

# Public Document Pack



Telford & Wrekin  
Co-operative Council

Protect, care and invest  
to create a better borough

Addenbrooke House Ironmasters Way Telford TF3 4NT

## CABINET

Date **Thursday, 17 March 2022** Time **10.00 am**  
Venue **Telford Room, Third Floor, Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford, TF3 4NT**

### Enquiries Regarding this Agenda

|                     |                                |                       |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Democratic Services | Jayne Clarke / Kieran Robinson | 01952 383205 / 382061 |
| Media Enquiries     | Corporate Communications       | 01952 382406          |
| Lead Officer        | David Sidaway, Chief Executive | 01952 380130          |

### Cabinet Members:

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Councillor S Davies       | Leader   |
| Councillor R A Overton    | Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Enforcement and Transport  |
| Councillor A J Burford    | Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health, Integration and Transformation                                |
| Councillor E M Callear    | Cabinet Member for Visitor Economy, Employment and Skills  |
| Councillor L D Carter     | Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services, Regeneration and the High Street                                    |
| Councillor R C Evans      | Cabinet Member for Finance, Governance and Customer Services   |
| Councillor C Healy        | Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Parks, Green Spaces, Natural and Historic Environment and Cultural Services |
| Councillor K Middleton    | Cabinet Member for Leisure, Public Health and Well-Being, Equalities and Partnerships                          |
| Councillor S A W Reynolds | Cabinet Member for Children, Young People, and Families  |
| Councillor P Watling      | Cabinet Member for Stronger and Safer Communities  |

### Invitees:

|                          |                   |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Councillor W L Tomlinson | Liberal Democrats |
| Councillor N A Dugmore   | Conservative      |

## AGENDA

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There is no requirement to notify the Council in advance, but it should be noted that the Chairman of the meeting will have absolute discretion to terminate or suspend any of these activities if, in their opinion, continuing to do so would prejudice proceedings at the meeting. Full details of the Council's protocol on audio/visual recording and photography at meetings can be accessed via the following link:

[http://www.telford.gov.uk/info/20243/council\\_meetings/365/filming\\_photography\\_recording\\_and\\_use\\_of\\_social\\_networking\\_at\\_meetings](http://www.telford.gov.uk/info/20243/council_meetings/365/filming_photography_recording_and_use_of_social_networking_at_meetings)

## CABINET

**Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday, 17 February 2022  
at 9.30 am in Telford Room, Third Floor, Addenbrooke House,  
Ironmasters Way, Telford, TF3 4NT**

**PUBLISHED ON WEDNESDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2022**

**(DEADLINE FOR CALL-IN: MONDAY, 28 FEBRUARY 2022)**

**Present:** Councillors R A Overton (Vice-Chair), A J Burford, E M Callear, L D Carter, R C Evans, K Middleton, S A W Reynolds, P Watling and S Davies (Chair).

**Also Present:** Councillors N A Dugmore (Conservative Group Leader) and W L Tomlinson (Liberal Democrats / Independent Group Leader)

**Apologies:** Councillor C Healy

**CAB-      Declarations of Interest**  
**131**

None.

**CAB-      Minutes of the Previous Meeting**  
**132**

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 January 2022 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

**CAB-      Leader's Announcements**  
**133**

For the second time in a week, the local NHS Trust had declared a critical internal incident, with more than a dozen ambulances queuing outside the hospital. The Council would do all it could to support the NHS but they had to be transparent about what was needed and the Borough's Members of Parliament had to stand up for the Borough's health services.

**CAB-      2021/22 Financial Monitoring**  
**134**

The Cabinet Member for Finance, Governance and Customer Services presented the report of the Director: Finance & H.R. (Chief Financial Officer).

Despite sound financial management, there had been increased costs in supporting for a number of services, including Adult Social Care and Children's Safeguarding. The projected outturn position was expected to be over budget by £1.14m at year-end, a deterioration of £0.079m. Covid-19

support funding from the government was a one off and had largely ended. In cases such as the income guarantee scheme, only a portion of the shortfalls faced by the Council, and only for part of the year, had been compensated.

The capital programme totalled £73m for 2021/22; at the time of the reports compilation, the projected spend was 88% of the budget allocation. Some slippage was anticipated as a result.

Cabinet Members and the leaders of the Conservative and Liberal Democrat groups thanked the finance team for their work.

**RESOLVED – that Cabinet**

- (i) Note the 2021/22 revenue budget position;**
- (ii) Note the position in relation to capital spend; and**
- (iii) Note the collection rates for NNDR, council tax and sales ledger.**

**CAB- Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23**  
**135**

The Cabinet Member for Finance, Governance and Customer Services presented the report of the Director: Finance & H.R. (Chief Financial Officer).

The report being presented was broadly the same as that presented at the 6 January 2022 meeting with the addition of an updated risk register, details of the Council's tax reduction policy, pay policy, and efficiency strategy. It was accompanied by previously agreed strategies with updated budgets and schemes of work; these included the capital strategy that set out the long-term context of decision-making, supported by detailed programme reports covering building investment and highway and transport programmes. The final part of the report included a prudential indicator report together.

Members' attention was drawn to Appendix 17. The document was a variation to the West Mercia Energy Joint Agreement that would provide more equitable distribution of surpluses. This would have a minimal impact on the Council.

Members welcomed the report and thanked staff for their hard work. The Council continued to invest in the Borough and strived to improve the lives of residents at what was a challenging time for many across the country,

The Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group welcomed the report and stated his Group's support for the budget. Support was noted in particular for NuPlace and the Borough's growth fund.

