

Public Document Pack



Telford & Wrekin
Co-operative Council

Protect, care and invest
to create a better borough

Borough of Telford and Wrekin

Cabinet

Thursday 3 November 2022

10.00 am

The Telford Room, Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford, TF3
4NT

Democratic Services:	Jayne Clarke / Stacey Worthington	01952 383205 / 384382
Media Enquiries:	Corporate Communications	01952 382406
Lead Officer:	David Sidaway - Chief Executive	01952 380130

Cabinet Members:

Councillor S Davies	Leader of the Council
Councillor R A Overton	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member: Housing, Enforcement and Transport
Councillor A J Burford	Cabinet Member: Adult Social Care and Health, Integration and Transformation
Councillor E M Callear	Cabinet Member: Visitor Economy, Employment and Skills
Councillor L D Carter	Cabinet Member: Neighbourhood Services, Regeneration and the High Street
Councillor R C Evans	Cabinet Member: Finance, Governance and Customer Services
Councillor C Healy	Cabinet Member: Climate Change, Green Spaces, Natural and Historic Environment and Cultural Services
Councillor K Middleton	Cabinet Member: Leisure, Public Health and Well-Being, Equalities and Partnerships

Councillor S A W Reynolds Cabinet Member: Children, Young People, and Families

Councillor P Watling Cabinet Member: Stronger and Safer Communities

Invitees

Councillor A J Eade Conservative

Councillor W L Tomlinson Liberal Democrat

	Agenda	Page
1.0	Apologies for Absence	
2.0	Declarations of Interest	
3.0	Minutes of the Previous Meeting	3 - 10
4.0	Leader's Announcements	
5.0	Leader and Cabinet Members' Young Person Grant Scheme Cllr Shaun Davies: Leader, Cllr Shirley Reynolds - Cabinet Member: Children, Young People and Families To receive an update report on the 2022 cycle of the Leader and Cabinet Members' Young Person Grant Scheme.	11 - 22
6.0	School Growth Cllr Shirley Reynolds - Cabinet Member: Children, Young People and Families To receive an update on the growth in pupil numbers and the work the Council is undertaking in relation to it.	23 - 40
7.0	Autism Draft Strategy Cllr Andy Burford - Cabinet Member: Adult Social Care and Health, Integration and Transformation To obtain authorisation to proceed to public consultation on the Draft Strategy.	41 - 76
8.0	20mph Speed Strategy Cllr Richard Overton - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member: Housing, Enforcement and Transport To receive a report on the 20mph Speed Strategy.	77 - 100

CABINET

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday 13 October 2022 at 10.00 am in The Telford Room, Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford, TF3 4NT

PUBLISHED ON WEDNESDAY 19 OCTOBER 2022

(DEADLINE FOR CALL-IN: MONDAY 24 OCTOBER 2022)

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

Also Present: Cllr W L Tomlinson (Liberal Democrats Group Leader), T J Nelson (Conservative Group Representative)

Apologies: Councillor A J Eade (Conservative Group Leader)

CAB- Declarations of Interest
177

None.

CAB- Minutes of the Previous Meeting
178

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2022 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

CAB- Leader's Announcements
179

The Leader noted that there had been a fantastic response to the petition to the Deputy Prime Minister asking to reverse the decision to downgrade the Princess Royal Hospital, with over 15,000 signatures received. If the proposed plans went ahead, Telford would be the largest town in the country without a fully functioning A&E. Significant concerns regarding the budget gap within the proposals and the impact this would have on Telford.

CAB- Independent Inquiry Update Report
180

The Cabinet Lead for the Independent Inquiry presented the report of the Director: Policy & Governance. The report provided an update in respect of the steps that had been undertaken to support the implementation of the recommendations following the publication of the Independent Inquiry into CSE in Telford on 12 July 2022.

Of the 47 recommendations within the report, 22 were the sole responsibility of the Council, with 6 being the responsibility of the police, 5 of colleges and 4 of the integrated care system. Shortly after the publication of the report, the Leader of the Council confirmed that the Council would implement all recommendations in full and before the deadline which had been sent by Mr Tom Crowther KC.

The proposals in the report set out the governance model to provide oversight of the implementation process. The model included the services of two independent Chairs and an independent facilitator to support the process. The proposals also included regular involvement of the scrutiny assembly.

Progress had already been made on the recommendations, two had been completed with a further four underway. An action plan had been produced which was intended to ensure that all recommendations were completed by the end of 2023, six months earlier than the schedule proposed in the Inquiry's report.

The Representative from the Conservative Group stated that it was their view that the oversight process needed to be completely independent. The Conservative Group would not be putting forward a nomination to sit on the cross-party Members Group. The Leader stated that the request for nominations for this group had been made in August and that this group mirrored that which had been in place during the lead up to publication. Ultimately, the Independent Chair of the Inquiry would assess whether the recommendations had been implemented.

RESOLVED that:

- a) **The update contained within the report in respect of the steps taken following publication of the Independent Inquiry into CSE in Telford to ensure the recommendations are implemented be noted;**
- b) **The governance model for implementing the recommendations as set out in Appendix A of the report be noted and endorsed;**
- c) **Authority be delegated to the Director: Policy and Governance to take all steps necessary to engage an independent Chair and independent facilitator for the Strategic Implementation Group as identified within the report;**
- d) **Authority be delegated to the Director: Policy and Governance to take all steps necessary to engage an independent Chair for the CSE Partners Group as identified within this report.**

CAB- Corporate Parenting Strategy 2022-2025
181

The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families presented the report of the Director: Education and Skills.

The Council had 457 Children in Care (as of 13 September 2022). Through engagement with Children in Care and Care Leavers, a new 'Promise' had

been developed, with the priorities including respect and value, hearing your voice, developing independence and being safe and healthy. This promise was at the heart of the new strategy.

For each identified priority, key actions had been identified and every three months the 'Young Persons' Panel' would meet to make sure that the conversation continued. The report highlighted the achievements of the young people, for example, for GCSE results, the children had received grades six times higher than the average.

Cabinet Members welcomed the report and noted their pride in the children's achievements. It was vital that the children were at the heart of the policy and that the report reflected the voices and wishes of the young people.

In response to a question from the Representative for the Conservative Party, the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families advised that it was difficult with the small cohorts involved to put in place numerical or percentage targets, however, this would be closely looked at to ensure that targets could be monitored effectively.

RESOLVED that:

- a) **The Corporate Parenting Strategy 2022-23 attached as Appendix A of the report be approved in line with statutory expectations;**
- b) **The following be noted:**
 - i. **The role of Telford & Wrekin Council and partners to advocate on behalf of Children in Care**
 - ii. **The voice of Children in Care at the heart of our work as Corporate Parents**
 - iii. **The high aspirations for Children in Care set out in the strategy, with a focus on positive outcomes.**

CAB-182 Councillors Pride Fund 2021-22 Helping to Protect, Care and Invest in our Communities

The Cabinet Member for Stronger and Safer Communities presented the report of the Director: Communities, Customer & Commercial Services.

The report provided an update on the 2021 fund. A total of 328 proposals had been submitted to Councillors when the fund was open, and a total of 257 were awarded funding. Since the scheme began in 2011, a total of £1,188,000 had been awarded. Applicants were encouraged to seek match funding for their grants. The funding had been used to support the Council's priorities.

Projects that had received funding included:

- Warm Welcome on Wednesday Dementia Support Group in Newport North & West to cover room hire and external agencies providing advice and support.
- Supporting community events, such as Brookside Central Event.

- Installation of electric vehicle charging point and recycling bins.
- A sensory area at Grange Park Primary School for all pupils, but particularly those with additional needs.

Cabinet Members welcomed the variety of projects that had received support from the programme and noted that the funds enabled Councillors to provide flexible support where it was needed.

The Representative from the Conservative Party asked about the programme's audit process and was assured that this was robust and would continue to be rigorous.

RESOLVED that:

- a) The continued impact of the Councillors Pride Fund in supporting Members to deliver the Council's five priorities in their ward to protect, care and invest in order to create a better borough be noted;**
- b) The importance of this funding in offering a bespoke response to need in individual communities and in supporting community organisations to thrive and offer valued services to residents be noted;**
- c) The final deadline for applications is 1 February 2023.**

**CAB- Cost of Living Strategy
183**

The Leader presented the report of the Director: Communities, Customer and Commercial Services.

Across the UK, people were facing an unprecedented cost of living crisis. Inflation rates had increased significantly over recent weeks, due to a number of factors, including the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, however, the situation had been made worse by the actions of the new Government. The increased costs of energy, food, road fuel, rents and other essentials were having a disproportionate impact on those who could least afford it.

The report summarised a range of measures that the Council had already delivered or funded to support residents and businesses within the Borough, however, a comprehensive package of new measures had been established to support residents and businesses through the crisis, which were outlined in the report.

Cabinet Members expressed their concern at the current situation nationally and noted the real impacts that were being seen across the Borough, Members discussed conversations they had had with residents regarding the impact of the crisis. Members welcomed the range of support measures that the strategy offered but noted that central government needed to change their strategy and restore confidence back into the markets.

In response to a question from the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, the Leader confirmed that faith groups could be provided with Grants from the Council for various initiatives within the strategy.

RESOLVED that:

- a) **The Cost of Living Strategy be approved and the support already delivered or funded by the Council to be date be noted, and the additional support and funding proposed in the strategy be endorsed;**
- b) **That authority be delegated to the Director: Communities, Customer and Commercial Services, in consultation with the Member Cost of Living Group chaired by the Leader, to take the necessary steps to implement these recommendations, including the approval of spending the Household Support Fund Grant allocations and Council Tax Hardship Fund;**
- c) **That authority be delegated to the Director: Housing, Employment and Infrastructure, in consultation with the lead Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services, Employment and the High Street, to take the necessary steps to implement the proposed additional support for businesses set out in this strategy.**

**CAB- 2022/23 Financial Monitoring Report
184**

The Cabinet Member for Council Finance, Governance and Customer Services presented the report of the Director: Finance and Human Resources.

Since the approval of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) at Full Council on 3 March 2022, there had been significant changes to the economic climate. A rapid increase in the rate of inflation, interest rates and increased demand for services made the Council's financial position more uncertain than before.

Before application of contingencies included in the overall revenue budget, the projected outturn position was expected to be over budget by £3.261m at year end. The majority of general contingencies would be required to fund the projected pressure, which left £1.673m of uncommitted contingency funds to meet any further pressures which may arise during the remainder of the year.

Variations from the approved budget were primarily in children's safeguarding & family support and adult social care. The Council had an excellent track record of strong financial management, however, the Council was not immune to the economic climate.

Cabinet Members discussed the lack of funding in relation to Adult Social Care and the potential impacts that a lack of investment within this area could have on acute health services.

The Representative from the Conservative Group queried the capital investment into the proposed new swimming pool in Dawley and asked if some provision for Children in Care could be bought in house. In regards to the provision of children's services, work was ongoing in respect of bringing some provision in house.

RESOLVED that:

- a) The 2022/23 revenue budget position be noted;
- b) The allocations of the contractual inflation contingency detailed at Section 5.4.2 of the report be approved;
- c) The position in relation to capital spend be noted;
- d) **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** that the changes to the capital programme as detailed in Appendix C of the report be approved
- e) The collection rates for NNDR, council tax and sales ledger be noted.

CAB- Digital Strategy Update
185

The Cabinet Member for Finance, Governance and Customer Services presented the report of the Director: Communities, Customer and Commercial Services.

The report provided an update on the Digital Strategy, including the actions delivered since the strategies launch.

The strategy was progressing well, 15 of the 37 actions for 2021/22 had been completed, with a further 17 in progress.

Tom the Chatbot had been launched and had answered 12,530 queries since it had gone live. A 98.5% satisfaction rating had been achieved by this service, which operated 24/7 and received 33% of queries outside of office hours.

The delivery of full fibre infrastructure capable of supporting 5G was on target. In partnership with Virgin Media O2 Business, the scheme would boost digital infrastructure, employment and skills within the Borough.

Cabinet Members welcomed the strategy and noted that this strategy ran alongside the Council's customer strategy. The strategy acknowledged that not everyone was able to or wished to use digital means to contact the Council and that all channels for access would be kept open and this was welcomed by both the Liberal Democrat Group Leader and the Conservative Group Representative.

RESOLVED that:

- a) The update to the Digital Strategy be approved, with the progress delivered to date be noted and the refreshed action plan as set out in Appendix A of the report be endorsed;
- b) Authority be delegated to the Director: Communities, Customer and Commercial Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, Governance and Customer Services to take the necessary steps to implement the actions contained in Appendix A of the report.

**CAB- Telford Land Deal Update
186**

The Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services, Regeneration & the High Street presented the report of the Director: Prosperity & Investment.

The report set out the achievements of the Telford Land Deal. Since the Deal began a total of 29 commercial sites and 23 sites for residential development had been sold, supporting the delivery of 1926 new jobs and 1284 new homes.

In the first quarter of 2022/23, 1 commercial sale site had been completed, with a further 5 commercial sites and 1 residential site currently in negotiations.

The first development phase of Ni-Park, the new employment park to the south of Newport, had been completed.

Cabinet Members noted that the Land Deal allowed the continued protection of green spaces in the Borough.

RESOLVED that the outcomes achieved during the 2021/2022 financial year and overall since the Land Deal commenced in 2015 be noted.

**CAB- Vision 2032
187**

The Leader presented the report of the Executive Director: Housing, Communities & Customer Service.

The report set out the ten year vision for the Borough. The vision had been developed through careful data analysis, engagement with partners and residents. The vision had four ambitions:

- All neighbourhoods are connected, safe and clean
- Everyone is able to live a healthy, independent life
- Everyone benefits from good education and can fulfil their potential in a thriving economy
- The environment is protected for the benefit of everyone.

The vision described the ambitions and aspirations for the Borough against these main themes.

Cabinet Members noted that the strategy had been developed with partner agencies and residents and that stakeholder events had been well attended. This strategy allowed planning on a longer term basis than the electoral cycle.

RESOLVED that:

- a) The ten year vision presented in Appendix 1 of the report be adopted;
- b) The proposed partnership approach to the delivery of the vision be adopted;
- c) The proposed timescale to report progress on delivery of the vision be approved.

The meeting ended at 11.59 am

Signed for the purposes of the Decision Notices

Anthea Lowe
Director: Policy & Governance
Date: **Wednesday 19 OCTOBER 2022**

Signed

Date: Thursday 3 November 2022

Leader and Cabinet Members' Young Person Grant Scheme



“We are delighted that the Leader and Cabinet Members’ Young Person Grant has had great success over the years, supporting 283 young people since its inception in 2017.

“We are firmly on the side of the young people in our borough; they are cared for, and cared about, and at the heart of everything we do. We also want to make sure their future is a happy and fulfilling one in Telford and Wrekin. The provision of the grant enables young people to strive for success in education, employment and training, overcoming barriers in their lives.

“We want to continue to deliver support to our youngest residents with a clear sensitivity to their needs and requirements, especially with the current cost of living crisis. We also want to bring successful applicants back together to celebrate their work, creating a network of young enterprising people and offering support for their social and emotional wellbeing.”



Protect, care and invest
to create a better borough

Councillor Shaun Davies (Labour)
Leader, Telford & Wrekin Council

This page is intentionally left blank



Borough of Telford and Wrekin

SMT Cabinet Reports

Tuesday 11 October 2022

Leader and Cabinet Members Young Person Grant Scheme

Cabinet Member:	Cllr Shaun Davies - Leader and Cllr Shirley Reynolds - Cabinet Member: Children, Young People and Families
Lead Director:	Darren Knibbs - Director: Children's Safeguarding & Family Support, Jo Britton - Executive Director: Children's & Family Services
Service Area:	Children's Safeguarding & Family Support
Report Author:	Jennifer Bullas – Senior Project Officer
Officer Contact Details:	Tel: 01952 383220 Email: jennifer.bullas@telford.gov.uk
Wards Affected:	All Wards
Key Decision:	Not Key Decision
Forward Plan:	Not Applicable
Report considered by:	SMT – 11 October 2022 Business Briefing – 21 October 2022

1.0 Recommendations for decision/noting:

Cabinet is asked to approve:

- 1.1 the funding for the Leader and Cabinet Members Young Person Grant Scheme for 2023;
- 1.2 the holding of an alumni event to understand the impact on successful applicants from the past 2 years and to inform the upcoming 2023 scheme; and
- 1.3 the communications plan be further developed to ensure more young people are reached, including our NEET cohort beyond the age of 16.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 To provide a summary of the most recent Leader and Cabinet Members Young Person Grant Scheme, costs, successes, and recommendations for 2023.

3.0 Background

3.1 The Leader and Cabinet Members Young Person Grant Scheme has run since 2017, with a brief period where the funding was reallocated to the Laptops for Learning Scheme which was highly successful in providing devices to young people to continue their education during lockdown.

3.2 In 2021, an allocation of £20,000 was made and 132 young people applied. Of these applicants, 64 were provided with funding, bike vouchers, laptops, and travel passes.

3.3 This year, the same number of applications were made (132), but of these, a much higher 72 applicants were successful and were awarded funding, laptops and travel passes to support them with their path towards education, employment and training, or kick start a business.

3.4 Bus Passes were kindly provided by Arriva, who have supported this scheme since its relaunch in 2021.

3.5 A priority for the scheme was to encourage applications from some of our most vulnerable young people in the borough. A number of the total applicants were supported to apply through Education and Skills, the Virtual School or their allocated worker in Children's Social Care; with applications from 5 care experienced young people and 3 children currently looked after by the authority.

3.6 2022 also marked the first year all wards were represented in applicants.

Communications

3.7 The communication plan for 2022 was very comprehensive. Three target segments were identified:

- **Residents aged 15-25**, who were targeted via adverts on their preferred social media platforms. Geo targeted adverts were also used as smartphones are cited as the most important device for accessing the internet at home or elsewhere among all adults aged over 15 years old. These young people are more likely to trust a message supported by other young people – whether that is by seeing or hearing someone like themselves or knowing that it has been engaged with by someone like them. Messages were delivered via Facebook and Instagram adverts using still assets, and short form adverts placed on TikTok and Snapchat. Case studies of young people who have benefited from the scheme in previous years were featured on the website.

