



Borough of Telford and Wrekin

Full Council

Thursday 22 January 2026

6.00 pm

Council Chamber, Third Floor, Southwater One, Telford, TF3 4JG

Democratic Services: **Jayne Clarke / Paige Starkey** **01952 383205 / 380110**

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Committee Members: **Councillors E Aston, S Bentley, K T Blundell, M Boylan, A J Burford, S P Burrell, E M Callear, L D Carter, C Chikandamina, G H Cook, E Davies, S Davies, P Davis, F Doran, N A Dugmore, A J Eade, A R H England, N A M England, S Handley, Z Hannington, C Healy, T L B Janke, A S Jhavar, J Jones, J Kaur, G C W Latham-Reynolds, L Lewis, G Luter, A D McClements, R Mehta, K Middleton, H Morgan, T J Nelson, R A Overton, N Page, L Parker, I Preece, S J Reynolds, S A W Reynolds, H Rhodes, R Sahota, P J Scott, S Syrda, G Thomas, P Thomas, J Thompson, K L Tomlinson, W L Tomlinson, K Tonks, R Tyrrell, J Urey, O Vickers, P Watling and D R W White**

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To answer questions received under Council Procedure Rule 6.2.

NB **In accordance with the provisions of Council Procedure**

Rule 6.2.9 there will be a maximum of 30 minutes allowed for questions and answers. Any question not answered within the 30 minute time limit will receive a written reply within 5 working days.

13.0 Motions on Notice

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Councillor Questions for Full Council

22 January 2026

1. Councillor P J Scott will ask the following question of Councillor R A Overton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Highways, Housing & Enforcement:

"There is much frustration among local residents that there is no easy or direct way for them to contact the Neighbourhood Enforcement Team when they see parking issues. My Telford and Ask Tom are cumbersome and not direct in these situations. We need to be able to alert the team as these issues are happening such as parking outside schools. Are there any plans to make contact with the NEO's easier and more direct for the public?"

2. Councillor N A M England will ask the following question of Councillor S A W Reynolds, Cabinet Member: Children & Young People, Learning, Employment & Skills:-

"Following recent meetings with Council officers to discuss young people's mental health provision in Telford and Wrekin. Recognising both the significant pressures on services and the work this Council is undertaking to support children and families, can the Cabinet Member outline how our current mental health support for children and young people operates across the borough? In particular, could the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People, Education, Employment and Skills, set out how early intervention is being delivered in schools and community settings, how the Council ensures that the voices of young people and parents with lived experience are reflected in service design?"

3. Councillor T Janke will ask the following question of Councillor Z Hannington, Cabinet Member: Finance, Governance & Customer Services:-

"The Council budget is, for many tax-paying residents, a complex and difficult document to fully understand. In the spirit of transparency, and in light of the Council's announcement that it must identify £7 million in savings, alongside rising adult and children's social care costs totalling £15.8 million, will the Cabinet commit to clearly setting out and publishing where it proposes to make cuts to services?"

4. Councillor T Janke will ask the following question of Councillor R A Overton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Highways, Housing & Enforcement:-

"In light of the Government's recent announcement enabling local authorities to take stronger action against pavement parking and obstruction, could the Cabinet Member advise when we expect these powers and associated enforcement responsibilities to be devolved to the Council? Furthermore, given ward members' extensive local knowledge and experience of persistent pavement-parking hot-spots, will Councillors be given a formal opportunity to provide input into the development and implementation of this process to ensure enforcement is targeted, proportionate and effective from the outset?

5. Councillor T Janke will ask the following question of Councillor C Healy, Cabinet Member: Neighbourhoods, Planning & Sustainability:-

"Newport residents are rightly proud of and protective over their precious green spaces, not least Victoria Park, which has been awarded Green Flag status. Judges have described it as a "gem of a park" and highlighted its close proximity to Newport Canal, itself a Site of Specific Scientific Interest. Given the importance of this park to residents and its recognised environmental value, will the Cabinet Member commit to agreeing with me, and with my Newport Council colleagues and residents, that Victoria Park will never be developed on, including any expansion of the car park accessed via Water Lane?"

6. Councillor T Janke will ask the following question of Councillor C Healy, Cabinet Member: Neighbourhoods, Planning & Sustainability:-

"As ward Councillor, I have been contacted by representatives of Nova United FC who remain understandably concerned about progress on securing improved facilities at Shuker Fields, as the club approaches its 50th anniversary. I acknowledge the work officers have undertaken to date, including the allocation of S106 funding, the engagement with the Football Foundation and Shropshire FA. However given the length of time the project has been under discussion and the importance of this facility to grassroots sport in Newport, I would be grateful if you could provide any updates you are able to offer at this stage following the most recent site visit on 14 January between TWC officers, the Football Foundation and Shropshire FA to assess if the proposed works meet the Foundation's Priority Framework?"

