

Public Document Pack

A MEETING OF THE BOROUGH OF TELFORD & WREKIN

Will be held at THE PLACE, LIMES WALK, OAKENGATES, TELFORD,
TF2 6EP
on THURSDAY, 13 JANUARY 2022
at 6.00 pm

All Members are summoned to attend for the transaction
of the under mentioned business



Associate Director: Policy & Governance

AGENDA

1. **Prayers and Reflections**
2. **Apologies for Absence**
3. **Declarations of Interest**
4. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** (Pages 5 - 18)
To confirm the minutes of the last meeting of the Council.
5. **Leader's Report & Announcements**
The Leader of the Council may give an oral report on matters of significance to the Borough, comment upon the Cabinet decisions or make any announcements.
6. **Mayor's Announcements** (Pages 19 - 20)
To note the Mayoral Engagements undertaken since the previous Council meeting.

7. **Public Questions**
To receive any questions from the public which have been submitted under Council Procedure Rules 7.11 and 7.12. The session will last no more than 15 minutes with a maximum of 2 minutes allowed for each question and answer. Questions can be asked of the Leader and Cabinet Members.

8. **Councillor Questions On Notice**
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.

9. **Cabinet Decisions Made Since the Last Meeting of the Council** (Pages 21 - 24)
To receive the report on the Cabinet decisions made since publication of the last Council meeting agenda. Cabinet Members may speak on these decisions and Members may ask questions about key decisions of the relevant Cabinet Member for the purposes of clarification only. Members are asked to note the additional delegations to officers granted at those meetings.

10. **Setting the Council Tax Base for 2022/23** (Pages 25 - 32)

11. **Recommendations from Cabinet**

CABINET - 6 JANUARY 2021

- 11.1 **2021/22 Financial Monitoring** (Pages 33 - 36)

12. **Governance Update** (Pages 37 - 48)

13. **Notices of Motion**

- 13.1 **Councillor E J Greenaway will propose the following Motion:-**
“This Council calls on Severn Trent to work with Council officers and ward members to update the drainage plan for the Borough and address the drainage issues that have been caused by the rapid expansion of the town.”

The Motion will be seconded by Councillor M B Hosken.

FILMING, RECORDING & PHOTOGRAPHY

The Council supports the principle of transparency and encourages filming, recording and taking photographs at its meetings that are open to the public. It also welcomes the use of

social networking websites (such as Twitter and Facebook) and micro-blogging to communicate with people about what is happening, as it happens.

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

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

At each Ordinary meeting of the Council a period of 15 minutes will be allocated for public questions. Questions can be asked of The Leader and Cabinet Members. Details of the protocol for public questions can be accessed via the following link:

http://www.telford.gov.uk/info/20243/council_meetings/364/public_questions_at_council_meetings

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FULL COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Full Council held on Thursday, 18 November 2021 at 6.00 pm in The Place, Limes Walk, Oakengates, Telford, TF2 6EP

Present: Councillors S Bentley, K T Blundell, A J Burford, S P Burrell, E M Callear, L D Carter, E J Carter, G H Cook, S Davies, N A Dugmore, A J Eade, A R H England, N A M England, R C Evans, V A Fletcher, I T W Fletcher, J Gough, E J Greenaway, C Healy, M B Hosken, T L B Janke, A S Jhawar, J Jones, J E Lavery, A Lawrence, A D McClements, R Mehta, K Middleton, L A Murray, T J Nelson, G L Offland, R A Overton, I Preece, S J Reynolds, G C W Reynolds, S A W Reynolds, H Rhodes, K S Sahota, P J Scott, J M Seymour, C F Smith, M J Smith, B J Thompson, K T Tomlinson, C R Turley, D R W White and D Wright

Apologies: Councillors M Boylan, V J Holt, R T Kiernan, J Loveridge, W L Tomlinson and P Watling

155 Prayers and Reflections

Inderjit Singh, President of the Guru Nanak Darbar Gurdwara, Oakengates led the meeting in prayers and reflections.

156 Declarations of Interest

Councillor N Dugmore declared an interest in minute number 167b Notice of Motion in respect of Covid 19 and vaccinations due to him receiving remuneration for the covid vaccinations . He indicated that he would not take part in the debate.

Councillors J Greenaway, Stephen Reynolds and D White declared an interest in minute number 167a Notice of Motion in respect of the NHS as members of the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and/or Health & Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee indicated that they would not be taking part in the discussion or the vote.

157 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 July 2021 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

158 Leader's Report & Announcements

The Leader addressed the meeting and paid tribute as a Council and a community to Sir David Amos.

The Leader felt that, although the Borough was still trying to return to some normality, people were still able to get out and about and enjoy the high street,

green and open spaces and the wonderful Town Park as well as Telford and Wrekin facilities. Telford was a great place to work, study and live and he was delighted that the Council, and some of its staff, had recently won awards.

The Leader spoke about the recent funding that had been granted for some key areas which would enable them to bounce back from the pandemic and ensure that Telford was a safer, greener place to work and spoke about the excellent services providing care and investment into the Borough

The Leader reported that the previous few days had marked Armistice day and Remembrance Day and that the community had come together to remember those who had fallen. As we moved forward to the festive period he wished everyone a safe and enjoyable Christmas.

159 Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor asked Members to note the recent Mayoral Engagements and, in particular, the 75th Anniversary of Remembrance which had been supported by war veterans, the military, RBL, Faith Groups and the community who came together to remember those who had served and sadly lost their lives.

The Mayor announced that, during the meeting, cheques would be handed over to the charities that the Mayor had been supporting during the 2021/2022 municipal year, being the Jayne Sargeant Foundation and Telford Mind.

Councillor S Reynolds, former Mayor from 2019/2020 also presented a cheque to the YMCA from his Mayoral Year as he had been unable to do this due to restrictions imposed as a result of the Covid pandemic.

The Deputy Speaker thanked the Charities for attending.

160 Public Questions

(a) The following question has been submitted by Kate Barnes

(a) The following question to Councillor C Healy, Cabinet Member: Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Green Spaces, Natural and Historic Environment was submitted by Kate Barnes:

In a mailshot from the Council on the 13 September two million pounds was pledged to parks. On behalf of the residents of Aqueduct Ward, can we ask how this funding will be allocated across the Borough for play parks and can the Cabinet Member ensure that the right allocation is rewarded to the Dawley Hamlets play parks so they reach the standard across the Borough?

Cllr C Healy, Cabinet Member: Cabinet Member: Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Green Spaces, Natural and Historic Environment responded that she was proud to announce the investment of £2m for open spaces and a further investment of £1m for parks which had been announced in October and was

part of the £60m investment as the Council continued to protect, care and invest in order to create a better Borough. The Council would continue to work with local communities, friends groups, town and parish councils, ward members and other interested parties to enhance the existing open spaces as well as designating more Local Nature Reserves and green guarantee sites. The £1m pride in our parks fund would be used to target the number of green flag accredited sites to ensure residents had access to the best quality open spaces. Both funds would allow the Council to maximise its investment by sourcing other funding to get the best impact across the Borough. For Dawley and Aqueduct and the Parish of Dawley Hamlets, the Local Nature Reserve would benefit from biodiversity and access enhancements and improvements and would be championed by the local friends group who had recently secured funding from the Great Crested Newt District Licensing Scheme. She thanked Dawley Hamlets Parish Council for its contribution towards the funding. There would also be a management plan for Dawley Park in order for it to maintain its green flag status and a new play strategy was being developed for the 120 play areas across the Borough. A further £30,000 was being invested into the play areas within Dawley and Aqueduct with new play equipment being put in place at Pagett Drive and Spring Village.

