



## Borough of Telford and Wrekin

### Full Council

Thursday 23 January 2025

6.00 pm

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

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

### Agenda

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1.0 Prayers and Reflections

2.0 Apologies for Absence

3.0 Declarations of Interest

**4.0 Minutes of the Previous Meeting 7 - 18**

To confirm the minutes of the last meeting of the Council.

**5.0 Leader's Report & Announcements**

The Leader of the Council may give an oral report on matters of significance to the Borough, comment upon the Cabinet decisions or make any announcements.

**6.0 Mayor's Announcements 19 - 20**

To note the Mayoral Engagements undertaken since the previous Council meeting.

**7.0 Public Questions**

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

**8.0 Councillor Questions On Notice**

To answer questions received under Council Procedure Rule 6.2.

**NB In accordance with the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 6.2.9 there will be a maximum of 30 minutes allowed for questions and answers. Any question not answered within the 30 minute time limit will receive a written reply within 5 working days.**

**9.0 Cabinet Decisions Made Since the Last Meeting of the Council 21 - 26**

To receive the report on the Cabinet decisions made since publication of the last Council meeting agenda. Cabinet Members may speak on these decisions and Members may ask questions about key decisions of the relevant Cabinet Member for the purposes of clarification only. Members are asked to note the additional delegations to officers granted at those meetings.

**10.0 Appointment of Permanent S151 Officer 27 - 30**

To approve the recommendation made by Personnel Committee on 9 January 2025 to designate the Director: Finance, People & IDT as the Council's permanent S151 Officer.

**11.0 Setting of Council Tax Base 2025/26** **31 - 38**

To approve the Council tax base calculated for Telford and Wrekin for the 2025/26 financial year.

**12.0 Recommendations from Cabinet**

**Cabinet - 5 December 2024 & 6 January 2025**

**12a 2024/25 Financial Monitoring Report** **39 - 44**

To receive an update on the Council's financial monitoring position for 2024/25 and to approve changes made to the capital programme.

**13.0 Recommendations from Committees and Boards**

**Scrutiny Management Board - 3 September 2024**

**13a Biennial Scrutiny Report 2022 - 2024** **45 - 80**

To note the work undertaken by Scrutiny during the 2022/23 and 2023/24 municipal years.

**14.0 Motions on Notice**

**14a Councillor Stephen Burrell will propose the following Motion:-**

"With Telford & Wrekin comprised of two thirds of rural land and communities, this Council recognises the vital role that farmers provide for this Borough and beyond and, as such, resolves to throw its full weight behind local Telford & Wrekin farmers and the farming industry by directly lobbying the Government to reverse the Chancellor's terrible Inheritance tax proposals."

The Motion will be seconded by Councillor Stephen Bentley.

**14b Councillor Andrew Eade will propose the following Motion:-**

"This Council resolves to oppose top down imposed housing targets and lobby Government to allow housing figures to be determined locally in Telford & Wrekin. This Council also vehemently opposes the attack on local democracy which will take planning decisions on Housing applications away from elected members of this Council."

The Motion will be seconded by Councillor Tim Nelson.

**14c Councillor Andrew Eade will propose the following Motion:-**

"While noting the Labour party's own figures of potentially 4000 pensioners dying due to this governments removal of the Winter Fuel

Allowance, this Council notes the extra £100 paid to some local pensioners from the Emergency Relief fund provided by the previous government, but accepts that more needs to be done and consequently resolves to:

- a) Revisit financial reserves in order to consider providing further financial aid;
- b) Deplore the original decision to strip pensioners of their heating allowance and write to the Chancellor to demand this cruel decision is reversed; and
- c) Join the Unite Union's campaign to force the current Labour Government to change its mind."

The Motion will be seconded by Councillor Rachael Tyrrell.

**14d Councillor Stephen Bentley will propose the following Motion:-**

"Whilst noting the damage done to the UK Economy and the effect that the Labour Government budget measures will have on the local economy in Telford & Wrekin, this Council welcomes the initiative in Ironbridge to offer free car parking over the Christmas period but calls on the administration to offset some of the negative impact of government policy and remove car parking charges in Ironbridge all together to provide a boost to the local economy."

The Motion will be seconded by Councillor Gareth Thomas.

**14e Councillor Tim Nelson will propose the following Motion:-**

"This Council deplores the Labour governments cruel and arbitrary decision to renege on the compensation for WASPI ladies in Telford and Wrekin. The Council calls on the government to reverse their decision, and so restore to many local residents the compensation they are legally entitled to. Surely every Councillor will have WASPI ladies they are aware of in their ward, an injustice has been done."

The Motion will be seconded by Councillor Andrew Eade.

**14f Councillor Thomas Janke will propose the following Motion:-**

"This Council notes with concern the recent announcement by the UK Government to reduce the Army Cadet Force training budget by 50%. This Council believes that these cuts are short-sighted and jeopardise the future of an organisation that has provided young people with an introduction to military discipline, leadership, and opportunities for personal development for nearly 170 years. The Army Cadet Force (ACF) plays a vital role in inspiring the next generation of Armed Forces personnel, offering a unique pathway for young people to

explore careers in the military. This is especially critical at a time when the UK Armed Forces are facing a significant recruitment crisis. This Council further believes that the ACF is not only a recruitment pipeline but also an organisation that fosters discipline, resilience, and teamwork in young people, contributing positively to their communities and society at large.

**This Council resolves to:**

1. Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Defence and the Prime Minister to express our deep concerns about the impact of these budget cuts on the Army Cadet Force and the future of the Armed Forces.
2. Urge the UK Government to reverse these budget reductions immediately to safeguard the future of the ACF and its essential contribution to national defence and youth development.
3. Call on local Members of Parliament across Shropshire to advocate in Westminster for the protection of ACF funding.
4. Explore local support measures to mitigate the immediate impact of these cuts on cadet units in our area, where possible.”

The Motion will be seconded by Councillor Kim Tonks.

**14g Councillor Paul Watling will propose the following Motion:-**

“This Council welcomes the Government’s plans to cut NHS waiting times to 18 weeks.

Recognises that there are currently 47,713 patients waiting for care at The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals, part of more than seven and half million across the country – and accepts that this is far too many.

Notes that every single person on those waiting lists represents a life put on hold, stuck waiting for care often in pain or in fear.

In particular we welcome the creation of millions more appointments to get people the treatment they need quicker - that up to half a million more appointments will be made available each year thanks to great access to Community Diagnostic Centres and new or expanded surgical hubs, and that greater patient choice over follow-up care will open up a million appointments alongside better use of tech and other action to save another million missed appointments.

Urges local residents, patients, and NHS staff to take part in the government’s Change NHS consultation to ensure Telford and Wrekin's voice is heard in shaping the future of our health service.

Notes that the new Labour Government inherited an NHS that was broken, with too many waiting for treatment, people waiting too long for an ambulance even in the most serious of circumstances, and in A&E, and that those delays have cost and ruined lives.

Commits to work with government to ensure that we get our NHS back on its feet by providing the highest possible quality care, addressing poor health and health inequalities in our communities, boosting opportunities for our residents to enjoy exercise and healthy lifestyles and working with government, GPs, hospitals and other health leaders to ensure we work together to fix our health service as part of a wider plan to fix the foundations and get Britain back on track.”

The Motion will be seconded by Councillor Kelly Middleton.

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Co-operative Council

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## **FULL COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of a meeting of the Full Council held on Tuesday 12 November 2024 at 6.00 pm in Council Chamber, Third Floor, Southwater One, Telford, TF3 4JG**

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

**Apologies:** Councillors K T Blundell, E Davies, S Davies, T L B Janke, L Parker and P J Scott

#### **26 Prayers and Reflections**

Father Ravi Bosco sent apologies.

#### **27 Declarations of Interest**

Councillor S Bentley declared an interest in minute number 11 Recommendations from Boards and Committees – Review of Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy due to him holding a gambling licence. He indicated that he would not take part in the debate and would leave the room.

#### **28 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2024 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

#### **29 Leader's Report & Announcements**

The Leader addressed Members regarding the uncertainty and conflict taking place throughout the world and concluded that the best response would be to remain positive, lead by example and do his best for the community, particularly during uncertain times.

The Leader remembered those who had been lost and commemorated during the Remembrance Sunday services and Armistice Parades that had taken



place throughout the borough. There was now a greater focus on the cost of war and it brought into focus their sacrifice and commitment.

The Leader announced that it was with great sadness that the Council had lost Councillor Turley during the summer and as this had been the first time that Members had met as a Council since his passing, the Leader asked that Members remained silent for a few moments as a mark of respect. Councillor Turley had served in the armed forces and as a Councillor being a valued member of the Council and it was pleasing to see that the Armed Forces flag had been flown to mark his distinguished career in the services. Councillor Turley had been proud of the borough and that a lot could be learnt from his way of doing things and the Council would do its very best for the community regardless of people's background and beliefs.

The Leader praised the work taking place in the borough in relation to recent flash floods where the community came together in a moment of crisis. This brought out the very best of human nature and this should inspire us to do better. The Leader would continue to progress the Council's vision to ensure the borough was the best place to live, work and do business for each and every resident.

The Leader set out some of the work that had taken place since the last meeting including the opening of numerous family hubs, providing additional school places, the progression of Station Quarter for learning opportunities and the start up business centre. It was a great honour to have welcomed Her Royal Highness, the Princess Royal, who had officially opened the Quad building, almost 40 years since she had officially opened Telford Ice Rink.

The Council had extended the £2 bus fares on seven Council run bus services, with some 350,000 passenger trips during the last year. Free green waste collections would continue as well as free parking to remain on parking spaces across the borough and it was intended to keep council tax at the lowest possible. As part of the pledge commitments, the Council had helped and protected the most vulnerable in the community. Support had been given to 600 pensioners to help claim pension credit and £100 had been given to 6,000 pensions to help support them through the winter months and he would continue to ensure over the winter months that the community knew about the wide range of support provided by the Council and trusted partners.

The Leader considered that there would be challenging times ahead but despite these difficulties, with the right ethos and ethics, there were plenty of reasons for optimism and as the Council headed towards Christmas and a brand new year, this would hopefully bring forward further opportunities and success as the Council continued to deliver its vision to protect, care and invest to create a better Telford and Wrekin.





### **30**      **Mayor's Announcements**

Since the last Full Council meeting in July the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor had attended a huge number of engagements. In the summer the Mayor attended the Telford Balloon Fiesta, where it was amazing to see many residents get together. He thanked the events team for running such a wonderful weekend. Other events attended were the opening of new businesses such as my little play place, little pioneers' nursery and the YMCA new college accommodations and it was encouraging to see businesses in Telford grow.

The Mayor announced that sadly he had to cancel his Charity Launch due to an injury but details would be forthcoming shortly of a rescheduled event and he looked forward to welcoming everyone. The Mayor gave his thanks to the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Eileen Callear for attending many events on his behalf during the year and for those events that they had been unable to attend, he hoped to arrange visits in the new year.

