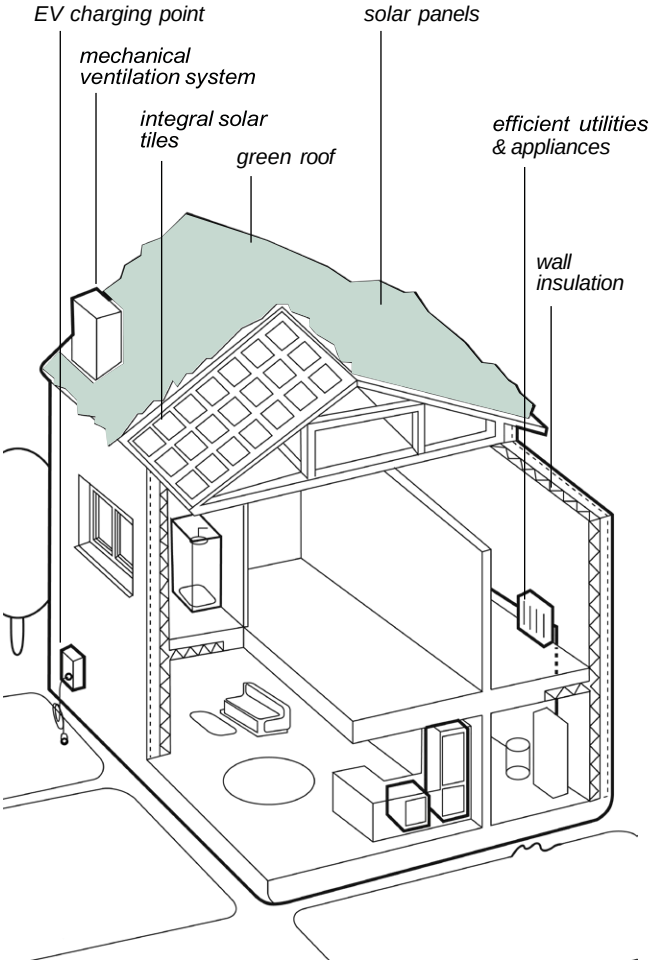


Figure 73: Cut-through diagram of an energy efficient home and its features



Figure 72: Solar panels on Barrow Street



Figure 74: Air source heat pump housing covers the unit and harmonises with the building aesthetic



Character area-specific Design Codes

05

5. Character area-specific Design Codes

The following section explores character area-specific design codes to address these peculiar features and characteristics.

5.1 Character area-specific approach

A primary purpose of this Design Guide and Codes is to help generate sensitive and characterful design responses to the existing settlements and their landscape settings.

Therefore, this document adopts a character area-specific approach to enhance the distinctiveness of each character area within the neighbourhood area. This will avoid the progressive acquisition of standard and generic design approaches, which could result in the loss of the peculiar features of the settlements that define their distinctive character.

The following section provides specific codes to promote the preservation of the key features identified in section 3 for each character area and enforce them.



Figure 75: The Guildhall



Figure 76: Wenlock Abbey

1 Historic Much Wenlock

5.2 Historic Much Wenlock Design Codes

The design codes below set out how to respond to Historic Much Wenlock's specific characteristics and features.

Historic Much Wenlock design recommendations:

- Design should reflect and enhance the traditional and historic character of the character area by:
  - Contributing to the intimate streetscape typical of the Conservation Area, particularly on High Street, Barrow Street and Shineton Street, as well as preserving existing cobbled spaces;
  - Respecting the palette of materials traditional of the area, including limestone, red brick and render;
  - Including architectural features and fenestration that can be found on most of the buildings in the Conservation area (lintels, architraves, gables, dentillation, floor fascias, quoins, decorative columns and arches, roof fascias, Yorkshire sliding sashes, leaded lights);
  - Contributing to the mixed look of the Conservation Area, which includes a variety of different materials, roof forms and building heights (ranging between 2 and 3.5 storeys);
  - Preserving and improving existing pavements to enhance the pedestrian vocation of the area;
  - Respecting existing heritage assets of the area with sensitive offset and harmonising materials and architectural features; and
  - Including businesses that address the street with traditional shopfronts.

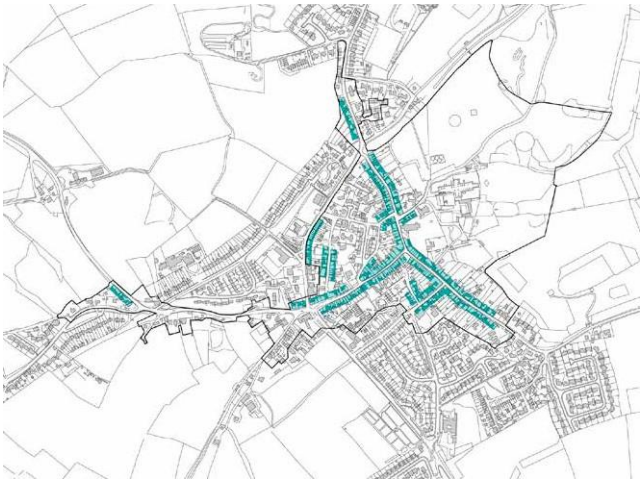


Figure 77: Enclosed streetscape in the character area



Figure 78: Traditional shop front on High Street

2 Surrounding Settlements

5.3 Bourton Design Codes

The design codes below set out how to respond to Bourton's specific characteristics and features.