The Leader of the Conservative Group stated concern at the level of the Council's debt. In response, the Cabinet Member for Finance, Governance and Customer Services stated that there were a number of documents in the

report that advised on this matter, such as the prudential indicators report. The Council's borrowing had been sensible and prudent.

**RESOLVED – that Cabinet**

**Approve the following recommendations for consideration by full Council on 3 March 2022:-**

1. To approve the MTFS for 2022/23 – 2025/26 and the budget framework for 2022/23 set out in this suite of reports.
2. To approve a 2 year freeze of the general Council Tax level.
3. To apply the Government's 1% Adult Social Care Precept in 2022/23.
4. To approve the investment of a further £5.16m into Adult Social Care in 2022/23 rising to £6.96m in 2023/24.
5. To approve net investment of £1.31m in to Children's Safeguarding in 2022/23.
6. To approve the budget savings listed in Appendix 13 totalling £5.656m in 2022/23 rising to £8.34m (after "leakage") in 2023/24.
7. To approve the continuation of work with partner organisations, including Town & Parish Councils and Voluntary Sector and Community Groups to seek to identify ways to mitigate the impact of some of the cuts to services that we can no longer afford and to note the availability of the Invest to Save/Capacity Fund which is available to support partnership working.
8. To approve the base budget in Appendix 6.
9. To approve the use of £0.220m special fund balances for works at Castle Green Cemetery
10. To approve the use of £250k from the Invest to Save/Capacity Fund to support the development of "shovel-ready" schemes to maximise the Council's ability to receive funding from national challenge funding opportunities.
11. To approve the policy framework for Reserves and Balances and their planned use outlined in Appendix 9.
12. To note the CFO's robustness statement in Appendix 10.
13. To approve the Risk Register included at Appendix 3.

14. That Cabinet endorses the Council Tax Reduction Scheme a link to which is included within Appendix 14, for adoption by Full Council on 3 March 2022, ready for implementation from 1 April 2022.
15. That Cabinet approves the continuation of a Council Tax Reduction Hardship Assistance Policy within Appendix 14.
16. To approve the revenue implications of the medium term capital programme for the period 2021/22 - 2025/26 set out in the Capital Strategy and Programme reports also on this agenda.
17. To approve a delegation to the Chief Executive, after consultation with the Leader, to allocate the Capital Investment Fund to individual schemes and to incur associated expenditure.
18. To grant delegated authority to the Director: Finance & Human Resources, after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, Governance and Customer Service to action any virements required following the final allocation of the Dedicated Schools Grant and other Grants and following completion of NNDR1 and final estimates of Business Rates Income as long as they are within the budget and policy framework.
19. To grant delegated authority to the Executive Director: Adults Social Care, Health Integration & wellbeing after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health, Integration and Transformation, to enter into appropriate Section 256 and Section 75 Agreements under the NHS Act 2006 (as amended).
20. To authorise the Associate Director: Policy & Governance to execute all necessary contract documentation including the affixing of the common seal of the council as appropriate to enable the council to enter into appropriate Section 256 and Section 75 Agreements under the NHS Act 2006.
21. To approve this suite of MTFs reports as the Council's Efficiency Strategy for 2022/23, including the document at Appendix 16, to enable new capital receipts generated in the three year period starting 1 April 2022 to be used to fund the revenue costs of reform as assumed throughout these reports.
22. To note the initial projections for the potential budget gap through to 2025/26 and to start work in order to identify options for how this could potentially be bridged.
23. To approve that once all final outstanding grant allocations are received, authority to amend the use of balances in 2022/23 to accommodate any difference in funding between that currently assumed and the final grant allocations be delegated to the

**Director: Finance & H.R. after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, Governance & Customer Services.**

- 24. To approve the Pay Policy for 2022/23 included as Appendix 15**
- 25. To approve the proposals for a revised formulae for the distribution to member authorities of any accumulated surplus of the WME Joint Committee set out in Appendix 17.**
- 26. Delegation of authority to the Director: Finance & HR after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, Governance & Customer Service, to make changes to the Service & Financial Planning Strategy with immediate effect to reflect all grants received from Government, including that in respect of the “£150 council tax energy rebate for properties in council tax bands A to D”, and any associated spend.**
- 27. To approve the additional recommendations contained in the other reports included in this suite of Medium Term Financial Strategy reports included on this agenda.**

**CAB-136      Donnington & Muxton Neighbourhood Development Plan – Proceed to Making the NDP**

The Cabinet Member for Housing, Enforcement and Transport presented the report of the Director: Housing, Employment & Infrastructure.

The Council was proactive in supporting Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP) and six had been adopted to date. Following the success of the local referendum on 27 January 2022, the Donnington & Muxton NDP would become the seventh to be adopted.

The Leader of the Conservative Group welcomed the progress towards adoption.

**RESOLVED – that Cabinet**

- (i) Agree to make the Donnington & Muxton Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan.**
- (ii) Authorise the Director: Housing, Employment & Infrastructure to exercise all of the Council’s relevant powers and duties and undertake all necessary procedural arrangements relating to the making of the Donnington & Muxton Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan.**

**CAB-137      Council Plan 2022/23 to 2025/26**

The Leader of the Council presented the report of the Chief Executive.

The report underpinned the work presented in the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 report and set out the Council's vision for the Borough.