The Mayor reported on the attendance at remembrance services across the Borough where it was heartening to see everyone come together to reflect on those who served, sacrificed and fought for our freedoms.

The Mayor looked forward to continuing his term in office, attending many forthcoming engagements and the start of the festive season.

### **31**      **Councillor Questions On Notice**

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

- (a) Councillor W L Tomlinson asked the following question on behalf of Councillor T Janke of Councillor, to the Cabinet Member: Cabinet Member: Highways, Housing & Enforcement

“As stated under The Civil Enforcement of Parking Conventions, a scheme Telford & Wrekin Council adopted in 2022, the council appears to have enforcement powers to address traffic obstructions and pavement parking under sections 62 and 92. Can the cabinet member responsible for enforcement clarify if the council does indeed have such enforcement powers and will neighbourhood enforcement officers take action against offenders, particularly in well-known hotspots such as those found in my ward of Newport South?”

Councillor R Overton responded that the Council had a range of enforcement powers for both residents and businesses. In relation to double yellow lines, Neighbourhood Enforcement Officers worked hard to ensure that restrictions were adhered to and penalties issued. The Council had worked successfully



in partnership with the Town and Parish Councils but recently Newport Town Council had discontinued its enforcement package and this could have contributed to the issues.

(b) Councillor A Eade asked the following question to the Leader

“Following on from questions I raised at the Full Council Meeting of Thursday 29th of February to the then Cabinet Member for Economy and Neighbourhood Services (now the Leader of the Council) concerning severe flooding at Church Aston, would Councillor Carter give an update on the outcome of promises he made to in response to my questions?”

The Leader responded that since the previous question had been raised, he had worked with the landowner’s representatives to push for a solution at the earliest opportunity. Regular contact had taken place and this had resulted in assurances being given that work would start in April. The Leader set out that despite this, it was clear that the landowners were not acting at the required pace. A letter before action was sent in July with a view to taking enforcement action under powers from the Land Drainage Act if a robust and timely plan was not implemented. The landowner had responded setting out a number of actions and timescales. The Leader had been personally tracking these actions in order to achieve a satisfactory outcome. The landowner had set out an intention to complete the improvement works in November, although there had been a slight delay due to the harvest in October, and the Council would continue to ensure the work was undertaken or would take the most robust legal approach that it could within the powers it had. Officers would keep Councillor Eade updated of progress.

Councillor A Eade thanked the Leader for getting the issues resolved as it was having a devastating effect. He asked a supplementary question that as the trigger point had now passed and new crops had been sewn in the field the landowner had no intention of repairing the drainage within the field, whether legal powers could be used to take enforcement action on the landowner or commission the work to be done and re-charge the costs to the landowner accordingly as a matter of urgency due to the onset of winter.

The Leader stated his disappointment that this work appeared not to be completed and a robust legal approach would be taken as a matter of urgency to pursue every avenue to ensure the owners undertook the work promised.

(c) Councillor N Dugmore asked the following question to the Cabinet Member: Finance, Governance & Customer Services

“By how much will the 31st October budget measures increase annual employment costs for Telford and Wrekin Council based on the current number of employees?”



Councillor Z Hannington responded that there would be no additional costs to the Council as the government would be funding this.

Councillor N Dugmore asked a supplementary question as to what support would be extended to the Council's contractors and if they would end up with extra costs and a reduction of services?

Councillor Z Hannington responded that there would not be a reduction in services.

(d) Councillor R Tyrrell asked the following question to the Leader

“This Council will recall I raised the issue of the ongoing environmental issues at the Potters Landfill site at Granville at our meeting on 18th July 2024. Residents continue to suffer. Please can the Leader write to the Environment Agency and the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food & Rural Affairs to review the operation and licence of this site?

Over the last few months residents of Priorslee, St Georges, Donnington, Muxton, and beyond have suffered from the effects of the Potters Group Landfill site at Redhill, including the unpleasant odour and potential adverse effects to health arising from the hydrogen sulphide emitting from the site. This has resulted in the relevant agencies, the Environment Agency, the Health Security Agency and this Council's Environmental Health team, working in partnership to find a solution. I understood that a landfill cell at the site which should have been sealed and capped last year, had not. That work was apparently finally completed in September, but it seems it may not have been completed after all. I have been pushing for the health concerns to be addressed and understand the Council has now acquired test equipment to monitor odour and gases itself. We all await those results. However we continue to receive numerous complaints regarding the odour from the site and the problem has not been resolved. My residents are rightly expecting me to pursue this on their behalf and are seeking a speedy resolution, given their patience for almost 12 months already.”

Councillor R Overton responded as the lead Cabinet Member for Environmental Protection and was sorry to hear that issues were continuing on this site. He was in contact with the Environment Agency who were the lead agency for landfill operations. The Environment Agency had inspected the site at the end of October and they would continue to actively monitor the site as part of its permit and residents were asked to report odours directly to the Environment Agency. Back in March a letter was sent to the Secretary of State Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, but the Council would write to the Labour government and ask for their support in relation to the landfill challenges here in the borough.



Councillor R Tyrrell asked a supplementary question if it was an opportune time to review the Planning Application which was granted in relation to the operation of the site until 2030 and the decision notice issued in November 2021 and does the site continue to comply with the conditions of the decision notice.

Councillor R Overton replied that if the site did not comply with the decision notice that the planning department would be dealing with that and that he would follow this up with them.

(e) Councillor R Tyrrell will ask the following question of Cllr O Vickers, Cabinet Member for The Economy:-

“The Procurement Act 2023 came into force on 1 October 2024, and aims to reset EU based law and simplify public sector tendering procedures.

The introduction of the Act followed a lengthy period of public consultation which commenced with the publication of a Green Paper - Transforming Public Procurement - in December 2020 seeking input from stakeholders on a range of proposals to reform and simplify the EU-based rules.

The Former Government received 619 responses to the Green Paper from public bodies, suppliers to Government, and from other interested parties such as academics, legal professionals and members of the public. The Former Government's response to the consultation was published on 6 December 2021. Overall, respondents were positive about the proposed changes but the Government nevertheless shifted its position in a number of areas in the light of comments received during the consultation.

The British Chambers of Commerce new Procurement Tracker, based on data from Tussell, reveals that just 20% of direct procurement was awarded to SMEs in the last year. The Act places a shift from pure economic value to Social Values. This means considering the wider benefits for the community, such as creating local employment opportunities, carbon emissions reduction or using a local supply chain.

Given that the Chancellor in her Budget sought to place the highest increased tax burden on employers and business; what can this Council do to support our local businesses to ensure our local economy thrives? In particular also creating opportunities for less traditional business entities.”

Councillor O Vickers responded that the new Procurement Act removed bureaucratic barriers for small businesses meaning they could potentially compete for more procurement opportunities. These procurement opportunities would allow better visibility for local businesses to search for



potential future business more easily. The procurement team were currently undertaking a programme of change in order that the new Act was complied with. This included revising documentation and signposting training opportunities for all council staff ensuring compliance giving greater transparency of opportunity for local businesses. The Council was currently refreshing its social value offer ensuring the Council was realising its maximum social value, which included climate change measures, employment and upskilling local people.

Councillor R Tyrrell was pleased to hear that this had prompted a review of the Council's procedures and opportunities for business and asked a supplementary question as to what percentage of Telford and Wrekin business contracts or how many were awarded directly to local SMEs within the borough and how did the Council envisage that changing in the future.

Councillor O Vickers responded that he would write to Councillor Tyrrell on with the answer to her question. The Council had awarded 367 grants through Pride in Your High Street and helped 65 new start up businesses and were bucking the national trend on empty shop units.

(f) Councillor G Luter will ask the following question of Councillor O Vickers, Cabinet Member for The Economy:-

"After working with the Council to help reinstate council run bus services from my ward to Wellington Town Centre and the Princess Royal Hospital, I welcome the Council's decision to cap Council-run bus service fares at just £2 for adults, and £1 for children. Can you confirm how many residents across Telford and Wrekin will benefit from the continued £2 fare cap?"

Councillor O Vickers thanked Councillor Luter for his hard work on the campaign. It had taken over two years to tender for the bus services and the were key for rural and urban residential areas as well as key links for education, businesses, local centres and the Princess Royal Hospital. There were seven council operated bus routes with fares capped at £2 for adults and £1 for children and the tariff had been in place prior to the previous government introducing capped fares. Since December 2022, the Council's bus service had completed 350,000 passenger trips and patronage had been increasing month on month. The number 100 bus (work express) connected residential homes to main employment sites and operated from 5am to 11pm. The Council was proud of the work being undertaken improving connectivity for all. The Council welcomed the £1bn funding boost for buses from Government in areas such as Telford and Wrekin together with the commitment to local authorities to take buses back under their control in the future.



### **32 Cabinet Decisions Made Since the Last Meeting of the Council**

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

No questions of clarification were raised.

### **33 2024/25 Financial Monitoring Report**

Cllr Z Hannington presented the 2024/25 Financial Monitoring report which provided up to date information on the projected outturn position for 2024-25 against the approved budget.

Nationally, councils continued to face extreme challenges with unprecedented pressures driven by high costs and high demand for services, particularly in adult social care, children's safeguarding and school travel assistance. The projected year-end revenue position was summarized at 4.1.8 in the report and set out that before use of contingencies, there was a projected overspend of £4.498m at year end. Good financial planning and management had ensured there would be a one-off contingency earmarked specifically for social care pressures of £1.959m, which together with the use of part of the general budget contingency, brought the overall position into balance. The general budget contingency would have a residual balance of £1.4m after meeting the in-year pressures.

The key pressure continued to be adult social care, which currently required and additional investment of £4.3m which related to the cost of providing care packages across all client groups. The service continued to work on delivering care in order to maximise prevention and independence where possible and prioritised looking after the most vulnerable in the community. It was pleasing to see that none of the budget strategy reserve had been used and this remained at £21.7m.

The capital programme totalled £102.4m and schemes were in progress with spend currently projected to be in line with budget at year end. Changes to the capital programme were set out at Appendix C to the report and included new allocations and slippage into future years which required formal approval from Council. Despite the pressures identified, due to strong financial management and budget planning the Council was in a good position. The council had an excellent track record of managing its financial position and work would continue during 2024/2025 to manage budgets effectively and address the pressures.

Councillor B Tomlinson welcomed the report and commended the local authority on its ability to balance its budgets as local authorities up and down



the country were experiencing the same financial pressures. Comparing this Council's decisions to those of neighbouring local authorities, he was grateful for what had been achieved. With the Labour government now in charge, he felt they had been generous with regards to the NHS and extra funding but was interested to see the budget settlement. Further funding was required for adults and children's services or this would need to be raised from Council Tax. As a Council it was important to do as much as possible to influence government's decisions to support local authorities.