Bourton design recommendations:

- Design should reflect and enhance the traditional and historic character of the village by:
  - Contributing to the tranquil and rural streetscape typical of the Conservation Area through low-rise buildings (2.5 storey limit) with space, light and views between houses;
  - Avoiding overbearing volumes that might disrupt the low-rise character of the village;
  - Respecting the palette of materials traditional of the area, including limestone, red brick and timber and natural slate and Rosemary tiles for roofs;
  - Including architectural features that can be found on most of the buildings in the Conservation area (lintels, gibbs surrounds, gables, dentillation, floor fascias, quoins Yorkshire sliding sashes). There are examples of limestone buildings with red brick quoins and detailing that could be considered as a character reference;
  - Preserving existing green verges and stone boundary walls; and
  - Being sensitive to existing listed buildings (e.g. Church of Holy Trinity)

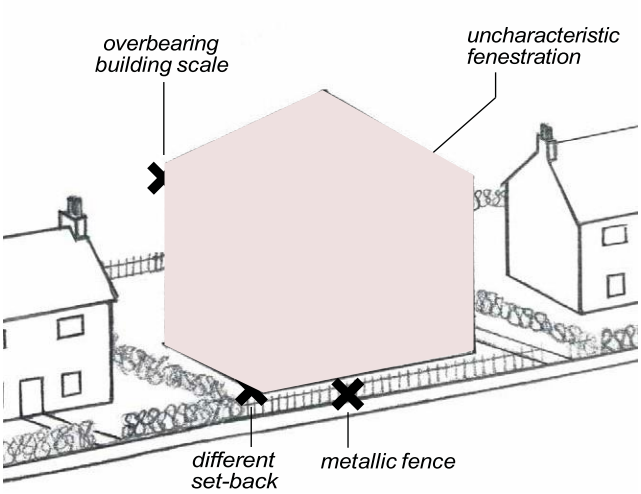


Figure 80: Unappropriate example of development with overbearing volume and unsuitable features



Figure 79: Local example of limestone building with red brick detailings

5.4 Homer Design Codes

The design codes below set out how to respond to Homer's specific characteristics and features.

Homer design recommendations:

- Design should reflect the character of the village by:
  - Reflecting typical house types (detached and semi-detached houses) and setbacks of the area;
  - Contributing to the tranquillity of the village through low-rise buildings (2.5 storey limit) with space, light and views between houses;
  - Reproducing the low-density pattern of the settlement, that allows wide gardens and distance amongst buildings;
  - Avoiding overbearing volumes that might disrupt the low-rise character of the village;
  - Respecting the palette of materials traditional of the area, including limestone, red brick and render, and natural slate and Rosemary tiles for roofs;
  - Including architectural features that can be found on most of the buildings (lintels, gables, dentillation, floor fascias, quoins);
  - Preserving existing green verges; and
  - Providing adequate pavements where suitable;

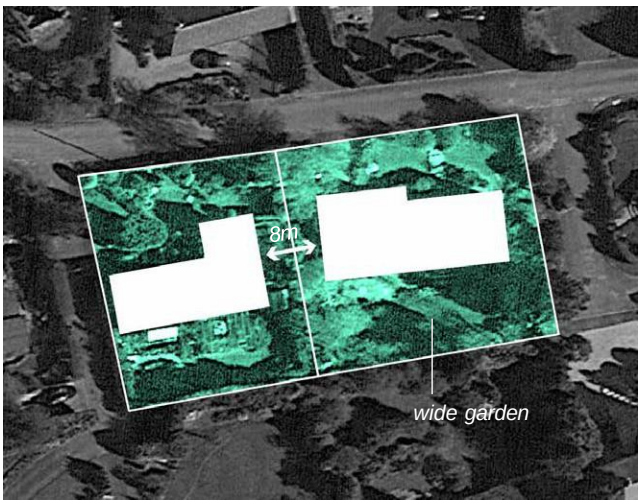


Figure 82: Properties have wide gardens that allow distance between buildings



Figure 81: Detached house on Woodside

3 Town Growth and Infill

5.5 Town Growth and Infill Design Codes

The design codes below set out how to respond to Town Growth and Infill's specific characteristics and features.

Town Growth and Infill design recommendations:

- New developments should include detached houses, semi-detached houses, bungalows, townhouses and terraces that can be found in the character area;
- Building height shouldn't exceed 3.5 storeys;
- Pavements should be provided;
- Design should aim to reflect the character of the Much Wenlock town centre, including its intimate streetscape, varied use of materials and varied roofscape;
- The character area is the edge of the town. Development should consider its impact on the surrounding landscape and avoid any detrimental effect on it through the use of sensitive materials and low-rise massing;
- New development should avoid cul-de-sacs and include pedestrian links to the surrounding developments to improve its pedestrian accessibility;
- Planting bands of trees at field margins adjacent to houses is recommended to avoid flooding into back gardens;
- New development should avoid cul-de-sacs and include pedestrian links to the surrounding developments to improve its pedestrian accessibility; and
- New development should include architectural features that can be found in the area to bring quality to the design and avoid standardised development.

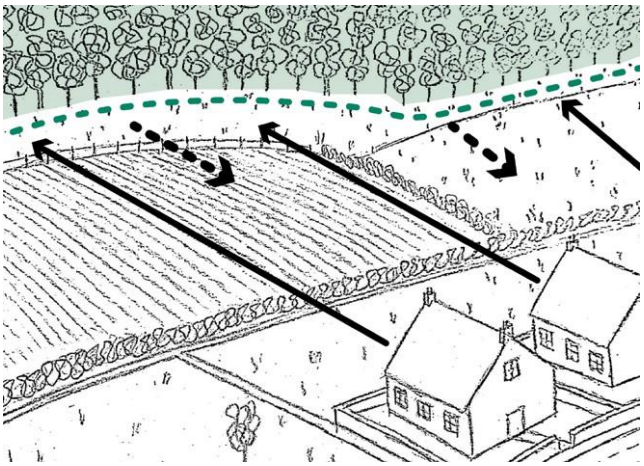


Figure 83: Development should consider any potential impact on the surrounding landscape



Figure 84: Hunters Gate has a varied roofscape and materials palette

4 Farms and Countryside

5.6 Farms and Countryside Design Codes

The design codes below set out how to respond to Farms and Countryside character area's specific characteristics and features.

Farms and Countryside design recommendations:

- Design should preserve and enhance the rural character of the area by:
  - Using local and sensitive materials such as limestone, red brick, natural slate and Rosemary tiles;
  - Considering house types that reflect the rural character of the area. These include detached houses, semi-detached houses, farmhouses, farmsteads and barns;
  - Keeping the development low-rise (2.5 storeys max), avoiding overbearing volumes that disrupt the beauty of the landscape;
  - Including architectural features and thresholds that can be found in most of the settlements of this character area (lintels, architraves, gibbs surrounds, gables, dentillation, roof fascias);
  - Preserving existing mature trees, vegetation, and existing green verges, as well as local species and habitats;
  - Preserve existing Listed Buildings (e.g Old Windmill);
  - Including new footpaths to promote the accessibility of these rural areas;
  - Considering existing vistas and long-distance views of the open landscape; and
  - Considering giving new life to former quarries found in the Neighbourhood Area. Unused quarries can be converted into natural assets such as parks and natural wildlife sites.