161 **Cabinet Decisions Made Since the Last Meeting of the Council**

Members received the report on the Cabinet decisions made since the last meeting of the Council.

Tibberton & Cherrington Neighbourhood Development Plan – Approval to go to Referendum

Councillor S Burrell asked whether the Cabinet Member would ensure that the Neighbourhood Development Plan, approved by 94% of the 28% who turned out to vote, would be given its due deference within planning determinations affecting the parish of Tibberton and Cherrington made by the local planning authority within

The Leader responded that as the Cabinet member was not present at the meeting he would ensure that the comments would be passed to him and the local plan, together with planning policies and legislation would be taken into consideration when any planning decisions relevant to that parish or any other parish were made.

162 **Recommendations from Cabinet**

(a) 2021/22 Financial Monitoring

Councillor R C Evans Cabinet Member for Council Finance and Governance presented the report of the Director: Finance & HR (Chief Financial Officer) which provided details of the capital programme and use of balances which required formal approval by full Council.

RESOLVED – that the changes to the capital programme and use of balances detailed in Appendix 1 to the report be approved.

163 Recommendations from Boards and Committees

(a) Appointment of External Auditors for April 2023 Onwards

Councillor C Smith summarised the requirements for the Council to appoint external auditors for the appointing period commencing the audit of the financial year 2023/24. At its meeting on 28 September 2021, the Audit Committee considered the options available for future appointments of external auditors under the relevant legislation and agreed to recommend to full Council that the national Sector Led Body appointed by the Government, was adopted. Full Council was asked to approve the Council opting in to the Sector Led Body (Public Sector Audit Appointment Ltd - PSAA) procurement route for the appointment of external auditors

RESOLVED – that:

- a) **the information and options available as set out in section 4 of the report be noted;**
- b) **the Council agreed to use option 3, the national Sector Led Body (SLB) appointed by the Government – Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd to undertake the procurement;**
- c) **the proposal to opt into the PSAA for the purpose of appointing External Auditors for the audit of the financial years 2023/24 onwards be approved;**
- d) **delegated authority be granted to the Chief Finance Officer (or their delegated officer) to take all appropriate actions to opt into the PSAA procurement process and engages with the PSAA to inform their specification and proposed supplier;**
- e) **delegated authority be granted to the Associate Director: Policy & Governance (or their delegated officer) to take all actions needed to enter into all necessary legal documentation required to give effect to this decision.**

(b) Gambling Act 2005 – Statement of Licensing Principles

Councillor C Turley presented the Statement of Licensing Gambling Policy. The Council's Licensing Committee had a statutory duty to review the Policy every three years. A consultation was undertaken by Public Protection in July-August 2021 and no representations were received. The Policy remained largely the same as previous policies with the exception of an addition in Section 12 to reflect changes in the Gambling commission's guidance regarding gaming machines. At its meeting on 12 October 2021, the Licensing Committee agreed to recommend the Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy to Full Council for approval. If approved, the Policy, would be published on 4 January 2022 taking effect from 31 January 2022.

Councillor V Fletcher asked the following questions:

At page 41 of the policy, the definition of 'Responsible Authority' included the Safeguarding Children's Board, but there was no reference to Telford and Wrekin Adults Safeguarding Board; what was the reason for this?

On a number of pages, significant weight and emphasis was given to the protection of vulnerable children and vulnerable people and those people who gamble beyond their means, what warning signs are in place in gambling facilities, what help is provided what measures are in place to combat the excesses of gambling?

Councillor Turley confirmed that he would ask a Licensing Officer to provide a written response to the questions.

RESOLVED - that

a) the Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy be approved; and

b) the policy be published on the website on 3 January 2022 taking effect from 31 January 2022.

164 Councillor Questions On Notice

The following questions were asked under Council Procedure Rule 6.2.2:-

a) Councillor P Scott will ask the following question of Councillor David Wright, Cabinet Member for Economy, Housing, Transport & Infrastructure:

There are more and more estates being built in the Telford and Wrekin area and many are waiting and in some cases hoping to be adopted by the council. What future plans are there to adopt any of the unadopted estates? If there are plans, specifically which estates?

Councillor L D Carter Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood, Commercial Services and Regeneration responded on behalf of Councillor D Wright. The Council understood the frustrations of residents, parish and town council and ward members with the lack of communication from developers as to why roads have not been adopted. The Council was bound by the Highways Act and had no statutory or legal powers to enforce the adoption of new roads. Many authorities across the country faced the same challenges. Before being adopted, roads must meet the required standard and design and be technically appraised. The Council continued to do as much as it could, to ensure that adoption agreements were signed in a timely fashion with all ongoing works being technically appraised and inspected throughout the build process. The Council had clear procedures in place to ensure that the roads were constructed to the correct standard before being adopted. The Council had limited control on the rate of progress due to delays outside of its control, for example, the slow adoption of sewers by Severn Trent Water, the road still

being used for development or the developer going out of business. Multiple road adoptions had recently taken place with more to be completed imminently.

Councillor P Scott confirmed that, as Councillor D Wright was not available at the meeting, he would write to him with a further question.

- b) Councillor P Scott will ask the following question of Councillor David Wright, Cabinet Member for Economy, Housing, Transport & Infrastructure:

The council kindly agreed to survey its car parks with a view to looking at possible improvements. Can the cabinet member for Transport please give us an update?

Cllr L Carter responded on behalf of Cllr D Wright that a meeting took place in September to discuss car parking and the continuation of free parking was an ongoing commitment. The car parks in Newport were surveyed on 22 October 2021 and the team were awaiting receipt of the survey data. Surveys on other car parks across the Borough were also underway. The data would be used as a factual basis to develop ideas for consideration by ward members, partners and parish and town council as soon as possible.

Councillor P Scott noted that discussions had taken place regarding a review of 40 minute spaces on the High Street, Lower Bar and St Marys Street and asked for an indication that this matter could be reviewed due to concerns on the limited time on the parking spaces'

Cllr L Carter responded that the starting point would be the survey so as to have a factual basis upon which to make decisions going forward with that including a review of the parking Cllr Scott alluded to.

- c) Councillor G Cook will ask the following question of Councillor David Wright, Cabinet Member for Economy, Housing, Transport & Infrastructure:

Can the Cabinet Member for Economy, Housing Transport & Infrastructure please outline the proposals for the Towns Fund, including information on the allocation for Wellington and Oakengates and the extra financial support that Telford & Wrekin have agreed to commit to in order to bridge the gap in the fund after Government cut the original £25m announced?

Councillor S Davies, Leader, responded on behalf of Councillor D Wright that the Towns Fund was intended to drive economic growth and the administration had demonstrated a decade of achievement with a £50m growth fund, investments into roads and footpaths and business support functions. A bid for the maximum fund of £25m had been submitted and the Council were one of 100 towns to be successful in receiving the funding. The

level of funding was cut which led to a shortfall in funds. Telford and Wrekin Council had made a conscious decision to step in and support funding of the Station Quarter with match funding of £100m, together with additional funding for Oakengates and Wellington. The funding would build on what had already gone into the High Streets and upgrade facilities such as the Theatre. Work would continue with the Wellington Market to further develop the fantastic offer and attract business grants in both Oakengates and Wellington and across the Borough as a business winning Council.