7. Councillor H Morgan will ask the following question of Councillor O Vickers, Cabinet Member: The Economy & Transport:-

"Please can the Cabinet Member for the Economy and Transport provide an update on the Council-run Travel Telford bus services?"

8. Councillor N Page will ask the following question of Councillor R A Overton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Highways, Housing & Enforcement:-

"As a Councillor in a ward with quite a number of HMOs, please can the Cabinet Member for Housing, Highways and Enforcement explain what the recent Cabinet paper on selective licensing and Article 4 will mean for HMO landlords as well as those who would be looking to turn their property into an HMO?"

9. Councillor R Tyrrell will ask the following question of Councillor L D Carter, Leader of the Council:-

"Please can the Leader provide an update on the status of the University of Wolverhampton Priorslee campus proposals? Whilst I appreciate the topic is subject to an NDA; the University of Wolverhampton is due to close the site in a few months, and it is not unreasonable for residents to receive an update."

10. Councillor R Tyrrell will ask the following question of Councillor O Vickers, Cabinet Member: The Economy & Transport:-

"I have previously asked a Question about this Council's implementation of the provisions of the Procurement Act 2024, and was advised work was underway. Please can we be advised of progress, in particular real life examples of how the procurement and tendering process has improved outcomes to our local businesses successfully winning contracts where they were not previously. At a time when businesses are under great pressure, I think it is even more vital that this Council uses every tool at its disposal"

11. Councillor R Tyrrell will ask the following question of Councillor C Healy, Cabinet Member: Neighbourhoods, Planning & Sustainability:-

"From 18th December 2025 to 12th March 2026 the Government has a Consultation on "The Prevalence of Private Estate Management Arrangements". The consultation focuses on tackling the growing issue of unadopted amenities on privately managed housing estates in England, where roads, drainage systems, green spaces, and other communal infrastructure are maintained by private estate management companies rather than public authorities. This trend has led to unfair charges, poor transparency, and limited homeowner rights, creating significant consumer detriment. The consultation is continuing the previous Conservative Government's Competition and Markets Authority 2024 Housebuilding Market Study on this issue. How many properties are subject to estate management charges in this Borough? Can I seek this Council's assurance that we will provide a submission in this Consultation fighting the corner of our residents enduring the fleecehold frustration."

12. Councillor K Tonks will ask the following question of Councillor R A Overton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Highways, Housing & Enforcement:-

"Potholes are an ongoing concern both nationally and across the borough. Many of these have been further exacerbated by recent weather events causing more damage to vehicles and potential compensation claims from the Council. On one road close to my ward, there were 5 vehicles with flat tyres on the side of the road within one hour of each other due to a huge pothole. Other residents are being told that potholes may not be fixed until other planned highway improvements are undertaken which are sometimes not due for months. The AA are calling for local authorities to implement a minimum five-year warranty on pothole repairs to end wasteful short-term fixes, following over 600,000 pothole-related callouts in 2025 and highlighting risks to drivers and cyclists. What are the councils long term plans to deal with the ever-increasing number of potholes across the borough to prevent unnecessary expenditure and improve safety to drivers and cyclists?"

13. Councillor N Dugmore will ask the following question of Councillor R A Overton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Highways, Housing & Enforcement:-

“Which Borough Council Ward has the highest number of HMOs (house in multiple occupation) and what is the figure?”

14. Councillor Sarah Syrda will ask the following question of Councillor A D McClements Cabinet Member: Leisure, Tourism, Culture & The Arts:-

"A long standing member of Newport Swimming and Fitness Centre has reported that the recently installed gym equipment, installed in August 2025, is no longer suitable for users with mobility or balance issues. The removal of the abduction/adduction machine, the replacement of upright bikes with racing style bikes (which have also experienced technical faults) for example, and the introduction of more complex or harder to access machines, have made the gym less inclusive. The resident also notes that no consultation took place with regular users before the equipment change, and believes the facility no longer reflects the Council's inclusive leisure pledge.

Could the Cabinet Member explain why no consultation was undertaken with regular users and/or members of Newport Swimming and Fitness Centre prior to the latest equipment replacement, particularly given the diverse needs of the membership and how the Council will review the suitability and accessibility of the newly installed equipment, ensuring that it supports users of all ages, abilities, and mobility levels?"