- **Parents & Carers**, our largest audience on our corporate Facebook. Organic posts and adverts were the preferred channels to use for this campaign, followed by Instagram and Twitter posts. Shaun's Weekly Email and video was also used, alongside posts in local Facebook groups to help spread the word outside of our own corporate page. Parish and Town Councils were supplied with ready-made assets and content to share via email, on social media. In public, digital advertising space was used, featuring on the electronic advertising board in Telford Centre (if available) as well as totems in Southwater. Posters were placed around the locality.
- **Schools, colleges, universities, and partners** were contacted with information packs and a short slideshow to show in assemblies for 15-18 year olds / PSHE lesson to share the grant and how to apply. By bringing the grant scheme further forward, schools and colleges were more able to support young people in their applications and be available as referees.

3.8 For the first time this year, we held an information event at Southwater, midway through the application point, to provide information, application assistance, and wider support. This was advertised via school/college links, newsletters, team meetings and staff briefings.

3.9 Internally, the project leads attended Staff Briefings and team meetings to engage with Social Workers, Care Leavers Team, Strengthening Families, and other key teams who may know of young people who would benefit from support in applying for this opportunity. There was further internal messaging via intranet, staff news and direct emails to the relevant teams, along with inclusion in the Chief Executive's staff emails and mentions on the staff Facebook Group.

4.0 Outcomes of the Communications Strategy

4.1 The following statistics demonstrate the effectiveness of the communications strategy:

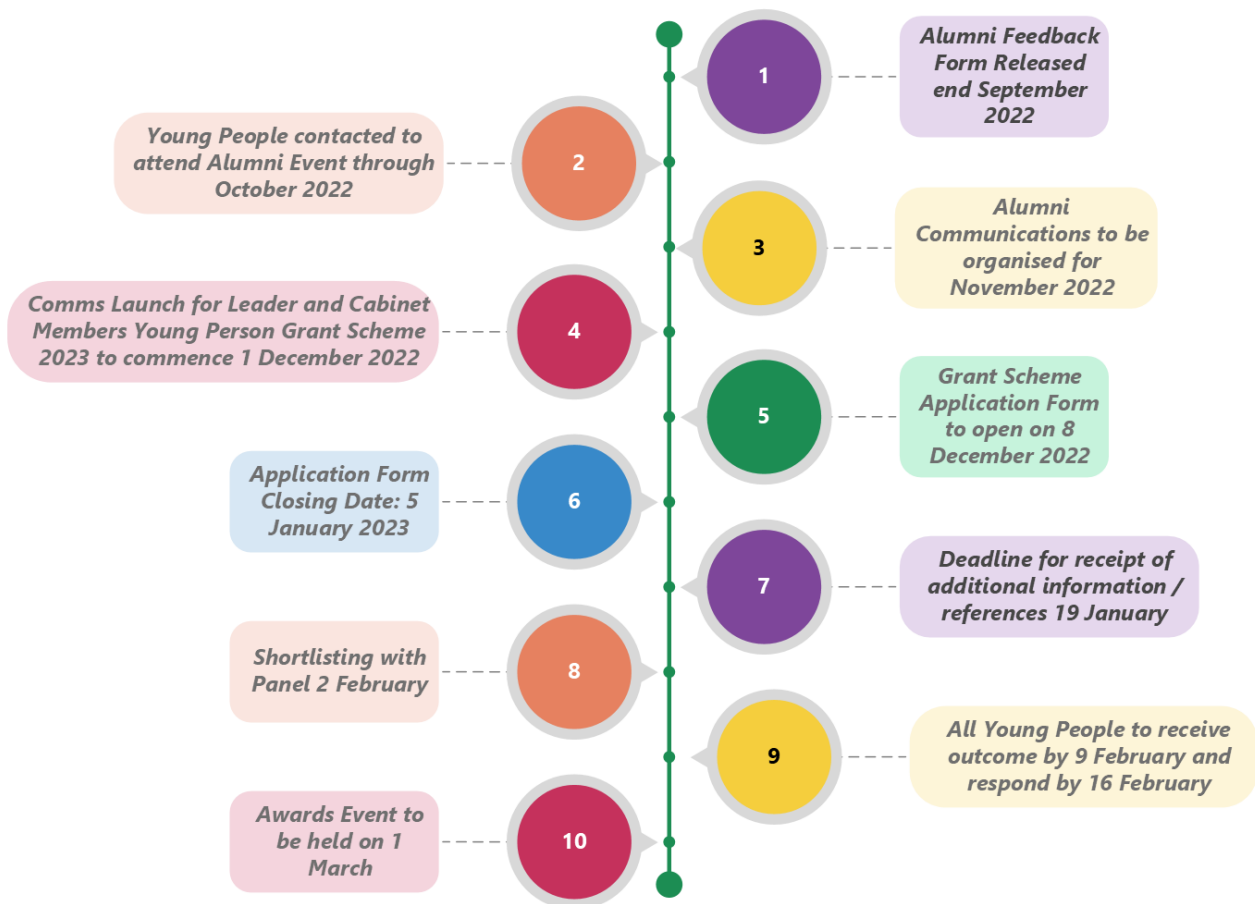
- 844,953 people visited the web pages via social media, 69% of the overall page views.
- While these people came for information, there were 1,335 total clicks on the form. 846 of these views were referrals from social media and GovDelivery.
- Upon completing the form, 53 of 132 submitted applicants confirmed they found out about the grant via social media; 22 via non-socials adverts - on the telford.gov website and our print posters - 10 through contacting schools and colleges using the assets designed and sent via the Education Noticeboard; and the rest through word of mouth.
- 85 of all applicants found out about the grant and directly completed the form after seeing one or more of the marketing methods used.

5.0 Summary of main proposals

5.1 The key proposals below are focused around how a continually high number of applicants can be reached and supported, through a robust communications

strategy which is sensitive to local needs and requirements, the ongoing engagement of partners which can support progress, and maintaining connections with successful applicants to better understand how value can be added to their award, what support helped them on their journey after receiving funding, and what obstacles and challenges that remain. Addressing these, as below, will ensure that the Grant Scheme continues to be impactful and innovative.

- 5.2 Further examine how best to target communications to localities which would benefit most from investment, including IoD local area data analysis.
- 5.3 Work closely with the internal NEET clinic and partner agencies such as SYST and Job Centre Plus to target young people keen to enter education, employment and training.
- 5.4 Improve tracking of impact through alumni questionnaire.
- 5.5 Improve communications from an earlier point through film content gathered at alumni event.
- 5.6 Looking towards 2023, a flowchart has been created (below) to show time planning for the upcoming cycle. It has been requested that this cycle be brought forward slightly.



6.0 Alternative Options

- 6.1 The alternative options are to not undertake the scheme, to directly fund other existing NEET scheme or to add funding to existing care schemes. These are unlikely to have the same successes as they would not provide a broad enough scope to ensure the widest range of children and young people can apply for funding and celebrate their ambitions.

7.0 Key Risks

- 7.1 There are a number of Key Risks identified in this report. They are, chiefly, the potential for a failure to further target young people most in need of assistance, a potential lack of uptake and the 'overcoming adversity' field lacking some specificity and requiring an updated definition to ensure appropriate applications.

8.0 Council Priorities

- 8.1 Every child, young person and adult lives well in their community- this scheme is closely linked with the On Your Side investment initiative.
- 8.2 Everyone feels the benefit from a thriving economy.
- 8.3 All neighbourhoods are a great place to live.
- 8.4 A community focused innovative council providing effective, efficient and quality services.

9.0 Financial Implications

- 9.1 The 2022/23 budget provision for the Young Persons Grant Scheme was £24,980, consisting of a base budget of £14,980 and contribution from reserves of £10,000.

10.0 Legal and HR Implications

- 10.1 The Council has, pursuant to the general power of competence, contained within the Localism Act 2011, the power to do anything which individuals may generally do. The making of grants, targeting the groups identified within this report is therefore lawful and also helps the Council to meet other statutory duties. Whilst every decision of the Council is open to challenge, the grants are made in a fair, reasonable and transparent manner and in line with the Council's equality duties. Legal advice is provided on an ongoing basis as and when required.

11.0 Ward Implications

- 11.1 All wards must be targeted with communications and how to access application support.

12.0 Health, Social and Economic Implications

- 12.1 Improved access to education, employment, and training.
- 12.2 Improved later in life health outcomes relating to obtaining continuous employment or education access
- 12.3 A decrease in the NEET population and therefore associated ASB.
- 12.4 Increased social and emotional wellbeing for young people

13.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

- 13.1 The scheme is committed to EDI, and work has been undertaken on this years' scheme to ensure the form is accessible, with a broader range of application types and medium supported. The project lead also works to contact all applicants by a range of communication methods (phone, email, and via referees and other supporting bodies) to ensure applications are given the best opportunity to represent needs, requirements, and situation.

14.0 Climate Change and Environmental Implications

- 14.1 Not directly applicable

15.0 Background Papers

- 15.1 N/A

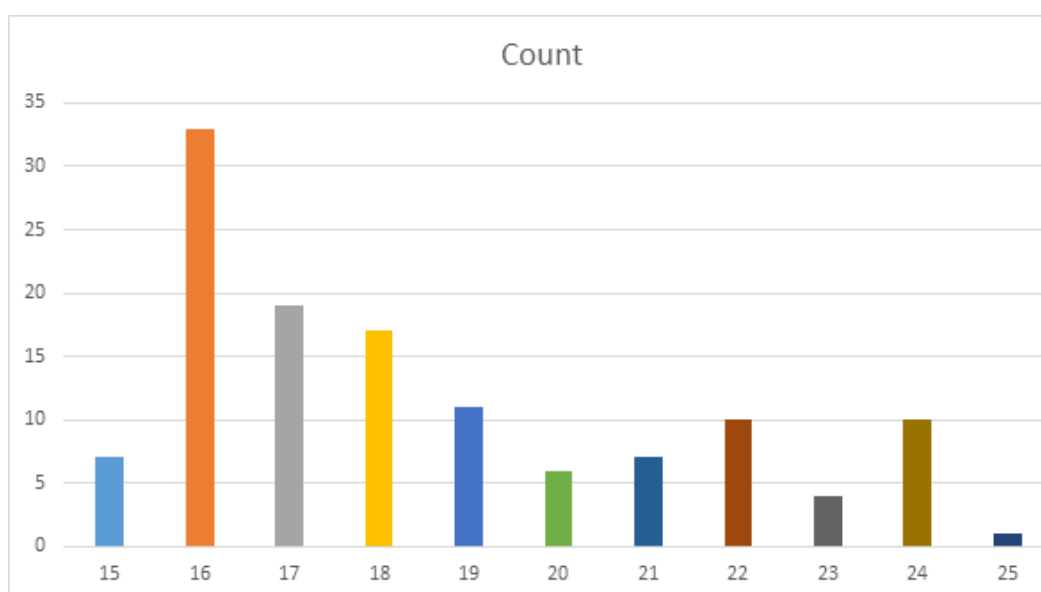
16.0 Appendices

Appendix A, which demonstrates through data charts the breakdown of grant request types, the ages of applicants, and the ward breakdown.

17.0 Report Sign Off

Signed off by	Date sent	Date signed off	Initials
Legal	22/09/2022	10/10/2022	RP
Finance	17/10/2022	18/10/2022	TD
Director	17/10/2022	18/10/2022	DK

A Statistics about Leader and Young Person Grant Scheme.



Statistics about Leader and Young Person Grant Scheme.

The majority of applicants for 2022 were 16 years old – of school leaving age. This may show the impact of targeted communications to schools, where it was requested that assemblies be held to promote the grant scheme. It may also demonstrate a ‘gap’ in provision- where young people may require a laptop or travel pass to continue their studies after GCSE but no longer have access to a device or funding upon leaving their school.

It should be noted that there has been an adjustment to the application form which made it challenging for those over exactly 25 years of age to apply. This will be adjusted in future to ensure those 15 and over and in their 25th year can apply without barrier.

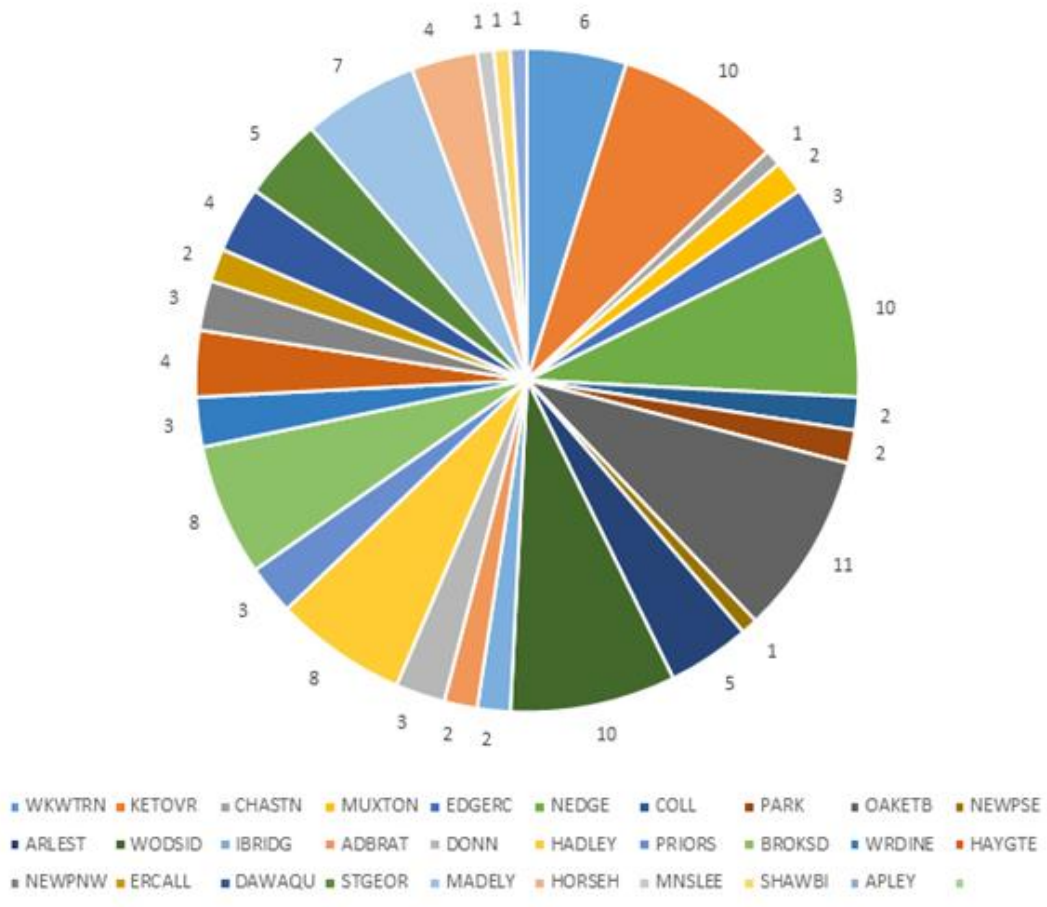
B Ward Breakdown

In a change from 2021, where the majority of young people applied from Dawley and Aqueduct, the ward with the highest number of applicants for 2022 was Oakengates and Ketley Bank.

The Index of Multiple Deprivation for 2019 shows that these areas are ones of significant deprivation (the 10 to 20% most deprived nationally). This demonstrates the need for accessible investment in education, employment and training in this area, targeted towards young people. It is also important to note that the IMD shows that both of the high-application areas for 2021 and '22 are ranked in the 10% most deprived nationally for education (that is, a lack of attainment and skills in the local population).

Whilst we do see a higher proportion of applications from Brookside and Woodside, the most generally deprived areas locally and amongst those nationally, they do not rank as highly as Oakengates and Ketley Bank or Dawley and Aqueduct. This could suggest that further targeted communications should be focused on these areas and services such as schools within, and that events such as library application days and youth hub engagement events be investigated and set to ensure maximum engagement.

We see that every ward had at least one applicant this year, but not every ward was represented in successful grant achievement. Work should be undertaken to ensure that all wards are represented in grant awards.

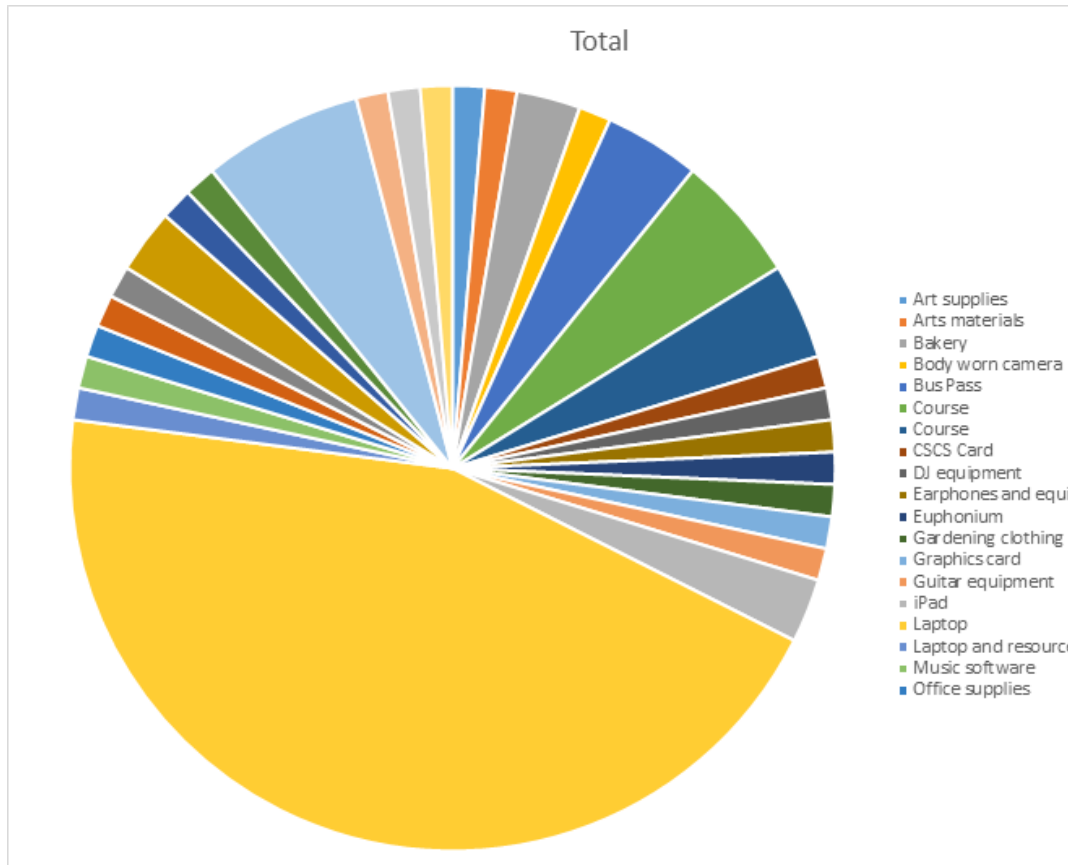


C Award Type Breakdown

The majority of young people applied for a laptop, or laptop and study resources. This again shows a clear link between the average age of applicants and their request- a need for a laptop to help them continue with study after completing GCSEs.