Councillor N Dugmore asked if there was a contingency fund held centrally for contractual and pay inflation and what was the amount and the size of the contingency. He also asked how much money was held back for pay equality between the sexes. In relation to the overspend on social care, he commented that care costs would impact the budget and this would get significantly higher in years to come.

Councillor Z Hannington confirmed that those figures would be supplied following the meeting. In relation to adult social care, the Council continued to monitor closely the services who work on delivering care in order to maximise prevention and independence were possible whilst prioritising the care of the most vulnerable in the community.

**RESOLVED – that**

- a) **the 2024/25 revenue budget position be noted; and that the use of £0.216m Special Fund balances for additional lighting works to be undertaken in the Special fund areas be approved;**
- b) **the position in relation to capital spend be noted; and the changes to the capital programme detailed in Appendix C and all associated changes to the Medium Term Financial Strategy, including Treasury and Prudential Indicators be approved;**
- c) **the collection rates for NNDR, council tax and sales ledger be noted;**
- d) **the current position in relation to Treasury & Prudential Indicators be noted; and**
- e) **delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader or the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Finance, to approve bids from the Invest to Save/Capacity Fund.**



**34 Treasury Management 2023/24 Annual Report and 2024/25 Update**

Councillor H Morgan presented the report on Treasury Management activities for 2023/24 and which detailed the position for 2024/25 to 31 May 2024.

**RESOLVED – that**

- a) the contents of the report be noted; and
- b) the performance against the Prudential Indicators be noted.

**35 Recommendations from Boards and Committees**

- (a) Review of Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy

Councillor J Thompson presented the report following a statutory review of the Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy which was required every three years.

The current gambling policy was due to expire on 31 January 2025 and the Public Protection Team had undertaken a review which had been considered and adopted by the Licensing Committee on 24 October 2024 with a recommendation that the updated Policy be approved and adopted by Full Council.

A consultation exercise had been carried out between 22 July 2024 and 23 September 2024 and no representations had been received from any consultees or members of the public. If Members were minded to approve the Policy, it would be published on 6 January 2025 and would take effect from 31 January 2025.

**RESOLVED – that the updated Statement of Gambling Policy, which was approved by Licensing Committee on 14 October 2024, with effect from 31 January 2025 be adopted.**

**37 Motions on Notice**

- (a) Councillor K Middleton moved, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 7, the following Motion:

“This Council fully pledges to do all it can to support local pensioners including distributing £100 vouchers to 6,000 pensioners, continuing to lead the record sign up of Telford & Wrekin pensioners entitled to pension credit, providing increased support for our local Age UK and maintenance of travel and leisure discounts.





This Council fully recognises the £22 Billion black hole left by the previous Government and the new Governments attempts to restore stability to the nation's finances and welcomes the Government's decision to maintain the pension triple lock which will see an uplift of up to £470 in the state pension and the extension of the Household Support Fund.

This Council positively encourages the Government to continue to do it all can to support the most vulnerable pensioners including those just above the pension credit threshold.”

Councillor R Overton seconded the Motion.

Following a robust debate, the Motion was approved by a majority vote.

**RESOLVED – that the motion be approved.**

(b) Councillor R Tyrrell proposed the following Motion:-

“Following the Government's 2024 Budget on 30th October and the £25 billion increase in Employer National Insurance contributions to 15% and reduction in the secondary threshold from £9,100 to £5,000 due to be implemented by April 2025; this Council confirms its commitment to support employers in Telford & Wrekin. Telford & Wrekin Council continues to recognise that this Borough is home to a high proportion of SMEs and start-ups and that this Council will support employers to ensure they continue to create quality employment opportunities within the Borough. This Council recognises that by creating a healthy economic environment for employers, this in turn supports households with quality employment and remuneration, and ultimately increasing household income creating a thriving local economy. This supports the Council's policy of “everyone benefits from a thriving economy”. Combined with the increase in the National Living Wage and other measures associated with the Make Work Pay agenda, businesses are being asked to shoulder the brunt of the tax burden.”

The Motion was seconded by Councillor N Dugmore.

Following the debate, the Motion was unanimously approved.

**RESOLVED – that the amended Motion be approved.**

(c) Councillor T Nelson proposed the following Motion:-

“This Council calls on the Leader to write to the PM and Secretary of state, to reverse the damaging increase of the bus fare cap by 50%, from £2 to £3, translating to £480 pa for an average bus commuter. This Council has



declared a Climate emergency and as part of Active Travel and Sustainable transport, bus travel plays a key role in the Councils emissions reduction objectives. This swinging increase will have a devastating effect on rural bus use, adversely affecting those least able to afford alternatives, and those relying on the service to get to work and healthcare appointments.”

The Motion was seconded by Councillor R Tyrrell.

Councillor R Overton then moved an amendment, with additional words shown in bold and underlined, that was seconded by Councillor O Vickers.

This Council **welcomes the decision to continue to offer £2 bus fares on its 6 council subsidised routes and** calls on the **Leader to engage with the Government in their review of bus services as the positive impact of the council routes shows the added value residents get when the council is in control of its bus services. The Council calls on the Leader to** write to the PM and Secretary of state, to **consider alternative proposals to the proposed increase and to make sure that the current proposed increase is frozen for the future years to encourage bus travel.** This Council has declared a Climate emergency and as part of Active Travel and Sustainable transport, **and recognises** that bus travel plays a key role in the Councils emissions reduction objectives. **This Council will continue to monitor what impact the proposed government** increase will have on rural bus use, **as it may** adversely **affect** those least able to afford alternatives, and those relying on the service to get to work and healthcare appointments.

Following a lengthy debate a vote was taken on the adoption of the amendment put forward by Councillor R Overton which was unanimously approved and it was:-

**RESOLVED** – that the amendment be carried and become the substantive motion.

Following the debate, the amended motion was put to the vote and it was:-

**RESOLVED** – that the motion be approved.

The meeting ended at 7.33 pm

Chairman: .....

Date: Thursday 23 January 2025

## MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS November 2024 – January 2025

<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>M</b>	Dawley Remembrance Service, Dawley
	<b>9</b>	<b>DM</b>	Dharm Association Diwali Celebrations, Telford
	<b>10</b>	<b>M</b>	Telford & Wrekin Council Remembrance Service, Telford
	<b>11</b>	<b>M</b>	Armistice Day Service, Telford
	<b>12</b>	<b>M</b>	Telford & Wrekin Employee Awards, Telford
	<b>20</b>	<b>M</b>	Citizenship Ceremony, Wellington
	<b>22</b>	<b>M</b>	Annual Tree of Light, Rodington
	<b>29</b>	<b>M</b>	St Georges Christmas Light Switch On, St Georges
	<b>30</b>	<b>M</b>	Flavour Town Cooking Club Launch, Hadley
		<b>M</b>	Madeley Christmas Light Switch On, Madeley
<b>DECEMBER</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>M</b>	Telford & Wrekin Council Civic Carol Service, Telford
	<b>20</b>	<b>M</b>	Premier Jules Convenience Xmas Fayre, Hadley

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## Borough of Telford and Wrekin

### Full Council

Thursday 23 January 2025

### Cabinet Decisions Made Since the Last Meeting of the Council

---

<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Cllr Zona Hannington - Cabinet Member: Finance, Governance & Customer Services
<b>Lead Director:</b>	Anthea Lowe - Director: Policy & Governance
<b>Service Area:</b>	Policy & Governance
<b>Report Author:</b>	Paige Starkey - Senior Democracy Officer (Scrutiny)
<b>Officer Contact Details:</b>	<b>Tel:</b> 01952 380110 <b>Email:</b> paige.starkey@telford.gov.uk
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All Wards
<b>Key Decision:</b>	Not Key Decision
<b>Forward Plan:</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Report considered by:</b>	Full Council – 23 January 2025

---

#### 1.0 Recommendations for decision/noting:

1.1 None. For information only.

#### 2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 This report sets out those matters determined by the Cabinet at its meeting on 5 December 2024 and 6 January 2025.

#### 3.0 Background

3.1 The report sets out those matters determined by the Cabinet since the Full Council meeting on 12 November 2024 for the information of Full Council.

#### 4.0 Summary of main proposals

4.1 This report is for the information of Members.

## **5.0 Alternative Options**

5.1 Not applicable.

## **6.0 Key Risks**

6.1 Key risks are described in each individual report presented at Cabinet. Copies of these reports have been circulated to all Members of the Council previously.

## **7.0 Council Priorities**

7.1 The relevant Council Priorities for each Cabinet decision are described in the relevant report.

## **8.0 Financial Implications**

8.1 As described in each report considered by Cabinet. Copies of all reports have been previously circulated to all Members of the Council.

## **9.0 Legal and HR Implications**

9.1 Legal implications are described in each individual report presented at Cabinet. Copies of these reports have been circulated to all Members of the Council previously.

## **10.0 Ward Implications**

10.1 Implications for individual wards are set out in the reports previously considered by Cabinet.

## **11.0 Health, Social and Economic Implications**

11.1 These implications are considered with every report presented to Cabinet and make up a section of each individual report. These reports have already been circulated to all Councillors

## **12.0 Equality and Diversity Implications**

12.1 As described in each report considered by Cabinet. Copies of all reports have been previously circulated to all Members of the Council.

## **13.0 Climate Change and Environmental Implications**

13.1 The climate change and environmental implications of reports are described in each individual report.

## **14.0 Background Papers**

None.

**15.0 Appendices**

- A Cabinet Decisions Made Since the Last Meeting of the Council

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## Appendix A

### Cabinet Business

Matters that have been determined by Cabinet are listed below:

	2.1	<u>5 December 2024</u>
NK	2.1.1	Pride in Our High Street
NK	2.1.2	Telford Land Deal Update
K C	2.1.3	2024/25 Financial Monitoring Report
K	2.1.4	Thrive Telford
K	2.1.5	Armed Forces Annual Covenant Report
NK	2.1.6	Councillors Pride Fund 2023-24: Helping to Protect, Care and Invest to Create a Better Borough
	2.2	<u>6 January 2025</u>
K C	2.2.1	2024/25 Financial Monitoring Report
K	2.2.2	Schools Funding Formula
NK	2.2.3	Long Term Empty Property Strategy Update
K	2.2.4	Better Buses in Telford & Wrekin

#### **Key**

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

## Delegation of Powers Granted by the Cabinet

REPORT HEADING	DELEGATION GRANTED TO	DETAIL OF DELEGATION GRANTED
Telford Land Deal Update	<p>Director: Prosperity &amp; Investment in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways, Housing &amp; Enforcement.</p> <p>Director: Policy &amp; Governance</p>	<p>To negotiate the terms of any extension to the Land Deal.</p> <p>To take all the necessary steps to give effect to the proposals.</p>
Better Buses in Telford and Wrekin	<p>Director: Neighbourhood &amp; Enforcement Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for The Economy</p> <p>Director: Policy &amp; Governance</p>	<p>To complete all necessary steps to procure the provision of new bus services from July 2025 onwards.</p> <p>To complete all necessary steps to procure the provision of future transport modelling to facilitate development of future transport needs across the borough.</p> <p>To execute any legal documentation required to facilitate and implement the recommendations within the report.</p>



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## Borough of Telford and Wrekin

### Full Council

Thursday 23 January 2025

### Designation of Permanent s151 Officer

---

<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Cllr Lee Carter – Leader of the Council
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	David Sidaway – Chief Executive
<b>Service Area:</b>	Finance, People & I.D.T.
<b>Report Author:</b>	Hannah Preece – HR & OD Service Delivery Manager
<b>Officer Contact Details:</b>	<b>Tel:</b> 01952 380332 <b>Email:</b> hannah.preece@telford.gov.uk
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All Wards
<b>Key Decision:</b>	Not Key Decision
<b>Forward Plan:</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Report considered by:</b>	Personnel Committee – Thursday 9 January 2025

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#### 1.0 Recommendations for decision/noting:

It is recommended that Council:-

- 1.1 Accepts and approves the recommendation from Personnel Committee to designate the Director: Finance, People & IDT, Michelle Brockway, as the Council's s.151 Officer.