- d) Councillor K Sahota will ask the following question of Councillor Richard Overton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Enforcement, Community Safety and Customer Services:

I am alarmed to hear that the Police front counter service at Telford Malinsgate Police Station is to have its hours reduced. This has also been raised with me by very concerned residents, some of whom do not have access to internet and when raising a police complaint on the telephone are often frustrated not being able to get through to 101. In view of this, could Cllr Richard Overton Cabinet Member for Enforcement, Community Safety and Customer Services tell me what the Council's view is on the Police and Crime Commissioner's proposals relating to this and what the Council is doing to address community safety issues.

Councillor R Overton, Deputy Leader, shared Councillor Sahota's concerns with regard to the proposed reduction to the opening hours of the front desk at Malinsgate Police Station. West Mercia Police had sought views regarding the opening hours and as a result of initial feedback the survey was amended and extended to seek wider views on non-emergency public contact with the Police. The results of the survey were awaited. The Council strongly opposed a reduction in hours of the front desk as it provided the community with facilities to speak face to face with the Police. The Council had launched a £2.5 million safer and stronger communities fund in order to support community enforcement and were doing what they could along with the Community Action Teams to build community confidence. The Police and Crime Commissioner was introducing a Safer West Mercia Plan and, although there had been an increase in police numbers, there were nowhere near enough. There needed to be more police on the streets to respond to concerns; the reduction in services did little to support those who may need it the most.

- e) Councillor J Thompson will ask the following question of Councillor R Evans, Cabinet Member for Council Finance and Governance:

I hope that all members are aware that 25th November is White Ribbon Day. The white ribbon movement is part of a global White Ribbon movement to end male violence against women. Telford and Wrekin Council is part of that movement and we are proud to be accredited as a White Ribbon Town since 2011. In this year, when the murder of Sarah Everard brought women's experience of men's violence to the forefront of everyone's minds, could Cllr

Rae Evans, the cabinet champion against domestic abuse, please provide an update on the awareness raising activities that are taking place in the borough over the 16 days leading up to 25th November.

Councillor R Evans responded that Telford and Wrekin Council had been accredited with White Ribbon Status since 2011 demonstrating how serious the Council were about tackling the issue which was fundamental to the commitment to protect and care those living within our Borough. Thursday, 25 November was White Ribbon Day and the Council would be using this and the following 16 days of action, together with partners, to say no to violence against women and girls. The programme would include a social media campaign building on last year's success, Southwater would be turned white and the white ribbon flag raised on Addenbrooke House. On 1 December a webinar entitled domestic abuse would be delivered to 40 delegates. On the 8 December bystander training would be delivered to 120 delegates. During the 16 days of action the white ribbon logo would be displayed on fleet vehicles, arriva buses, police vehicles and fire appliances and taxis to raise awareness. The message was clear every woman, man and child have the right to live free from violence and abuse. The commitment went beyond the 16 days and beyond politics in order to raise awareness, education and support.

Councillor J Thompson asked where members of the public could obtain badges from and, if they were unable to get badges, could they buy white ribbons from shops.

Councillor R Evans responded that she would ask officers to put a supply of badges on the front desk of Addenbrooke House or they could be obtained from the website of White Ribbon UK where people and organisations could sign up to the pledge and buy goods and she encouraged people to do that.

- f) Councillor C Turley will ask the following question of Councillor A Burford, Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care:

The Cabinet Member for Health will no doubt be aware of the frustrations of our residents who are unable to get a GP appointment. GP numbers are declining year on year and yet they are being asked to take on more and more tasks and clear the backlog. Can the Cabinet member confirm what residents should do if they can't access a GP appointment and will he write to local MPs and the government to lobby for more much needed resources and investment for our primary health care system.

Councillor A Burford responded that Councillor Turley raised a very important question. He was acutely aware of frustration in getting an appointment or through to the doctors on the phone. The Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) asked for an update from the CCG in September given the serious concerns raised about poor access. Two things to bear in mind were that some GP practices were managing things better than others and the HWB had been assured by the CCG that a range of actions were underway that would

improve the situation and bring more consistency. The HWB, Chaired by Councillor K Middleton had been promised regular progress reports and the CCG and the Patient Liaison Service could assist. The second point was the national staffing crisis which included GP surgeries. The picture nationally was deteriorating and it was not possible to exaggerate the catastrophic failure to invest in services and a letter had been sent to the Secretary of State asking for urgent attention and resources across primary care.

- g) Councillor I Fletcher will ask the following question of Councillor D Wright, Cabinet Member for Economy, Housing, Transport & Infrastructure:

Will the Cabinet member please advise members the current position regarding the review of the Telford Local Plan. Is the review still to take place now or in the near distant future?

Councillor R Overton responded on behalf of Councillor D Wright. The Council commenced a review of the Local Plan in 2020 and consulted on issues and options in Autumn 2020 and were ready to consult on the draft plans in the Summer of 2021. In the latter part of 2021 the Government consulted on a white paper - planning for the future. The Government had not yet formally responded to the white paper consultation. The Government set out plans to bring planning legislation this Autumn based on the changes set out in the white paper and, in light of this, the Council took the decision to stall the formal phases of the review process to await further details of the legislative proposals phase. Following the creation of the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, it was understood that the Government was considering a complete rethink of previous proposals. The Council continues to await a response and proposals. The Council has an adopted plan which runs to 2031 and a new timeline will be proposed once the new legislation is in place.

Councillor I Fletcher asked whether the council would consider incorporating climate change measures within the local plan ie electric vehicle charging, solar panels, district heating systems and everything to reduce the climate excess use following the declaration of a climate emergency in 2019. .

Councillor R Overton responded that the Council were committed to dealing with climate change and they would look at every aspect to ensure the Council met its objectives.

- h) Councillor I Preece will ask the following question of Councillor E Callear, Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Visitor Economy:

I am delighted to see that our Labour administration have announced that a new swimming pool is to be delivered in the Dawley area, which I am sure many residents will be very pleased to hear, especially as it will also celebrate the 150 anniversary year of the achievements of our famous son, Captain

Matthew Webb. Can the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture & Visitor Economy give any further update on this and when it may be completed?

Councillor E Callear responded that it was in its early stages and an initial consultation had taken place with the community. A high number of responses had been received from every ward within the Borough. Some 84% of those that responded strongly agreed that it would benefit the community with 95% saying they would like to swim more often. Some 89% of residents used their car to travel to use swimming pools. Two wards have been identified that would most benefit with some of the highest rate of needs for leisure facilities and it is important to access these facilities locally either on foot or by bicycle. The Council was one of only a few that offered free swimming to under 25s with a TLC card and swimming for £1 for over 50s. It was hoped that as many families in the Borough as possible would have access to leisure offers locally and equal opportunity to lead healthy lifestyles. In readiness for the anniversary of Captain Webb's crossing of the channel, the Council was working towards delivering the new pool for the Dawley area and the wider community and feasibility work was being undertaken to look at the specification and its location.

- i) Councillor G Reynolds will ask the following question of Councillor C Healy, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Green Spaces, Natural and Historic Environment:

In the battle to prevent climate breakdown, it is clear that we need more renewable energy generation, but there are challenges to doing this in the right way and in the right place. The House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee estimates that by 2030 2.2 million homes could be powered by community energy schemes, saving 2.5 million tonnes of CO2 every year. However current rules mean the regulation costs of setting up community energy schemes make such initiatives unviable. The Local Electricity Bill aims to address this by establishing a Right to Local Supply, enabling community-owned renewable energy schemes to sell their power directly to local people. A number of councils have given their support to the bill. Will Telford and Wrekin Council do the same?