Fewer people applied in 2022 for bus passes compared with 2021. At the time of the application cycle some bus routes had been adjusted resulting in a reduction in provision; therefore funding was requested for

alternative transport options (such as 16-25 railcards). However, significant work has been undertaken during the last few months to increase the number of new bus routes across the borough and improve connectivity. It is envisaged that this positive change will be reflected in future applications for 2023 that will be supported by promotion of the new routes and connectivity provided.



This page is intentionally left blank

School Growth



“In recent years, we have invested heavily in our schools, increasing the number of places available in areas where they are needed.

“This approach has paid off, as more families in our borough are being offered places at their preferred schools than the regional and national averages. Our children also benefit from modern, state-of-art facilities that help to enhance their learning.

“As more people are choosing Telford and Wrekin as a place to live and raise a family, we will continue to invest significantly in our school provision.

“Ensuring the right number of school places can be a challenge, as the council has no say over the admissions process for academy schools but with a new primary school in Allscott due to open next year, the development of a new primary school in Priorslee in the next two years, the Lawley Village Academy expansion and a number of secondary school expansions – we are on track to create hundreds of new school places in our borough and ensure that every child has a local school place when they need one.”



Telford & Wrekin
Co-operative Council

Protect, care and invest
to create a better borough

Councillor Shirley Reynolds (Labour)

Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families

This page is intentionally left blank



Borough of Telford and Wrekin

Cabinet Report

3 November 2022

School Growth Report

Cabinet Member:	Shirley Reynolds – Cabinet Member: Children, Young People and Families
Lead Director:	Simon Wellman – Director: Education and Skills
Service Area:	Access and Sufficiency
Report Author:	Adam Womack – Service Delivery Manager: Access and Sufficiency
Officer Contact Details:	Tel: 01952 380592 Email: adam.womack@telford.gov.uk
Wards Affected:	All Wards
Key Decision:	Key Decision
Forward Plan:	22/08/2022
Report considered by:	SMT - 11/10/2022 Business Briefing - 20/10/2022 Cabinet - 03/11/2022

1.0 Recommendations for decision/noting:

It is recommended that Cabinet:-

- 1.1 Notes the position on current and projected demand for school places and the action taken to date to manage the supply of school places.
- 1.2 Delegates authority to the Director: Education & Skills, in consultation with the Director: Finance & HR and the Cabinet Member: Children, Young People and Families to allocate the basic need grant and high need capital funding, including allocations for 2022-25, and relevant section 106 funding, in relation to the

provision of mainstream and specialist provision across all age groups within the Borough.

- 1.3 Approves the proposed acquisition of land to the council that was negotiated as part of the s106 agreement, so at no financial cost, on the Castle Farm Way/A5 site in Priorslee and onward lease to the Department for Education (DfE) who will act as an agent for the Thomas Telford Trust who have been granted sponsorship of the new free school, for the provision of additional primary education places.
- 1.4 Delegates authority to the Director: Education & Skills, in consultation with the Director: Finance & HR and the Cabinet Member: Children, Young People and Families to take all necessary steps to implement the proposed expansion of Lawley Village Academy by 210 primary school places and 30 nursery provision places subject to such expansion being in accordance with the available budget.
- 1.5 Delegates authority to the Director: Education & Skills, in consultation with the Director: Finance & HR and the Cabinet Member: Children, Young People and Families to take all necessary steps to implement the proposed expansion of Ercall Wood Academy by at least 150 secondary places and create additional class bases across the secondary estate to create a further 150 places, subject to such expansions being in accordance with outcomes from feasibility studies and the available budget.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To update Cabinet on the Council's statutory duties as set out in s.14 Education Act 1996 to plan for sufficient school places.
- 2.2 To seek agreement to the proposals as set out in this report including secondary school feasibilities and resulting expansions.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 Telford was designated as a New Town in the 1960's with an intended population of 220,000 people. The Telford Development Corporation aimed to utilise land formerly used by extractive industries to create a new town with a balance of industrial and residential development, alongside connecting existing settlements including Wellington, Oakengates, Madeley and Dawley.
- 3.2 A number of development sites were granted permission under the New Town Act of 1965 and 1981, some of which remain to be built out. The principle of developing these sites has been accepted and therefore the Local Planning Authority only control the type, style and nature of development. Homes England owns a significant amount of land in the borough, which has begun to be unlocked through the Telford Land Deal, formed in 2015.
- 3.3 The adopted Telford and Wrekin Local Plan (2018) sets out a housing requirement of approximately 17,280 net new homes up to 2031 and includes allocations for housing including a Sustainable Urban Extension at Priorslee which is expected to deliver around 1,100 new homes.

- 3.4 More people are choosing Telford as the place where they want to live, work and raise a family. Inward local migration and an increase in birth rates in the early 2000's have been the main drivers of population growth within Telford and is reflected in the number of children attending schools in the area.
- 3.5 The number of children on roll at primary schools has increased by 18% over the last 10 years. These larger primary cohorts have now transitioned to secondary school which have also experienced similar increases; secondary school rolls have increased by nearly 17% in the last decade. The population growth within the Borough has led to an ambitious investment programme to ensure we continue to meet the demand for school places.
- 3.6 The Council has made significant investment in the school estate to ensure that children in Telford and Wrekin have access to exceptional education facilities. Most secondary schools and a number of primary schools in Telford and Wrekin were rebuilt using £200m funding secured through the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme, initiated in 2003. Funding from the BSF programme ended in 2010, however, Telford and Wrekin Council retained £43m through building efficiency savings which was then used alongside capital receipts, other grant and partner funding, including national sporting governing bodies, to deliver four additional new build schools compared to what was proposed in the original outline business case. As a result, alongside a robust spend on maintenance and building condition, the standard of accommodation and educational facilities across our school estate is of an exceptionally high standard. See **Appendix A** for further information.
- 3.7 Alongside the additional mainstream places set out in **Appendix A**, a series of SEN Hubs are being developed to provide places for children with moderate learning needs. Each hub will deliver eight additional places in existing mainstream primary and secondary school settings. Primary hubs are already in place at Hollinswood, Old Park and Wrockwardine Wood Infant Schools, with another at John Randall soon to be finalised. A secondary hub has also been established at The Telford Langley School. Two further SEN hubs will be created by 2024/25.
- 3.8 The additional capacity the Council has added to its school estate has ensured that children are able to access places at local schools. High rates of meeting parental preference for children starting primary and secondary school have been maintained. For September 2022, 98% and 96% of parents, respectively, were offered a place for their child at one of their preferred schools.
- 3.9 Since 2018, the number of recorded births in Telford and Wrekin has fallen by 14%, which is broadly in line with the national trend. It is anticipated that pupil numbers are likely to fall in the longer term as smaller cohorts of children start school. The number of primary pupils in Telford and Wrekin is expected to peak in 2023/24, before gradually reducing over subsequent years. However, an additional 780 primary places are required to manage the local demand created in areas of new housing.

- 3.10 In line with the phased school growth programme of our secondary schools and following recent receipt of the 2022-25 DfE basic need grant (£15.68m), we will create an additional 300 secondary school places which are needed by 2025/26 to meet known demand. Secondary pupil numbers are expected to fall from 2026/27, although this will be closely monitored in line with housing growth. The creation of school places is always phased to ensure there is careful management of the overall estate. An oversupply of places will lead to schools facing significant budgetary pressures as Designated Schools Grant (DSG) funding (revenue) is based on the number of children on roll.
- 3.11 To ensure that the Council meets its statutory sufficiency duty, it works closely with schools, Academy Trusts and other partners including the West Midlands Regional Director (RD)/Department for Education (DfE). Following the move towards the academy programme, schools now have many more freedoms to determine their admission arrangements and expansion plans. The Council does not have the authority to insist that an existing academy expands, is unable to determine their admission policy and cannot define their overall pupil admission number. Therefore significant partnership is needed with the sector to deliver on the sufficiency duty.

4.0 Summary of main proposals

Development of a new school on the Castle Farm Way/A5 site

- 4.1 The Council, through S106 negotiations, will consider what local amenities are required for the local communities to thrive, whilst considering too the impact on existing provision within the locality. As part of the discussions relating to Castle Farm Way the Council secured land and funding for a new primary school and is therefore being provided at no cost to the Council, other than legal expenses. Subject to Cabinet approval, the land is due to be transferred to the Council in January 2023.
- 4.2 A new primary school is needed as part of the local infrastructure required to support the Castle Farm Way/A5 development. Existing primary schools, local to the site, are at their published admission number and cannot easily be expanded to accommodate the number of children anticipated to move into the new development.
- 4.3 The new school will be developed by the DfE as part of wave 11 of the free school programme. The proposed school will provide an additional 420 primary school places from September 2024. The DfE are due to enter procurement imminently. The Council has secured £4.75m of s106 receipts to contribute to the cost of the build. The draft masterplan for the development site and school site plan are provided at **Appendix B**.
- 4.4 In line with current legislation, all new schools must be academies. The Thomas Telford Trust has been appointed by the Regional Director (RD) as the sponsor for the new school. The Council plan to lease the land to the DfE who will act as an agent on behalf of the Trust.

Allscott Free School

- 4.5 As part of the s106 planning agreement in relation to the new housing development at Allscott Meads comprising of up to 470 dwellings, the Council agreed for the developer to fund and build a new 150 place primary school on the former British Sugar site in Allscott. Construction of the new school is underway and the school is due to open in September 2023. Upon completion of the school building, the land will be transferred to the Council and subsequently leased to the Learning Community Trust, who were the successful sponsor appointed by the RSC following the free school presumption process. The Council has agreed to provide funding to support the Trust with its pre and post-opening revenue costs in its first year, through growth funding provided from the DfE. See **Appendix C** for the masterplan for the Allscott Meads site.

Lawley Village Academy expansion

- 4.6 Lawley Village Academy opened in 2015/16 to meet the demand for school places generated by new housing within the area. In line with the phased development at Lawley, it is now necessary to commence the expansion of the primary school as was originally intended. This is being explored with the school's sponsor REAch2 Academy Trust with the intention to provide an additional 210 primary and 30 nursery places from 2024/25, at an estimated cost of £5.8m.

Secondary School Expansion

- 4.7 The Council are conducting feasibility studies on the expansion of its secondary provision. Ercall Wood has been identified to accommodate at least 150 places from 2024/25. Further expansion options of our secondary estate are being explored to provide the additional 150 places required which will likely be delivered by additional temporary classes in a number of schools. For example, the Learning Community Trust have agreed to accommodate additional children across its secondary schools at Charlton, Ercall Wood and HLC. Where needed additional space requirements at the schools will be considered and associated revenue costs funded. Discussions with other academy trusts are ongoing to deliver the remaining places required.
- 4.8 A feasibility study will also be conducted at Southall School to ascertain whether the school can increase its capacity to be able to accommodate 200 pupils, alongside the further development of SEND hubs as required.

5.0 Alternative Options

- 5.1 Where the Council is not able to provide a new school or a permanent expansions where needed, then short-term measures to provide more places using temporary buildings may be required.

6.0 Key Risks

- 6.1 The risks, in summary are:

- If the proposals in this paper are not implemented then there is a likelihood of insufficient school places for the growing population.
- A delay in implementing these proposals could impact on increased costs given the current uncertain economic situation.
- Alternative proposals could lead to increased revenue costs elsewhere in the borough.

7.0 Council Priorities

- 7.1 The proposals set out in this report support the following council priorities:
- Every child, young person, and adult lives well in their community,
 - All neighbourhoods are a great place to live,
 - A community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services.

8.0 Financial Implications

- 8.1 The Council maintains a capital programme for schools, supported by capital funding from the DfE and developer contributions. DfE funding is allocated based on projected demographics, compared to the capacity and condition of the local authority's school estate.
- 8.2 The projects described in this paper are included in the capital programme and based on estimated costs and available funding, are affordable within the projected available resources.
- 8.3 There are some revenue costs associated with opening new schools, but it has been agreed with the local Schools Forum to use DfE provided growth funding (part of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocations) to support these costs.

9.0 Legal and HR Implications

- 9.1 Under sections 13 and 14 of the Education Act 1996 (as amended by the Education Acts 2006 and 2011), a local education authority has a general statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places available to meet the needs of the population in its area. The local authority must promote high educational standards, ensure fair access to educational opportunity and promote the fulfilment of every child's educational potential.
- 9.2 It must also ensure that there are sufficient school places in their area and promote diversity and increase parental choice. To discharge this duty the local authority has to undertake a planning function to ensure that the supply of school places balances the demand for them. The Education and Inspections Act 2006 requires local authorities to promote choice and diversity when carrying out their strategic duties in relation to the provision of new school places.
- 9.3 In respect of the specific proposals outlined in this report, ongoing legal support and advice will be provided by Legal Services.
- 9.4 There are no Human Resource implications arising from this report.

10.0 Ward Implications

10.1 Proposals in this report are intended to ensure sufficient school places across the borough and therefore has the potential to affect all wards.

11.0 Health, Social and Economic Implications

11.1 None.

12.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

12.1 The proposed addition of two new schools adds to the choice of educational provision available in Telford and Wrekin. There is already a range of schools in Telford including community schools, academies, faith schools, grammar schools and special schools which are well placed to be able to meet the needs of the communities they serve.

13.0 Climate Change and Environmental Implications

13.1 New school buildings and expansions are built to higher specifications under BB103 and BB104. New school buildings are more energy efficient and as a result will help to progress our carbon neutral ambitions.

13.2 By providing local school places we can further encourage more active travel (e.g. walking, cycling) to school.

14.0 Appendices

Appendix A – Summary of New Schools and Expansions from 2015-22

Appendix B – Draft masterplan of Castle Farm Way/A5 site and school site plan

Appendix C – Masterplan for Allscott Meads Development Site

15.0 Report Sign Off

Signed off by	Date sent	Date signed off	Initials
Legal	06/10/2022	06/10/2022	RP
Finance	06/10/2022	06/10/2022	TD
Director	06/10/2022	09/10/2022	SW

Appendix A – Summary of New Schools and Expansions from 2014-22

- 1) Newport Infant school was expanded in 2014/15 to provide an additional 90 key stage 1 places, at a cost of £580k.

After:



- 2) Lawley Village Academy was built and opened in 2015/16, providing 210 new primary school places costing £4.36m. The school has admitted a reception intake of 30 children each year since opening, with 2021/22 being the first year with children in all year.

Before:



After:



- 3) Hadley Learning Community Primary expanded in 2016/17 with an additional 210 places, costing £2.61m.

After:



- 4) A small expansion at Old Park Primary school was undertaken for 2016/17 to provide the school with one additional class bases. This cost £450k.

Before:



After:



- 5) Ladygrove Primary School was expanded from 280 places to 420 in 2019/20, costing £3.83m.

Before:



After:



- 6) A small expansion at St Georges CE Primary School was completed in 2019/20 providing an additional 35 places at a cost of £720k.

After:



- 7) For 2020/21, Newport Junior School was remodelled to provide an additional three class bases and replace the Victorian section of the school, costing £910k.

After:



- 8) A new build and remodelling scheme has been completed for 2022/23 at the co-located John Randall and Haughton School site at a cost of £7.49m.

Before:



After:



- 9) By 2016/17, Charlton (£16.45m), Ercall Wood (£17.47m), Holy Trinity (£20.80m), Telford Park (£17.40m), and Telford Priory (£19.15m) had all relocated to newly built school sites using (BSF) funding with a net gain of 24 secondary school places.

Charlton:



Ercall Wood:



Telford Park:



Telford Priory:



- 10) Internal remodelling work at Burton Borough School was completed in 2019/20 providing an additional 130 secondary places, costing £1.69m. Further work to extend and refurbish the kitchen and dining facilities at the school are due to be completed by 2023/24.

Before:



After:



- 11) A refurbishment of Hadley Learning Community Secondary was undertaken for 2019/20. This enabled the school to be able to accommodate an additional 300 secondary children. The Council contributed £90k towards this.
- 12) Haberdasher Adams' and Newport Girls' High School were both successful in their bids to expand via the Selective School Expansion Fund (SSEF). Both schools were expanded to each provide an additional 150 places from 2020/21.

Newport Girls' High School After:



- 13) The Council has invested £15.85m in expanding secondary schools in Telford. The Telford Langley School was expanded for 2021/22 and construction work has been completed to expand Holy Trinity Academy from 2022/23. These two expansions have delivered an additional 600 secondary places.