#### 2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to designate the Council's Director: Finance, People & IDT as the Council's statutory s.151 Officer as required under the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

#### 3.0 Background

- 3.1 Both the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 require the Council to appoint a section 151 Officer to be responsible for the

## Designation of Permanent s151 Officer

proper administration of its financial affairs. The term s151 Officer refers to the role and duties of the 'Responsible Financial Officer' as defined by CIPFA.

- 3.2 Section 113 of the Local Government Finance Act 1998 further requires that the officer appointed as Chief Finance Officer ('CFO') be a member of a specified accountancy body.
- 3.3 The role of the CFO / s151 Officer, lies at the heart of an effective and well-governed local authority. Their overriding duty is to fulfil the statutory responsibilities attached to the position in a manner which enhances the overall reputation and good governance of the Council. There are responsibilities which are the sole responsibility of the CFO including the closing of accounts, finalising budget preparations, audit opinions and sound financial management.
- 3.4 Whilst Personnel Committee have delegated responsibility to undertake a recruitment exercise, in respect of the roles of Head of Paid Service, s151 Officer and Monitoring Officer, they are appointments which must be made by Full Council.

### **4.0 Summary of main proposals**

- 4.1 Personnel Committee, as delegated in the Council's Constitution, undertook a competitive process to recruit to the role of Director: Finance, People and IDT with that role also expected to fulfil the role of s.151 Officer. Following the robust interview process, the Personnel Committee agreed to the appointment of Michelle Brockway as the Director: Finance, People and IDT. Full Council is asked to designate her as the Council's s.151 Officer. The Council's Monitoring Officer has followed the objections process set out within the Council's Employment Procedure Rules and has confirmed that no objections have been raised by Cabinet.
- 4.2 Members will be aware that the Council's former s151 Officer retired from the Council and from October 2023, Michelle Brockway has undertaken the role of s.151 Officer on an interim basis.
- 4.3 Michelle Brockway is suitably qualified for the role as a practising ACCA accountant. The Personnel Committee was satisfied that she had demonstrated her ability and suitability for the role during the period of interim cover as s.151 Officer and delivered to an extremely high standard whilst the Council, like the rest of the local government sector, has faced challenging financial times.

### **5.0 Alternative Options**

- 5.1 It is a legal requirement that the Council designates one of its officers as s.151 Officer. Whilst the Council could choose not to appoint permanently to the role, given there has been a recruitment exercise and a recommendation to Full Council to make the appointment, a failure to do so may put the Council at risk of not fulfilling its statutory obligations in the future.

**6.0 Key Risks**

6.1 By appointing to the role, the Council ensures that it is meeting its statutory obligations.

**7.0 Council Priorities**

7.1 The recommendations in this report covers all Council priorities. The s.151 Officer is a key role and a legal requirement.

**8.0 Financial Implications**

8.1 The proposals in this report can be met from within existing budgets.

**9.0 Legal and HR Implications**

9.1 The legal and HR implications are as set out in this report. By confirming the appointment, Full Council will be ensuring the Council is meeting its statutory obligations.

**10.0 Background Papers**

None

**11.0 Appendices**

None

**12.0 Report Sign Off**

<b>Signed off by</b>	<b>Date sent</b>	<b>Date signed off</b>	<b>Initials</b>
Legal	13/01/2025	13/01/2025	ACL
Finance	15/01/2025	15/01/2025	PH

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Telford & Wrekin  
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## Borough of Telford and Wrekin

### Full Council

Thursday 23 January 2025

### Setting of Council Tax Base 2025/26

---

<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Cllr Zona Hannington - Cabinet Member: Finance, Governance & Customer Services
<b>Lead Director:</b>	Michelle Brockway - Interim Director: Finance, People & IDT
<b>Service Area:</b>	Finance, People & IDT
<b>Report Author:</b>	Edward Rushton - Group Accountant
<b>Officer Contact Details:</b>	<b>Tel:</b> 01952 383750 <b>Email:</b> edward.rushton@telford.gov.uk
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All Wards
<b>Key Decision:</b>	Not Key Decision
<b>Forward Plan:</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Report considered by:</b>	Full Council - 23 January 2025

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#### 1.0 Recommendations for decision/noting:

Full Council is asked to approve:

1.1 The calculation of the tax base for 2025/26 as at paragraph 4.4 and Appendix A; and

1.2 In Accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 2012 (SI 2012:2914), the amount calculated for Telford and Wrekin Council Tax base for 2025/26 for its Special Fund Area shall be as per the appropriate parish amounts detailed in Appendix A for the parishes listed in paragraph 4.5.

#### 2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 To determine the Council Tax Base for General and Special Fund purposes for the financial year 2025/26. The setting of the Council Tax Base is the first stage in the

process of setting the Council Tax for 2025/26. Final recommendations on council tax levels will be presented to Full Council on 27 February 2025.

### **3.0 Background**

- 3.1 In order to determine the appropriate Council Tax levels for the area, it is necessary for the Council to determine the tax base for its area or part of its area. The budget requirements of the various precepting authorities are divided by this figure to arrive at the Band D equivalent level of Council Tax.
- 3.2 The tax base for 2025/26 must be set by Full Council between 1st December 2024 and 31st January 2025 as prescribed by section 8 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 2012 (SI 2012:2914).

### **4.0 Summary of main proposals**

#### **4.1 Council Tax Base Information**

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

The main features of the tax are:-

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



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

<b>Band</b>	<b>House Value</b> (as at April 1991 prices)	<b>Band D Proportion</b>	<b>Telford &amp; Wrekin Properties Spread</b>	<b>% Increase/ (Decrease) for 2025/26</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
A	Under 40,000	66.7	32.09	(0.44)
B	40,001 – 52,000	77.8	27.11	0.02
C	52,001 – 68,000	88.9	17.54	0.29
D	68,001 – 88,000	100.0	11.86	0.04
E	88,001 – 120,000	122.2	6.88	0.06
F	120,001 – 160,000	144.4	3.02	0.02
G	160,001 – 320,000	166.7	1.43	0.02
H	Over 320,000	200.0	0.06	0.00

#### 4.2 Property Base

There are 83,883 properties in the valuation list for the Telford & Wrekin area. This compares with a figure of 82,624 in the list at the same time last year. This is an increase of 1,259 properties (which equates to an increase of 1,590.9 “Band D equivalent properties” to the Council Tax Base), an increase of 1.52%. The assumed rate of collection will remain at 99.25%. Total council tax receipts (including for the fire and police authorities) will be approximately £3.241m greater as a result of growth in the tax base. Telford & Wrekin Council’s share of this is £2.445m. The growth is equivalent to a council tax increase of 2.8% and will help support services provided by the council, fire service and police service. Overall, there has been a decrease in the proportion of Band A properties and increases in the proportions of Bands B to G, particularly in Band C.

#### 4.3 Council Tax Base

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

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\text{Total number of chargeable dwellings} \\
 &\quad \text{(Less) Dwellings subject to discounts} \\
 &\quad = \\
 &\quad \text{Total equivalent number of properties} \\
 &\quad \quad \times \\
 &\quad \quad \text{Ratio to Band D} \\
 &\quad = \\
 &\quad \text{Relevant Amount (Band D Equivalent)}
 \end{aligned}$$

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

Finally, an estimated Collection Rate needs to be applied to the resultant figure. This has to be common to the whole area and has to provide for amendments to the Council Tax Banding List, appeals against banding, additional discounts and losses on collection. Clearly every effort is taken to vigorously pursue all council tax due to the authority. As mentioned above we will use a figure of 99.25% for 2025/26.

### 4.4 General Fund Tax Base

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

The tax base for this purpose for 2025/26 is 58,603.1 (including 148.3 for contributions in lieu in respect of MOD properties). Using an estimated collection rate of 99.25% (adjusted for 100% collection of contributions in lieu), **the tax base is calculated as 58,164.7.**

### 4.5 Special Fund Tax Base

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

- Dawley Hamlets,
- Great Dawley,
- Hollinswood & Randlay,
- Lawley & Overdale,
- Madeley,
- Oakengates,
- St Georges & Priorslee,
- Stirchley & Brookside,
- The Gorge,
- Wellington, and
- Wrockwardine & Trench.

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

In 2025/26 a Special Fund tax will be levied on those parishes that have opted not to take over the responsibility for footway lighting in their area. These are:-

- Dawley Hamlets,
- Great Dawley,
- Hollinswood & Randlay,
- Lawley and Overdale,
- Madeley,

- Oakengates,
- Stirchley & Brookside,
- The Gorge, and
- Wellington.

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

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

### **5.0 Alternative Options**

- 5.1 The tax base for each parish area is calculated in accordance with statutory regulations.

### **6.0 Key Risks**

- 6.1 In setting the tax base an assumption is made for losses on collection, the Council takes all reasonable steps to collect income due but the final collection rate may be higher or lower than the 99.25% assumed.

### **7.0 Council Priorities**

- 7.1 Setting the council tax base is a legal requirement and is needed to calculate council tax levels for 2025/26 and therefore directly supports the delivery of all Council priorities.

### **8.0 Financial Implications**

- 8.1 The information contained within this report is used in determining the Council Tax to be charged in 2025/26.

### **9.0 Legal and HR Implications**

- 9.1 The legal requirements relating to the setting of the Council tax base are set out in the main body of this report. The Council has a statutory obligation to set the Council Tax Base by 31 January 2025 to enable the level of Council Tax to be then set in accordance with the statutory deadline of 11 March 2025. In summary, the Council has the power and the duty to set the Council Tax Base in the way described in this report.