Councillor C Healy responded that this was an exciting Bill that was in the early stages of consideration by Parliament. Through its Climate Change Grants, the Council had funded a number of community schemes such as solar panels on community centres and it would be wonderful if these schemes could be grown to generate a surplus that could supply neighbouring houses. At the moment, the current regulations to become an energy supplier was too great for smaller companies and made a renewable revolution difficult. The council would support the Bill but MPs needed to sign up to this and so far 270 MPs had pledged support to the Bill and she would be happy to write to the MPs for Telford and The Wrekin to ask for their support in the battle for climate change.

- j) Councillor A Lawrence will ask the following question of Councillor D Wright, Cabinet Member for Economy, Housing, Transport & Infrastructure:

A councillors ability to ask for planning applications to be considered by the planning committee (green carding) is a fundamental part of the democratic process, giving residents confidence in the independence and robustness of the planning process. Will the cabinet member ensure that all such requests are granted?

Councillor R Evans responded on behalf of Councillor D Wright that the Council has an adopted system to call in planning applications which was considered and adopted by the Planning Committee in July 2013. This set out the adopted procedures and criteria and specified that it could only be made by the ward member or town or parish council relevant to the application and requests from neighbouring ward members and parish and town councils could only be allowed at the Chair's discretion. Requests must be completed in a timely manner within the consultation period and have valid planning reasons. If the request did not meet the criteria the parties would be notified of the reasons why and encouraged to discuss matters with case officers directly. Planning Applications are determined by Planning Committee or by officers and are determined against national and local planning policy which have been through clear democratic processes and she was confident that all decisions made were robust and independent.

Councillor A Lawrence asked if it were possible to have a list of the number of applications that had been rejected because there seemed to be more than in previous times.

Councillor R Evans responded that some of the call in applications by members of the opposition had fallen outside of the policies and procedures. In each case, those people had received a detailed explanation from officers and CEO. The Planning Team were due to provide a series of planning workshops for parish and town councillors. Anybody who feels they are struggling to understand the process may wish to attend these or raise this with a Democratic Services Support Officer during their discussions about training needs.

- k) Councillor N Dugmore will ask the following question of Councillor S Reynolds, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People, Education and Lifelong Learning:

Can the cabinet member explain why after three years the safe route to school along Donnington Wood Way between Muxton and Donnington is still not safe for children to use especially during the winter months being unable to attract attention from passing traffic should a child need assistance or be in danger?

Councillor S Reynolds responded that the Council was committed to providing safe and sustainable routes to school as it was good for the environment and

supported young people along with their parents and carers to encourage healthy and active lifestyles. Concerns had been raised regarding sections of the footpath on Donnington Wood Way. The Council has invested over £600k into the safer routes to school programme and complimented the annual investment into the highway safety schemes and sustainable travel projects. There is street lighting along this footpath and each year the grounds and cleansing team undertake extensive hedge trimming works to open up the area and reduce their height. This work had recently been undertaken and, to enhance the safety of all pedestrians, mobile CCTV cameras had been installed at Donnington and specifically at the underpass at Donnington Wood Way and fed into the CCTV control room as part of the investment to protect care and invest across the Borough. In addition, officers were exploring further enhancements to open up sections of the hedgerows and install further street lighting to make a safe walking route for all users.

Councillor N Dugmore asked if all designated safe routes to school would have an annual maintenance inspection to ensure they are fit for purpose as that hadn't happened in his ward'.

Councillor S Reynolds responded that, in 2019, the investment into safer routes for schools was announced. She considered that this was something that could be looked at during a ward walk for an area and it be reported. The Council did have an annual maintenance programme with all schools being encouraged to have a safe travel plan. Children's safety should be at the heart of everything the Council did and she asked members to consider funding road safety from their ward fund allocation to support the network management road safety team to educate children, promoting the 'be bright be seen' to raise pedestrian road safety and to support the children in their wards.

165 Notices of Motion

(a) Councillor S Davies will propose the following Motion :-

a. Motion :-

Councillor S Davies moved, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 7, the following Motion:

This Council notes, with grave concern, the intense pressure that our local hospital is under and this will be compounded by a difficult winter ahead for the NHS. The recent stories of ambulances queuing outside our A&E at PRH for hours with patients desperate to be treated or waiting for ambulances to arrive is unacceptable. Our NHS staff are working flat out, feeling demoralised and exhausted. Shropshire Future Fit hospital shakeup remains not fit for purpose, with escalating costs now pitched at £533million from its original budget of £312m. Never has it been more apparent that Telford needs to keep a 24/7 A&E Service and a fully functioning Women's and Children's Centre.

It is clear that our NHS is in crisis both locally and nationally. It cannot go on and this Council therefore requests an urgent meeting with the new Secretary of State for Health & Social Care, Savid Javid and calls on him to intervene urgently to ensure our PRH retains its much needed 24/7 A&E and Women's & Children's Centre.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor R Overton

A robust debate followed during which a request to move an amendment was made. Advice was given that the Council's Constitution required notice of amendments to be given before the meeting. During the debate, a number of Members referred to concerns about the current proposals for Telford.

In accordance with Committee Procedure Rule 9.5, recorded vote on the motion was taken, the voting being as follows:

For: 38

Councillors S Bentley, K T Blundell, A J Burford, E Callear, E Carter, L D Carter, G H Cook, S Davies, N Dugmore, A Eade, N A M England, R C Evans, I T W Fletcher, V Fletcher, C Healy, M Hosken, T L B Janke, A Jhawar, J Jones, J Lavery, A Lawrence, A D McClements, K Middleton, L Murray, T Nelson, G Offland, R A Overton, I Preece, G C W Reynolds, S A W Reynolds, S J Reynolds, H Rhodes, K S Sahota, P J Scott, J Seymour, C F Smith, M Smith, B J Thompson and C R Turley.

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

Councillor D R W White.

NB. Councillors E J Greenaway, S J Reynolds and D R W White did not take part in this debate due to their Membership of the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and/or the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED - that the Motion be approved

(b) Councillor N A Dugmore will propose the following motion :-

Cllr S Bentley proposed the following Motion:

This Council strongly advises all residents to listen to the advice of medical experts and take the opportunity of a COVID 19 and flu vaccination both for the protection of themselves, friends and families and also to reduce the risk of transmission of the viruses.

We also urge our NHS leaders to work with this Authority to provide more walk-in vaccination centres in order to reduce waiting times to administer more vaccinations which we consider to be essential in protecting frontline medical provision.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor A Lawrence

During the debate that followed, Members encouraged those who were not yet vaccinated to obtain a vaccination and expressed their thanks to local communities, volunteers, the NHS and the Fire Service for their support in delivering the vaccination programme.

NB. Councillor Dugmore did not take part in the debate or vote due to his being involved in the vaccination programme by virtue of his employment.