Figure 85: View of the natural landscape of the Neighbourhood Area from Bull Ring

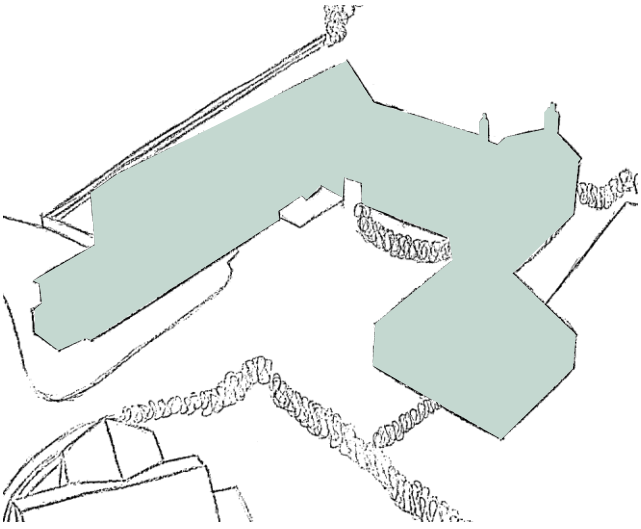


Figure 86: Farmhouses can be found in this character area and are representative of its rural and tranquil character



Policy Checklist

05

6. Design Considerations

This section sets out a general list of design considerations by topic for use as a quick reference guide in design workshops and discussions.

1

General design guidelines for new development:

- Does new development integrate with existing paths, streets, circulation networks and patterns of activity to allow accessibility and connectivity?
- Is there an opportunity to reinforce or enhance the established settlement character of streets, greens, and other spaces?
- Does the proposal harmonise with and enhance the existing settlement in terms of physical form, architecture and land use?
- Does the proposal relate well to local topography and landscape features, including prominent ridge lines and long-distance views?
- How can the local architecture and historic distinctiveness be reflected, respected, and reinforced?
- Have important existing features been retained and incorporated into the development?
- Have surrounding buildings been respected in terms of scale, height, form and massing?
- Are all components e.g. buildings, landscapes, access routes, parking and open space well related to each other?
- Does the proposal make sufficient provision for sustainable waste management (including facilities for kerbside collection, waste separation, and minimisation) without adverse impact on the street scene, the local landscape or the amenities of neighbours?
- Has management, maintenance and the upkeep of utilities been considered by the proposal?
- Is there an opportunity to implement passive environmental design principles (for example, site layout being optimised for beneficial solar gain, techniques to reduce energy demands and the incorporation of renewable energy sources)?
- Does the proposal adopt contextually appropriate materials and details?
- Does the proposal incorporate necessary services and drainage infrastructure without causing unacceptable harm to retained features?

2

Street grid and layout:

- Does it favour accessibility and connectivity? If not, why?
- What are the essential characteristics of the existing street pattern; are these reflected in the proposal?
- How will the new design or extension integrate with the existing street arrangement?
- Are the new points of access appropriate in terms of patterns of movement?
- Do the points of access conform to the statutory technical requirements?

3

Local green spaces, views & character:

- What are the particular characteristics of this area which have been taken into account in the design; i.e. what are the landscape qualities of the area?
- Does the proposal maintain or enhance any identified views or views in general?
- How does the proposal affect the trees on or adjacent to the site?

3

Local green spaces, views & character:

- Can trees be used to provide natural shading from unwanted solar gain? i.e. deciduous trees can limit solar gains in summer, while maximising them in winter.
- Has the proposal been considered within its wider physical context?
- Has the impact on the landscape quality of the area been taken into account?
- In rural locations, has the impact of the development on the tranquillity of the area been fully considered?
- How does the proposal impact on existing views which are important to the area and how are these views incorporated in the design?
- How does the proposal impact on existing views which are important to the area and how are these views incorporated in the design?
- Can any new views be created?
- Is there adequate amenity space for the development?
- Does the new development respect and enhance existing amenity space?
- Have opportunities for enhancing existing amenity spaces been explored?

3

Local green spaces, views & character:

- Will any communal amenity space be created? If so, how this will be used by the new owners and how will it be managed?
- Is there opportunity to increase the local area biodiversity?
- Can green space be used for natural flood prevention e.g. permeable landscaping, swales etc.?
- Can water bodies be used to provide evaporative cooling?
- Is there space to consider a ground source heat pump array, either horizontal ground loop or borehole (if excavation is required)?

4

Gateway and access features:

- What is the arrival point, how is it designed?
- Does the proposal maintain or enhance the existing gaps between settlements?
- Does the proposal affect or change the setting of a listed building or listed landscape?
- Is the landscaping to be hard or soft?

5

Buildings layout and grouping:

- What are the typical groupings of buildings?
- How have the existing groupings been reflected in the proposal?
- Are proposed groups of buildings offering variety and texture to the townscape?
- What effect would the proposal have on the streetscape?
- Does the proposal maintain the character of dwelling clusters stemming from the main road?
- Does the proposal overlook any adjacent properties or gardens? How is this mitigated?
- Subject to topography and the clustering of existing buildings, are new buildings oriented to incorporate passive solar design principles, with, for example, one of the main glazed elevations within 30° due south, whilst also minimising overheating risk?
- Can buildings with complementary energy profiles be clustered together such that a communal low carbon energy source could be used to supply multiple buildings that might require energy at different times of day or night? This is to reduce peak loads. And/or can waste heat from one building be extracted to provide cooling to that building as well as heat to another building?

6

Building line and boundary treatment:

- What are the characteristics of the building line?
- How has the building line been respected in the proposals?
- Has the appropriateness of the boundary treatments been considered in the context of the site?

7

Building heights and roofline:

- What are the characteristics of the roofline?
- Have the proposals paid careful attention to height, form, massing and scale?
- If a higher than average building(s) is proposed, what would be the reason for making the development higher?
- Will the roof structure be capable of supporting a photovoltaic or solar thermal array either now, or in the future?
- Will the inclusion of roof mounted renewable technologies be an issue from a visual or planning perspective? If so, can they be screened from view, being careful not to cause over shading?