### **10.0 Ward Implications**

- 10.1 The tax base is set at parish level in order to reflect the council tax due in each Town or Parish Council area. There are no direct impacts on specific wards

### **11.0 Health, Social and Economic Implications**

11.1 The Council Tax base calculation includes discounts and reductions which supports the Council priorities in respect of Health, Social and Economic factors.

### **12.0 Equality and Diversity Implications**

12.1 The Council Tax base calculation includes discounts and reductions, including disabled person discounts and single person occupancy discounts, which support Equality and Diversity.

### **13.0 Climate Change and Environmental Implications**

13.1 There are no Climate Change and Environmental Implications.

### **14.0 Background Papers**

- 1 Local Government Act 2003
- 2 DLUHC Calculation of Council Tax Base Return (CTB1) October 2024
- 3 The Council Tax (Prescribed Classes of Dwellings) (England) Regulations 2003
- 4 Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations (SI 2012:2914)
- 5 Local Government Finance Act 2003
- 6 Rating (Property in Common Occupation) and Council Tax (Empty Dwellings) Act 2018

### **15.0 Appendices**

- A Council Tax Base 2025/26 by Parish / Town Council

### **16.0 Report Sign Off**

<b>Signed off by</b>	<b>Date sent</b>	<b>Date signed off</b>	<b>Initials</b>
Finance	10/12/2024	10/12/2024	ER
Legal	10/12/2024	15/01/2025	RP
Director	10/12/2024	06/01/2025	MLB

## SETTING OF COUNCIL TAX BASE 2025/26

### Appendix A - COUNCIL TAX BASE BY PARISH / TOWN COUNCIL

Parish	Band D equivalent
CHETWYND	291.6
CHETWYND ASTON & WOODCOTE	326.1
CHURCH ASTON	525.8
DAWLEY HAMLETS	2,843.4
DONNINGTON & MUXTON	4,237.7
EDGMOND	567.7
ERCALL MAGNA	675.8
EYTON	39.1
GORGE, THE	1,603.8
DAWLEY, GREAT	2,949.8
HADLEY & LEEGOMERY	4,670.9
HOLLINSWOOD & RANDLAY	1,541.6
KETLEY	1,494.6
KYNNERSLEY	83.7
LAWLEY & OVERDALE	4,141.5
LILLESHALL	575.8
LITTLE WENLOCK	246.7
MADELEY	4,498.5
NEWPORT	4,446.0
OAKENGATES	2,528.4
PRESTON	124.7
RODINGTON	389.3
ST GEORGES & PRIORSLEE	4,897.3
STIRCHLEY/BROOKSIDE	2,409.6
TIBBERTON & CHERRINGTON	451.2
WATERS UPTON	569.7
WELLINGTON	7,365.9
WROCKWARDINE	2,041.0
WROCKWARDINE WOOD	1,627.5
	<b>58,164.7</b>

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Telford & Wrekin  
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## Borough of Telford and Wrekin

### Full Council

23 January 2025

### 2024/25 Financial Monitoring Report

---

<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Cllr Zona Hannington - Cabinet Member: Finance and Governance
<b>Lead Director:</b>	Michelle Brockway - Interim Director: Finance, People and IDT
<b>Service Area:</b>	Finance, People and IDT
<b>Report Author:</b>	Pauline Harris – Finance Manager
<b>Officer Contact Details:</b>	<b>Tel:</b> 01952 383701 <b>Email:</b> pauline.harris@telford.gov.uk
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All Wards
<b>Key Decision:</b>	Key Decision
<b>Forward Plan:</b>	Yes – 28 October/20 November 2024
<b>Report considered by:</b>	Cabinet – 5 December 2024 Cabinet – 6 January 2025 Full Council – 23 January 2025

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#### 1.0 Recommendations for Decision/Noting

It is recommended that Full Council:

- 1.1 Approve the changes to the capital programme and all associated changes to the Medium Term Financial Strategy, including Treasury and Prudential Indicator. Details are in Appendix A.

#### 2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 The financial monitoring report to Cabinet on 5 December 2024 and 6 January 2025 provided an update on the revenue budget and progress relating to the capital programme. The report included some changes to the capital programme which now require formal approval by Full Council.

### **3.0 Background**

- 3.1 The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2024/25 to 2027/28 was approved at Full Council on 29 February 2024, which included the 2024/25 revenue budget and medium term capital programme.
- 3.2 Changes to the capital programme and use of balances are approved by Full Council.

### **4.0 Summary of main proposals**

- 4.1 The approvals required are attached at Appendix A.

### **5.0 Alternative Options**

- 5.1 Not Applicable.

### **6.0 Key Risks**

- 6.1 Budget holders actively manage their budgets and the many financial risks and challenges that council services face, examples include the risk of a particularly harsh winter which would impact adversely on the winter gritting and adult social care budgets, the increasing dependency on income from a wide range of activities and the risk of interest rate movements and further inflationary pressures, the risk of changes in legislative or accounting requirements impacting on budgets etc. The Council has comprehensive risk management arrangements in place, which are reviewed and updated by the Senior Management Team.

### **7.0 Council Priorities**

- 7.1 Delivery of all Council priorities depends on the effective use of available resources. Regular financial monitoring in the financial management reports helps to highlight variations from plan so that action can be taken to effectively manage the Council's budget.

### **8.0 Financial Implications**

- 8.1 The financial impacts are detailed in the report.

### **9.0 Legal and HR Implications**

- 9.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. The S151 Officer has a statutory duty to monitor income and expenditure and ensure that the Council takes action if overall net overspends /shortfalls emerge.

### **10.0 Ward Implications**



10.1 There are no impacts on specific wards

### **11.0 Health, Social and Economic Implications**

11.1 There are no Health, Social and Economic Implications directly arising from this report.

### **12.0 Equality and Diversity Implications**

12.1 There are no Equality & Diversity implications directly arising from this report.

### **13.0 Climate Change and Environmental Implications**

13.1 There are no Climate Change and Environmental Implications directly arising from this report.

### **14.0 Background Papers**

1	Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/25 to 2027/28	Council 29/02/2024
2	2024/25 Financial Monitoring Report	Cabinet 10/07/2024
		Council 18/07/2024
3	2024/25 Financial Monitoring Report	Cabinet 07/11/2024
		Council 12/11/2024
4	2024/25 Financial Monitoring Report	Cabinet 05/12/2024
5	2024/25 Financial Monitoring Report	Cabinet 06/01/2025

### **15.0 Appendices**

Appendix A      Schedule of Approvals

### **16.0 Report Sign Off**

<b>Signed off by</b>	<b>Date sent</b>	<b>Date signed off</b>	<b>Initials</b>
Director	27/11/2024	27/11/2024	MLB
Finance	27/11/2024	27/11/2024	PH
Legal	27/11/2024	28/11/2024	RP

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**APPENDIX A**

**Capital Approvals - by Service Area**

<u>Slippage</u>					24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28
Cabinet	Scheme	Service Area	Funding Source		£	£	£	£
05/12/24	All Other School Schemes	Education & Skills	Grant		(2,795,690.20)	2,795,690.20		
05/12/24	Social Care Capital Grant	Adult Social Care	Grant		(5,497.52)	5,497.52		
05/12/24	Levelling Up Fund	Prosperity & Investment	Grant		(2,450,000.00)	2,450,000.00		
05/12/24	Levelling Up Fund	Prosperity & Investment	Prudential			(800,000.00)	800,000.00	
05/12/24	Pride in Your High Street	Prosperity & Investment	Prudential		(397,511.37)	397,511.37		
05/12/24	Property Investment Portfolio	Prosperity & Investment	Prudential		(3,950,000.00)		3,950,000.00	
05/12/24	ICT Investment Programme	Finance, People and IDT	Prudential			(345,000.00)	345,000.00	
					<b>(9,598,699.09)</b>	<b>4,503,699.09</b>	<b>5,095,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
06/01/25	Capital Investment Fund	Corporate Items	Prudential			(1,600,000.00)	1,600,000.00	
06/01/25	Property Investment Portfolio	Prosperity & Investment	Prudential			(11,000,000.00)	11,000,000.00	
06/01/25	Housing Company - Housing	Prosperity & Investment	Prudential			(2,500,000.00)	2,500,000.00	
06/01/25	Housing	Housing, Commercial & Customer Services	Prudential			(2,500,000.00)	2,500,000.00	
					<b>0.00</b>	<b>(17,600,000.00)</b>	<b>17,600,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>

**New Allocations**

	Scheme	Service Area	Funding Source		24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28
					£	£	£	£
06/01/25	Stalled Sites	Prosperity & Investment	Prudential			250,000.00	250,000.00	
06/01/25	Towns Fund - Wellington	Prosperity & Investment	External			174,000.00		
06/01/25	Property Investment Portfolio	Prosperity & Investment	External			875,424.00		
06/01/25	Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP)	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	Grant			1,788,577.00		
06/01/25	All Other School Schemes	Education & Skills	Grant		342,549.15			
					<b>342,549.15</b>	<b>3,088,001.00</b>	<b>250,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>

**Virements**

	Scheme	Service Area	Funding Source		24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28
					£	£	£	£
06/01/25	Capital Investment Fund	Corporate Items	Prudential			(3,334,633.00)	(3,000,000.00)	
06/01/25	Towns Fund - Wellington	Prosperity & Investment	Prudential			2,084,633.00		
06/01/25	Condition Works - Leisure	Prosperity & Investment	Prudential			1,000,000.00		
06/01/25	Condition Works - Leisure	Prosperity & Investment	Prudential			250,000.00		
06/01/25	Pride in Your High Street	Prosperity & Investment	Prudential				1,000,000.00	
06/01/25	Levelling Up Fund	Prosperity & Investment	Prudential				2,000,000.00	
					<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	

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# Biennial Scrutiny Report

2022 – 2024

September 2024

# Foreword

Welcome to Telford & Wrekin Council's Biennial Scrutiny Report, which highlights the work of our Scrutiny Committees during the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 municipal year. Both Councillors and Officers recognise the vital role scrutiny can play in being a source of innovative ideas, challenging ways of thinking, and examining current ways of working.

As the Borough continued to manage issues arising from the cost of living crisis and the war in Ukraine, which itself has presented unique challenges to ways of working and operation, our Scrutiny Committees have continued their important work by reviewing key issues which impact upon our residents. The work of Scrutiny will only become more vital as the Council looks to protect, care and invest for its residents against a backdrop of societal changes and a rising cost of living.

Whilst committees returned to meeting in person in Summer 2021, the ongoing use of virtual technology has been invaluable for workshops and task & finish groups, enabling committees to meet with an ever-wider pool of experts.