The Council had the lowest tax in the Midlands; it had protected green spaces through the Green Guarantee scheme, and would protect more spaces with the creation of further local nature reserves. The Authority provided outstanding children's services and it would continue to work to ensure Council services were as good as they could be.

NuPlace properties were home to over 1,000 residents, making it the largest private sector landlord in Telford & Wrekin. NuPlace provided a home for life, ensured tenants could trust their landlord, and increased the standards of private rented accommodation across the Borough.

A number of other successful projects were noted such as regeneration projects on the Borough's high streets, the construction of factory units through the Property and Regeneration Fund, and highway maintenance.

Members stated their pride in the work of the Council, their ambition to deliver for residents, and their desire to make Telford and Wrekin a place to be proud of.

The Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group welcomed the plan, stating particular support for the environmental aspects therein.

**RESOLVED – that Cabinet approve the refreshed Council Plan 2022/23 to 2025/26.**

The meeting ended at 10.27 am

**Signed for the purposes of the Decision Notices**

Anthea Lowe  
Associate Director: Policy & Governance  
Date: **Wednesday, 23 FEBRUARY 2022**

Signed .....

Date: Thursday, 17 March 2022



## Armed Forces Covenant Report



“Over 10,000 armed forces veterans live in Telford and Wrekin and it is our priority to ensure that they have all of the support and information that they need.

We are proud that over 76 organisations in the borough have now signed up to The Armed Forces Covenant; recognising the value that veterans contribute to our businesses.

At the start of this year we launched our Veteran Calm Cafes which provide a space for veterans living locally to speak to like-minded individuals and also get access to any wellbeing support they need from partners at Telford Mind. These sessions have been hugely popular with us already sourcing a larger venue due to high attendance. We now want to build on this success even further by extending the cafes until December 2024 and running the sessions in locations across the borough.”



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**Councillor Paul Watling (Labour)**

Cabinet Member for Safer and Stronger Communities

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**TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL  
 CABINET 17 MARCH 2022  
 THE DELIVERY OF THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT INCLUDING CALM CAFES FOR VETERANS  
 LEAD CABINET MEMBER: CLLR PAUL WATLING: CABINET MEMBER FOR STRONGER AND SAFER COMMUNITIES  
 REPORT OF ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR: POLICY & GOVERNANCE**

**PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT**

**1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS**

1.1. This Report provides an update on the work of the Council’s Commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant including the delivery of the Calm Cafes for Veterans. To build on the success of the Calm Cafes for Veterans, it is proposed that the funding is provided to enable them to continue for a further two years from January 2023.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Cabinet:

2.1. Notes the achievements of the Council in relation to the delivery of its Armed Forces Covenant commitments.

2.2. Endorses the allocation of additional funding for the Calm Cafes for Veterans to continue for two years from January 2023 as set out in the report.

**3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>COMMUNITY IMPACT</b>                 | Do these proposals contribute to specific Co-Operative Council priority objective(s)? |   |
|   | Yes   | <i>This proposal supports the Council’s priority that every child, young person and adult lives well in their community. It promotes activity which will help to reduce health inequalities within our armed forces population.</i> |
|   | Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?                               |   |
|   | Yes   | <i>The proposals contained in this report positively impact on armed forces communities, veterans and their families.</i>   |
| <b>TARGET COMPLETION/DELIVERY DATE</b>  | Extend delivery of AFC Calm Cafes until December 2024.                                |   |
| <b>FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT</b> | Yes   | The cost of continuing the provision of the Calm Cafes for Veterans over a two year period, as detailed in section 7, is estimated to be £22,320.   |

|   |     |  |
|---|-----|--|
|   |     | This cost will be funded from the Covid Recovery and Regeneration Reserve created at the end of 2020/21.<br>TAS 28.2.22  |
| <b>LEGAL ISSUES</b>                             | Yes | <p>The Armed Forces Act 2021 has enshrined the Armed Forces Covenant in law. It requires local authorities to have due regard to the unique obligations of, and sacrifices made by, the armed forces.</p> <p>The Covenant recognises that it is desirable to remove disadvantages arising for service people from membership, or former membership, of the armed forces. It further sets out that special provision for service people may be justified by the effects their service with armed forces has had on them.</p> <p>The Council has the legal power to fund the Calm Cafes and they are one way in which the Council can demonstrate that it is meeting its legal obligation to give effect to the Armed Forces Covenant. RP 1/3/22</p> |
| <b>OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS &amp; OPPORTUNITIES</b> | No  |  |
| <b>IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS</b>                 | No  | <i>Borough-wide impact.</i>  |

## **PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **4. INFORMATION**

#### **5. The Armed Forces Covenant in Telford & Wrekin**

- 5.1. The Armed Forces Covenant is a promise by the Nation that those who serve, or who have served, in the Armed Forces, and their families, will be treated fairly and will not be disadvantaged as a result of their military Service when accessing public and commercial goods and services. It also allows for special provision for those who have sacrificed the most, such as bereaved families and those who were injured.
- 5.2. The Armed Forces community includes Regular Serving Personnel, Reservists, Veterans (those who have served for at least one day) and their families. It should be noted that as eligibility to join the Reserve Services begins at 15 years and 9 months some Volunteer Reservists may be in state education. Also, in England, where statutory education lasts until 18 years of age, veterans might also require state-provided education should they be released from service before they are aged eighteen.

5.3. In 2012, Telford & Wrekin Council signed the Armed Forces Community Covenant to pledge its support to its local Armed Forces communities. The Council subsequently re-signed the Covenant in 2020.