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Motions – Full Council 22 January 2026

Motion 13a

"This Council celebrates the achievements of the Council's Building Safer and Stronger Communities Programme delivered with local partners, and the positive impact it has had across Telford and Wrekin. This has included many extracurricular activities for young people, funding to tackle anti-social behaviour across our borough, as well as enhanced CCTV coverage to keep our communities safe. This Council notes the Cabinet's determination to ensure a funding commitment to sustaining the programme as set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy. This Council notes with concern the decision by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to stop financial support for the initiative and calls upon him to reverse the decision."

Proposed by: Councillor Richard Overton

Seconded by: Councillor Ollie Vickers

Motion 13b

"This Council has serious concerns regarding the current consultation regarding proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework which will severely restrict the ability of local planning authorities to control and influence development in their areas. Such changes will have significant impact especially in rural areas and on developer contributions which are vital in ensuring that local infrastructure is in place to mitigate the impact on local communities of significant new developments. Consequently, this Council resolves to respond to the Labour Government's current consultation and reject the disastrous proposed changes to the NPPF in order to protect our Borough from unwanted and inappropriate building."

Proposed by: Councillor Nigel Dugmore

Seconded by: Councillor Steve Bentley

Amendment

"This Council **notes** ~~has serious concerns regarding~~ the current consultation regarding proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework which **includes changes to the way** ~~will severely restrict the ability of~~ local planning authorities ~~to~~ control and influence development in their areas. Such changes ~~will~~ **may** have significant impact especially in rural areas and on developer contributions which are vital in ensuring that local infrastructure is in place to mitigate the impact on local communities of significant new developments. Consequently, this Council resolves to **create a cross party working group to develop the response** ~~respond~~ to the Labour Government's current consultation **to show which aspects this council supports and which is it rejects** ~~and reject the disastrous proposed changes to the NPPF~~ in order to protect our Borough from unwanted and inappropriate building **and ensure plan led development that meets our borough's needs.**"

Proposed by: Councillor Carolyn Healy

Seconded by: Councillor Stephen Reynolds

Motion 13c

"This Council wishes to convey to the Government that the introduction of Digital IDs is an egregious waste of public money at a time when resources are scarce and should be directed to frontline services, such as Defence and Education. It is also a dystopian and dangerous policy that undermines privacy, civil liberties, and public trust.

Council resolves to:

1. Formally oppose the introduction of mandatory Digital IDs across Telford & Wrekin.
2. Write to the Home Secretary and Minister for Digital Government, expressing this Council's opposition and calling for the scheme to be scrapped.
3. Request Telford & Wrekin MPs to oppose any legislation introducing mandatory Digital ID."

Proposed by: Councillor Rachael Tyrrell

Seconded by: Councillor Tim Nelson

Amendment

"This Council wishes to convey to the Government that the introduction of **mandatory** Digital IDs is an egregious waste of public money at a time when resources are scarce as **a result of the former Conservative government's mismanagement of the economy and cuts to public services**, ~~and should be directed to~~. **This Council supports the Labour Government investing more into** frontline services such as Defence and Education. **This Council has concerns that** a mandatory scheme would ~~be a dystopian and dangerous policy that~~ undermines privacy, civil liberties, and public trust.

The Council recognises that an optional digital ID scheme can make accessing public services, jobs and housing easier and more inclusive for the 10 percent of people who do not hold photo ID. The Council notes that optional digital ID would be like passports and driving licences, and has been implemented successfully in other countries such as France, Estonia and Finland.

Council resolves to:

1. Formally oppose the introduction of **mandatory** Digital IDs across Telford & Wrekin.
2. Write to the Home Secretary and Minister for Digital Government, expressing this Council's opposition and **welcoming the decision to scrap the mandatory aspects of the scheme**.
3. Request Telford & Wrekin MPs to oppose any legislation introducing **mandatory** Digital ID."

Proposed by: Councillor Lee Carter

Seconded by: Councillor Richard Overton

Motion 13d

““This Council endorses the U-Turn made by the Government on the family farm tax and confirms its support for the hardworking farms in our Borough.”

Proposed by: Councillor Stephen Burrell

Seconded by: Councillor Nigel Dugmore

Amendment

“Following the reintroduction of inheritance tax for farms which removed an unfair taxation anomaly and encouraged wealthy investors to buy up small family farms, This Council endorses the ~~U-Turn~~ recent changes made by the Government on the family farm inheritance tax and confirms its support for the hardworking farms in our Borough including practical support on Fuel poverty and energy, business support and access to grants, transport and housing as well as significant investments into local Agri-Tech Industries.”

Proposed by: Councillor Lee Carter

Seconded by: Councillor Carolyn Healy