8

Household extensions:

- Does the proposed design respect the character of the area and the immediate neighbourhood, and does it have an adverse impact on neighbouring properties in relation to privacy, overbearing or overshadowing impact?
- Is the roof form of the extension appropriate to the original dwelling (considering angle of pitch)?
- Do the proposed materials match those of the existing dwelling?
- In case of side extensions, does it retain important gaps within the street scene and avoid a ‘terracing effect’?
- Are there any proposed dormer roof extensions set within the roof slope?
- Does the proposed extension respond to the existing pattern of window and door openings?
- Is the side extension set back from the front of the house?
- Does the extension offer the opportunity to retrofit energy efficiency measures to the existing building?
- Can any materials be re-used in situ to reduce waste and embodied carbon?

9

Building materials & surface treatment:

- What is the distinctive material in the area?
- Does the proposed material harmonise with the local materials?
- Does the proposal use high-quality materials?
- Have the details of the windows, doors, eaves and roof details been addressed in the context of the overall design?
- Does the new proposed materials respect or enhance the existing area or adversely change its character?
- Are recycled materials, or those with high recycled content proposed?
- Has the embodied carbon of the materials been considered and are there options which can reduce the embodied carbon of the design? For example, wood structures and concrete alternatives.
- Can the proposed materials be locally and/or responsibly sourced? E.g. FSC timber, or certified under BES 6001, ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems?

10

Car parking:

- What parking solutions have been considered?
- Are the car spaces located and arranged in a way that is not dominant or detrimental to the sense of place?
- Has planting been considered to soften the presence of cars?
- Does the proposed car parking compromise the amenity of adjoining properties?
- Have the needs of wheelchair users been considered?
- Can electric vehicle charging points be provided?
- Can secure cycle storage be provided at an individual building level or through a central/ communal facility where appropriate?
- If covered car ports or cycle storage is included, can it incorporate roof mounted photovoltaic panels or a biodiverse roof in its design?

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Report of the Examination into the Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan 2024 – 2038

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No 5 Chambers,

Birmingham - London - Bristol

To Shropshire Council

And to Much Wenlock Town Council

7th November 2025.

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Report of the Examination into the

Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan 2024 – 2038

1. Introduction

Neighbourhood planning

1. The Localism Act 2011 Part 6 Chapter 3 introduced neighbourhood planning, including provision for neighbourhood development plans. A neighbourhood development plan should reflect the needs and priorities of the community concerned and should set out a positive vision for the future, setting planning policies to determine decisions on planning applications. If approved by a referendum and made by the local planning authority (as has happened here) such plans form part of the Development Plan for the neighbourhood concerned. Applications for planning permission should be determined in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

2. This report concerns a proposed modification ("the Draft Plan") to the Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan 2013-2026 which Shropshire Council ("SC") approved in 2014 ('the Made NDP"). The neighbourhood area was designated on 12th September 2012 and is the parish of Much Wenlock. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 ("PCPA") Schedule A2 provides the statutory framework for modifications of neighbourhood plans.

Appointment and role

3. SC with the consent of qualifying body, Much Wenlock Town Council ("MWTC"), has appointed me to undertake the independent examination of the Draft Plan in accordance with PCPA Sch A2 para 9(4). I am a planning barrister and am independent of SC, MWTC, and of those who have made representations in respect of the Draft NDP. I have been trained and approved by the Neighbourhood Planning Independent Examiner Referral Service and trained others who wish to be examiners. I have extensive experience both as a planning barrister and as a neighbourhood planning examiner. I do not have an interest in any land that is, or may be, affected by the Draft Plan.

4. My examination has involved considering written submissions and a detailed site visit on Saturday 18th October 2025. I have read and considered all the documents with which I have been provided.

Shropshire Council's determinations

5. The proposal is a modification proposal as defined in the PCPA Sch A2, paragraph 1. Before referring the matter to me, PCPA 2004 Sch A2 paragraph 8 required SC to consider

whether the draft plan complies with the provision made by or under PCPA sections 38A and 38B and to be satisfied:

(a) that MWTC is authorised for the purposes of a neighbourhood development plan to act in relation to the neighbourhood area concerned as a result of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 "TCPA" s 61F (as applied by PCPA s 38C(2)(a));

(b) that the proposal complies with provision made by or under s61F;

(c) that the proposal and the documents and information accompanying it (including the Draft Plan) comply with provision made by or under Schedule A2 paragraph 1; and

(d) that MWTC has complied with the requirements of regulations made under Sch A2 paragraph 4 of the Schedule imposed on it in relation to the proposal.

6. SC was satisfied with these. It was right to be so satisfied. These requirements in respect of modification proposals have been met.

2. My preliminary determination

7. I must first determine whether the modifications contained in the Draft Plan are so significant or substantial as to change the nature of the neighbourhood development plan which the Draft Plan would replace.[1] I determined that the modifications would be so significant as to change the nature of the Made Plan. The reasons for this determination were the same as those in the Modification Statement. In particular, I noted that the draft Plan contains 13 new policies.

3. My role

8. My role may be summarised briefly as to consider whether certain statutory requirements have been met, to consider whether the Draft NDP meets the basic conditions, to consider human rights issues, to recommend which of the three options specified in paragraph 16 below applies and, if appropriate, to consider the referendum area. I must act proportionately, recognising that Parliament has intended the neighbourhood plan process to be relatively inexpensive with costs being proportionate.

4. Other Preliminary Matters

Public consultation

9. Consultation and community involvement are important parts of the process of producing a neighbourhood plan. Community engagement is summarised in the Draft NDP's paragraphs 1.17 and 1.18. Details of Consultation are contained in the Consultation Statement. I am satisfied that MWTC took public consultation seriously and that consultation is accurately

[1] PCPA Sch A2 para 10(1).

recorded in the Consultation Statement. Consultation has been sufficient and meets the requirements of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 ("the General Regulations") and the human rights of occupiers of homes and of property owners.