RESOLVED – that the motion be approved

The meeting ended at 8.14 pm

Chairman:

Date: Thursday, 13 January 2022

MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS
19 November 2021 – 9 January 2022

NOVEMBER	27	DM	Madeley Christmas Lights Switch-On Event at Jubilee House, High Street, Madeley
	29	DM	Rodington Parish Council Carols by the Tree Event at Rodington Village Hall, Shropshire
DECEMBER	1	M	Telford & Wrekin Civic Carol Service at The Place, Oakengates Theatre
	22	M	Citizenship Ceremony at Register Officer, Wellington Civic & Leisure Centre

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TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 13 JANUARY 2022

MATTERS DETERMINED BY THE CABINET

REPORT OF CABINET – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report sets out those matters determined by the Cabinet at its meetings held on 23 September 2021, 7 October 2021, and 4 November 2021.

2.0 CABINET BUSINESS

Matters that have been determined by Cabinet are listed below:

- | | | |
|------|-------|--|
| | 2.1 | <u>2 December 2021</u> |
| K | 2.1.1 | First Homes – Local Criteria |
| K | 2.1.2 | Tibberton & Cherrington Neighbourhood Development Plan –
Proceed to Making the NDP |
| NK | 2.1.3 | Draft Equality and Diversity Strategy |
| NK | 2.1.4 | Progress Update on Recommendations from the Customer &
Digital Peer Review and Key Actions from the Customer Strategy |
| | 2.2 | <u>6 January 2022</u> |
| K PC | 2.2.1 | 2021/22 Financial Monitoring |
| K | 2.2.2 | Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23
- 2025/26 |
| K | 2.2.3 | 2022/23 School Funding Formula |
| K | 2.2.4 | Supported and Specialist Housing - SPD |
| K | 2.2.5 | Borough of Telford & Wrekin (Glebe
Street Wellington) CPO 2021 |
| NK | 2.2.6 | Green Guarantee |

Key

K	= Key Decisions
NK	= Non-Key Decisions
E	= Exempt Items
PE	= Part Exempt Item
C	= Council
PC	= Part Recommendation to Council

3.0 DELEGATION OF POWERS GRANTED BY THE CABINET

REPORT HEADING	DELEGATION GRANTED TO	DETAIL OF DELEGATION GRANTED
Tibberton & Cherrington Neighbourhood Development Plan – Proceed to Making the NDP	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 Tibberton & Cherrington Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan.
Borough of Telford & Wrekin (Glebe Street Wellington) CPO 2021	The Director: Prosperity & Investment and the Associate Director: Policy & Governance	To take all necessary steps to secure the making (including making such further amendments to the draft Statement of Reasons prepared in support of the reasons for making the CPO as are necessary) confirmation and implementation of the CPO, including the publication and service of all relevant notices, the presentation of the Council's case at any local public inquiry and the resolution of any compulsory purchase claims including, if necessary, by way of making (or responding to) a reference to the Upper Tribunal (Lands Chamber).
Green Guarantee	The Director: Prosperity & Investment and the Associate Director: Policy & Governance in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Green Spaces, Natural and Historical Environment and Cultural Services	To grant relevant leases and licences and other interests in accordance with paragraph 4.7 of this report
LEGAL COMMENT FINANCIAL COMMENT LINKS WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES	As described in each report considered by Cabinet. Copies of all reports have been previously circulated to all Members of the Council.	

RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT EQUALITY & DIVERSITY WARD IMPLICATIONS	
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TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING – 13 JANUARY 2022

SETTING OF THE COUNCIL TAX BASE FOR 2022/23

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR: FINANCE & HUMAN RESOURCES (CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER)

LEAD CABINET MEMBER: CLLR RAE EVANS

PART A – SUMMARY REPORT

1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS

1.1 To determine the Council Tax Base for General and Special Fund purposes for the financial year 2022/23.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Full Council to approve:

- (i) The calculation of the tax base for 2022/23 as at paragraph 5.6 and Appendix 1
- (ii) In Accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 2012 (SI 2012:2914), the amount calculated for Telford and Wrekin Council Tax base for 2022/23 for its Special Fund Area shall be as per the appropriate parish amounts detailed in Appendix 1 for the parishes listed in paragraph 5.7.

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific priority plan objectives?	
	Yes/No	Setting the council tax base is a legal requirement and is needed to calculate council tax levels for 2022/23 and therefore directly supports the delivery of all Council priorities.

	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	Yes/No	Council tax payers
TARGET COMPLETION / DELIVERY DATE	The setting of the Council Tax Base is the first stage in the process of setting the Council Tax for 2022/23. Final recommendations on council tax levels will be presented to Full Council on 3 March 2022.	
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	Yes/No	Used in determining the Council Tax to be charged in 2022/23
LEGAL ISSUES	Yes/No	The legal requirements relating to the setting of the Council tax base are set out in the main body of this report. The Council has a statutory obligation to set the Council Tax Base by 31 January 2022 to enable the level of Council Tax to be then set in accordance with the statutory deadline of 11 March 2022. In summary the Council has the power and the duty to set the Council Tax Base in the way described in this report.
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES	Yes/No	
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	Yes/No	

PART B – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Council Tax Base

- 4.1 In order to determine the appropriate Council Tax levels for the area, it is necessary for the Council to determine the tax base for its area or part of its area. The budget requirements of the various precepting authorities are divided by this figure to arrive at the Band D equivalent level of Council Tax.
- 4.2 The tax base for 2022/23 must be set by Full Council between 1st December 2021 and 31st January 2022 as prescribed by section 8 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 2012 (SI 2012:2914).

5. COUNCIL TAX BASE INFORMATION

- 5.1 As members will be aware, the Council Tax is a banded capital value based property tax.

5.2 The main features of the tax are:-

- Each domestic property is allocated to one of 8 bands depending on its capital value which has been set by the Valuation Office Agency.
- Section 5 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 sets out the range of property values within each band. Associated Regulations determine the relationship between the tax rates for each band.
- A 25% discount from the full charge is available for single adult households. Certain categories of resident are disregarded in deciding the number of adult residents. These include students, student nurses, youth training trainees, the severely mentally impaired etc. Qualifying criteria must be met before discounts or disregards are allowed.
- A reduction equivalent to one council tax band is available where a resident of a dwelling is disabled and certain facilities are required for meeting the needs of that disabled person. For Band A properties the reduction is equivalent to 1/9th of the Band D Charge so the charge for such a Band A dwelling is 5/9ths rather than the usual 6/9ths for a Band A property.
- Council Tax Reduction is applied to the council tax base as a discount that varies depending on personal circumstances and this reduces the Council Tax Base.

5.3 The Council Tax Bands range from A to H and the details are as follows:-

Band	House Value (as at April 1991 prices)	Band D Proportion	Telford & Wrekin Properties Spread	% Increase/ (Decrease) for 22/23
	£	%	%	%
A	Under 40,000	66.7	33.61	(0.55)
B	40,001 – 52,000	77.8	27.23	0.09
C	52,001 – 68,000	88.9	16.50	0.28
D	68,001 – 88,000	100.0	11.68	0.03
E	88,001 – 120,000	122.2	6.56	0.12
F	120,001 – 160,000	144.4	2.96	0.03
G	160,001 – 320,000	166.7	1.40	0.00
H	Over 320,000	200.0	0.06	0.00

5.4 Property Base

There are 79,801 properties in the valuation list for the Telford & Wrekin area. This compares with a figure of 78,278 in the list at the same time last year. This is an increase of 1,523 properties (which equates to 1,631.3 increase to the Council Tax Base), which equates to an increase of 1.95%.