I wish to extend my thanks to colleagues representing Shropshire Council on our Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Health services across Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin face unprecedented pressures and it is only together that can we overcome them. These last two years have seen the advent of the Integrated Care System, requiring the establishment of an Integrated Care Board and an Integrated Care Partnership. This has been a new challenge for us all and we look forward to continuing to working closely with our NHS colleagues and Shropshire Council to improve the local health service.

As we look ahead over 2024/25 to 2025/26, scrutiny anticipates another busy period with the continuing impacts of ever constrained local authority budgets, societal changes and the ongoing cost of living crisis posing a great challenge to our work as a Council, as Councillors, and to the lives of residents.

I would like to thank all of the officers, and the Council's partners, who attended and assisted scrutiny as well as all scrutiny Members for their hard work these past two years.

Finally, a thank you to all of the Councillors who left the Council at the last election in May 2023 for their civic-mindedness, their dedication, and hard work.



**Councillor Derek White**  
**Chair of Scrutiny Management Board**



# What is Scrutiny?

## What does scrutiny do?

Scrutiny acts as a critical friend and provides a 'checks and balance' system to ensure decision-making in local government is democratic, effective and transparent. Local authorities with a Cabinet system – where a relatively small number of elected members are responsible for day-to-day decision-making – **must** have a scrutiny function. It is a way for elected members who are not on the Cabinet to have a greater influence in policy decisions and the work of the Council. Good scrutiny ensures that the decisions made by the Council reflect the wishes and priorities of our residents as best as possible.

There are four nationally accepted principles of good scrutiny set out by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny:

- Providing "critical friend" challenge;
- Amplifying the voice and concerns of the public;
- Being led by independent people who take responsibility for their role; and
- Driving improvement in public services.

At Telford & Wrekin Council, scrutiny is embedded within the organisation, with Officers recognising the important value scrutiny brings to bear on the way the Council works.

Good scrutiny ensures that decision-making processes are clear and accessible to the public and that those making the decisions are held accountable for them. It should also allow opportunities for the public to influence decision-making.

## Who carries out scrutiny work?

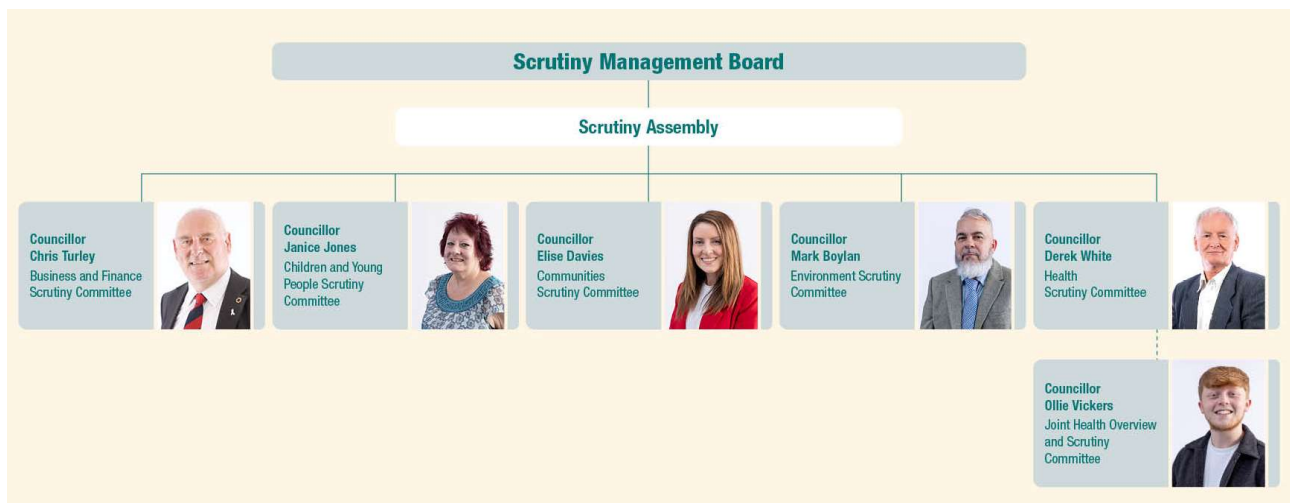
Scrutiny is carried out by elected members who are not on the Council’s Cabinet and members of the public co-opted for expertise in a particular area or to represent certain groups. They sit on Scrutiny Committees, which carry out scrutiny work. The committees reflect the overall political balance of the Council.

Telford & Wrekin has six scrutiny committees and a breakdown of these committees over the last two years can be found below:

### 2022/2023 Municipal Year



### 2023/2024 Municipal Year



Certain Members and co-optees of the Health Scrutiny Committee also sit on the Joint Health & Overview Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) in partnership with Shropshire Council to scrutinise healthcare provision across the county. For the 2022/23 municipal the position of Co-Chair was held by Cllr Derek White and by Cllr Ollie Vickers for the 2023/24 municipal year.

## How is the work programme agreed?

Early in each calendar year, the Scrutiny Management Board makes contact with Councillors and the Council’s key partners to seek suggestions for the topics that Scrutiny should consider over the next municipal year. This is called the Scrutiny Work Programme.



Scrutiny now operates a two year work programme to allow for Committees to undertake more in-depth work over a longer period of time, thus enabling topics to continue into the next municipal year.

In September, the Scrutiny Management Board will meet and receive the suggestions that have been put forward. At this meeting, they will agree which issues meet the Scrutiny criteria and should be prioritised for the upcoming work programme and recommended to the Scrutiny Committees for consideration.

### How is scrutiny work carried out?

Scrutiny can be carried out in a number of different ways with individual committees carrying out the majority of scrutiny work. This usually involves reviewing services or policies at committee meetings. A review can be a one-off item discussed at a meeting or may be considered in detail over a series of meetings. Reviews may involve discussions with Cabinet Members, Council officers, managers and officers from other organisations providing a service, service users or members of the public – whoever is relevant to the topic being discussed.

At the end of a review, a committee may make recommendations where they think improvements could be made.

Where possible, meetings are held in public, however scrutiny members can also hold working group meetings to gather evidence for a review. These groups are specially formed ‘task and finish’ groups, tasked with the in-depth review of a specific subject of such complexity that single meetings do not suffice or where an issue cuts across different committee remits. To this end, the groups are constituted of members of two or more committees, lending their committee’s respective eyes to issues. These types of review usually take place virtually, allowing engagement with a wide range of consultees, as well as enabling flexibility in terms of planning and structure. A final working group report is produced and returned to the referring committee with recommendations.

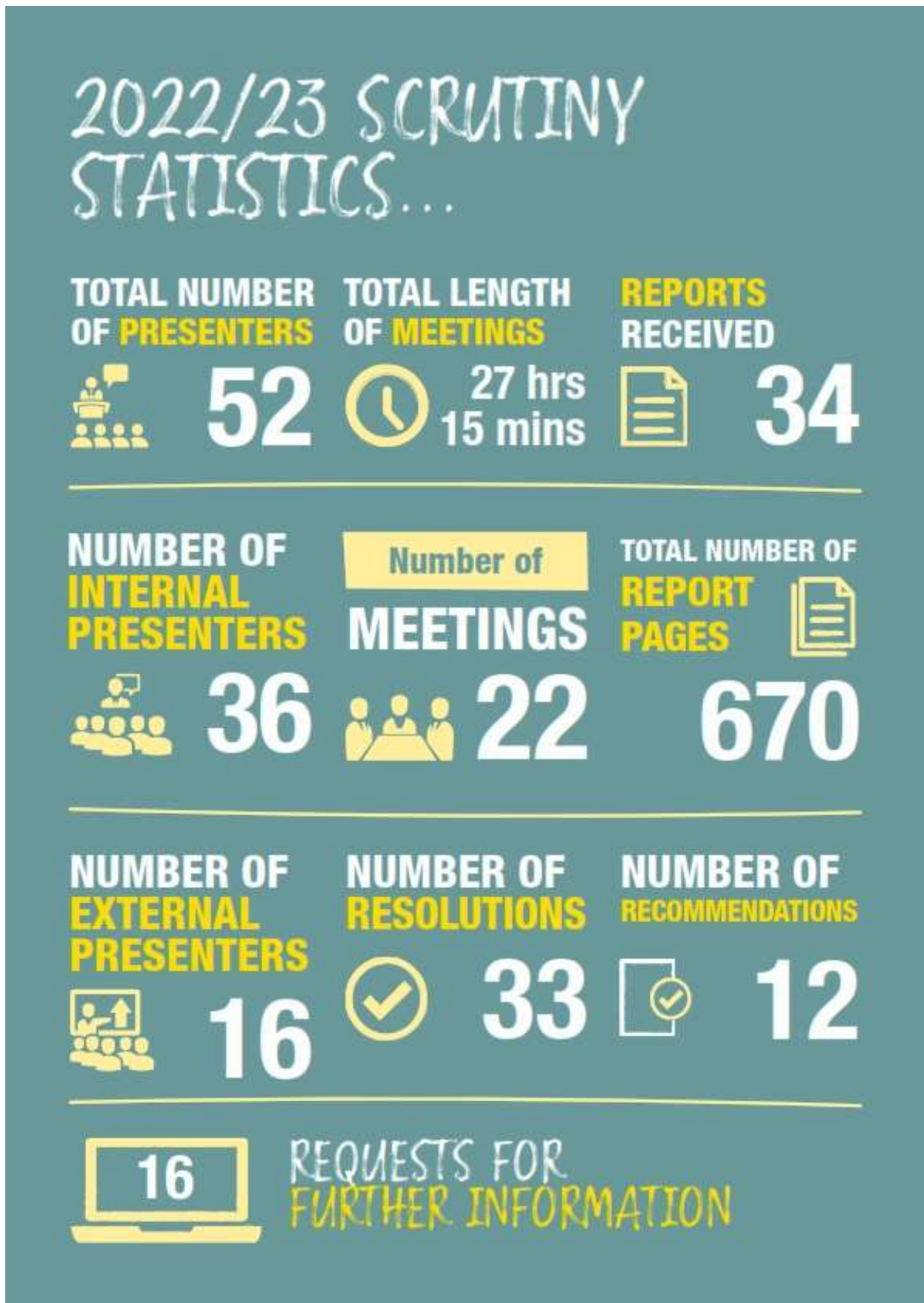
### How do we monitor the effectiveness of scrutiny?

There are many ways that scrutiny can make a difference – though some are easier to measure than others. Some of the commonly used measures of effective scrutiny work are listed below, but sometimes scrutiny can make a difference simply by raising an issue for public debate.

- **Holding the Executive to account** – questioning Cabinet members in public about policies and decisions helps to ensure that decision-making is open and transparent.
- **Recommendations to Cabinet** – another measure of the impact of scrutiny is the number of recommendations made to, and accepted by, Cabinet. The majority of scrutiny recommendations in the past have been accepted.
- **Recommendations to external organisations** – there are certain organisations with a statutory duty to respond to scrutiny. These organisations have no obligation, however, to accept scrutiny recommendations. Our approach is to engage partners positively in scrutiny so that recommendations are relevant, realistic, and more likely to be acted upon.