Other statutory requirements

10. I am also satisfied of the following matters:

(1) The neighbourhood area consists of the parish of Much Wenlock.[2]. MWTC is authorised to act in respect of this area (Town and Country Planning Act 1990 ("TCPA") s61F (1) as read with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 ("PCPA") s38C (2)(a));

(2) The Draft NDP does not include provision about development that is excluded development as defined in TCPA s61K (PCPA s38B (1)(b) and (6)), and does not relate to more than one neighbourhood area (PCPA s38B (1)(c);

(3) No neighbourhood development plan has been made for the neighbourhood area other than the Made Plan;

(4) There is no conflict with PCPA s38A and s38B (TCPA Sch 4B para 8(1)(b) and PCPA s38C (5)(b)); and

(5) The Draft NDP specifies the period for which it is to have effect, namely 2024-2038, as required by PCPA s38B(1)(a).

11. I am satisfied with the Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Statement (November 2024) and with the Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Statement (November 2024).

5. The Extent and Limits of an Examiner's Role

12. I am required to consider whether the Draft NDP meets the basic conditions specified in PCPA Sch A2 para 11(2), namely:

(a) having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State, it is appropriate to make the Plan;

(b) the making of the Plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development;

(c) 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);

(d) the making of the Plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, assimilated *obligations; and*

[2] This is shown on the Draft NDP's Figure 1 .

(e) prescribed conditions are met in relation to the Plan and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the Plan.

13. There is one relevant prescribed basic condition:[3] *"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."* Chapter 8 comprises regulations 105 to 111.

14. TCPA Sch 4B para 8(6) and para 10(3)(b) and the Human Rights Act 1998 mean that I must consider whether the Draft NDP is compatible with Convention rights. *'Convention rights'* are defined in the Human Rights Act 1998 as (a) Articles 2 to 12 and 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights ("the Convention"), (b) Articles 1 to 3 of its First Protocol, and (c) Article 1 of its Thirteenth Protocol, as read with Articles 16 to 18 of the Convention. The Convention rights that are most likely to be relevant to town and country planning are those under the Convention's Article 6(1), 8 and 14 and under its First Protocol Article 1.

15. In my examination of the substantial merits of the Draft NDP, I may not consider matters other than those specified above.[4] In particular, I may not consider whether any other test, such as the soundness test provided for in respect of independent examinations under PCPA s20, is met.[5] Rather, Parliament has decided not to use the soundness test, but to use the, to some extent, less demanding tests in the basic conditions. It is important to avoid unduly onerous demands on qualifying bodies. It is not my role to rewrite a neighbourhood development plan to create the plan that I would have written for the area. It is not my role to impose a different vision on the community or to examine non-policy actions.

16. Having considered the basic conditions and human rights, I have three options, which I must exercise in the light of my findings. I must recommend:

(a) that the local planning authority should make the draft plan,

(b) that the local planning authority should make the draft plan with the modifications specified in the report, or

(c) that the local planning authority should not make the draft plan.[6]

17. My power to recommend modifications is limited by statute in the following terms:

The only modifications that may be recommended are—

(a) modifications that the examiner considers need to be made to secure that the draft plan meets the basic conditions …

---

3 Sch 2 para 1 of the General Regulations prescribes this. PPG Reference ID: 41-079-20190509.

4 PCPA Sch A2 para 11(3).

5 Woodcock Holdings Ltd *v.* Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government [2015] EWHC 1173 (Admin), 1st May 2015, Holgate J., para 57; *R.* (Crownhall Estates Limited) *v.* Chichester District Council [2016] EWHC 73 (Admin) 21st January 2016, Holgate J., para 29; PPG Reference ID: 41-055-2018022.

6 PCPA Sch A2 para 13(2).

(b) modifications that the examiner considers need to be made to secure that the draft plan is compatible with the Convention rights,

(c) modifications that the examiner considers need to be made to secure that the draft plan complies with the provision made by or under sections 38A and 38B, and

(d) modifications for the purpose of correcting errors.[7]

18. The word *"only"* prevents me recommending any other modifications. The fact that a modification would be of benefit is not a sufficient ground in itself to recommend it. So, for example, the fact that a policy could be strengthened or added to does not justify a modification unless this is necessary for the reasons given above. I must not take an excessively restrictive view of the power to recommend modifications, but must bear in mind Lindblom LJ's explanation of its extent in his judgment in Kebbell Developments Ltd *v.* Leeds City Council.[8] Errors include statements that were correct when written, but have become out of date. I may not recommend a modification that would put the Draft NDP in breach of a basic condition or of human rights. When I conclude that a modification is necessary, I must, in deciding its wording, bear in mind material considerations including government advice. This includes the importance of localism. Where I properly can, my recommended modifications seek to limit the extent to which the substance of the Draft NDP is changed.

19. It is not my role to consider matters that are solely for the determination of other bodies such as SC, the Environment Agency or Historic England. Nor is it my role to consider matters that an NDP could consider, but which are not considered in the Draft NDP, unless this is necessary for my role as explained above. It is not my role to consider aspirations that are not policies.

6. Consideration of Representations

20. I have read each representation and given it careful consideration, but have not felt it necessary to respond to all of them. Rather in accordance with the statutory requirement[9] and bearing in mind the judgment of Lang J in *R.* (Bewley Homes Plc) *v.* Waverley Borough Council,[10] I have mainly concentrated on giving reasons for each of my recommendations.[11] Where I am required to consider the effect of the whole Draft NDP, I have borne it all in mind. Substantial parts of the responses suggest additions to draft NDP. However, I can only recommend modifications for the reasons given in paragraph 17 above.

---

7 PCPA Sch A2 para 13(3).

8 [2018] EWCA Civ 450, 14th March 2018, paras 34 and 35.

9 PCPA Sch A2 para 13(5)(a).

10 [2017] EWHC 1776 (Admin), Lang J, 18th July 2017.

11 TCPA Sch 4B, para 10(6).

7. Public Hearing and Site Visit

21. The general rule is that the examination of the issues by the examiner is to take the form of the consideration of the written representations.[12] However, an examiner must cause a hearing to be held for the purpose of receiving oral representations about a particular issue in any case where the examiner considers that there are exceptional reasons for doing so, or in such other cases as may be prescribed.[13] Neither applies. I therefore did not hold a public hearing.