The assumed rate of collection will remain at 99.25%. Total council tax receipts will be approximately £3.037m greater as a result of growth in the tax base which is equivalent to a council tax increase of 3.11% and will help support services provided by the council, fire service and police service. Overall there has been a decrease in the proportion of Band A properties and increases in the proportions of Bands B to F.

5.5 Council Tax Base

To arrive at the Council Tax Base, it is necessary to undertake the following calculation in respect of each tax band:

Total number of chargeable dwellings
(Less) Dwellings subject to discounts
=
Total equivalent number of properties
x
Ratio to Band D
=
Relevant Amount (Band D Equivalent)

The relevant amounts for each tax band are then aggregated to arrive at the total for the area.

Finally, an estimated Collection Rate needs to be applied to the resultant figure. This has to be common to the whole area and has to provide for amendments to the Council Tax Banding List, appeals against banding, additional discounts and losses on collection. Clearly every effort is taken to vigorously pursue all council tax due to the authority. As mentioned above we will use a figure of 99.25% for 2022/23.

5.6 General Fund Tax Base

This is the estimated council tax base for the whole of the area and will be used by Telford & Wrekin to calculate its General Fund Council Tax levy and also by The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia and the Shropshire and Wrekin Fire & Rescue Authority to calculate the levy in respect of their precepts.

The tax base for this purpose for 2022/23 is 54,416.2 (including 159.8 for contributions in lieu in respect of MOD properties). Using an estimated collection rate of 99.25% (adjusted for 100% collection of contributions in lieu), **the tax base is calculated as 54,009.3.**

5.7 Special Fund Tax Base

This is the estimated council tax base for the Special Fund area, i.e. those areas where Telford & Wrekin Council provides services which, in other areas, are provided by Town & Parish Councils. These areas are;

- Dawley Hamlets,
- Great Dawley,
- Hollinswood & Randlay,

- Lawley & Overdale,
- Madeley,
- Oakengates,
- St Georges & Priorslee,
- Stirchley & Brookside,
- The Gorge,
- Wellington and
- Wrockwardine & Trench.

The Council Tax Base for each can be found in Appendix 1.

A Special Fund tax will be levied on those parishes that have opted not to take over the responsibility for footway lighting in their area. These are:-

- Dawley Hamlets,
- Great Dawley,
- Hollinswood & Randlay,
- Lawley and Overdale,
- Madeley,
- Oakengates,
- Stirchley & Brookside,
- The Gorge and
- Wellington.

If any of the other parishes that currently have responsibility for footway lighting decide to return these to Telford & Wrekin Council's responsibility then they will also have the additional charge.

The Special Fund Council Tax will be set taking into account the special fund services provided in each individual parish area and taking account of the tax base for each parish.

6 PREVIOUS MINUTES

6.1 Council meeting 14 January 2021

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Local Government Act 2003

CLG Calculation of Council Tax Base Return (CTB1) October 2014

The Council Tax (Prescribed Classes of Dwellings) (England) Regulations 2003

Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations (SI 2012:2914)

Local Government Finance Act 2003

Rating (Property in Common Occupation) and Council Tax (Empty Dwellings) Act 2018

Report Prepared by
Ed Rushton, Group Accountant: Corporate Finance (01952) 383750
Ken Clarke, Director: Finance & Human Resources (01952) 383100

COUNCIL TAX BASE BY PARISH / TOWN COUNCIL

Parish	Band D equivalent
CHETWYND	279.3
CHETWYND ASTON & WOODCOTE	245.7
CHURCH ASTON	518.7
DAWLEY HAMLETS	2,535.3
DONNINGTON & MUXTON	3,793.7
EDGMOND	555.1
ERCALL MAGNA	640.8
EYTON	36.9
GORGE, THE	1,511.4
DAWLEY, GREAT	2,801.2
HADLEY & LEEGOMERY	4,421.7
HOLLINSWOOD/RANDLAY	1,499.4
KETLEY	1,461.2
KYNNERSLEY	79.2
LAWLEY/OVERDALE	3,688.9
LILLESHALL	553.5
LITTLE WENLOCK	244.4
MADELEY	4,267.3
NEWPORT	4,133.3
OAKENGATES	2,476.6
PRESTON	120.6
RODINGTON	380.5
ST GEORGES/PRIORSLEE	4,235.3
STIRCHLEY/BROOKSIDE	2,314.0
TIBBERTON/CHERRINGTON	401.7
WATERS UPTON	421.3
WELLINGTON	7,071.9
WROCKWARDINE	1,691.9
WROCKWARDINE WOOD	1,628.5
	54,009.3

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TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 13 JANUARY 2022

2021/22 FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR: FINANCE & H.R. (CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER)

LEAD CABINET MEMBER: CLLR RAE EVANS

PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT

1.0 SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

1.1 The financial monitoring report to Cabinet on 6 January 2022 provided an update on the revenue budget and progress relating to the capital programme. The report included some changes to the capital programme which now require formal approval by Full Council.

1.2 The detailed approvals required are attached at Appendix 1.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to:-

- (i) Approve the changes to the capital programme detailed in Appendix 1

3.0 SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Co-operative Council priorities?	
	Yes	Delivery of all priorities depend on the effective use of available resources. Regular financial monitoring in the financial management reports helps to highlight variations from plan so that action can be taken to effectively manage the Council's budget.
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	No	
TARGET COMPLETION/DELIVERY DATE	To outturn within the budget set for 2021/22 at 31/3/22.	

FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	Yes	The financial impacts are detailed in the report.
LEGAL ISSUES	No	None directly arising from this report. The S151 Officer has a statutory duty to monitor income and expenditure and ensure that the Council takes action if overall net overspends /shortfalls emerge.
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	No	Budget holders actively manage their budgets and the many financial risks and challenges that council services face, examples include the risk of a particularly harsh winter which would impact adversely on the winter gritting and adult social care budgets, the increasing dependency on income from a wide range of activities and the risk of interest rate movements. The Council has comprehensive risk management arrangements in place, which are reviewed and updated by the Senior Management Team.
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	No	

4.0 PREVIOUS MINUTES

04/03/2021 Council, Service & Financial Planning Strategy
10/06/2021 Cabinet, 2020/21 Outturn Report
08/07/2021 Cabinet, 2021/22 Financial Monitoring Report
22/07/2021 Council 2021/22 Financial Monitoring Report
04/11/2021 Cabinet, 2021/22 Financial Monitoring Report
18/11/2021 Council, 2021/22 Financial Monitoring Report
06/01/2022 Cabinet, 2021/22 Financial Monitoring Report

5.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

2021/22 Budget Strategy / Financial Ledger reports

Report Prepared by:

Ken Clarke, Director: Finance & HR (Chief Financial Officer) – 01952 383100;
Pauline Harris, Corporate Finance Manager – 01952 383701

Capital Approvals - by Service Area

Appendix 1

Slippage						
Scheme	Service Area	Funding Source	21/22 £	22/23 £	23/24 £	Later Yrs £
Climate Change	Communities, Customer and Commercial Services	Prudential	(1,500,000.00)	1,500,000.00		
Legacy Fund	Communities, Customer and Commercial Services	Prudential	(100,000.00)	100,000.00		
Integrated Transport	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	Prudential	(300,000.00)	300,000.00		
A442 Challenge Project	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	Grant	(1,652,634.08)	1,652,634.08		
Highways & Bridges Capital Maintenance	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	Prudential	(154,781.00)	154,781.00		
Highways/ Footpaths	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	Prudential	(337,000.00)	337,000.00		
Pride in Your High Street	Housing, Employment & Infrastructure	Prudential	(1,600,000.00)	1,600,000.00		
Pride in Your High Street	Housing, Employment & Infrastructure	Revenue	(1,000,000.00)	1,000,000.00		
Housing Investment Company	Prosperity and Investment	Prudential	(2,100,000.00)	1,100,000.00	1,000,000.00	
Total			(8,744,415.08)	7,744,415.08	1,000,000.00	0.00