5.4. In July 2020, Telford & Wrekin Council was awarded the Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS) Gold Award by the Secretary of State for Defence. The Gold Award demonstrates that Telford & Wrekin Council is an exemplar employer advocating support to defence people issues to partner organisations, suppliers and customers with tangible results. The Award formally recognised the Council's continued support to the local Armed Forces community and acknowledged our advocacy work in encouraging other organisations to sign the Covenant and to engage in the ERS.

## **6. Impact of the Armed Forces Covenant in Telford & Wrekin**

6.1. A key focus of the Armed Forces Covenant is to increase the number of local organisations that are signed up to the Covenant commitment. To date, seventy-six organisations in Telford and Wrekin have signed the Covenant (this figure has doubled in the last eleven months) including twenty-four out of the twenty-seven Parish and Town Councils who have signed since the 1st April 2021. [FOR SMT ONLY: two of the three remaining are committed to do so in the next couple of weeks and the third will discuss the matter in May]. It is anticipated that, by the summer, Telford & Wrekin Council will be the first in the country to achieve the position of having all Town and Parish Councils signed up to the Covenant – this position has received excellent feedback from the Chief Executive of the West Midlands Reserve Forces & Cadet Association.

6.2. Organisations can benefit significantly from membership to the Covenant scheme which offers an opportunity to build a reputation as being Forces-friendly when public support for the Armed Forces is at an all-time high. Recently, a small Pet Services business in Telford reported that, since signing the Covenant, they had seen a significant increase in the number of customers and many of them had directly referred to this declared support to the Armed Forces community. The Armed Forces Covenant Co-ordinator works closely with Inward Investment & Business Support and regular Business Engagement events are held across the Borough. The last event was at The Royal Yeomanry, in Dawley, on the 22nd February 2022. Annex A contains further cases studies on the impact of the Armed Forces Covenant.

## **7. Calm Cafes for Veterans**

7.1. On the 10th January 2022, the Council launched Calm Cafes for Veterans following the receipt of a grant of £6,250 from the Sustaining Delivery of the Armed Forces Covenant Trust Fund. A condition of the grant award is that the funding has to be spent before the end of November 2022.

7.2. The Calm Cafes, delivered by Telford Mind, provide an opportunity to offer an early intervention service to those who are experiencing poor emotional wellbeing and mental health. They are available on a drop-in basis for Veterans and aim to fill the void caused by isolation and detachment after Service life. The Cafes also provide a platform for social interaction and comradeship whilst providing mental health and wellbeing support for those who may require it.

7.3. The Calm Cafes have, so far, proved to be very successful and, after the initial launch, a larger venue had to be sourced due to high attendance numbers. At present, the Cafes are held twice a month at Dawley House however, there is recognised demand for further ones to be held across the Borough and during the evening for working veterans. The Cafes have garnered significant local interest including a feature on BBC Midlands Today.

7.4. Whilst the Council works closely with its partners to keep costs to a minimum, the delivery of the Calm Cafes for Veterans does incur costs. These costs include:-

- Staffing costs (with specialism in combat training)
- Volunteer expenses, to include DBS check and to secure additional support for the delivery of the Calm Cafes
- Refreshments for those in attendance
- Venue Hire

It should be noted, however, that wherever possible, the Council seeks accommodation from our partners on a free of charge basis – this is the arrangement with Great Dawley Town Council in respect of Dawley House. Having said that, given that there is a desire to roll out the Calm Café's across the borough, there may be times when it is necessary to pay for accommodation.

7.5. The Armed Forces Coordinator has also commenced a piece of work to identify how we can secure additional support from volunteers. Further, as commitment to the Armed Forces covenant increases throughout the Borough, it is anticipated that there will be additional opportunities to support the work of the Calm Café through our partners.

7.6. It is proposed that funding for the Calm Cafes continue from January 2023 for a further two years. To facilitate three Cafes a month (one during the evening) over a two year period, the total sum equates to £22,320 which is based on a cost of £310 per session. It is proposed that the funding is secured through the Council's Covid Recovery and Regeneration Fund which is intended to address, amongst other things, inequalities.

## **8. PREVIOUS MINUTES**

N/A

## **9. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

N/A

**Report prepared by Cindy Mason-Morris, Armed Forces Covenant Co-ordinator,  
Telephone: 01952 384772.**

**CASE STUDIES: IMPACT OF THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT**

**Case Study 1: Interview with a local veteran on Calm Café's**

In 2013, I got diagnosed with PTSD and went through all of the treatments that you can think of. I went to Audley Court (Combat Stress at Newport) for their six weeks in-house programme. I also had Eye Movement Desensitization & Reprocessing (EMDR) and Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT). So when I heard about the Calm Cafes for Veterans, I thought it was a fantastic idea. At the time, I would've loved to have been somewhere where I could just go and have a cup of tea with somebody, instead of getting drunk.

Even if it was just to go and have a cup of tea with somebody telling them about my nightmares at night. How my wife has to wrap me up like a sausage at night time because I punch out and I scream and shout and sweat in my sleep. That would have helped me to talk to somebody about that and somebody who wasn't a therapist.