22. I decided that an unaccompanied site visit was necessary and held a detailed one on Saturday 18th October 2025. The weather was fine, there were no impediments to the visit and I was able to see all that I wished to see. The site visit included, but was not limited to, viewing: Much Wenlock, Bourton, Homer and Wigwig; all proposed non-designated heritage assets but one;[14] all proposed local green spaces; both conservation areas; and specific locations mentioned in representations. The site visit helped me to gain a sufficient impression of the nature of the area for the purpose of my role.

8. Basic Conditions and Human Rights

Regard to national policies and advice

23. The first basic condition requires that I consider whether it is appropriate that the NDP should be made *"having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State"*. A requirement to have regard to policies and advice does not require that such policy and advice must necessarily be followed, but they should only be departed from if there are clear reasons, which should be explained, for doing so.[15]

24. The main document in which national planning policy is contained is the National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024) as amended slightly[16] on 7th February 2025 ("NPPF") and I have borne that in mind. Other policy and advice that I have borne in mind includes national Planning Practice Guidance ("PPG").

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12 PCPA Sch A2 para 12(1); PPG Reference ID: 41-056-20180222.

13 PCPA Sch A2 para 12 (2).

14 Havelock Well, Stretton Road (proposed non-designated heritage asset 14), which is on a very overgrown wall.

15 *R.* (Lochailort Investments Limited) *v.* Mendip District Council [2020] EWCA Civ 1259, Lewison LJ, 2nd October 2020, paras 6, 31 and 33.

16 The amendments were to correct cross-references from footnotes 7 and 8 and to amend the paragraph 155's first sentence and were not intended to change policy.

Contributing to the achievement of sustainable development

25. The second basic condition means that I must consider whether the making of the Plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. Unless the Draft NDP, or the Draft NDP as modified, contributes to sustainable development, it cannot be made. This condition relates to the making of the Plan as a whole. It does not require that each policy in it must contribute to sustainable development. It does require me to consider whether constraints might prevent sustainable development and, if they might, whether the evidence justifies them. That involves consideration of site-specific constraints, both existing and those proposed in the Draft NDP. The total effect of the constraints in the Draft NDP when read with existing constraints must not prevent the achievement of sustainable development.

General conformity with the development plan's strategic policies

26. The third basic condition means that I must consider whether the Draft NDP as a whole is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority. The development plan for the purpose of my examination does not include the made NDP.[17] It includes the Shropshire Core Strategy (adopted 2011) and the Site Allocations and Management of Development (SAMDev) Plan (adopted 2015). SC is at an early stage of preparing a new Local Plan for the period to 2045. It is anticipated that this will be adopted in 2028 and will establish a new settlement hierarchy with, where appropriate, growth strategies for settlements. This is not relevant to this basic condition.

27. The adjective *'general'* allows a degree of (but by no means unlimited) flexibility and requires the exercise of planning judgement. The Draft NDP *"need not slavishly adopt every detail"*.[18] This basic condition only applies to strategic policies - there is no conformity requirement under it in respect of non-strategic policies in the development plan, or in respect of other local authority documents that do not form part of the adopted development plan, although such documents may be relevant to other matters. In assessing general conformity and whether a policy is strategic, I have borne in mind helpful PPG advice.[19] I have also born in mind the relevant part of the judgment in R. (Swan Quay LLP) *v.* Swale District Council.[20]

Assimilated obligations

28. The fourth basic condition requires me to consider whether the Draft NDP breaches, or is otherwise incompatible with, assimilated obligations (formerly retained EU obligations). I have in particular considered the following, together with the UK statutory instruments implementing them in England: the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive

17 PCPA Sch A2 para 16.

18 Wiltshire Council *v.* Cooper Estates Strategic Land Ltd [2019] EWCA Civ 840, para 3, 16th May 2019.

19 PPG Reference IDs: 41-074-20140306; 41-075-20190509; 41-076-20190509; and 41-077-20190509.

20 [2017] EWHC 420 (Admin), para 29, Dove J, 27th January 2017.

(2001/42/EC); the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (2011/92/EU); the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC); the Wild Birds Directive (2009/147/EC); the Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC); the Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC); the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC); and the General Data Protection Regulation (2016/679/EU). I have also considered the judgment of the European Court of Justice in People Over Wind *v.* Coillte Teoranta.[21] I have borne in mind that proportionality is a concept of and underlies EU law and must be wary of requirements that would be disproportionate to the Draft NDP.

29. I am satisfied that no issue arises in respect of equality under general principles of EU law or any EU equality directive.

Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

30. I am satisfied that the making of the NDP would not be incompatible with the prescribed basic condition and that it is not necessary to consider the matter further in this report.

Human Rights

31. The planning law of England and Wales in general complies with the Convention. This matter can be dealt with briefly in advance of further consideration of the contents of the Draft NDP. I have considered whether anything in the Draft NDP would cause a breach of any Convention right. The Convention rights that have been most relevant to town and country planning are those under the Convention's Article 6(1), 8 and 14 and under its First Protocol Article 1 and I have considered these. I have also considered last year's landmark judgment of the European Court of Human Rights' Grand Chamber in Verein KlimaSeniorinnen Schweiz and Others *v.* Switzerland,[22] which held that under article 8 a State has a positive obligation to implement sufficient measures to combat climate change. In Convention jurisprudence a State includes its emanations, including local government. First Protocol Article 1 reinforces the common-law principle that private property rights should not be removed without proper justification, and I have borne that in mind. Apart from those, nothing in my examination of the Draft NDP has required further consideration of human rights.

9. The Nature of the Neighbourhood Area

32. In considering the contents of the Draft NDP I must consider the nature of the neighbourhood area. Its gist is well described in the Draft NDP. Much Wenlock parish is in Shropshire and includes the town of Much Wenlock, together with much smaller settlements including Bourton, Homer and Wigwig, and open countryside. Apart from Bourton church,

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21 Case C-323/17, 12th April 2018.

22 Application no. 53600/20, (2024) 79 EHRR 1, 9th April 2024.

there are no facilities in any settlement other than Much Wenlock. None of these other settlements is served by public transport. In 2021 census there were 3,907 residents living in the parish in 1,345 homes.