Telford Langley After:



Holy Trinity After:

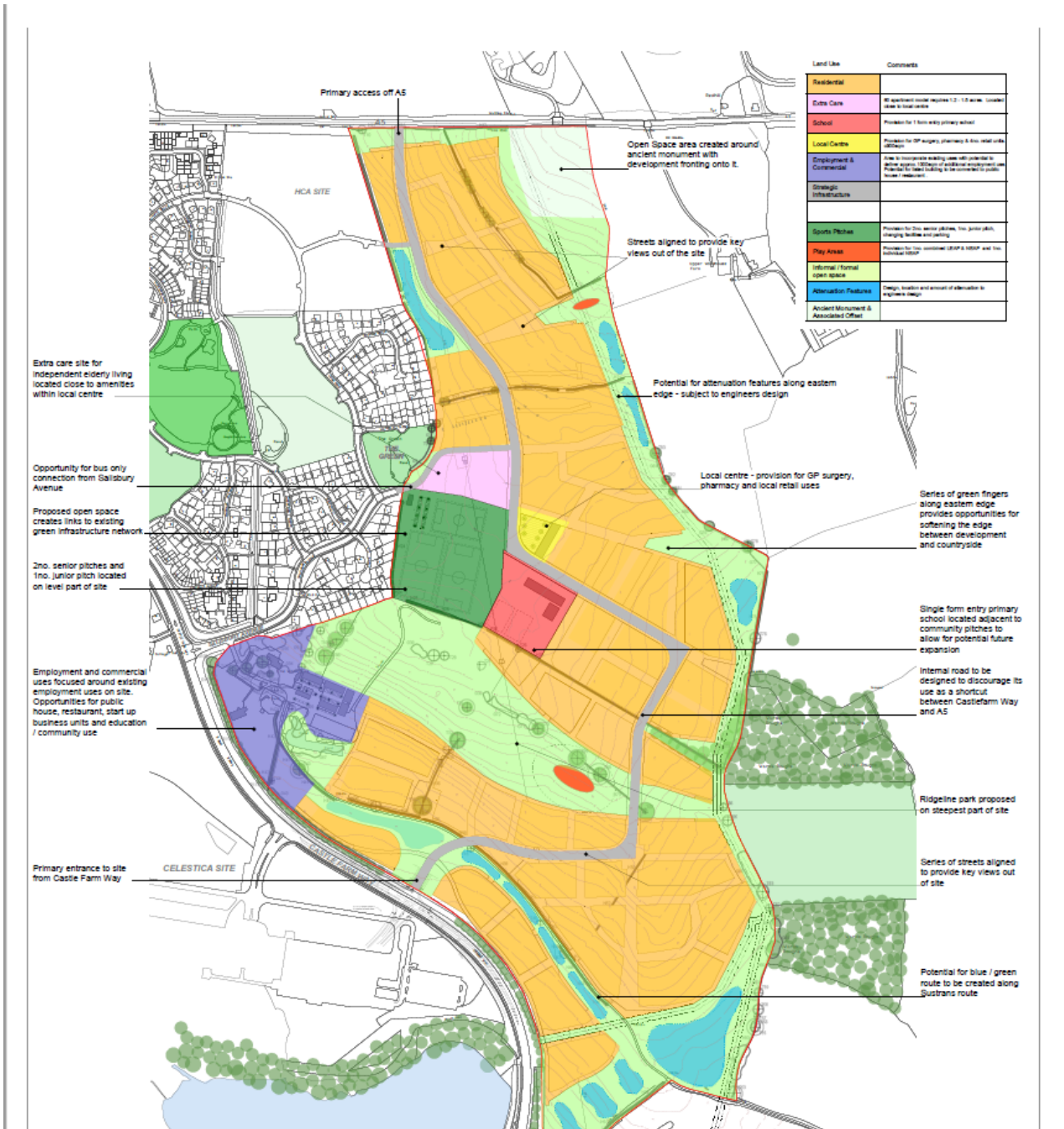


- 14) The Council have also developed SEN Hubs at Hollinswood, Old Park, Wrockwardine Wood Infant and Telford Langley Schools.

Wrockwardine Wood Infant SEN Hub:



Appendix B – Draft masterplan of Castle Farm Way/A5 site and school site plan.





Appendix C – Masterplan for Allscott Meads Development Site



Progress at Allscott Meads Primary free school from early October 2022:



This page is intentionally left blank

Autism Strategy



“We want autistic people of all ages to live in a borough where they are equal and active members of their communities, where they can develop to their full potential and have full access to the services they need.

‘We have worked with our partners Autism West Midlands to ensure that the document we put out for consultation reflects the views and aspirations of our autistic residents and their families, carers and support workers.

“Following the 230 responses received from this pre-consultation, we have produced with our partners a draft autism strategy.

“We are now launching a borough-wide consultation to get feedback on the strategy. The key areas that have been identified for this feedback are:

- Being heard
- Raising awareness and acceptance
- Inclusive and flexible services
- Employment.

“The autism strategy consultation runs from 7 November to 5 December 2022 and is a significant step towards a more inclusive community in our borough.”



Telford & Wrekin
Co-operative Council

Protect, care and invest
to create a better borough

Councillor Andy Burford (Labour)

Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health, Integration
and Transformation

This page is intentionally left blank



Borough of Telford and Wrekin

Cabinet

3 November 2022

Adult Social Care Autism Draft Strategy

Cabinet Member:	Cllr Andy Burford – Cabinet Member: Adult Social Care and Health, Integration and Transformation
Lead Director:	Sarah Dillon – Director: Adult Social Care
Service Area:	Adult Social Care
Report Author:	Amardeep Grewal – Principal Social Worker, Service Delivery Manager – Community Social Work
Officer Contact Details:	Tel: 380154 Email: amardeep.grewal@telford.gov.uk
Wards Affected:	All Wards
Key Decision:	Not Key Decision
Forward Plan:	August 2022
Report considered by:	SMT - 11 October 2022

1.0 Recommendations for decision/noting:

It is recommended that Cabinet:-

- 1.1 Approves the public consultation on the draft autism strategy;
- 1.2 Supports and champions the consultation in the community and with all partners; and
- 1.3 Grants delegated authority to the Director: Adult Social Care in consultation with the Lead Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and the Telford and Wrekin Autism Partnership Board to take the necessary steps to implement these recommendations.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide background to the draft autism strategy, the previous engagement work completed and to outline the proposed next steps for public consultation.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 The National Autistic Society states *“Autism is a lifelong developmental disability that affects how people perceive, communicate and interact with others, although it is important to recognise that there are differing opinions on this and not all autistic people see themselves as disabled. With an estimated 700,000 autistic adults and children in the UK – approximately 1% of the population – most people probably know someone who is autistic. In addition, there are an estimated 3 million family members and carers of autistic people in the UK”.*
- 3.2 Autistic people see, hear and feel the world differently to other people. Autism varies widely and is often referred to as a spectrum condition, because of the range of ways it can impact on people and the different level of support they may need across their lives.
- 3.3 Some autistic people will need very little or no support in their everyday lives while others may need high levels of care, such as 24-hour support in residential care. People may need help with a range of things, from forming friendships, coping at school, managing at work, or being able to get out and about in the community.

Context

- 3.4 We want to create a borough that truly understands and includes autistic people in all aspects of life; one in which autistic people of all ages, and backgrounds have equal opportunities to play a full part in their communities and to have better access to the services they need throughout their lives. This is our vision to make life fundamentally better for autistic people, their families and carers and we are determined to make it happen.

What we have done so far

- 3.5 The development of the Borough-wide strategy has been undertaken using a co-production approach and the consultation was undertaken with due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty of the S149 Equality Act 2010 and in accordance with Telford & Wrekin Council's values and principles.
- 3.6 We completed a pre-consultation engagement programme in Partnership with Autism West Midlands 2021-2022. The purpose of the pre-consultation engagement was to explore people's views on specific themes linked to the National Autism Strategy, these were:
- Health, Wellbeing and Care
 - Getting out and about
 - Diagnosis and support
 - Education, Training and employment

- Home
- Getting it Right – accessibility
- Individual – feeling accepted and understood

3.7 The pre-consultation engagement was successful with:

- 230 responses, providing issues and solutions to support Autistic people
- Responses from Autistic people, family members, carers and support workers and other professionals
- Online and face to face engagement sessions
- Analysis report completed by Autism West Midlands
- All-age Autism Partnership Board established and meeting bi-monthly.
- Autism systems Champion in place

3.8 To promote the pre-consultation engagement a wide range of communication methods were used, including utilising promotion through partners' communication routes. The routes utilised directly include:

- Press Releases
- Social Media platforms – Telford & Wrekin Council, Live Well Telford and My Options
- Newsletters:
- Community News
- Safeguarding Partnership Newsletter
- Shropshire Partner in Care Newsletter
- Telford & Wrekin Council Staff News
- Adult Social Care Newsletter
- Provider Forums
- Emails to partners, providers and Telford Interfaith Council
- Internal Telford & Wrekin Council Latest News



3.9 Using the information provided through the pre-consultation engagement a draft strategy was developed through the Autism Partnership Board. Please refer to Appendix A for a copy of the draft strategy.

4.0 Summary of main proposals

4.1 All services across Telford and Wrekin should be working to promote inclusion for autistic people in a way that is accepting and values the contributions the autistic community make to Telford and Wrekin. Autistic people should have access to good advice, guidance, information, relevant support that may include reasonable adjustments, that is aspirational, modern and supports inclusive opportunities.

4.2 The consultation on the draft autism strategy is a significant step in Telford and Wrekin's aspirations to provide an inclusive community throughout the borough. Organisations across the borough, through the all-age Autism Partnership board, working together to support each other in developing businesses, universal services, employment opportunities and/or support services that are impactful for autistic people and their families.

4.3 Following the pre-engagement programme we have taken feedback and produced a draft strategy that drives developments over the next 5 years in key areas. The consultation on the draft strategy will enable people to provide feedback on areas they identified as key opportunities that need further development to deliver a successful strategy. These include: being heard, raising awareness and acceptance, inclusive and flexible services, employment – all areas covered in the consultation questionnaire – please see Appendix B.

4.4 The proposed consultation timeline is:

Out to public consultation – 7th November 2022

Close public consultation – 5th December 2022

Report to be written and any necessary changes made to the Autism Strategy document – December – 21st December 2022

Authorisation by Andy Burford – Cabinet member – Early January 2023

Publication of the Autism Strategy – Late January 2023

Development of action plan monitored and delivered through All-age autism partnership board – Late February 2023 onwards

5.0 Alternative Options

5.1 There is a statutory duty imposed upon local authorities to have an autism strategy and an autism partnership board. For that reason, it is not feasible for the council not to adopt a strategy.

5.2 The content of the strategy will be informed and shaped by the results of the consultation and, therefore, an alternative version may be presented for adoption following the consultation.

6.0 Key Risks

6.1 In carrying out the consultation, there is a risk that consultation will not reach enough people and, therefore, feedback is not representative of the autistic community, carers and professionals. To mitigate this risk, the community engagement team is supporting the delivery of the consultation following successful models to ensure widespread awareness of the opportunity to comment on the draft strategy and engage with the consultation exercise. The consultation will be carried out adopting a variety of methods to seek views to ensure that it is as accessible as possible for residents.

7.0 Council Priorities

7.1 Development of the Autism strategy supports the council to achieve the following priorities:

- Priority 1 – every child, young person and adult lives well in their community
- Priority 5 – a community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services

8.0 Financial Implications

8.1 There are no implications foreseen resulting from adopting the recommendations of this report. All actions will be met from within existing resources. Should additional financial resources be required these will be requested through Governance processes.

9.0 Legal and HR Implications

9.1 Section 1 of the Autism Act 2009 requires the Secretary of State to publish an autism strategy and to keep the same under review and revise it as necessary. The *National Strategy for autistic children, young people and adults: 2021 to 2026* was last updated on 22.07.2021 and includes an implementation plan for year one.

9.2 Section 2 of the Act requires the Secretary of State to publish statutory guidance under which local authorities and NHS bodies have a duty to act. This guidance was published in March 2015.

9.3 As part of the Department of Health's update to the Adult Autism Strategy, the National Autistic Society produced a guide to help local authorities better involve people with autism in their local planning and implementation of autism strategies including through Autism Partnership Boards and wider consultation.

9.4 The proposals contained in this report satisfy the Council's legal obligations.

10.0 Ward Implications

10.1 All wards will be impacted on by these proposals.

11.0 Health, Social and Economic Implications

11.1 It is intended that this programme of work will contribute to improve health & wellbeing outcomes within the borough.

12.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

12.1 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment intelligence informs intentions to ensure resources are targeted appropriately to improve health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities. The Strategy has a specific requirement to demonstrate its focus on reducing inequalities and disparities including protected characteristics within the local population and priorities under the Equalities Act.

13.0 Climate Change and Environmental Implications

13.1 This report has no direct climate change or environmental impact.

14.0 Appendices

- A Draft Autism Strategy 2023-2028
- B Draft Consultation Questions

15.0 Report Sign Off

Signed off by	Date sent	Date signed off	Initials
Finance	03/10/2022	05/10/2022	RP
Legal	03/10/2022	21/10/2022	AL
SMT	03/10/2022	06/10/2022	SD



Telford & Wrekin
Co-operative Council

Protect, care and invest
to create a better borough

Telford & Wrekin Autism Strategy

Adult Social Care (including
transition into adulthood)

2023-2028

Acknowledgements



Telford & Wrekin
Co-operative Council

Protect, care and invest
to create a better borough



Midlands Partnership
NHS Foundation Trust
A Keele University Teaching Trust



**Shropshire, Telford
and Wrekin**

autism
west midlands



Contents

Foreword	4
Introduction	5
Vision & Priorities	5
Context	6
Involving Local Autistic People	8
What Did We Do to Involve People?	8
Who Responded?	8
What Did People Say?	10
Theme – Individual	11
Theme – Feeling accepted & understood	11
Theme – Getting it right	12
Theme – Home	12
Theme – Health, well-being and care	13
Theme – Getting out and about	14
Theme – Diagnosis and support	15
Theme – Education, training and employment	16
Making it Real – what happens next	18
Appendix 1 – National Law, Policy and Guidance	20

FOREWORD

Welcome to the Autism Strategy 2023-2028 developed by adult social care.

It is such an important time for autistic people in Telford and Wrekin. The publication of the Autism Strategy provides views and opinions on how to shape local services, what is needed to become more autism friendly and to ensure a safer community for autistic people in the local borough. The Autism Strategy also highlights the importance of partnership working, in particular, the work that continues with our engagement partners CVS and the Telford Autism Hub and The Autism Partnership Board.

Working alongside our partners and autistic people, their families, carers and other professionals we are committed to ensuring children, young people and adults, have a sense of purpose, aspiration and belonging in their local communities. It will also support initiatives that create inclusive spaces, raise awareness and acceptance throughout Telford and Wrekin with meaningful and transparent engagement. By focusing on partner agencies and working together to celebrate good work and provide challenge in making access to services easier. We are committed to focusing on the areas that autistic people told us were key in ensuring they were able to live a good life.

It is also important to acknowledge the role of families and carers in ensuring autistic people achieve and have the best possible access to education, recreation, employment, housing, finance information, advice and guidance, pre-and post-assessment support. We all want to make sure Telford understands and accepts autism and we create an inclusive community for all.

The Autism Strategy is ambitious and sets out the vision for Telford and Wrekin to be a place that offers opportunities for people to live healthy and fulfilling lives, where people are supported and valued and where no-one is left behind. We are all proud to be involved in the development and implementation of the Autism Strategy and will continue to ensure the priorities will be delivered in full for all autistic people.



Cllr Andy Burford
(Labour) Cabinet
Member for
adult social
care and health,
integration and
transformation



Simon Fraser
Autism Practice
Lead,
Telford & Wrekin
Council



Debbie Gibbon
CEO,
Telford and
Wrekin CVS

Introduction

This adults Autism Strategy is a five-year strategy which supports our aim for Telford and Wrekin to be an autism friendly borough where people can live full, healthy and rewarding lives, in a society that is inclusive.

The strategy has been co-produced with autistic adults, young people and their families to capture what is important to them and their lived experience, recognising that autism is lifelong.

It is recognised that autism is a fundamental part of who someone is and it is therefore important to use the right language. It is recognised that there are individual preferences (that should be used) however, following the advice from the National Autistic Society, opposite are some commonly used terms that should or should not be used.

The strategy has been developed with support from Autism West Midlands, taking data from national and local sources to provide up to date information on autism and to assist the understanding of the makeup of our borough. Partners have been working together to ensure a shared understanding of what is currently being delivered and where services and systems can work together.

The autism consultation has enabled valuable insight into the lived experiences of people who participated in the workshops, conversations and completed the autism consultation questionnaire.

Our vision and priorities include:

- good information, advice and guidance
- supporting raising awareness/acceptance
- supporting to improve inclusion
- focusing on education, training and employment opportunities
- supporting healthy living
- supporting young people in preparing for adulthood
- working with the criminal justice system

YES

Autistic adult/
child/person
...is autistic
...has an autism
diagnosis
Disabled person
Asperger
syndrome, a
form of autism
(pronounced with
a hard 'g')
Providing support
or adjustments
Traits or
characteristics
To the infinity
symbol

NO

...has autism
An autistic
...suffers from
autism
High/low
functioning
Normal (referring
to non-autistic
people)
Living with autism
Treating
symptoms
No to the jigsaw
symbol
We are NOT all a
little bit autistic

Context

The key to developing an autism strategy is knowing and understanding the;

- National context
- Local context
- Local autistic population
- Existing autism specific services by mapping them and identifying gaps
- Views of local autistic people and their families by involving them in the process and recognising where they experience good practice and where their experiences reflect a need for improvement.

National Context

What is Autism?

Autism is a spectrum condition that affects people in different ways, and, like all people, autistic people have their own strengths and weaknesses. The National Autistic Society state “autism is a life-long developmental disability which affects how people communicate, interact with the world and experience their senses”.

Although national statistics vary, it is believed that one in 100 people are on the spectrum and there are around 700,000 autistic adults in the UK, 79% of autistic adults live with other mental health difficulties (co-morbidities) and that as many as 4 times more males than females are diagnosed (beyondautism.co.uk).



Autism is reported in all racial, ethnic and socio-economic groups around the world however, it is recognised that there are groups of people who are harder to reach or identify. There is a lack of research in this area often meaning getting the right help and support can be even harder for minority groups. It is known that some of the barriers include language and understanding the processes involved in accessing support, that negative assumptions are made about certain behaviours within minority groups and that there is the feeling of being judged by professionals and members of a community resulting in dealing with things within the family structure.

It is also widely accepted that girls and women are often overlooked for an autism assessment or are commonly misdiagnosed. It is known that autism often presents differently in girls and women and that the ability to mask and camouflage difficulties results in professionals missing identifiers. Non-diagnosis or a misdiagnosis can have a significant impact on women and girls’ development and outcomes in all stages of life.