Some experiences that you have in the Army are so unique, even when you're in there, you can't understand it. It's when you leave and you don't have it anymore – that's when it becomes apparent. To have that with somebody that also understands what you're saying without any fear of judgement, any fear that if you say something then someone's going to run away and without self-destructing yourself in any way.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-shropshire-60159337>

**Case Study 2: Rodington Parish Council (from the Parish Clerk)**

Since signing the Covenant in 2021, Rodington Parish Council has taken stock of their commitments and accessed not only what they should do, but what they could do. This means not only publishing the signed Covenant and saying all the good things but also acting on their commitments in the local community.

Rodington, which has only 7 Councillors and 1 Clerk and a small precept has;

- Reinvigorated the remembrance services across the parish (there is one in each of the two villages) and we now send a Councillor to lay a wreath at each service.
- Purchased two sets of both a woman and man "Silent Soldiers" to be presented in both villages for all to see the respect and commitment to our armed forces personnel.
- Begun the investigations into installing a permanent War Memorial in the parish.
- Appointed an Armed Forces Champion whose details are published in a quarterly magazine to every household in the parish, encouraging a private and anonymous call-in line to speak with the Armed Forces Champion whom was selected carefully as they are also someone who has significant links within the armed forces in their own family, meaning that they are likely to understand the challenges that armed forces personnel experience.

- We have plans to include the local armed forces at every event we can throughout the year, for recruitment and awareness campaigns.
- We are looking at ways where we can use Reserve Soldiers from the Royal Yeomanry and other units to work on local projects in the parish, with the parish council volunteers partnering with them.

This is all in tribute to the Covenant giving the council a real kick of positivity toward their commitments to what is often considered the "hidden community" as we know that not many past or present personnel will speak of their service actively, so often go unnoticed.

### **Case Study 3: Individual Veteran (from Armed Forces Covenant Co-ordinator)**

The Armed Forces Covenant Co-ordinator received a referral, from a local GP, for a veteran who was awaiting admission to a rehabilitation clinic (at the Princess Royal Hospital) for alcohol addiction. He had become extremely isolated (was unable to leave his flat due to health issues) and had built up significant debt. He was also unable/unwilling to speak to anyone on the phone. We contacted the West Midlands Royal British Legion Team who sent round a case worker and put in place a befriending service which enabled him to leave his flat as he was accompanied. As he had fairly recently left the Services, we also contacted the Defence Transition Services (DTS) who were able to support him with his financial difficulties and provide debt counselling.

DTS was established in October 2019, as part of the Ministry of Defence's new Holistic Transition Policy. They exist to provide information and support for those Service leavers, and their families, who are most likely to face challenges as they leave the Armed Forces and adjust to civilian life during the first two years of transition.



## Telford & Wrekin Council Climate Change Fund



“We are a council that doesn’t just talk about climate change; we take action. We have dramatically reduced our own operational carbon emissions and are actively working with our community to help them do the same.

“Our Climate Change Fund has enabled 35 local organisations and small businesses to reduce their carbon footprint. That means less greenhouse gas going into the atmosphere from Telford and Wrekin, which makes me both delighted and proud of our borough.

“There’s still much more to do, so I would encourage local organisations to apply when we launch the next round of funding in the summer. With these grants, your community group or small business can be part of the solution to climate change.”



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**Councillor Carolyn Healy (Labour)**

Climate Change, Parks, Green Spaces, Natural and Historic Environment  
and Cultural Services

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## **TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL**

**CABINET: 17 March 2022**

### **TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE FUND UPDATE**

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR: COMMUNITIES, CUSTOMER AND COMMERCIAL SERVICES**

**LEAD CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR CAROLYN HEALY, CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE, GREEN SPACES, NATURAL AND HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT**

### **PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT**

#### **1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS**

1.1 This report provides an update on the Council's Climate Change Fund, which was launched in February 2021. The report summarises what the fund has achieved to date and sets out proposals for a further round to be delivered later in the year.

1.2 Having declared a climate emergency in July 2019, the Council is keen to support its communities in working towards the aspiration for the Borough to be carbon neutral by 2030. The Council recognises that many local organisations would benefit from help and support to reduce their carbon footprint.

1.3 One practical means of support is by providing funds for community projects that help to tackle climate change. The Council therefore set up a Climate Change Fund in 2021 in order to provide grants to local organisations. The Council wanted to encourage organisations in the borough to take action to reduce their carbon footprint whilst also helping support a 'green recovery' at a local level.

1.4 In total, £131k of grant funding has been provided with 35 organisations across the Borough benefiting. To date, 8 schemes have already been completed well in advance of the target delivery date, ranging from the installation of solar panels to composting projects. The rest are on track to be completed by the target date.

1.5 Due to the unprecedented demand to the Council's Climate Change Fund, the Council committed further funds, reaching out to those organisations whose applications were not successful in the first round to provide additional information in order for their applications to be re-considered in a closed round in September 2021. This round funded 6 further projects (included in the £131k total).

1.6 A key aim of the scheme is for those taking part to share good practice in order to encourage other organisations locally to take action. A number of case studies are featured in Section 4, which will be promoted across the Borough. In total the 3 case studies featured in Section 4 show a total carbon saving of 7.30 tonnes per annum.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet:

1) Notes the impact of the Climate Change Fund in supporting a wide range of projects across the Borough.

2) Authorises the allocation of a further £200,000 to launch another round of the Climate Change Fund – aiming to invite applications in July 2022.

3) Delegates authority to the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Green Spaces Natural and Historic Environment and Director: Communities, Customer and Commercial Services to agree terms and any documentation to give effect to the implementation of the fund.