33. The parish has a wealth of heritage assets, including the medieval Wenlock Priory (a Scheduled Monument), numerous listed buildings (including three grade I[23]) and Conservation Areas ("CAs") in Much Wenlock and Bourton. These make it an attractive destination for tourists.

34. Part of the western and northern areas of the parish are within the Shropshire Hills National Landscape and there are four Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

35. There are buses between Much Wenlock and Telford, Bridgnorth and Shrewsbury, Broseley and Oswestry. There is no railway station in the parish or in any adjoining parish.

10. The contents of the Draft NDP

Introduction

Page 4, paragraph 1.1

36. There is a small error in this paragraph. As the Foreword correctly states, the Made Plan runs until 2026.

Recommended modification 1

Page 4, paragraph 1.1

Replace "2013-2026" with "2021-2026".

Page 6

37. Paragraph 1.12 was correct when written, but needs to be brought up to date and to be more detailed.

Recommended modification 2

Page 6, paragraph 1.12

Replace the whole paragraph with "SC had been working on a review of their Local Plan, which had reached Examination stage. The Inspector wrote to SC on 17 February 2025 to set out concerns about the soundness of the plan. SC issued a letter on 13 March 2025, setting out their intention to withdraw the Plan from Examination. On 17 July 2025 SC's Full Council made the decision to withdraw the Plan and it was formally withdrawn from

[23] Holy Trinity church Much Wenlock, Wenlock Abbey and the Priory of St Milburga (Ruins).

examination on 25 July 2025. On 12 February 2025 SC's cabinet agreed that the evidence base supporting the now withdrawn emerging Plan forms a material consideration in decision making on relevant planning applications, to support the implementation of the presumption in favour of sustainable development. This includes planning applications for new development on sites proposed to be allocated in the now withdrawn Plan."

A vision and objectives for Much Wenlock

Page 13

38. The third indent on this page, "keeping sites free from development if they have the potential to be used to slow down the flow of surface water through engineering or natural means", while understandable in the light of Much Wenlock's history of serious flooding, is too absolute. What is required is keeping sufficient land with such potential free, not all sites if fewer will suffice and not the whole of a site if only part of a site is needed. Also, not all development would impede such use. Without modification the indent could prevent the achievement of sustainable development and indeed prevent development the net effect of which was to reduce the risk of flooding. The same applies to page 44

Recommended modification 3

Page 13, objective 3 and page 44, objective 3

Replace the 3rd indent page 13 and the 6th indent on page 44 with "keeping sufficient land that has the potential to be used to slow down the flow of surface water through engineering or natural means free from development that would prevent such use".

39. There is an obvious minor error in the final line. This is repeated on page 82.

Recommended modification 4

Page 13 final line and page 82 second indent

Delete "are created".

Spatial strategy and housing

Page 16, policy MW1

40. Part B of policy MW1 is too demanding. Criteria (i) and (iii) should be alternatives, not cumulative requirements. Appropriate factors for a national landscape are not always relevant to other designations. For example, tranquillity is not required for all listed buildings, all local green spaces or for geological SSSIs. The Part could prevent the achievement of sustainable development and requires modification.

Recommended modification 5

Page 16, policy MW1

Replace Part B with:

"Development proposals outside the defined development boundary (as shown in the most recent development plan) will only be supported where appropriate consideration is given to the effect on designated sites and they involve:
i. development supported in such locations in national and local planning policies; or
ii. the proposal is a "rural exceptions scheme" delivered in accordance with Policy MW3; or
iii. where appropriate, it brings redundant or vacant agricultural or farm buildings or historic buildings of heritage value back into viable optimal use consistent with their conservation in a manner that does not cause harm in terms of additional traffic."

Good Quality Design, Local Character and Heritage

Page 79

41. Policy MW20 C (i) refers to "the relevant Conservation Area Management Plan". Neither of the parish's two CAs has a Management Plan and SC has no intention at present to produce a management plan for either area. In these circumstances it is confusing to refer to a Management Plan. Should such a plan unexpectedly be created, relevant content would in any event be capable of being a material consideration in development management. I recommend removal of this requirement.

Recommended modification 6

Page 79, policy MW20 C (i)

Delate "i. be guided by the relevant Conservation Area Management Plan; and" and renumber the rest of the policy.

Page 80, paragraph 4.146

42. There is a minor error at the end of this paragraph.

Recommended modification 7

Page 80, paragraph 4.146

Replace "Appendix D" with " Appendix E".

Green and Open Spaces, Local Landscape and Wildlife

Pages 83 to 85 Local Green Spaces

43. Pages 83 to 85 and Appendix E consider 8 proposed local green spaces ("LGSs"), namely:

1. The Railway Walk
2. Windmill Hill
3. Gaskell Recreation Ground
4. Southfield Road green space
5. Havelock Crescent green space
6. Hunters Gate
7. Cemetery on Bridgnorth Road
8. Allotments on Southfield Road

44. These are shown on Figure 17. The first six are designated LGSs in the Made Plan. The last two are new are designated as LGSs:

45. The NPPF provides for LGSs in its chapter 8, which is headed "Promoting healthy and safe communities". Under the sub-heading "Open Spaces and Recreation", its paragraphs 106 and 107 state:

> *106. The designation of land as Local Green Space through… neighbourhood plans allows communities to identify and protect green areas of particular importance to them. Designating land as Local Green Space should be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services. Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a plan is prepared or updated, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.*
>
> *107. The Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green space is:*
>
> *a) in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;*
>
> *b) demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and*
>
> *c) local in character and is not an extensive tract of land."*

46. These paragraphs are central to any consideration of whether land should be designated as an LGS. They should be followed unless there is a sufficiently good reason not to do so and none is apparent to me. In considering the proposed LGS designations, I have borne in mind the judgment of the Court of Appeal in *R.* (Lochailort Investments Ltd) *v* Mendip District Council.[24] The phrase in paragraph 101 *"capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan*

[24] [2020] EWCA Civ 1259, 2nd October 2020.

period" was given specific consideration. While this is a less demanding policy than applies to Green Belt designation where the stronger *"permanently"* is used, it is still important.