The National Autistic Society provides more information in this area and are currently undertaking more research. In recognising there are harder to reach groups Telford & Wrekin Council are developing the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy with the difficulties associated with autism and hard to reach groups forming a big part of this strategy.

Local Context

In response to the legislation and national drivers the following organisations have been working together to deliver and improve services for the autistic community:

- Telford & Wrekin Council
- Third Sector
- Parent/carer representative organisations
- Shropshire Council
- Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Clinical Commissioning Group
- Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust
- Shropshire Community NHS Foundation Trust
- Shropshire and Telford Hospitals



This programme has transitioned in the past 12 months to the system-wide Learning Disabilities and Autism Programme which has created a 3 Year Road Map¹. The road map sets a number of key priorities and this includes a local focus on autism.

Understanding the local autistic population – who do we know about?

Telford and Wrekin is a relatively new town with an estimated population of 185,600². The population is growing at a faster rate than the England population, it is younger than the national average, and is becoming more diverse. Estimated numbers of people with autism³ aged 15 years and over are given in table 33. This table is an indication of prevalence only and further data is explored from other sources available locally.

Table 33. Estimated number of autistic people aged 15 years and over

	15-44	45-65	65+	Total
Lakeside south	200	100	100	
Hadley Castle	300	200	100	
The Wrekin	200	200	100	
Telford & Wrekin	700	500	300	1500



GP records estimate the population to be 1,185⁴. This data set identifies those people who have a diagnosis of autism. The Local authority adult social care service supports 224⁵ autistic people and the Telford Autism Hub has supported 300 people in the year 2021/22, with 60 people supported to go through the autism diagnosis process.

¹See Appendix XX for STP 3 year road map

²Telford & Wrekin Census 2021

³Counts have been independently rounded to the nearest 100. Prevalence rates from POPPI/PANSI have been applied to national statistics, 2017 mid-year estimates by output area.

⁴Taken from CCG COVID-19 Vaccination data set as supplied by GPs

⁵Data as at 31.03.2022

Involving local autistic people and their families

What did we do?

The approach taken locally was to ask people about their life in the borough. A questionnaire was co-produced with autistic adults based on the national autism strategy to draw responses from people about their everyday life experiences in partnership with Autism West Midlands.

Hilary McGlynn, Operations Manager at Autism West Midlands:

“We very much welcome the autism consultation launched together with Telford & Wrekin Council.”

“It’s a great opportunity to hear directly from autistic residents, their families and carers across the borough about how we can continue to best support them to live healthy, active and independent lives.”

The analysis of the pre-engagement responses was completed by an Autism West Midlands autistic employee who provided a report detailing the feedback and putting them into themes aligned to the national strategy.

Who responded?

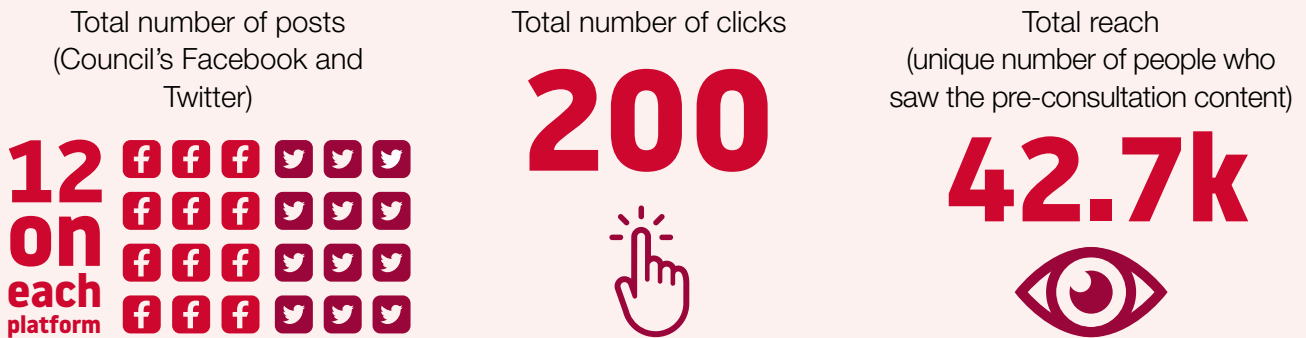
A variety of ways to engage was offered to make accessibility easier for autistic people to share their thoughts and input into the development of the draft autism strategy this included completing an online questionnaire, face to face sessions and group events.

The pre-engagement questionnaire was centred around the following themes:

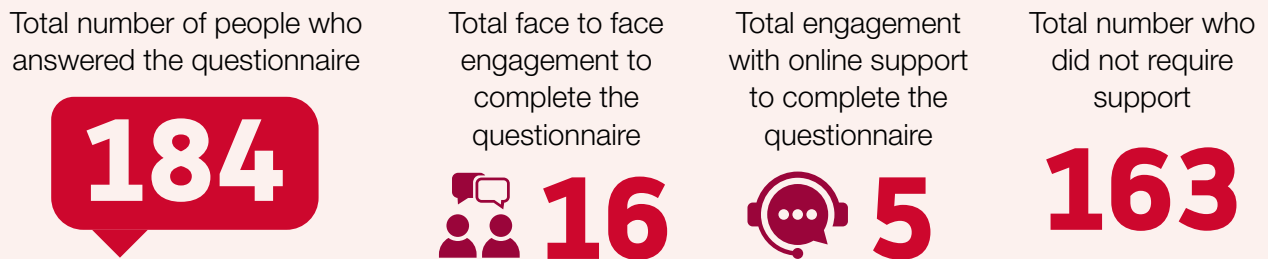
- Housing
- Health, care and well-being
- Getting out and about
- Diagnosis and Support
- Education, training and employment

The level of response is given over the page:

Engagement via the Council's Social Media Channels



Responses to the Questionnaire



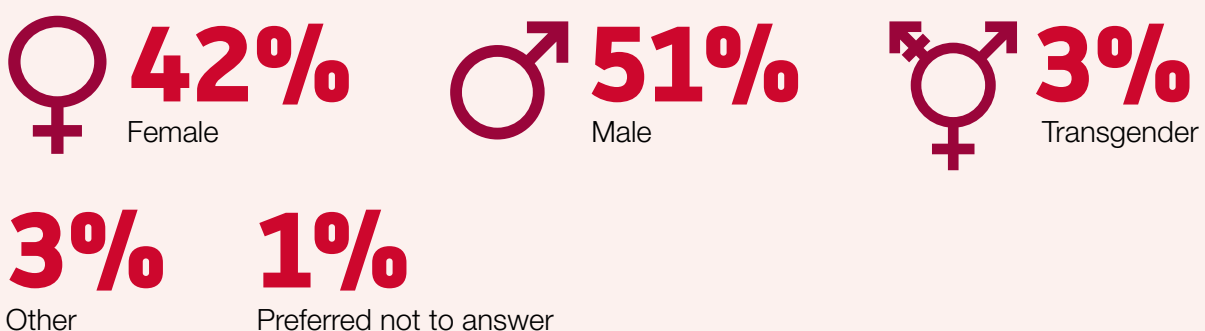
Demographic - we had lots of responses from different people including:



Individuals may be included in more than one category

Responses included a range of different roles and professions, such as social workers, carers, 3rd sector workers, parents, family practitioners.

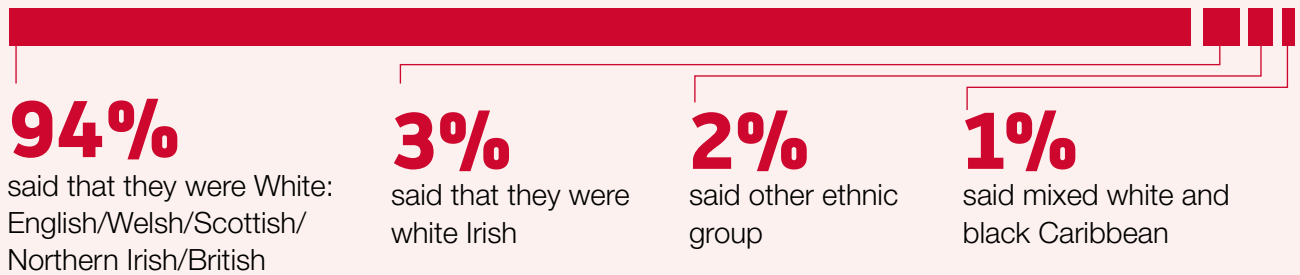
Gender - the gender split was as follows:



Where people lived or worked



Ethnic groups



What did people say?

Responses identified a general lack of understanding and acceptance of autism in society. This causes barriers and challenges across all areas of life, from accessing GP and other medical appointments, receiving support in education, recruitment and employment, transport, shops and community services and social.



"I think the strategy alongside the NHS long term plan will improve the lives of all autistic people and their families by building on and improving existing services: there is an important priority section in the strategy covering improvements to access of community support including preventative services e.g. autism hubs, one stop shops, mental health services improved advocacy and housing options - thus enabling autistic people to live full and rewarding lives."

"The lack of awareness of the general population around autism is very frustrating. People don't see that it's a spectrum."

"People in general understand and accept autism and autistic differences."

It was also considered important that autistic people should be involved in the development of anything to support them.

"Things need to be developed in conjunction with autistic people."

The Individual experience

Autistic people experience autism very individually. This means that every individual has a different autistic profile, different sensory needs, communication needs and support needs. Support needs can vary for an individual too, this may mean support needs to be tailored and flexible at times.

"Those with greater need often already have advocates in place and so their needs are clearer. Those who have functioned in society to a certain extent but are starting to struggle despite seemingly holding down marriages and families and jobs still need help to access what is made available to them. Providing no support to access will result eventually in a deterioration of their situation and increased support needs."

Feeling accepted and understood

The word understanding was used in the responses 61 times. A focus on removing barriers and improving autism understanding and acceptance would assist in creating more inclusive services and communities.

Getting it Right

Some people described autistic people falling through the gaps of services because autism is not a mental health condition or a physical health condition.

It is important autistic people know where to get help from with their emotional health and well-being. Signposting to suitable services, getting advice, information and activities all assist. People identified a need to be supported in a holistic way and having access to professionals who understand autism and associated conditions.

People described that it would be helpful to have access to peer support such as a mentor or groups to share experiences and support each other. It was also identified that having practical help with day-to-day challenges would help to improve emotional health and wellbeing.

You said...we will do

We asked people what was important to them, or the person they supported and/or worked with in the following areas:

- Housing
- Health, care and well-being
- Getting out and about
- Diagnosis and support
- Education, training and employment

The following section of this strategy outlines what people told us during this engagement and what we are going to do in response.

Home

People told us that they don't always need support, but may need some assistance if their circumstances change.

People said:

- Trades people understanding and accepting autism was important
- Being able to communicate in different ways with Trades people would be beneficial
- Having a 'trusted trader' scheme locally would be helpful
- Knowing where to go if housing repairs were needed would help
- Housing association staff not having the knowledge about autism could be problematic
- Knowing about Assistive Technology/Digital support at home – prompting and sequencing in particular would help with being independent
- Learning skills in the home that will develop independence would also help with being more independent
- Support with learning skills to plan and budget money would help in everyday life

What we will do...

- Make sure we work with housing providers throughout the borough to raise awareness/acceptance of neurodiversity
- Work with Trading Standards to raise acceptance/awareness of autism – promote the Trading Standards Accredited website
- Support autism awareness training to staff with partner agencies in partnership with the Autism Hub
- Promote the Independent Living Centre for Assistive Technology and digital solutions at home
- Promote community services that support independence skills – raise awareness/acceptance of autism at community venues
- Promote services that support budgeting and financial planning – including the use of Assistive Technology and digital solutions
- Work with supermarkets, markets, shops to extend autism friendly hours
- Support development of specialist accommodation

Quotes

"Access to Trusted Trader scheme (if that still exists), in the same way that senior citizens do, as allowing a stranger into your home to complete trade work is very distressing to an ASD person."

"The assistance of someone autism friendly to help guide me to the relevant services,' if any' who can advise and support my needs without belittling me!"

"Assistance with doing everyday things, somewhere to go nearby to give independence lessons."

"Easy access."

"Approachable customer services."

Health, wellbeing and care

COVID

It is important to acknowledge the context of this piece of work being undertaken during the COVID-19 pandemic: services were stretched, moved to deliver different priorities and therefore may not have been delivering at full capacity during the period of this consultation. Research has identified that rates of depression and anxiety during and post pandemic have significantly increased in the general population however, the negative impact of Covid-19 has been more significant within the autistic population.

People told us being healthy was important to them, their physical, emotional and mental health.

They said:

- Leisure services should be more inclusive and accessible
- Create more quiet times in leisure centres
- Having accessible information about healthy diets and healthy living would support to have a healthier lifestyle
- GP's need to be more inclusive – offer appointments via text, needing appointments to be made in advance, be understanding and flexible if late
- Mental health support needs to be more available with reasonable adjustments made if and when needed

- Create more spaces for peers to get together
- Provide more information about inclusive spaces and what is available in the community
- Provide more information about inclusive secondary health services that are autism friendly

What we will do...

- Make sure we are always listening to people about what is important to them about healthy living
- Work with Public Health to promote more inclusive information, advice and guidance about healthy lifestyles
- Work with leisure services to be more inclusive
- Support training, awareness raising and acceptance in more community spaces
- Promote literature about healthy lifestyles and health diets
- Promote autism friendly services wider
- Work with community centres and venues to raise awareness and create inclusive spaces
- Work with universal, community and specialist health services to ensure they are more inclusive
- Ensure training to staff is in line with national developments

Quotes

"Support person to help with advice and access to leisure."

"Exercise classes with a trainer who understands autism at local leisure centres would be beneficial."

"Access to local facilities and the extra guidance on how to exercise rather than the general service provided."

"Doctors at GP surgeries could do with being better educated about communication issues that cause difficulties for autistics seeking healthcare."

"Having time to do so, or having more classes available, with teachers who get autism or at the very least get that noisy music along with loud voices can cause overload - (i don't need special classes, i just would love it if all classes were as good as say the Body Balance on a Friday at Wellington, the teacher there is awesome and gets it!) I have to work long hours and make a real effort to make sure I exercise. I love the facilities at T&W a discount would be nice to make it a little more affordable but it is something that I value highly."

"Quiet areas in leisure facilities."

Getting out and about

People told us being a part of their local community was important to them but they can feel anxious when going somewhere for the first time, and/or unfamiliar places.

People told us:

- They wanted to volunteer/work in places local to them
- They want staff in universal services to be patient and give more time to process what they need to do when out and about
- Knowing where to go for help, if needed, is really important
- Having staff in places that are autism aware
- More quiet times in universal services are needed
- Public transport should be more inclusive

- Having spaces for peers and/or friends to get together was important
- To have spaces that encourage and welcome autistic people to attend/access was important
- Taxi companies to have training of autism was vital to support safe travel

What we will do...

- Work with individuals and communities to link people together with similar interests
- Explore how we can enable people to access support in the community if/when they need it
- Further promote and develop Live Well Telford to provide advice, information and guidance of provisions within the borough
- Continue to work with the Autism Hub to promote, develop and support activities
- Work with universal services to improve inclusivity, including Taxi companies and public transport
- Work with DWP to support more autistic people into work
- Work with public transport providers to support awareness raising and training for more inclusive public transport
- Promote the use of digital technology/Assistive Technology when out and about to support with managing anxiety

Quotes

"Due to my autism I don't go out very often, as I don't like being around crowds of people. I've considered volunteering at my local community centre, but haven't as yet."

"We access some local community services but to be honest we don't know exactly what local community services there is. it is not common knowledge what's available and to who. is there anything specifically for autistic adults a community information booklet would be a fantastic idea."

"I can find all of the above places overwhelming at times and they often lack an area to escape to for a sensory break."

Diagnosis and Support

83% of people who responded told us they have a formal diagnosis of autism and 12% were waiting for an assessment for a formal diagnosis.

You told us:

- More, advice, guidance and support is needed for autistic people
- Having support, advice and guidance about the diagnostic process would be beneficial
- Employers need more information about autism and reasonable adjustments that can be made once a diagnosis is received or if an employee asks for support at work with their neurodiversity
- Regular updates about the timeframe when waiting for an assessment would be beneficial
- Being signposted to support services sooner while waiting for a diagnosis would be helpful
- Support for carers through the diagnostic/assessment process and after diagnosis is important

What we will do...

- Support to create and promote more information and guidance on post assessment services and support
- Work with the Autism Hub to create content for Live Well Telford

- Work with DWP to raise awareness about the assessment process and post assessment support and reasonable adjustments in the workplace
- Work with the Autism Hub to include regular keep in touch points during the assessment pathway
- Promote the autism drop in service
- Promote the Carers Centre to support unpaid carers of autistic people, including those waiting for an assessment

Quotes

"Long time to wait for assessment."

"The Support worker at West Midlands Autism at the time, was vey good, very helpful and understanding. He made me understand autism and the impact it can have on you."

"The Autism Hub helped me with all aspects of my diagnosis."

"I did not get diagnosed until I was 23 years old, always knew I felt different and struggled socially throughout school, still I went undiagnosed and I struggled. My mum requested an assessment from the Autism Hub and finally got a diagnosis."

Education, training and employment

We asked people about their experiences in education, training and employment. People described a variety of experiences which have supported them, but also the challenges they may have faced too.

People told us;

- They had positive experiences when, even without a diagnosis, adjustments are made in education or in the workplace
- Some people enjoyed the online learning/working during the pandemic
- More information about adult learning in Telford would be beneficial
- Some people preferred online training when in the workplace
- More support services to assist people to find work are vital
- When in work to have support if needed
- Assistance with interview skills, job application and CV writing would help with finding or getting back to work
- Having an individual approach about what works best is vital
- They want to be busy and keeping active both physically and mentally is really important

What we will do...

- Support universal employers with more information about autism in the work place
- Work with DWP, EAST and Telford Job Box to create more opportunities for employment with information and guidance for employers
- Work with the Autism Hub to continue to raise awareness and acceptance of autism
- Promote adult learning opportunities available in Telford
- Work with education providers and SEN/SEND services to start conversations early about aspirations into employment
- Work with partners to reduce barriers into employment/education/training and when in employment/education/training

Quotes

"Being self employed, where they could work in their home environment, could switch off when they needed too and can limit stimulation."