- **Policy development** – examples include examining draft policies to consider the implications for local people and suggesting improvements, giving feedback as part of a consultation on a proposed new policy or policy change, or proposing initiatives.
- **Holding health service commissioners and providers to account and monitoring performance of health services** – examples include examining the findings of patient surveys, gathering evidence from lived experience and examining performance data linked to areas such as response times, waiting lists, and discharges. The Joint Health Scrutiny Committee is also consulted on any upcoming or underway changes to services that will affect patients across Telford & Wrekin and Shropshire

# Our statistics



# 2023/24 SCRUTINY STATISTICS...

TOTAL NUMBER OF PRESENTERS



123

TOTAL LENGTH OF MEETINGS



44hrs  
42mins

TOTAL REPORTS



60

TOTAL NUMBER OF INTERNAL PRESENTERS



91

TOTAL NUMBER OF MEETINGS



32

TOTAL PAGES



1086

TOTAL NUMBER OF EXTERNAL PRESENTERS



32

TOTAL NUMBER OF RESOLUTIONS



41

TOTAL NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS



31



19

TOTAL NUMBER OF REQUESTS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION



# Scrutiny Management Board

## Members for the 2022/23 Municipal Year:

Councillors Derek White (Chair), Steve Bentley, Thomas Janke, Gilly Latham-Reynolds, Stephen Reynolds, The Lord Sahota, Jacqui Seymour, and Chris Turley.



## Members for the 2023/24 Municipal Year:

Councillors Derek White (Chair), Mark Boylan, Elise Davies, Thomas Janke, Janice Jones, Gilly Latham-Reynolds, Gareth Thomas and Chris Turley.

## Chair's Summary:

The Scrutiny Management Board met once, at the beginning of each municipal year. The Board met to discuss the proposed work programme for scrutiny and to approve the draft Biennial Scrutiny Report prior to its submission to Full Council.

The scrutiny work programme for each year was referred to the Scrutiny Assembly, followed by the relevant committees, for approval and prioritisation.

At this meeting, the Biennial Scrutiny Report was approved for recommendation to Full Council.

The Scrutiny Management Board did not receive any call-in requests for the duration of each municipal year.



# Scrutiny Assembly

## Members for the 2022/23 and 2023/24 Municipal Year:

All non-Executive Council Members and Scrutiny Co-optees

## Chair's Summary:

The Scrutiny Assembly met three times during the course of the two municipal years where they received a presentation from the Leader and the Chief Executive on the Council's programme and to consult on the two year scrutiny work programme.

Following consultation on the work programme, the programme was referred to the relevant committees.

At its meeting in June 2022, the Leader and the Chief Executive set out a number of key achievements of the Council in the preceding year, including being awarded the APSE Council of the Year in 2021. It was also highlighted that the Council had been awarded Outstanding following an Ofsted inspection of its Children's Services and had won MJ Council of the Year award in 2022. Members asked a series of questions covering various aspects of the Council's work.

In December 2023, the Scrutiny Assembly received an update on the Council's progress in relation to the independent inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in the Borough.





# Business and Finance Scrutiny Committee



## Members for the 2022/23 Municipal Year:

Councillors Stephen Reynolds (Chair), Eric Carter, Nathan England, James Lavery, Adrian Lawrence, Ian Preece, Gilly Latham-Reynolds, The Lord Sahota and Roy Williams (Co-Optee)

## Members for the 2023/24 Municipal Year:

Councillors Chris Turley (Chair), Andy Burford, Fiona Doran, Zona Hannington, Giles Luter, Sarah Syrda and Paul Thomas



**Cllr Stephen Reynolds**  
Chair for 2022/23



**Cllr Chris Turley**  
Chair for 2023/24

## Chair's Summary:

One of the primary roles of the Business and Finance Scrutiny Committee is as a consultant for the Cabinet's budget proposals. However, our remit also covers oversight of the service and financial performance of Council services and how the Council is promoting growth in the local economy.

Over the last two years, the Committee has overseen and scrutinised many different elements of the business and financial services provided by the Council. Some of the highlights of our work during the last two years are set out below.

## Housing Investment Programme Annual Update

The Director: Prosperity & Investment and the Service Delivery Manager for the Housing Investment Programme delivered an update on the Council's Housing Investment Programme (HIP) and Nuplace.

The programme had been in place for 9 years and had been commenced in response to the Borough's need for quality rental housing whilst supporting the Council's agenda for growth. In the longer term, whilst improving the quality of the offer of the private rented sector in the Borough, the HIP and Nuplace have also generated a reliable income stream for the Council that has been used to protect the provision of frontline services in the face of budgetary constraints.



Members were keen to hear more about the reception of residents to the housing offer provided through the schemes and how they contributed to the fight against climate change.

In terms of resident feedback, Members were informed that the overwhelming majority was positive with 96% of residents saying they would recommend Nuplace to friends and family and 75% saying they intended to live in their Nuplace home indefinitely.

The HIP and Nuplace both aimed to reduce carbon emissions; in 2022/23, 18 Nuplace homes were being delivered which met the Future Homes Standards, which required them to be built using lower carbon methods and included various energy efficient schemes such as heat pumps. These 18 homes would help to test how best to deliver low carbon homes in the most viable way possible in future developments.

For the 2024/25 municipal year, Members will be participating in a site visit to the Nuplace development located in Donnington.

## Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 - 2026/27

In January 2023, the Committee received the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 - 2026/27 for scrutiny outlining the administration's budget proposals for that time period. As in other recent years, the local government financial settlement only covered a single year; this made it difficult for the Council to plan on a longer term basis. Finding efficiencies remained important, though it was noted that this was becoming increasingly difficult after ten years. Supporting this, departments were constantly reviewing spending and searching for new ways to create savings or generate income.



There were no alternative budget proposals from the opposition groups.

### Cost of Living Update

In June 2023, Members received a report on the cost-of-living crisis within the Borough. The Committee heard about the national and local impacts that the crisis had imposed and the work that the Authority had undertaken to mitigate these effects. Discussions particularly focussed on the work of officers in allocating discretionary grants and what the impact of withdrawing this funding by local government would be. Members resolved to request that Cabinet write to government to lobby for the retention of discretionary funding beyond March 2024.

### Telford Land Deal and Growth Fund

In November 2023, the Committee received a presentation on the Telford Land Deal & Growth Fund following an update to Cabinet in October on the progress of both, respectively. Members were informed that the Telford Land Deal was a 10-year partnership between the Council, Homes England and the Marches Local Enterprise which would increase not just the level of housing



available in the Borough but also the number of sites that could be used for commercial use. Halesfield and Stafford Park were given as examples to demonstrate how there was development of industrial units to promote local business as well as attracting businesses into the Borough to employ local people. Between 2016/17 to 2022/23 there had been £79.4m delivered investment into the Growth Fund which had led to a safeguarding of 1445 jobs across the Town.

### Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/25 – 2027/28

In January 2024, the Committee received the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/25 - 2027/28 for scrutiny. The report outlined the administration's budget proposals for that same time period. For the first time in two years, the council tax base would increase by 4.99%, however Band D properties would still see one of the lowest council tax rates in the West Midlands region. There were no alternative budget proposals from the opposition groups.





# Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee



## Members for the 2022/23 Municipal Year:

Councillors the Lord Sahota (Chair), Mark Boylan, Stephen Burrell, Ian Fletcher, Janice Jones, Angela McClements, Karen Tomlinson, Bob Wennington, Sherrel Fikeis (Co-Optee), Lyn Fowler (Co-Optee), Carol Morgan (Co-Optee) and Mel Ward (Co-Optee) Vacancy (Secondary Parent Governor Co-Optee) and Vacancy (Church of England Diocese Co-Optee)

## Members for the 2023/24 Municipal Year:

Councillors Janice Jones (Chair), Stephen Burrell, Zona Hannington, Amrik Jhawar, Lyndsey Parker, Kim Tonks, Jenny Urey, Ollie Vickers, Sherrel Fikeis (Co-Optee), Carol Morgan (Co-Optee) Vacancy (Primary Parent Governor Co-Optee), Vacancy (Secondary Parent Governor Co-Optee) and Vacancy (Church of England Diocese Co-Optee)



**The Lord Sahota**  
Chair for 2022/23



**Cllr Janice Jones**  
Chair for 2023/24

## Chair's Summary:

The Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee's role is to scrutinise and monitor the planning and performance of the Council's vital services for children and young people as well as examining the authorities' role as a corporate parent.

Over the last two years, the Committee has undertaken vital pieces of scrutiny, including examining Educational Attainment, the 10 by 10 activity scheme, religious education and the role of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education, Elective Home Education, the Care Leaver Offer and the Belonging Strategy.

## Education Attainment 2020 – 2022 & 2022 – 2024

In November 2022, Members were presented with the Educational Attainment figures from 2020 to 2022. This was important as it marked the return to examinations for pupils following the Covid-19 pandemic rather than teacher-assessed grades which had been used during the pandemic. Members noted that the attainment data showed that children within the Borough had been broadly in line with the national average.



Members asked a number of questions regarding educational attainment ranging from support following the Covid-19 Pandemic, comparison of attainment figures from before the Covid-19 Pandemic and support for those children receiving free school meals.

Twelve months on, in December 2023, Members received a further update on figures which had seen statistics improve further and results for KS1 pupils specifically had returned to similar levels recorded prior to Covid-19.

## 10 by 10

Members received a presentation on the '10 by 10' project which summarised the goal of the project to introduce 10 life-changing activities to children by the age of ten. Members were given insight into what type of activities were available for children, which ranged from learning to swim and play a musical instrument to visiting heritage sites and libraries. The importance of the project was stressed as trying to give children across the Borough the best start in life.

# 10BY10

## SACRE

The Committee received a presentation from the Chair of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE). Members were advised of the role and the responsibilities of the SACRE, such as the development of the local agreed syllabus for Religious Education in the Borough.

Members asked questions in relation to the results in exams for Religious Education and how data was benchmarked across the Authority.

## Belonging Strategy

A summary of the Belonging Strategy was provided to Members of the Committee. The aim of the strategy was to make every young person have a positive sense of belonging to their school or education setting and that they were cared about. The various priorities of the strategy were discussed and the schemes that had taken place within the strategy were considered.

Members discussed how children were to travel to these activities and were assured that support was available. The strategy was inclusive and a discussion took place regarding the schemes available to children and young people with additional needs.

## Annual Safeguarding Partnership Board Report 2021/22

In July 2023, Members received the annual report of the Telford & Wrekin Local Safeguarding Partnership Board for 2021/22. The report summarised the work of the Board during the Covid-19 Pandemic and highlighted best safeguarding support practices for children and young people.