4) Agree that applications to the Fund be determined by a Panel comprising the lead Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Green Spaces Natural and Historic Environment and Director: Communities, Customer and Commercial Services in addition to, where possible, representatives from the Telford & Wrekin Borough Climate Change Partnership and a representative from the Council’s Environment Scrutiny Committee.

### 3.0 SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>COMMUNITY IMPACT</b>                 | Do these proposals contribute to specific Co-Operative Council priority objective(s)?  |   |
|   | Yes  | This initiative will contribute to all the Council’s priorities but particularly :<br>• Our natural environment is protected – we are taking a leading role in addressing the climate emergency         |
|   | Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?  |   |
|   | No   | Steps were undertaken to make all community groups aware of the grant funding. As part of the engagement, easy to understand guidance and information was provided to groups to help them prepare bids. |
| <b>TARGET COMPLETION/ DELIVERY DATE</b> | Round One organisations received the grants in July 2021, they have 12 months to implement their project. Those receiving the grants in September 2021 have until a year to implement their project. |   |
| <b>FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT</b> | Yes  | The Council has a block capital approval for climate change initiatives which will be used to fund the proposed £0.2m extension to the Climate Change Fund. The Council generally sources long-term     |

|   |     |  |
|---|-----|--|
|   |     | <p>funding from the Public Works Loans Board but plans to launch a £1 million Climate Action Investment (Community Municipal Investment) opportunity during 2022. The £200,000 will be one of the initiatives that will be earmarked against this funding source. All grants awarded must be of a capital nature.<br/>(KC/DR 15/02/22)</p>   |
| <b>LEGAL ISSUES</b>                             | Yes | <p>The Council has the power to award grants in accordance with the recommendations and details within this report. If any of the proposals in this report give rise to specific legal issues these will be addressed and advice provided in due course.<br/>(EH 10.2.22)</p>  |
| <b>ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT</b>                     | Yes | <p>Reducing emissions locally will help mitigate the risk of rising temperatures in the summer and extreme weather events, including drought and flooding. Reducing emissions can bring tangible short-term benefits too, such as improved air quality, increased access to physical activity and green spaces, improved quality of buildings and lower energy costs, and employment opportunities in the green sector. Carbon reduction projects will also help foster better community cohesion and participation and will help support groups that may have been impacted by the social distancing requirements in response to COVID-19. On an individual level, residents will benefit from carbon reduction projects, such as better insulated community buildings, awareness raising about reducing energy use (and therefore reducing the risk of fuel poverty), and improved active and sustainable travel infrastructure.</p> |
| <b>OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS &amp; OPPORTUNITIES</b> | Yes | <p>Risks: The Climate Change Committee Independent Assessment of UK Climate Risk for the UK's third Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3), published in June 2021 sets out the priority climate change risks for the UK.</p> <p>In summary, risks in the report were:</p>   |

|                                 |    |  |
|---------------------------------|----|--|
|                                 |    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The impacts of climate change on the natural environment.</li> <li>• An increase in the range, quantities and consequences of pests, pathogens and invasive species.</li> <li>• The risk of climate change impacts, especially more frequent flooding and coastal erosion, causing damage to infrastructure services.</li> <li>• A reduction in public water supplies due to increasing periods of water scarcity.</li> <li>• The impact of extreme temperatures, high winds and lightning on the transport network.</li> <li>• The impact of increasing high temperatures on people’s health and wellbeing.</li> <li>• Increased severity and frequency of flooding.</li> <li>• Disruption to the delivery of health and social care services due to a greater frequency of extreme weather.</li> <li>• Damage to cultural heritage assets as a result of temperature, precipitation, groundwater and landscape changes.</li> <li>• Impacts internationally that may affect the UK, such as risks to food availability, safety and security, risks to international law and governance from climate change that will affect the UK, international trade routes, public health.</li> </ul> <p>Therefore there are significant risks as outlined should the Council fail to mitigate climate change and ensure that residents, businesses and the natural environment are able to adapt to the future climate.</p> |
| <b>IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS</b> | No | Borough-wide impact  |

**PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**4. INFORMATION**

**4.1 BACKGROUND**

4.1.1 Telford & Wrekin Council declared a Climate Emergency on 25 July 2019, which included a commitment to ensuring that its operations and activities are carbon neutral

by 2030. The declaration also included an aspiration for the Borough to become carbon neutral by 2030.

4.1.2 Recognising that, for some organisations in the Borough, this could be difficult to achieve, the Council decided to set up a Climate Change Fund, from which organisations could apply for a grant to support projects aimed at addressing climate change or environmental sustainability.

4.1.3 A Climate Change Fund of £100,000 was established and was launched in February 2021.

4.1.4 Organisations eligible to apply for a grant included;

- Town & Parish Councils;
- Voluntary and community groups;
- Faith groups;
- Charities;
- Not for profit organisations;
- Social enterprises;
- Friends of Parks, Local Nature Reserves and similar groups;
- Schools and nurseries, including parent teacher associations and school friends groups;
- Small businesses\*.

\* for the purposes of this grant, small businesses were defined as those having 15 or less full time equivalent employees. There is also a complementary grant for retail and hospitality businesses called the high street eco grant, see [https://www.telford.gov.uk/info/20715/pride\\_in\\_our\\_high\\_street/4043/grants](https://www.telford.gov.uk/info/20715/pride_in_our_high_street/4043/grants).

4.1.5 Applications were invited for projects which fell within one of four categories:

- Improve energy efficiency in existing buildings (for which we received 30 applications);
- Provide renewable/low carbon energy generation (for which we received 10 applications);
- Sustainable travel (for which we received 15 applications);
- Reduce waste (for which we received 14 applications).