"Training everyone in the work place to understand autism as they presume one size fits all and everyone who is autistic is the same as the next person and they aren't its individual to each individual with varying needs."

"Awareness. Flexibility on the part of employers. I could write a thesis on this."

"Allowances could have been made earlier on and better understanding of what difficulties can occur with autism. Better teacher training/awareness and educating children on differences and problems."

"Better access to online courses and Zoom-based meetings rather than traditional brick and mortar college classes."

"I think the trainer could ask at the start of a course about learning styles, say anyone of a different neurotype or with a disability can sit out of any activity/do an alternative with no questions asked."

"An understanding employer in a quiet safe environment with necessary adjustments put into place."

"Help and support from services to help find employment, currently there are no services who specialise in autistic people getting into paid employment."

"Something I struggled with greatly when I was applying for jobs was interviews. I struggled to formulate sentences very well and it came out like garbled mess. I think in school/college they should have practice interviews to teach you how to answer questions, read between lines of questions and general interview behaviour."

"My son is 8. I would like to know what the pathways are for adulthood for him. This has not been discussed with me. It is never too early."

Making it Real – what happens next

How will we make it happen (governance and action plans)

Following the strategy action plan which will detail the actions adult social care and partners will need to take to implement this strategy. We will focus on co-production ensuring autistic people, their families, carers and the people important to them are at the centre of delivery.

The All Age Autism Partnership Board will support the implementation of the strategy. The board and its members will all play an active role in delivering the strategy to ensure its longevity and success. The board is made up of people with lived experience, carers, staff from the council, NHS, Police, the third sector and voluntary organisations.

Representation from adult social care will report to the Telford and Wrekin Integrated Place Partnership on a regular basis outlining progress made and what difference the action plan is making to autistic people and their families and/or carers. This update will also be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board and Learning Disability and Autism Board. Please see Appendix 2 for governance structure.

How will we know it's working

There is already a lot of good work to support autistic people in Telford and Wrekin but we know this can be challenging at times with limited resources across health and social care as we continue to recover from the Covid pandemic in the borough.

We will continue to monitor our development, progress and impact of this strategy and our action plan, with our partners, to ensure we are delivering and supporting individuals, carers/families within the borough. This will be monitored with support from the All Age Autism Partnership Board and its governance structure.

Looking to the future

During the time of the pre-engagement consultation that informed the development of this adults strategy the National Autism strategy had advanced into an All-age autism strategy. Whilst completing our pre-engagement consultation and our strategy consultation we were, and continue to be mindful of the 'all age' changes the national strategy. It is the aspirations of Telford and Wrekin Council and its partners that this adults focused strategy develops further with Children's Services, Special Educational Needs (with Disabilities) and education partners into an all age autism strategy.

Our all-age Autism partnership board, is run and delivered in partnership with CVS; the adults and children's Autism Hub's, is already supporting an all age agenda with key organisations already around the table working together to make Telford and Wrekin a more autism inclusive community. However, we know we need to do more. Further consultation with children, young people, carers, professionals and services etc. across the borough is still needed to compliment and enhance the developments already taking place in children's and younger peoples services, including education. A separate consultation would produce a range of responses that may have been lost if completed at this time.

We recognise the alignment that will be needed and over time, once a further consultation has taken place, the feedback from children, young people, parents, carers, professionals and partners etc. can be captured and a true all age autism strategy.

Appendix 1 – National Law, Policy and Guidance

2009 – Autism Act

Campaigning resulted in recognition of a gap in service provision. This led to the Autism Act 2009 and subsequent strategy and statutory guidance. The Autism Act 2009 www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/15/contents was the first autism specific legislation issued by central government placing duties on local authorities and clinical commissioning groups to implement local strategies.

2010 – Autism Strategy – Fulfilling & Rewarding Lives

The Autism Strategy 2010 www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/15/section/1 laid clear the requirement for people to be recognised for being individuals where someone's experience of autism may not be the same as someone else's, that reasonable adjustments to support access to the community, work and social activities would mobilise people, awareness would ensure people around them would understand and accept them and support from public services would be timely and co-ordinated.

2014 – Autism Strategy (revision) – Think Autism

The initial vision of Fulfilling & Rewarding Lives still remained and Think Autism added to it. It shared a full implementation which was key to meeting the vision. With it came the Innovation Fund.

2014 – Care Act

The Care Act 2014 www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/contents/enacted quantified national eligibility criteria. A duty to provide preventative care and a duty of assessments to be carried out by someone with autism expertise – Care & Support (Assessment) Regulations) 2014.

2015 – Building the right Support Transforming Care Partnerships

This strategy placed responsibilities on local health and social care systems to ensure the whole spectrum of services from hospital to home were considered in strategic planning across systems, making it clear that hospital was not home for those learning-disabled people with complex needs, including those with a mental health condition in in-patient facilities.

2021 – NHS Long Term Plan

The Long Term Plan sets out action to ensure patients get the care they need, fast through closer alignment of services, proactive care and support upfront to relieve pressure on A&Es.

2021 – National All-Age Autism Strategy

The National Strategy for autistic children, young people and adults: 2021 – 2026 www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-strategy-for-autistic-children-young-people-and-adults-2021-to-2026/the-national-strategy-for-autistic-children-young-people-and-adults-2021-to-2026 is the latest document which follows 6 themes which can be measured and evaluated; understanding and acceptance, improving access to education and positive transitions, employment, tackling health inequalities, building the right support and inpatient care and improving support within the criminal and youth justice systems.

Supporting Local Partnerships and Strategies

- Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Long Term Plan
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy, 2020-2025
- Telford & Wrekin Integrated Place Partnership Strategic Plan, 2020-2022
- Telford & Wrekin's Making it Real Board
- Telford & Wrekin Council Plan
- Telford & Wrekin Community Safety Strategy, 2017-2019
- Telford & Wrekin Safeguarding multi-agency safeguarding arrangements
- Specialist Housing and Accommodation policy
- Market Position Statement

This page is intentionally left blank

Autism Strategy – Consultation Questions Draft V5

Introduction

We want to get as many views as possible from autistic people, their families and carers on the services and support available to them in the borough.

We went out to pre-consultation in winter 2021 to hear about your experiences of autism. We wanted to know what was important to you, what works well for you, the things that would make life easier for you, and what you want your future to look like.

All the feedback was collected and helped draft the borough-wide autism strategy. A copy of the draft strategy can be found here: [Introduction - Autism Strategy Consultation - Telford & Wrekin Council](#). If you have a more general comment about the draft strategy please email us at: ppqteam@telford.gov.uk

As well as the strategy you can also find the feedback from the pre-consultation (held in winter 2021) and what people have told us important to them and the people they support.

We now need your views on the strategy to ensure that we are focused on the areas that are most important to you. This will help us develop an action plan to deliver the strategy.

Question Number	Question
1	a) We've heard that raising awareness of autism is important, that people work in these services have an understanding/awareness of autism. Which of the following is the most important area to you that we should focus on first? Please pick one option. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With housing providers • Trading Standards • Community spaces/venues • Public transport • Leisure Services • Department for work and pensions (DWP) • Businesses • Health Services • Local Authority
2	a) We've heard that having inclusive information, advice and guidance are important. Which of the following is the most important area to you that we should focus on first? Please pick one option. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information about healthy diets and healthy living • Information about inclusive spaces • Information about what is available in the community – community groups, centres and activities in the community • Information about inclusive health services that are autism friendly (e.g. dentist, GP, Mental Health) • Information and guidance on post assessment services and support • Information about autism in the workplace, work post-assessment support, reasonable adjustments including support from DWP. • Information on Live Well Telford – online directory of services available locally for all ages
3	a) We've heard that having inclusive and flexible services are important. Which of the following is the most important area to you that we should focus on first? Please pick one option. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supermarkets and shops extending their autism friendly hours • Leisure services • GPs / Primary Care / Dentist / Opticians • Mental Health services

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Services (e.g. libraries, community centres) • Taxis and public transport • Department for work and pensions • Supported and specialist accommodation • Adult Social Services
4	a)	<p>We've heard that supporting autistic people into, and remaining in, employment is important. Which of the following is the most important area to you that we should focus on first?</p> <p>Please pick one option.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating more opportunities for employment – work placements, apprenticeships • Promoting adult learning opportunities • Work with education providers and SEN/SEND Services to start conversations early about employment aspirations • Reducing barriers to employment/education/training • Support employers with more information on autism and reasonable adjustments
5	a)	<p>We've heard that promoting autism friendly and services/support for carers are important. Which of the following is the most important area to you that we should focus on first?</p> <p>Please pick one option.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent Living Centre – digital and assistive technology • Autism Hub • Autism Drop in Service • Services that support budgeting and financial planning • Carers Centre • Live Well Telford • Further education service
6	a)	<p>We've heard that transitioning from children's to adults services is important. Which of the following is the most important area to you that we should focus on first?</p> <p>Please pick one option.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified lead for the young person and their family/carers transitioning • Support with understanding the transition from children to adult services • Dedicated online information point • Improve training providers/colleges opportunities • Improved pathways to paid employment
7	a)	<p>In your opinion do you think our plans for autistic people will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Makes things a lot better,</i> • <i>Makes things better,</i> • <i>No difference,</i> • <i>Makes things worse,</i> • <i>Makes things a lot worse,</i> • <i>Don't know.</i>
8	a)	<p>Are you satisfied with the way we are finding out what people think about this strategy?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Very satisfied,</i> • <i>Somewhat satisfied,</i> • <i>Neither satisfied nor unsatisfied,</i> • <i>Somewhat unsatisfied,</i> • <i>Very unsatisfied.</i>
9		Do you have further comments:

Additional Questions

The following are additional questions which we would like to ask you to assist us to understand you further.

The information you provide will be used for statistical analysis related to this questionnaire. You can find out more about how we hold and process data by visiting www.telford.gov.uk/terms

9 Are you/they aged?

- | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 17 years or under | <input type="checkbox"/> | 36-45 years | <input type="checkbox"/> | 66-75 years | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 18-25 years | <input type="checkbox"/> | 46-55 years | <input type="checkbox"/> | 76 years or over | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 26 - 35 years | <input type="checkbox"/> | 56-65 years | <input type="checkbox"/> | Prefer not to say | <input type="checkbox"/> |

10 What is your/their gender?

- | | | | | | |
|--------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Female | <input type="checkbox"/> | Transgender | <input type="checkbox"/> | Prefer not say | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Male | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other – Please state | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

Other – please state

11 Do you/they live or work in Telford and Wrekin?

- | | | | | | |
|-----------|--------------------------|---------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Work only | <input type="checkbox"/> | Both | <input type="checkbox"/> | Prefer not to say | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Live only | <input type="checkbox"/> | Neither | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

12 What is your ethnicity?

- White:** English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British
- White:** Irish
- White:** Gypsy or Traveller
- White:** Polish
- White:** Any other (please write in below)
- Mixed/multiple ethnic group:** White and Black Caribbean
- Mixed/multiple ethnic group:** White and Black African
- Mixed/multiple ethnic group:** White and Asian
- Mixed/multiple ethnic group:** Any other (please write in below)
- Asian/Asian British:** Indian
- Asian/Asian British:** Pakistani
- Asian/Asian British:** Bangladeshi
- Asian/Asian British:** Any other (please write in below)
- Black/African/Caribbean/Black British:** African (please write in country of origin below)
- Black/African/Caribbean/Black British:** Caribbean
- Black/African/Caribbean/Black British:** Any other (please write in below)
- Other ethnic group:** Arab (please write in country of origin below)
- Other ethnic group:** Chinese
- Other ethnic group:** Any other (please write in below)
- Rather not say

Other key points:

- Launch 7 November.
- Online questionnaire – hosted by ODD – closes on 5th December, analysis needed by 7th December. Following which Amardeep will compile Consultation report.
- Face to face Engagement sessions – hosted by Autism West Midlands – need the analysis from them by 7th December. Following which Amardeep will compile Consultation report
- Any required changes to the strategy will be sent to John Barlow by 19th December
- Look to launch the Autism Strategy January 2023

This page is intentionally left blank

20mph Speed Limit Strategy



“In recent years the council has made significant investments to ensure our neighbourhoods are great places to live, including £1,000,000 into safety outside our schools which will continue into 2023.

“There are forty five schemes already in place and six new 20mph speed limit zones are set to be introduced in the coming 12 months in areas where there are primary and secondary school across the borough.

“The zones have the potential to reduce vehicle emissions and improve air quality outside schools, whilst reducing road traffic collisions and improving the health of pupils by encouraging active travel such as walking and cycling.

“We are also planning to launch a programme to recruit 100 volunteers from our communities to support in Community Speed Watch schemes. This work is delivered in conjunction with the West Mercia Safer Roads Partnership and we will be developing the scheme with them in the coming months.

“Locations are currently being confirmed, with two major schemes in Horsehay and Oakengates planned.”



Protect, care and invest
to create a better borough

Councillor Richard Overton (Labour)

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Enforcement and Transport

This page is intentionally left blank



Borough of Telford and Wrekin

Cabinet

3 November 2022

20mph Speed Strategy

Cabinet Member:	Cllr Richard Overton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member: Housing, Enforcement and Transport
Lead Director:	Dean Sargeant – Director: Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services
Service Area:	Strategic Transport and Highway Network Management
Report Author:	Matt Powell – Service Delivery Manager: Strategic Transport & Highway Network Management
Officer Contact Details:	Tel: 01952 384649 Email: matt.powell@telford.gov.uk
Wards Affected:	All Wards
Key Decision:	Not Key Decision
Forward Plan:	12 July 2022
Report considered by:	SMT - 11 October 2022 Cabinet - 3 November 2022

1.0 Recommendations for decision/noting:

It is recommended that Cabinet:-

- 1.1 Approve the adoption of the 20mph Speed Strategy as contained in Appendix 1.
- 1.2 Note delivery of 20mph speed limit projects completed to date and those planned for delivery during 2022/23.

- 1.3 Delegate authority to the Director: Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services, in consultation with the Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member: Housing, Enforcement & Transport to periodically update the 20mph Speed Strategy as may be required.
- 1.4 Work with partners including Town and Parish Councils, to deliver a Community Speed Watch Programme that will secure over 100 volunteers to assist with monitoring as part of the community speed watch initiative.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the 20mph Speed Strategy as contained in Appendix 1 and develop a community speed watch network to support monitoring of such schemes. Installed in the correct location with supporting features where necessary, such speed limits can reduce road traffic collisions and encourage active travel particularly walking/cycling routes to school.
- 2.2 To build on the work completed to date, this strategy has the potential to reduce vehicle emissions and contribute to the Council's Climate Change commitments.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 Telford & Wrekin Council continues to deliver measures to improve road safety for all highway users across the borough. This is alongside continued investment into Safer Routes School projects that has seen over £600,000 invested into providing cleaner, safer walking/cycling routes to school with further £250,000 improvements planned as part of the 'On Your Side' investment.
- 3.2 The Council has delivered forty five 20mph schemes, the majority of these in the past 5 years, with a further six planned as part of the capital programme for the coming 12 months. Majority of these schemes have been delivered in the vicinity of primary and high schools; on approval of the Strategy work will continue to bring such speed limits forward outside schools where possible. In addition, there are seventeen 20mph zones across the borough with work continuing to explore opportunity to deliver further zones in residential areas, such as Brooskide, Leegomery, Sutton Hill and Woodside.
- 3.3 The Council continues to receive requests for installing 20mph speed limits/zones at various locations across the borough. The proposed 20mph Speed Limit Strategy provides a framework for delivering schemes going forward while ensuring assessment against national guidance. Typically, areas considered most suitable for 20mph speed limits/zones include:

- Residential roads with an existing speed limit of 30mph where average vehicle speed is 24mph or below;
- Residential roads with schools in the vicinity with evidence of cycle and pedestrian movement;
- Areas where there is a history of recorded injury collisions where speed is considered a contributory factor;
- Existing residential roads that already benefit from physical traffic calming features where average speeds are 24mph or less;
- Residential roads that do not hinder bus operators and emergency service vehicles

3.4 It is generally accepted that 20mph speed limits/zones should include areas consisting of several roads rather than individual streets. However, there are exceptions to this with each location requiring assessment on its own merit.

3.5 Research into 'signed-only' 20 mph speed limits shows that they generally only lead to small reductions in traffic speeds. Signed-only 20mph speed limits are typically most appropriate for areas where vehicle speeds are already low. If the average speed is already at or below 24mph on a road, introducing a 20mph speed limit through signing alone is likely to lead to general compliance with the new enforceable limit.

3.6 Post scheme monitoring and enforcement is a key part of delivering such improvements. Working with the Road Safety Partnership, Town and Parish Councils and volunteers, the Council will seek to co-ordinate the location of speed indicator devices (SID's) and mobile speed enforcement vehicles to support the monitoring and enforcement of new and existing 20mph limits. This will be further enhanced by the Council supporting over 100 community speed watch volunteers as part of the community speed watch programme.

4.0 Summary of main proposals

4.1 The 20mph Speed Limit strategy sets out the criteria and priorities for the delivery of such projects. This report seeks approval of the strategy to support future delivery of 20mph road safety schemes.

5.0 Alternative Options

5.1 The Council as Highway Authority is responsible for providing a safe and accessible highway for all. This strategy, if approved, will provide the basis for future scheme delivery while continuing to support the delivery of measures to improve cycling and walking including Safer Routes to School.

5.2 The Council could choose not to implement a 20mph speed strategy, however, this reports sets out the basis for the decision to implement one. If the Council did not consider the implementation of 20mph speed zones, there is a risk that it would fail to meet a number of its statutory obligations.

6.0 Key Risks

6.1 There is a risk that drivers may not comply with the revised speed limits that are bought forward as part of future schemes. However, this can be mitigated by ensuring that 20mph limits are introduced as set out in the Strategy and in areas that are predominately self-enforcing.

6.2 Despite continued investment into measures to improve road safety and cycling/walking measures as part of Safer Routes to School, there is a risk that the transition from vehicles to more sustainable travel may not take place. This can be mitigated through continued engagement and promotion of such improvements alongside dedicated Active Travel Schools Engagement Officer to promote and support children into active/sustainable travel to and from school.