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TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL 13 JANUARY 2022

GOVERNANCE UPDATE

REPORT OF ANTHEA LOWE – ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR: POLICY & GOVERNANCE

LEAD CABINET MEMBER – CLLR RAE EVANS – CABINET MEMBER FOR COUNCIL FINANCE, GOVERNANCE & CUSTOMER SERVICE

PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT

1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS

- 1.1 This report provides an update on a number of governance-related matters and which full Council is asked to note and/or approve.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that full Council:-

2.1 Approves the reason for non-attendance at meetings of the authority as set out in paragraph 4.3 of this report subject to the relevant Member notifying the Monitoring Officer of the need to rely upon it prior to the implementation of the '6-month rule' described in this report;

2.2 Agrees to review the decision made at recommendation 2.1 above by no later than 31 January 2023;

2.3 Notes the updated Cabinet membership and responsibilities as set out at paragraph 4.6 of this report;

2.4 Approves the allocation of committee seats as set out at paragraphs 4.7 – 4.10 and Appendix 1 of this report; and

2.5 Notes the approach in relation to Honorary Aldermen as set out in paragraphs 4.11 – 4.14 of this report.

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Co-Operative Council priority objective(s)?	
	Yes	<i>The details set out in this report support all of the Council's priorities given that this report relates to matters of governance.</i>
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	No	
TARGET COMPLETION/DELIVERY DATE		
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	No	<i>There are no additional financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report. Any costs associated with the special meeting relating to the creation of the Aldermen will be met from existing resources. TAS 5.1.21</i>
LEGAL ISSUES	Yes/No	<i>There are no additional legal issues to those set out in the body of this report. AL 05/01/2022</i>
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	No	
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	No	<i>Borough-wide impact</i>

PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

4. INFORMATION

Leave of absence

- 4.1 Members will be aware that the Local Government Act 1972 requires Members to attend a meeting of the authority at least once in 6 months. In the event that they do not do so, then they automatically cease to be a Member of the Council. This applies unless the reason for the failure to attend is one that has been approved by Council. This is known as the 6 month rule.
- 4.2 Members will recall that, in May 2020 following the commencement of the first national lockdown in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, full Council approved reasons for a leave of absence to be granted to Members who may find that the 6 month rule would otherwise be engaged due to them not being able to attend a council meeting as a result of Covid-related matters. Those matters were:-
- That no meetings that a Member was entitled to attend was due to be held prior to the 6 month rule being engaged;
 - Where a member was ill or self-isolating as a result of Covid-19 symptoms or as a result of a household member being ill or displaying symptoms;
 - Where an individual Member was advised, for other reasons to self-isolate or shield; and
 - Where an individual Member was unable to attend a meeting through remote means.
- 4.3 In March 2021, there were changes made to the shielding scheme and the legislation permitting remote meetings was expected to come to an end. Council felt, however, that there was still a need for Members to seek a leave of absence in circumstances relating to Covid and approval was given that “during the declared pandemic, any Councillors who are unable to attend Council meetings, having followed Government, Public Health England and NHS advice relating to Covid-19 will have an approved reason for non-attendance at meetings provided that such member has notified the Monitoring Officer of the need to rely upon such reason before the expiry of 6 months since they last attended a meeting”. Council agreed to review this by no later than 31 March 2022.
- 4.4 Whilst the vaccination programme has progressed significantly since March 2021, the pandemic has developed with the arrival of new variants of the virus and, recently, the highest daily number of cases seen in the UK since the pandemic began. That being the case, it is

considered prudent to approve, once again, the reason for absence as set out in paragraph 4.3 above.

- 4.5 Additionally, full Council are asked to approve a leave of absence of up to 6 months for Cllrs Terry Kiernan and Jackie Loveridge. Cllr Kiernan requires a period of recuperation following surgery and Cllr Loveridge is experiencing a period of ill-health. If approved, it is proposed that the leave of absence will run until 12 July 2022 although both Members can return to duties prior to this date should they feel able to do so.

Change in Cabinet Membership

- 4.6 In December 2021, Cllr David Wright decided to step down from his position on Cabinet as a result of increased caring responsibilities. As a result, there has been a change to the Cabinet membership and the responsibilities of each Cabinet member. Full Council is asked to note the updated Cabinet membership and responsibilities set out below:-

Cllr Shaun Davies	Leader of the Council
Cllr Richard Overton	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, enforcement and Transport
Cllr Lee Carter	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services, Regeneration and the High Street
Cllr Andy Burford	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health, Integration and Transformation
Cllr Rae Evans	Cabinet Member for Finance, Governance and Customer Services
Cllr Kelly Middleton	Cabinet Member for Leisure, Public Health and Wellbeing, Equalities and Partnerships
Cllr Shirley Reynolds	Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families
Cllr Carolyn Healy	Cabinet Member for climate Change, Green Spaces, Natural and Historic Environment and Cultural Services
Cllr Paul Watling	Cabinet Member for Stronger and Safer Communities
Cllr Eileen Callear	Cabinet Member for Visitor Economy, Employment and Skills

Political Balance

- 4.7 In accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, it is necessary to review the political balance of an authority following elections and changes to group membership. In November 2021, there was a change in membership to the Liberal Democrat/Independent group in that the Independent Member is no longer a member of that group.
- 4.8 In December 2021, there was an election to the Dawley & Aqueduct ward of the Borough Council which resulted in a Labour member being returned. This filled the vacancy left by a former Labour councillor and so did not have any effect on the political balance of the authority. The change in party membership referred to at paragraph 4.7 above has had a slight change to the political balance, in that the Liberal Democrat proportion has changed from 9.26% to 7.41% and the Independent Member comprises 1.85%. The full political balance, therefore is as follows:-
- | | |
|-------------------|--------|
| Labour | 64.81% |
| Conservative | 25.93% |
| Liberal Democrats | 7.41% |
| Independent | 1.85% |
- 4.8 As a result of the change in the group membership, the Liberal Democrat group would lose a seat on the committees of the council. The legislation sets out the seats should be allocated to groups only; this excludes those members who chose to sit individually. This would result in an unallocated seat (a vacancy) on one committee. The legislation also states that an authority can choose to allocate seats using different arrangements provided that there are no objections to such arrangements
- 4.9 Given that there is little merit for there to be an unallocated seat on any committee and, given that there has been minimal change in seat allocations arising out of the change to group membership, it is proposed that 1 seat be allocated to the Independent Member – this would, essentially, maintain the current position.
- 4.10 As a result of changes to the Cabinet membership, there have also been changes made to the Labour membership of some Committees. Members are formally asked to approve the seat allocation as set out in **Appendix 1**.

Honorary Aldermen

- 4.11 Prior to the onset of Covid-19, discussions had taken place amongst group leaders regarding the designation of Honorary Aldermen with agreement to proceed with matters. These arrangements were halted in light of the uncertainty caused by the pandemic. Officers have been

asked to recommence the process for the appointment of Honorary Aldermen.