4.1.6 Grants could be applied for up to £5,000 for community organisations and up to £2,500 for small businesses, with all applicants required to provide match funding – 20% for community organisations and 50% for small businesses.

4.1.7 Applications were invited between 19 February and 19 April 2021. An online form (with a paper version available on request) invited applicants to set out details of their proposed climate change project and to explain, in particular;

- How the project would achieve a reduction in carbon emissions;
- Any cost savings that would accrue;
- How the wider community would benefit;

- How the organisation would promote the project more widely to encourage others to consider doing something similar.

4.1.8 All grants awarded were to be new projects and were to be completed within 12 months.

## **4.2 Fund Allocation Panel**

4.2.1 Panels reviewed the project bids and discussed which projects were to receive the funding based on the project criteria and made a recommendation for sign off. The panels were made up of the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Green Spaces Natural and Historic Environment, Director: Communities, Customer and Commercial Services, members of the Telford and Wrekin Borough Climate Change Partnership<sup>1</sup> and a representative from the Council's Environment Scrutiny Committee.

## **4.3 Round 1 of the Climate Change Fund (19 Feb – 19 April 2021)**

4.3.1 The scheme proved extremely popular with 69 applications received. Due to the quality of bids received, additional funding was issued and 29 grants were awarded to the value of £109,763.

## **4.4 Round 2 (closed) of the Climate Change Fund – Autumn 2021**

4.4.1 Due to the unprecedented demand to the Council's Climate Change Fund, the Council committed further funds, reaching out to those organisations whose applications were not successful in the first round to provide additional information in order for their applications to be re-considered in a closed round in September 2021.

4.4.2 A further six grants were awarded.

4.4.3 The total grants awarded across the two rounds awarded was £131,479 across 35 projects. The range of organisations and projects awarded a grant is in Appendix 1.

## **4.5 Case studies**

4.5.1 A requirement of the receipt of a grant was that applicants complete a case study for publication on the Council's Website ([www.sustainabletelfordandwrekin.com](http://www.sustainabletelfordandwrekin.com)), demonstrating what they had achieved with the grant.

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<sup>1</sup> Lyreco, Hollinswood & Randlay Primary School, Shropshire Wildlife Trust, Severn Gorge Countryside Trust



### Case Study 1: All Saints Church, Wellington



**Summary of project:** replacement of the existing house and stage lighting with LED lighting

Please see the YouTube link to the case study video:  
<https://youtu.be/yFpofOEBTgA>

**Project category:** Energy efficiency in existing buildings

**Description:** The project was implemented in two phases. The stage lighting upgrade was undertaken by a local stage lighting company, in early October 2021 and the house lighting upgrade (focussing on those used most frequently) was undertaken by a local electrician in December 2021.

The feedback from regular congregation members and from visitors has been very positive. The building was used for the recording of the Charlton School Christmas productions, and the Church also hosted the Mayor's Carol Service. The new lighting enhanced the service, and its live streaming.

The estimated annual carbon reduction is 2.4 tonnes, with an associated annual cost saving of around £500 for the church.

### Case study 2: Little Wenlock Village Hall



**Summary of project:** replacement of a 20 year old oil boiler with a low carbon heating system

**Project category:** Renewable Generation

**Description:** The Village Hall Committee engaged a consultant with expertise in renewable energy who recommended replacing an old ceiling-mounted cooling

units in the main hall with a modern replacement which both heat and cool, using air to air heat pump technology. The grant helped to unlock funding from other sources to enable the project to occur. With funding from the Climate Change Fund, MarRE<sup>2</sup>, Shropshire Rural Communities Council, the Parish Council and the Village Hall reserves the Village Hall are now the proud owners of two heat pump technologies – providing warm air for the main hall, and providing warm water for radiators in the remaining areas of the building.

Additional capacity: 43 kWp<sup>3</sup>  
CO<sub>2</sub> saving per year: 4.88 tonnes<sup>4</sup>

### Case study 3: Redhill Primary Academy



**Summary of project:** a food waste composting project at the school

**Project category:** Reduce Waste

**Description:** The school took delivery of a Ridan<sup>5</sup> Food Waste Composter in the week before they broke up for Christmas. The school Eco Warriors started feeding waste into the composter in the week beginning 16/01. A whole-school assembly has highlighted the connection between food waste and climate change.

The estimated annual carbon reduction is 0.0180375 tonnes<sup>6</sup> for a school year.

## 4.6 Feedback from grant recipients

Comments about the application process were invited from recipients of the grants and the following feedback was received;

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.sustainabletelfordandwrekin.com/get-involved/did-you-know/marre>

<sup>3</sup> kWp is the peak power of a system.

<sup>4</sup> Based on using conversion factors from Marches Energy Agency regarding difference between the CO<sub>2</sub> produced by the old and new heating systems

<sup>5</sup> The Ridan food waste composter system consists of a manually powered composting machine and a maturation box, enabling schools, businesses and caterers to recycle large quantities of food waste or any bio-degradable vegetation into healthy, nutritious compost, see <https://www.ridan.co.uk/>

<sup>6</sup> Based upon composting 37 kg of food waste, 5 days a week during the school year

'The grant was most welcome and the framework for the application helped us to design our approach and steer the work of the working group to set up and establish the project.' (Waters Upton Parish Council)

'The process of applying for the grant was straightforward, with clear communication from the team. The support with promotion and press releases has been very good' (All Saints Church, Wellington)

'VERY GOOD'  
(St Andrew's Church, Church Aston)

'Very smooth process, very helpful – thank you!' (Burton Borough School)

#### **4.7 Project auditing**

During project implementation, community groups are required to provide updates on progress in implementing their projects. Following project completion, community groups will be asked to provide a case study for publication on the Sustainable Telford and Wrekin website<sup>7</sup>.