7.0 Council Priorities

7.1 The adoption and implementation of the 20mph Speed Strategy will support the following priorities:

- Every child, young person and adult lives well in their community;
- All neighbourhoods are a great place to live;
- Our natural environment is protected, and the Council has a leading role in addressing the climate emergency;

8.0 Financial Implications

8.1 Capital funding of £125,000 from the On Your Side Programme has been allocated in 2022/23 with a further £125,000 in 2023/24 to deliver Safer Routes to School and builds on previous investment of £600,000. The programme and sites for these schemes are currently being developed.

8.2 Capital funding of £140,000 has been allocated for financial year 2022/23 to deliver two schemes that incorporate 20mph schemes in Oakengates and Horsehay. Future schemes will be prioritised and delivered through integrated transport capital funding.

9.0 Legal and HR Implications

9.1 The Council in its capacity as Highway Authority has the power under section 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to make orders imposing a 20mph speed limit. The Department for Transport has set out guidance, in DfT Circular 01/2013,

for Local Authorities to follow in relation to the implementation of 20mph speed limits.

- 9.2 Any changes to existing speed limits will be the subject of the statutory process required for Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO) which will include public notice and formal consultation with statutory bodies such as the Police.
- 9.3 The Council must also comply with the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Direction 2016 (as amended) in relation to the erection and maintenance of speed limit signs. This is particularly relevant when considering enforcement action and convictions for speed offences to be upheld.

10.0 Ward Implications

- 10.1 This strategy covers the whole Borough and sets out how the Council will work in partnership with Town and Parish Council's as well as other organisations in delivering 20mph speed restrictions.

11.0 Health, Social and Economic Implications

- 11.1 Bringing forward 20mph speed restrictions in the right environment correlates with slower speeds that encourage active and sustainable travel with more children likely to walk and cycle to school. Those who may have concerns about cycling can become more likely to cycle than previously providing opportunity for residents to benefit from the council's wider investment into active travel.
- 11.2 Through encouraging more people to walk and cycle in these areas, wider benefits in terms of health and wellbeing can be realised whilst promoting more sustainable travel behaviours.
- 11.3 Poor air quality is the largest environmental risk to public health in the UK as it can cause chronic conditions such as cardiovascular and respiratory diseases as well as lung cancer, leading to reduced life expectancy. It particularly affects the most vulnerable in society: children, older people and those with pre-existing heart and lung conditions.
- 11.4 Road transport is the biggest source of nitrogen oxides (NO_x) in the UK, and is the main source of exposure at the roadside. It also produces particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and sulphur dioxide (SO₂), all known to cause harm.
- 11.5 Road transport in the Borough accounts for 42% of the total NO_x emissions, and 13% / 15% of the total PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} emissions respectively.
- 11.6 Continued development of 20mph speed limits/zones will not only contribute to the reduction in nitrogen oxides emissions across the borough but also contribute towards the reduction in the amount of harmful air pollutants such as those listed above.

12.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

- 12.1 This strategy has the potential to improve accessibility for all by providing a safer highway which in-turn has the opportunity for safer cycling and walking. In-turn, this will enable all residents to benefit from the councils continued investment into promoting active travel – such as the Silkin Way and A518 Donnington cycleway.
- 12.2 These established alternatives to the car aim to promote, improve and increase the number of journeys completed in the Borough by active sustainable modes of transport.
- 12.3 The proposals are not thought to have any specific impacts on our armed forces community, other than through access to any improved infrastructure that would be available to all.

13.0 Climate Change and Environmental Implications

- 13.1 In June 2019, the UK parliament passed legislation requiring the government to reduce the UK's net emissions of greenhouse gases by 100% related to 1990 levels by 2050. Transport is the single largest contributor to the UK carbon dioxide emissions, representing around 35% of the total emissions. As outlined above, this strategy provides opportunity to reduce vehicle emission while improving road safety to support the transition to cycling and walking.

14.0 Background Papers

- 1 None

15.0 Appendices

- 1 20mph Speed Limit Strategy

16.0 Report Sign Off

Signed off by	Date sent	Date signed off	Initials
Finance	18/10/2022	19/10/2022	PT
Legal	18/10/2022	18/10/2022	RP
Director	07/10/2022	07/10/2022	DRS



20mph Speed Strategy



November 2022



Contents

1	Background	3
1.1	Types of 20mph restriction.....	3
1.1.1	Advisory 20mph Zone	3
1.1.2	20mph Speed Limit	4
1.1.3	20mph Zone	5
1.2	Current Position	5
1.3	National Guidance	7
1.3.1	20mph speed limit or zones.....	7
1.4	Enforcement	8
2	Recommendations.....	9
2.1	Implementation of Future 20mph Restrictions	9
2.1.1	Current Speed Thresholds	9
2.2	Prioritisation of Road Safety Schemes.....	10
2.3	Consultation.....	10
2.4	Post Scheme Monitoring.....	10
	Appendix A – Existing Restriction Locations	11

Document Control

VERSION:	Originator:	Checked by:	Approved by:
Revision 0	NAME: MSP	NAME: CP / HB / DRS	NAME: MSP
DATE:	SIGNATURE:	SIGNATURE:	SIGNATURE:
November 2022			
Document Status	Final		



1 Background

1.1 Types of 20mph restriction

There are three main types of 20mph restriction that can be used on the highway depending on the requirements of each site.

1.1.1 Advisory 20mph Zone

An advisory zone which is only in force at certain times of the day, usually accompanied by flashing light signals to advise when the zone is in force. In Telford & Wrekin this type of restriction is used extensively outside schools where a period is set around school start and finish times. It is also likely that these restrictions will be supplemented by some form of traffic calming whether it be physical or visual.



Figure 1-1 Advisory 20mph Zone near Abraham Darby School



1.1.2 20mph Speed Limit

A 20mph speed limit is the same as any other formal speed limit, and is indicated by standard circular speed limit signing. These formal speed limit supported by a Traffic Regulation Order. 20mph speed limits are marked by standard speed limit signs on entry to the limit which are then supplemented by regular repeater signing throughout the limit.

These limits can often be used on their own where traffic speeds are compliant with the speed limit and therefore traffic calming is not required. Although they can also be supported by wider traffic calming measures. As these limits do not necessarily require traffic calming, they can potentially be appropriate to deploy on an area wide basis.



Figure 1-2 20mph limit on The Lloyds



1.1.3 20mph Zone

Formal speed limit, also supported by a Traffic Regulation Order. Often supported by a network of traffic calming or where the existing road geometry limits traffic speed and are generally self-enforcing.



Figure 1-3 20mph Zone on Southgate

1.2 Current Position

There are a number of 20mph restrictions in place across Telford and Wrekin including:

- 26 advisory 20mph zones
- Two 20mph speed limits, and;
- 17 20mph zones

These schemes have been implemented for a variety of reasons as indicated by the prevailing conditions when schemes have been investigated. Our advisory 20mph zones were placed as part of £1.1m investment into safety outside schools, a project which is continuing.

Figure 1-4 shows the geographical locations of all existing 20mph restrictions within the adopted highway. Detailed plans of these locations are included in Appendix A.

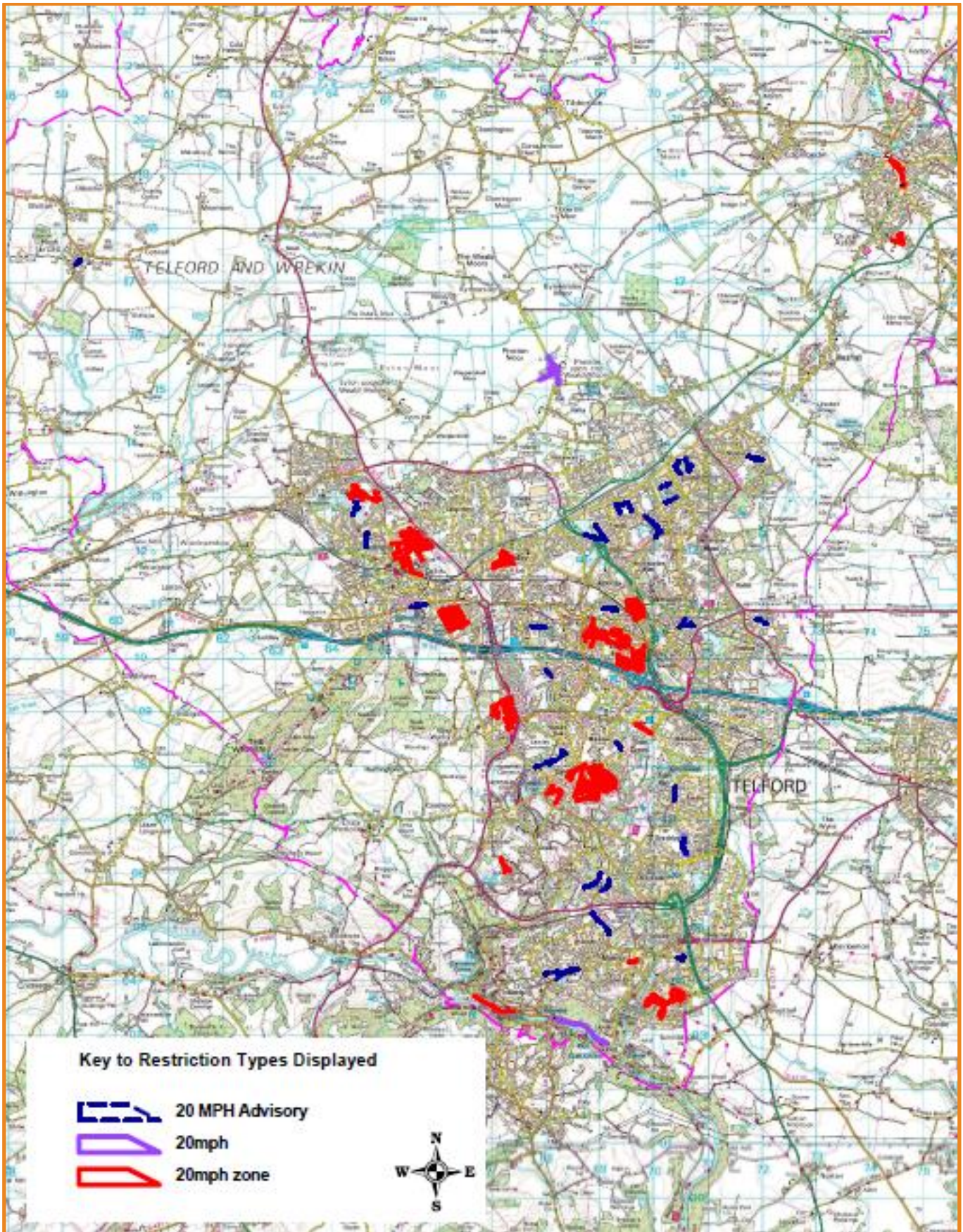


Figure 1-4 Location of existing 20mph restrictions in Telford & Wrekin



1.3 National Guidance

When setting local speed limits, the Council is governed by guidance from the Department for Transport as set out in the document 'Setting Local Speed Limits 2013'. This guidance sets out the framework the Council should follow when setting and reviewing local speed limits. It is used as the basis for assessments for local speed limits, developing route management strategies and developing speed management strategies but also allows flexibility in setting local speed limits that are appropriate for the individual road, reflect local needs and take account of all local considerations.

Effective speed management is part of creating a safe road environment which is fit for purpose. It involves many components designed to work together to require, encourage and help road users to adopt appropriate and safe speeds below the speed limit.

As well as being the legal limit, speed limits are a key source of information to road users, particularly as an indicator of the nature and risks posed by that road both to themselves and to all other road users. Speed limits should, therefore, be evidence-led and self-explaining, and seek to reinforce people's assessment of what is a safe speed to travel and encourage self-compliance. They should be seen by drivers as the maximum speed rather than as a target speed at which to drive, irrespective of conditions.

Furthermore when setting speed limits, they contribute to a wider transport and cross government priorities which are:

- The Department for Transport's vision for a transport system that is an engine for economic growth but one that is also greener and safer and improves quality of life in our communities
- Roads to become safer, less congested and less polluted
- To encourage sustainable local travel and economic growth by making public transport and cycling and walking more attractive and effective, promoting lower carbon transport and tackling local road congestion
- To contribute to wider public health and safety outcomes by contributing to a reduction in road casualties.

1.3.1 20mph speed limit or zones

20 mph zones, covering a number of roads, require traffic calming measures (e.g. speed humps, chicanes) or repeater speed limit signing and/or roundel road markings at regular intervals, so that no point within a zone is more than 50m from such a feature. In addition, the beginning and end of a zone is indicated by a terminal sign.

While 20 mph limits, are signed with terminal and at least one repeater sign, and do not require traffic calming.

Research into signed 20mph speed limits, has shown these are the most appropriate for areas where vehicle speeds are already low. If the mean speed is already at or below 24mph on a road, introducing a 20 mph speed limit through signing alone is likely to lead to general compliance with the new speed limit. The implementation of 20 mph limits over a larger number of roads, should be considered where mean speeds at or below 24 mph are already achieved



over a number of roads. Though additional measures in 20 mph limits can be installed to achieve compliance.

1.4 Enforcement

Speed limits in the borough are enforced by West Mercia Police and the Safer Roads Partnership. The police service has to ensure all resources are used effectively in responding to community priorities and West Mercia Police will support all appropriate speed limits, including 20mph roads, where;

- The limit looks and feels like the limit, giving visiting motorists who wish to conform that chance
- The desired outcome has to be speeds at the speed limit chosen so as to achieve safe roads for other and vulnerable users, not high speeds and high enforcement
- The speed limit is self-enforcing (with speed reducing features) not requiring large scale enforcement
- The speed limit is only introduced where mean speeds are already close to the limit to be imposed, (24mph in a 20mph limit) or with interventions that make the speed limit clear to visiting motorists
- Speeding problems identified in an area must have the engineering, site clarity and need re-assessed

Enforcement will be considered in all clearly posted speed limits, given other priorities, and this will be by:

- Targeted enforcement where there is deliberate offending and the speed limits are clear
- Where speed limits are not clear (that is they don't feel like or look like the limit or are on inappropriate roads), they will not be routinely enforced but only targeted where there is intelligence of obvious deliberate disregard which may result in increased threat, harm or risk to other road users
- Deliberate high harm offenders will always be targeted and prosecuted whereas enforcement against drivers who simply misread the road may not be appropriate.



2 Recommendations

Speed limits and safety interventions are assessed on a case by case basis, implementing the most appropriate measure for each area. This can range from education to traffic calming which may include new 20mph restrictions. This section highlights the approach that will be taken when considering further 20mph restrictions in the Borough.

2.1 Implementation of Future 20mph Restrictions

Telford & Wrekin Council continue to consider implementation of 20mph interventions on a case by case basis, and in doing so will take into account the nature of the area, traffic data including speed and flow data, and the collision history in the area. This approach ensures that schemes being brought forward are tailored to each area and its characteristics.

Whilst this scheme specific approach does not deliver blanket or area wide speed limits, it allows initial investment to be targeted to the areas of most need. However, we are committed to delivering best value as part of all schemes, and if when investigating a specific scheme the potential for an area wide scheme is identified, we will look to expand any schemes to deliver best value and impact over a wider geographical area.

In terms of our schools, the Council is committed to implementing advisory 20mph zones outside our schools where possible, building on the significant number that are already in place. Funding for these schemes will either be sourced through the highways capital programme, or more targeted programmes such as Safe Routes to School where available.

2.1.1 Current Speed Thresholds

As detailed in section 1, and in national guidance, the current recorded speed limits are a key factor when implementing 20mph Zones and Speed Limits. The thresholds below will be applied when assessing and designing these schemes:

- If existing recorded mean speeds are less than 24mph:

When funding has been identified, we will consider the implementation of a signing only limit to support and reinforce the existing traffic conditions.

- If existing recorded mean speeds are above 24mph:

Where funding is available and a scheme prioritised for investigation, we will consider 20mph a speed limit or zone where data suggests the speed of traffic is having an adverse effect.

However, further engineering measures will be required in order to bring recorded mean speeds below 24mph. This physical traffic calming requires more detailed public consultation due to the impact on the local community. Whilst each scheme consultation will be assessed and decision made on the individual merits of the scheme, the engineering judgement of our engineers and comments received, a scheme would not usually progress without majority subject support.



Should a scheme not have majority support, the scheme will be discussed with the relevant Cabinet Member, Director & Service Delivery Manager and a decision on how to progress made. In such cases there may be a competing engineering case such as significant road safety concerns where it may be appropriate to continue without majority support, however these will be reviewed and considered in detail at the level indicated above.

2.2 Prioritisation of Road Safety Schemes

When allocating funds to road safety schemes including 20mph schemes, the demand for such schemes always outstrips the available local and national funding that is available. This means that all schemes of this nature are prioritised for future funding using a range of data including (but not limited to) traffic speeds, traffic flows, collision history, local support, external funding, road geometry and the local environment (presence of schools etc.). This ensures that the limited available funding is targeted to the areas of most need on a risk based approach.

It is however possible that schemes can progress outside this prioritisation process, however they must be fully funded from outside the highways capital programme. In these instances schemes will still be progressed by Council teams, but as a second priority behind the delivery of the approved highways capital programme.

2.3 Consultation

In implementing these schemes we commit to work with the local community including Members, Town & Parish Councils to develop schemes, as well as through wider public consultation to shape schemes. On schemes outside schools, we will also endeavour to engage with the impacted schools when developing proposals to give the opportunity of them to contribute through their knowledge of the local situation.

2.4 Post Scheme Monitoring

Similarly to the approach in developing schemes, data collection and scheme appraisal is also important after scheme implementation. Such monitoring allows for the success of a scheme to be monitored against the original scheme objectives which educates any further interventions at this or other sites.

As with all schemes, we will aim to undertake this post scheme monitoring within two years of a scheme being implemented. As part of this initial review, we will determine the need to undertake further monitoring at a future date on a scheme by scheme basis.