- 4.12 The honorary status of Alderman is given for eminent services to the Council by past elected Members with appointment being made at a special meeting of the Council. The criteria for appointment, the role of aldermen and the rights they can exercise are set out below:-

a. Criteria

Candidates should have rendered eminent services by way of exceptional contribution to the Borough and its Council in terms of length of service and/or achievements whilst in office, for example:-

- Having held high office – Mayor, Leader, Cabinet Member or Committee Chair - for a significant period of time;
- Having held some other officer such as Deputy Mayor or Vice Chair but also having demonstrated eminent service such as long service as a Borough Councillor;
- Other services in the capacity as Councillor, for example, nominated on outside bodies;
- No known misdemeanours;
- That candidates agree to step down from active politics at least in so far as refusing further nominations as a Borough Councillor;
- That candidates are able to command support across the political spectrum and work as a civic figure in an ambassadorial role.

b. The role of Aldermen

As well as promoting civic pride in the Borough and its Council, Honorary Aldermen may:-

- Attend all civic events as invited;
- Assist, with the Mayor's permission, the hosting of receptions/functions as required;
- Support the work of the Mayor's Charity;
- Act in an ambassadorial role for the Council when requested to do so;
- Assist the Council, when invited and able, to perform cross party functions of the council or on specific sites.

c. Rights of Aldermen

Honorary Aldermen will be entitled to:-

- Wear a badge of office as directed by the Chief Executive;
- Attend, when invited, civic events;
- Be invited as a spectator to Council meetings;
- Participate in civic processions, taking precedence immediately after Honorary Freemen, with precedence amongst the Aldermen according to the number of years of service on the Council;
- Be added a roll of Honorary Aldermen, kept by the Chief Executive; and
- Enjoy such other privileges as the Council may confer upon them from time to time.

4.13 Nominations to the role of Aldermen will be made by a Group Leader of the Council on the candidate's behalf with each group's entitlement to nomination in a four year period being based upon the political balance of the Council. Group Leaders will then meet to agree whether or not an application should be put forward for approval to a meeting of Council. Nominations should be submitted to the Chief Executive.

4.14 It is proposed that Aldermen will be created at a special meeting of Council in or around April 2022.

5. PREVIOUS MINUTES

[Hyperlink to minutes of AGM 2020 and Council meeting of March 2021]

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

[Hyperlink to papers for AGM 2020 and Council meeting of March 2021]

Report prepared by Anthea Lowe – Associate Director: Policy & Governance, Telephone: 01952 383219; Email anthea.lowe@telford.gov.uk

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Committee	Membership	Substitute Members
Audit Committee Appendix 1	Councillor Nathan England (Chair) Councillor Vanessa Holt Councillor James Lavery Councillor Adrian Lawrence Councillor Kuldip Sahota Councillor Charles Smith (Vice-Chair) Councillor Bill Tomlinson	
Boundary Review Committee	Councillor Karen Blundell Councillor Nigel Dugmore Councillor Jayne Greenaway Councillor Vanessa Holt (Vice-Chair) Councillor Angela McClements Councillor Richard Overton Councillor David Wright (Chair*)	
Council Constitution Committee	Councillor Veronica Fletcher Councillor Ian Fletcher Councillor Charles Smith (Vice-Chair) Councillor Malcolm Smith (Chair) Councillor John Thompson Councillor Bill Tomlinson Councillor Derek White	
Standards Committee	Councillor Graham Cook (Chair) Councillor Andrew Eade Councillor Nathan England Councillor Angela McClements (Vice-Chair) Councillor Gilly Reynolds Councillor Peter Scott Councillor Jacqui Seymour	
Appeals Committee	Councillor Janice Jones (Vice-Chair) Councillor Steve Bentley Councillor Nigel Dugmore Councillor Angela McClements Councillor Chris Turley Councillor Arnold England Councillor Jackie Loveridge (Chair)	Councillor Kelly Middleton Councillor Veronica Fletcher Councillor Miles Hosken Councillor Mark Boylan Councillor Hilda Rhodes Councillor John Thompson
Personnel Committee	Councillor Lee Carter Councillor Shaun Davies (Chair) Councillor Nigel Dugmore Councillor Andrew Eade Councillor Rae Evans Councillor Richard Overton (Vice-Chair) Councillor Bill Tomlinson	
Business and Finance Scrutiny Committee	Councillor Eric Carter Councillor Nathan England Councillor James Lavery	

	<p>Councillor Adrian Lawrence Councillor Ian Preece Councillor Stephen Reynolds (Chair) Councillor Kuldip Sahota Councillor Charles Smith Roy Williams</p>	
Children & Young People	<p>Councillor Mark Boylan Councillor Stephen Burrell Sherrel Fikeis Councillor Ian Fletcher Lyn Fowler Councillor Janice Jones Councillor Jackie Loveridge Carol Morgan Councillor Hilda Rhodes Councillor Kuldip Sahota (Chair*) Councillor Karen Tomlinson Mel Ward</p>	
Communities	<p>Councillor Steve Bentley Councillor Eric Carter Councillor Graham Cook Councillor Thomas Janke Councillor Raj Mehta Councillor John Thompson Councillor Chris Turley (Chair)</p>	
Environment	<p>Councillor Mark Boylan Councillor Vanessa Holt Councillor Thomas Janke Councillor Tim Nelson Councillor Gemma Offland Councillor Gilly Reynolds (Chair)</p>	
Health	<p>Councillor Arnold England Councillor Veronica Fletcher Councillor Jayne Greenaway Jean Gulliver Hilary Knight Councillor Jackie Loveridge Councillor Leon Murray Janet O'Loughlin Councillor Gemma Offland Councillor Stephen Reynolds Dag Saunders Councillor Jacqui Seymour Councillor Derek White (Chair)</p>	
Scrutiny Management Board	<p>Councillor Steve Bentley Councillor Thomas Janke Councillor Stephen Reynolds Councillor Gilly Reynolds Councillor Kuldip Sahota Councillor Jacqui Seymour Councillor Chris Turley Councillor Derek White (Chair)</p>	
Health & Wellbeing Board	<p>Mark Brandreth</p>	

	<p>Jo Britton Councillor Andy Burford Sarah Dillon Supt James Dunn Councillor Ian Fletcher Councillor Angela McClements (Chair*) Liz Noakes Nicky O'Connor Alan Olver Barry Parnaby Dr. John Pepper Councillor Shirley Reynolds Jonathan Rowe Councillor Karen Tomlinson Councillor Paul Watling</p>	
Fire Authority	<p>Councillor Gemma Offland Councillor James Lavery Councillor Richard Overton Councillor John Thompson Councillor Eric Carter (Chair)</p>	
Planning Committee	<p>Councillor Graham Cook Councillor Nigel Dugmore Councillor Ian Fletcher Councillor Janice Jones Councillor Jackie Loveridge (Vice-Chair) Councillor Raj Mehta Councillor Peter Scott Councillor Charles Smith (Chair) TBC (Labour, following Cllr Middleton's appointment to Cabinet)</p>	<p>Councillor Veronica Fletcher Councillor Jayne Greenaway Councillor James Lavery Councillor Gemma Offland Councillor Stephen Reynolds Councillor Gilly Reynolds Councillor Kuldip Sahota Councillor Bill Tomlinson Councillor Derek White</p>

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