#### **4.8 Next Steps: Proposed Round 3 – July 2022**

4.8.1 Due to the success of the Climate Change Fund in 2021, it is proposed to launch another round in July 2022.

4.8.2 To speed up action towards carbon neutrality by 2030 and encourage more groups to be able to apply it is proposed that;

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<sup>7</sup> <http://www.sustainabletelfordandwrekin.com/>

- The size of the fund for round 3 be doubled from £100,000 to £200,000, which will be funded through the Climate Action Investment. This will be a financial product available to the public, providing residents with a reasonably competitive return on their money while enabling them to invest in local projects that support our fight against climate change.
- The maximum amount available to organisations be increased from £5,000 to £10,000 to provide extra funding as some previous funding streams such as MarRE and Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF) are no longer available and to reflect the ambitions of community groups and small businesses<sup>8</sup> to reduce their carbon footprints.

## **5. PREVIOUS MINUTES**

5.1 None.

## **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

6.1 None.

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<sup>8</sup> All small businesses (for the purposes of this grant, small businesses are defined as those having 15 or less full time equivalent employees) will be included except for businesses on the high street which are covered by the high street eco grant.

## APPENDIX 1

### Telford and Wrekin Climate Change Fund 2021 - Organisations awarded a grant

| <b>Grant category: Improve energy efficiency in existing buildings</b>                                       |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| <b>Project</b>   | <b>Amount awarded</b> |
| Admaston House Community Centre towards replacement of existing lighting with LED                            | £5000                 |
| Sir John Bayley Club towards replacement windows and door  | £4875                 |
| Holy Trinity Academy for upgrade of strip lighting to LED  | £2500                 |
| Coalbrookdale and Ironbridge Scout Group towards secondary internal glazing and draught proofing             | £4500                 |
| Crudgington Primary School towards improvements to lighting and double glazing                               | £5000                 |
| Dawley C of E Primary Academy towards upgrade of Academy Hall lighting to LED                                | £2496                 |
| All Saints Church, Wellington towards replacement of the existing house and stage lighting with LED lighting | £5000                 |
| St Andrew's Church, Church Aston towards replacement of existing lighting with LED                           | £1785                 |
| GDS Property Services, Rodington towards replacement workshop lighting                                       | £2500                 |
| Wellington Community Arts towards the upgrade of internal and external lighting to LED                       | £5000                 |

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Dawley Social Club towards a range of energy efficiency measures at the Club  | £4188 |
| St Leonards Church, Malinslee towards new LED lighting  | £5000 |
| Lilleshall Cricket Club towards replacement windows   | £2000 |
| Waters Upton Parish Council towards a range of energy efficiency projects across the Parish, including a residents' engagement programme and energy efficiency measures in a number of public buildings | £4000 |
| Leegate Community Centre towards upgrading the Centre's lighting to LED   | £5000 |
| Small Woods Association towards updating lighting and devices at the Green Wood Centre to LED   | £5000 |

| <b>Grant category: Provide renewable/low carbon energy generation</b>                                  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| <b>Project</b>   | <b>Amount awarded</b> |
| Little Wenlock Village Hall towards replacement of old oil boiler with low carbon heating system       | £5000                 |
| Wellington Town Council towards a solar PV system at Wellington Public Conveniences                    | £5000                 |
| Lilleshall Parish Council towards a solar PV system at Lilleshall Tennis Centre                        | £5000                 |
| Helping Hands supported accommodation towards a solar PV and battery system at newly acquired premises | £5000                 |

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Lilleshall Memorial Hall towards a roof mounted solar PV and battery system  | £5000 |
| Food Waste Heroes towards a solar PV System with battery storage on the roof of their container building in Wellington | £5000 |

| <b>Grant category: Sustainable travel</b>   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| <b>Project</b>  | <b>Amount awarded</b> |
| Newport CE Junior School towards a bike/scooter shed/storage                            | £1500                 |
| Southall Special School towards the development of cycling and walking activities       | £5000                 |
| Burton Borough School towards secure bike storage                                       | £3000                 |
| Park Lane Centre, Woodside towards two electric charging points for the Centre car park | £5000                 |
| Sambrook Village Hall towards a community electric car charging point                   | £1800                 |

| <b>Grant category: Reduce waste</b>  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| <b>Project</b>   | <b>Amount awarded</b> |
| Lightmoor Village Primary School towards recycling bins                                  | £1500                 |
| Newport Town Council for Recycle on the Go Bin project                                   | £5000                 |
| Old Park Primary School towards the creation of Eco bricks from single use plastic waste | £2000                 |
| Redhill Primary Academy towards a food waste composting project                          | £5000                 |

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Lawley Primary School towards becoming a single use drinks bottle plastic free school            | £4865 |
| Friends of Dawley Park towards a Climate Change Programme for Dawley Park                        | £1254 |
| Telford Pet Services towards a move to corn starch compostable dog poo bags and hot compost bins | £546  |
| Clifton Community Arts, Wellington towards the creation of a courtyard garden area               | £1170 |