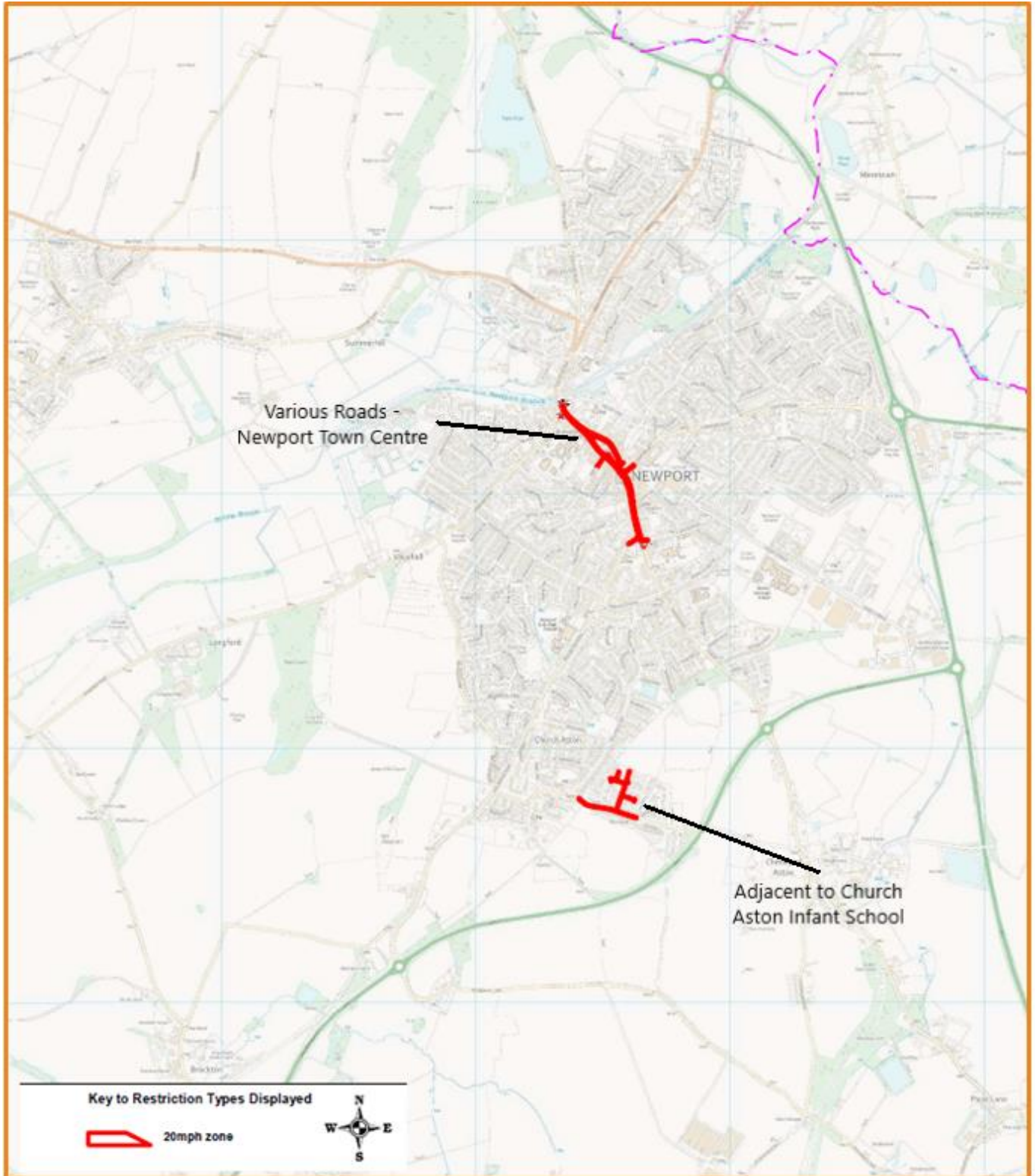
Should this monitoring, or subsequent follow up phases indicate a decline in compliance with a 20mph restrictions, we will undertake an initial assessment of the potential reasons in order to determine next steps.

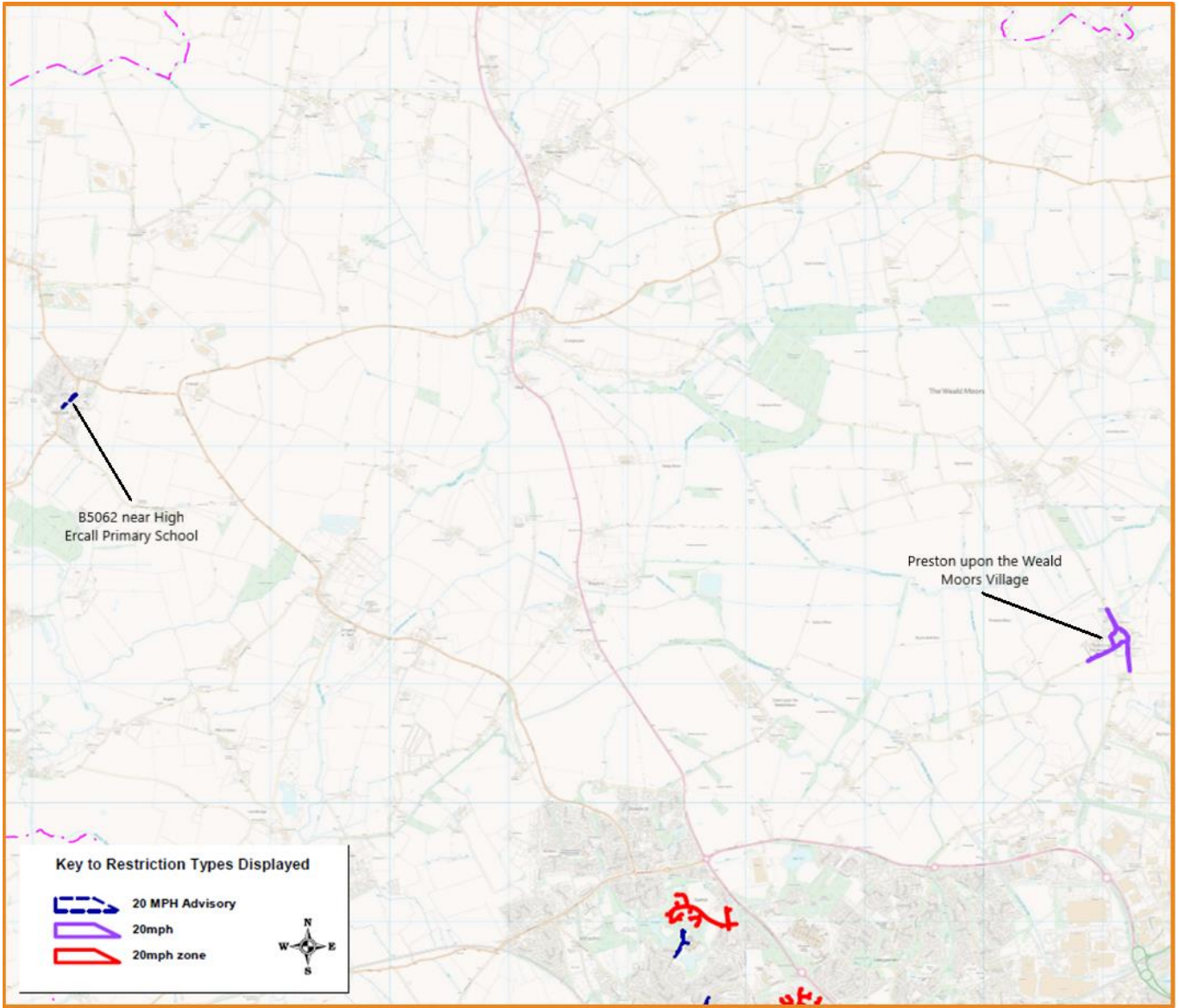
If a potential short term education solution be identified, we will work with internal stakeholders such as our Road Safety Education teams or external partners such as West Mercia Police as part of our normal day to day operations.

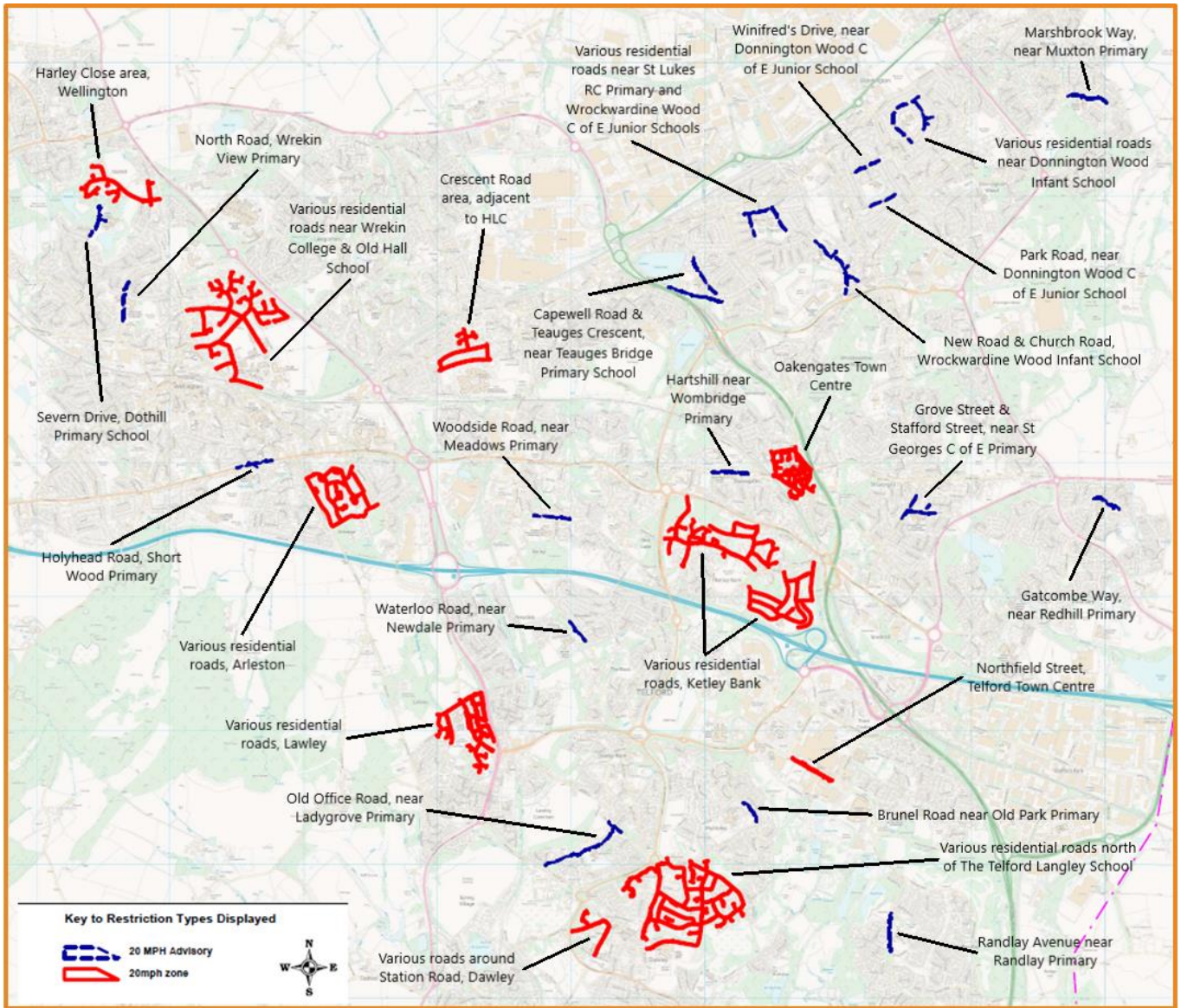
Should wider engineering interventions be required, this will be returned to the capital programme scheme prioritisation process to be considered for allocation of future funding.

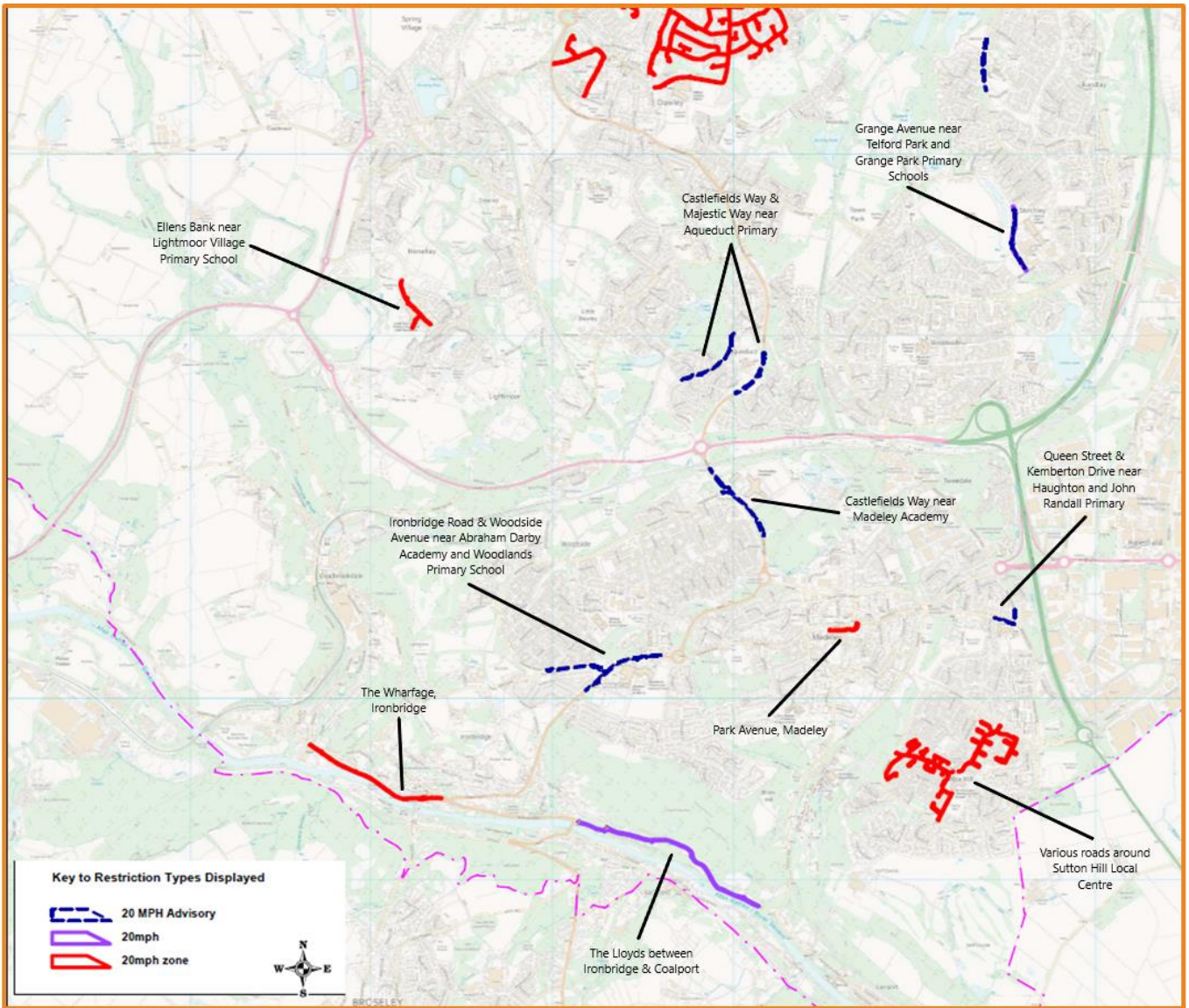


Appendix A – Existing Restriction Locations











20mph Scheme List

Location	Type
B5062 High Ercall Primary School	Advisory 20mph
Brunel Road near Old Park Primary	Advisory 20mph
Capewell Road & Teauges Crescent, near Teauges Bridge Primary School	Advisory 20mph
Castlefields Way & Majestic Way near Aqueduct Primary	Advisory 20mph
Castlefields Way near Madeley Academy	Advisory 20mph
Crescent Road area, adjacent to HLC	20mph Zone
Ellens Bank near Lightmoor Village Primary School	20mph Zone
Gatcombe Way, near Redhill Primary	Advisory 20mph
Grange Avenue near Telford Park and Grange Park Primary Schools	Advisory 20mph
Grove Street & Stafford Street, near St Georges C of E Primary	Advisory 20mph
Harley Close area, Wellington	20mph Zone
Hartshill near Wombridge Primary	Advisory 20mph
Holyhead Road, near Short Wood Primary	Advisory 20mph
Ironbridge Road & Woodside Avenue near Abraham Darby Academy and Woodlands Primary School	Advisory 20mph
Marshbrook Way, near Muxton Primary	Advisory 20mph
New Road & Church Road, Wrockwardine Wood Infant School	Advisory 20mph
Newport Town Centre	20mph Zone
Northfield Street, Telford Town Centre	20mph Zone
Oakengates Town Centre	20mph Zone
Old Office Road, near Ladygrove Primary	20mph Zone
Park Avenue, Madeley	20mph Zone
Park Road, near Donnington Wood C of E Junior School	Advisory 20mph
Preston upon the Weald Moors Village	20mph Speed Limit
Queen Street & Kemberton Drive near Haughton and John Randall Primary	Advisory 20mph
Randlay Avenue near Randlay Primary	Advisory 20mph
Severn Drive, Dothill Primary School	Advisory 20mph
The Dale & The Spinney - Church Aston Infant School	20mph Zone
The Lloyds between Ironbridge & Coalport	20mph Speed Limit
The Wharfage, Ironbridge	20mph Zone
Various residential road near Wrekin College & Old Hall School	20mph Zone
Various residential roads near St Lukes RC Primary and Wrockwardine Wood C of E Junior Schools	Advisory 20mph
Various residential roads north of The Telford Langley School	20mph Zone
Various residential roads, Arleston	20mph Zone
Various residential roads, Ketley Bank	20mph Zone
Various residential roads, Lawley	20mph Zone
Various roads around Station Road, Dawley	20mph Zone
Various roads around Sutton Hill Local Centre	20mph Zone
Waterloo Road, near Newdale Primary	Advisory 20mph
Winifred's Drive, near Donnington Wood C of E Junior School	Advisory 20mph
Woodside Road, near Meadows Primary	Advisory 20mph