47. I have viewed each proposed LGS. Bearing in mind the documents that I have read and what I have seen, I am satisfied that the whole of each site satisfies NPPF paragraphs 106 and 107 and that their designation would not conflict with a basic condition or with a Convention right. Each should be designated as an LGS.

Page 92, figure 20

48. The symbols on the first row of the figure are not explained in the draft NDP and are by no means so clear that their meaning would be apparent to all reasonable readers. They should be explained.

Recommended modification 8

Page 92, paragraph 4.174

Replace the symbols in the first row with: "Biodiversity & Geology"; "Landscape, Heritage & Culture"; "Water Resources"; "Active Travel, Access & Recreation"; "Health & Wellbeing"; and "Climate Change". This text can be written vertically.

Appendices

Page 126, Description

49. The former railway station house is now two dwellings, not one.

Recommended modification 9

Page 126, Description

Replace "Private dwelling" with "Private dwellings".

Page 146

50. There is a minor error in of the title.

Recommended modification 10

Page 146, title

Replace "Appendix F" with "Appendix E".

Page 150

51. There are minor errors with the name William Penny Brookes in two places.

Recommended modification 11

Page 150

Replace "penny" with "Penny" in the two places where this occurs.

Page 153.

52. The Havelock Crescent Green Space is to the west, not the east of the town centre.

Recommended modification 12

Page 153, title

Replace "east" with "west".

Page 162

53. There is a minor error in the title.

Recommended modification 13

Page 162, title

Replace "Appendix G" with "Appendix F".

11. Updating

54. It may be that parts of the draft NDP will need updating. Nothing in this report should deter or delay appropriate updating prior to the referendum in respect of incontrovertible issues of primary fact. For example, if Prior's Lodging and Infirmary part of the Wenlock Priory were removed from the Register of Heritage at Risk, it would be appropriate to update paragraph 4.149.

12. The Referendum Area

55. I have considered whether the referendum area should be extended beyond the designated plan area.[25] However, I can see no reason to extend the area and therefore recommend that the referendum area be limited to the neighbourhood area, the parish of Much Wenlock.

13. Summary of Main Findings

56. I commend the Draft Plan for being clear and a pleasure to read, and for the thought and effort that has gone into its creation. It has struck the right balance between intelligibility to a lay person and the use of technical words that ensure precision.

[25] PPG Reference ID: 41-059-20140306.

57. I recommend that the Draft Plan be modified in the terms specified in Appendix A to this report to meet basic conditions and to correct errors. I am satisfied with all parts of the Draft Plan to which I am not recommending modifications.

58. With those modifications, the Draft Plan will meet all the basic conditions and human rights obligations. Specifically:

- Having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State, it will be appropriate to make the Plan;
- The making of the Plan will contribute to the achievement of sustainable development;
- The making of the Plan will be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the neighbourhood area;
- The making of the Plan will not breach, and will not otherwise be incompatible with, assimilated obligations;
- The making of the Plan will not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017; and
- The Plan will be compatible with Convention rights contained in the Human Rights Act 1998.

59. I recommend that SC should make the Draft Plan with the modifications specified in Appendix A to this report.

Timothy Jones, Barrister, FCIArb,

Independent Examiner,

No 5 Chambers

7th November 2025.

Appendix A: Recommended Modifications

Recommended modification 1

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Replace "2013-2026" with "2021-2026".

Recommended modification 2

Page 6, paragraph 1.12

Replace the whole paragraph with "SC had been working on a review of their Local Plan, which had reached Examination stage. The Inspector wrote to SC on 17 February 2025 to set out concerns about the soundness of the plan. SC issued a letter on 13 March 2025, setting out their intention to withdraw the Plan from Examination. On 17 July 2025 SC's Full Council made the decision to withdraw the Plan and it was formally withdrawn from examination on 25 July 2025. On 12 February 2025 SC's cabinet agreed that the evidence base supporting the now withdrawn emerging Plan forms a material consideration in decision making on relevant planning applications, to support the implementation of the presumption in favour of sustainable development. This includes planning applications for new development on sites proposed to be allocated in the now withdrawn Plan."

Recommended modification 3

Page 13, objective 3 and page 44, objective 3

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Page 13 final line and page 82 second indent

Delete "are created".

Recommended modification 5

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Replace Part B with:

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i. development supported in such locations in national and local planning policies; or

ii. the proposal is a "rural exceptions scheme" delivered in accordance with Policy MW3; or
iii. where appropriate, it brings redundant or vacant agricultural or farm buildings or historic buildings of heritage value back into viable optimal use consistent with their conservation in a manner that does not cause harm in terms of additional traffic."

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Delate "i. be guided by the relevant Conservation Area Management Plan; and" and renumber the rest of the policy.

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Page 150

Replace "penny" with "Penny" in the two places where this occurs.

Recommended modification 12

Page 153, title

Replace "east" with "west".

Recommended modification 13

Page 162, title

Replace “Appendix G” with “Appendix F”.

Appendix B: Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used in this report:

CA	Conservation Area
Convention	European Convention on Human Rights
Draft NDP	Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan 2024 – 2038
EU	European Union
General Regulations	Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended)
LGS	local green space
Made NDP	Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan 2013 - 2026
MWTC	Much Wenlock Town Council
NDP	Neighbourhood Development Plan
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024)
para	paragraph
PCPA	Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended)
PPG	national Planning Practice Guidance
s	section
SC	Shropshire Council
Sch	Schedule
TCPA	Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)

Where I use the verb *'include'*, I am not using it to mean *'comprise'*. The words that follow are not necessarily exclusive.

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DECLARATION OF RESULT OF POLL

Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Planning Referendum

I, Paula Watson, being the Deputy Counting Officer at the above referendum held on Thursday 19 March 2026, 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 Much Wenlock to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area.		
	Votes Recorded	**Percentage**
Number cast in favour of a **Yes**	672	90%
Number cast in favour of a **No**	73	10%

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	0
D	being unmarked or wholly void for uncertainty	2
	Total	747

Electorate: 2492 Ballot Papers Issued: 747 Turnout: 30%

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

Dated Thursday 19 March 2026

Paula Watson
Deputy Counting Officer

Printed and Published by Tanya Miles, Counting Officer, Shropshire Council, The Guildhall, Frankwell Quay, Shrewsbury, SY3 8HQ.

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