Members asked a number of questions regarding the ongoing impact of the pandemic, the cost of living crisis, systems for monitoring referrals and support processes that were in place for youth mental health.

## Elective Home Education

In October 2023, Members received a presentation from the School Performance Team Leader and the Director: Education & Skills on Elective Home Education (EHE).

The presentation summarised the statutory duty of the Local Authority as detailed within the Education Act 1997 which enables children and young people to receive education at home outside of the National Curriculum guidelines.



Members recognised the challenges Elective Home Education imposed on local authorities but felt that the Council was well equipped to monitor children receiving education outside of school and to continue to work with the Local Safeguarding Team to provide support to families.

## Promoting Active Travel to School (School Streets)

The Committee received an update on promoting active travel to school in the Borough following the conclusion of a working group in 2021 which specifically looked at the launch of a local School Streets Scheme.

It had been recognised that the implementation of a School Streets scheme would cause complications in terms of road closures, displacement of traffic and enforcement. Following further consultation with local schools and communities, Members were informed that a new model scheme 'A New Journey to School' was in development which would promote and encourage active travel arrangements to school, improve health and reduce congestion. A range of activities which focused on positive behaviour change would be offered as part of the scheme including bikeability lessons, walking buses, pedestrian training and

independent travel training. Up to four schools would be participating in a pilot scheme before its formal launch in September 2024 which would be delivered through the Road Safety and Active Travel Team.

### Care Leaver Offer

In December 2023, Members received a report on the local offer provided to young people who had experience of being in care for a minimum of thirteen weeks between the ages of 14 and 18 years old. The Care Leaver offer focused on a wide range of areas to support young people with engagement in further education, training and employment including managing money, building relationships, health and lifestyle support and interview techniques.



Members asked questions in relation to the number of care leavers who have accessed the offer, the support available for young people aged 18-25 years old and further funding.

For the 2024/25 municipal year, Members will be participating in a site visit to the Telford and Wrekin Leavers Lounge where they will be provided with the opportunity to meet with young care leavers and seek views on the support available from the Council.

### Review of actions for improvement following March 2023 OFSTED/CQC SEND Inspection

The Committee received an update from the Director: Education & Skills following a recent OFSTED and CQC inspection in March 2023 for SEND service provision for Telford and Wrekin. Members were informed that the inspection took place as a result of the introduction of a new inspection framework which includes a review of services provided by external partners such as the NHS and local Police and how education, health and care needs had been met for children who had been recognised as having special educational needs.

Members acknowledged the positive outcomes of the inspection and the wide range of accessible services that both the Local Authority and external partners already offered.

## Telford Fostering

### Recruitment in Fostering

In April 2024, the Committee received an update on the Council's approach to Foster Care recruitment and retention. The presentation highlighted the positive impact of recruitment activity undertaken by the Local Authority which had resulted in an increased number of Foster Carers across Telford and Wrekin. Members asked a number of questions in relation to the new marketing campaign, financial reward schemes and the Foster Carers Forum. Members learnt that the new approach to fostering supported the Council to provide better outcomes for children by providing more sustainable foster placements and were keen to understand how this work could be built upon moving forward to ensure that this work continued to gain traction and have a positive impact on children.



# Communities Scrutiny Committee



## Members for the 2022/23 Municipal Year:

Councillors Chris Turley (Chair), Steve Bentley, Eric Carter, Vanessa Holt, Thomas Janke, Jim Loveridge, and John Thompson

## Members for the 2023/24 Municipal Year:

Councillors Elise Davies (Chair), Erin Aston, Stephen Bentley, Angela McClements, Ranbir Sahota, Peter Scott and Gareth Thomas



**Cllr Chris Turley**  
Chair for 2022/23



**Cllr Elise Davies**  
Chair for 2023/24

## Chair's Summary:

The Communities Scrutiny Committee has a wide ranging remit that covers a number of key areas relating to the development of Telford & Wrekin as a Co-operative Council, and the planning, delivery and performance of services provided to local communities.

We also look at issues relating to how the Council works with partner organisations, housing, homelessness, transport and highways, regeneration, waste and recycling, customer services, community engagement, and enforcement. The Committee is also the designated body for scrutiny of the Safer, Stronger Communities Partnership.

## Highways Update

In June 2022, the Committee received an update on Highways work in the Borough from the Director: Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services. This presentation covered a variety of areas within Highways, touching upon funding, past works, and innovative practice being integrated into works.



Members expressed their support for the work conducted by the Highways team and were especially pleased by the timely fashion in which they completed works but were keen to hear how innovation in practice could improve the standard of roads in the Borough.

## Trading Standards Overview

At its October 2022 meeting, the Committee heard from the Public Protection Group Manager on trading standards and enforcement in Telford and Wrekin. The work of the trading standards team covered a wide range of matters and Members heard a number of headline statistics relating to the enforcement activities undertaken by the team in the preceding 12 months and were asked to input into the priorities for the team looking towards the next year.

The Committee endorsed the intelligence-led approach adopted by the trading standards team and agreed with the identified priorities projected for the year ahead. Members expressed specific concerns about underage vaping and were heartened by the work that was being done to combat sales of vaping products children.

## Safer Stronger Communities Update

This update, from the Safer Stronger Communities Group Manager, provided background to the scheme and its funding, its focus areas within the Borough, and the approaches taken to tackle crime. Members, while acknowledging the difficulty of the task, were keen to hear about how the scheme reached out to young people. The 'Friday Night Football' programme was highlighted as among the primary actions targeting the young people in the scheme areas. The Committee noted that all areas which intended to have a safer and stronger scheme now had one in place.



## Traffic & Road Safety Overview

In November 2022, Members received a briefing on road safety and traffic engineering. The briefing sought to inform the Committee of the team's work and its priorities.

The presentation from officers covered the breadth of work that the team undertakes, ranging from traffic regulation orders to engineering works, and how works are planned and brought forward. From the year 2023/24, it was intended to develop working groups with ward Members, to deliver annual programmes of work based on public enquiries and Members' local knowledge.

## Fly Tipping

Building on previous work, the Committee received an update on fly tipping across the Borough which recognised the Council efforts to reduce fly tipping by 40% since 2021. Members discussed the role of communications in tackling fly tipping issues, highlighting the need for further education and sign posting of services.

In November 2023, Members participated in a workshop delivered by the Council's Corporate Communications and Neighbourhood Enforcement Teams which highlighted the work undertaken by officers to tackle fly tipping in the Borough. Members gained insight into the current campaign shared across communication channels and social media urging residents to help identify culprits of fly tipping.

Following the conclusion of the workshops, Members received an update on the work that had been undertaken to produce an information leaflet, highlighting fixed fines and how to report cases of fly tipping in the Borough.

## Elections Review

The Committee held a review into best practice for in respect of elections following the local elections that had taken place in the Borough in May 2023. Members first received a presentation setting out an overview of the legal requirements for conducting an election, the role of the Returning Officer and illustrated the timeframes for planning, setting up and the counting of votes during an election period. Members gained insight on the strict governance procedures regarding the election counting process which was recognised to be fair and accurate. Members acknowledged the challenging work of all those involved in the running of an election and put forward recommendations to set up a task and finish group to further review the Council's processes.



In October 2023, Members participated in a workshop with Mark Heath, Returning Officer for Southampton Council, Elections Lead for The Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) and consultant with the Association of Electoral Administrators (AEA) who has over 30 years' experience in conducting elections and is widely regarded as being an expert in electoral matters. The workshop highlighted good practice and legalities for running a successful election and highlighted both the personal responsibility of the Returning Officer



and the Council's responsibilities in ensuring that the election process was both fair and accurate.

At its meeting in April 2024, the Committee were presented with the report of the Elections Review Task and Finish Group. The report outlined a total of 11 recommendations, five of which were for action and six which highlighted existing good practice that were for noting.

### Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan Update

The Committee received an update from the Director: Communities, Customer & Commercial Services on the progress made in relation to the Council's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy (EDI).

The four year strategy was launched in July 2022 following the Council's commitment to opposing unlawful discrimination and promoting equality of opportunity. Members acknowledged that the Local Authority had continued to take positive steps in its approach to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion with the creation of employee led groups, an inclusive recruitment champion scheme and a new diversity calendar.

Members welcomed the approach the Council had taken in respect of being a diverse and inclusive workplace and recommended to the Governance Committee that it added Equality, Diversity and Inclusion training to be part of Members' required learning plans.





# Environment Scrutiny Committee



## Members for the 2022/23 Municipal Year:

Councillors Gilly Latham-Reynolds (Chair), Mark Boylan, Graham Cook, Thomas Janke, Tim Nelson and Gemma Offland

## Members for the 2023/24 Municipal Year:

Councillors Mark Boylan (Chair), Paul Davis, Thomas Janke, Ian Preece, Helena Morgan, Tim Nelson and Hilda Rhodes



**Cllr Gilly Latham-Reynolds**  
Chair for 2022/23



**Cllr Mark Boylan**  
Chair for 2023/24

### Chair's Summary:

The role of the Environment Scrutiny Committee is to scrutinise and monitor the Council's environmental impact and policies. The Committee is also the designated body for scrutiny of Flood and Water Management. Some of the highlights of our work during the last two years are set out below.

### Telford and Wrekin Council Becoming Carbon Neutral & Plastic Free

As part of the Committee's continued oversight of this matter, the Committee received an update on the Council's progress towards its carbon neutral and plastic free goals in November 2022. Members heard a number of positive steps that the Authority had taken since the last update, including the impact of retrofitting works at Newport Leisure Centre. The Committee were supportive of the progress being made and expressed specific support for the retrofitting work and were keen to support any future schemes of a similar nature.

The Committee received a further update in March 2024 on the Council's efforts over the last year which highlighted the Authority's continued commitment to remove single-use plastics from operations and activities and to replace them with sustainable alternatives by the end of 2023.

Members remained keen to see the Council promote its successes in its effort to become carbon neutral and to utilise its unique position to act as a leader and convenor of businesses and other organisation within the Borough in their own efforts to become more environmentally responsible.



### Active Travel & Electric Vehicles – Workstream Update

After expressing a desire to understand what steps were being taken to improve electric infrastructure within the Borough, the Committee received an update on active travel and electric vehicle (EV) policies in Telford and Wrekin which detailed a number of initiatives and the work that had been undertaken to date including next steps. The Committee were supportive of the work but noted the need for accessibility to be considered when planning for electric vehicles. The Committee also noted the current prohibitive cost of electric vehicles for many residents and the problems posed by the evolving technology of electric vehicles potentially dispiriting residents investment for personal use.

## Shropshire Good Food Partnership

The Committee received a presentation on the work and priorities of the Shropshire Good Food Partnership. Food and the environment had been a subject of interest for the Committee for a number of years and Members were pleased to receive representatives from the Partnership at its meeting to discuss these matters. The Partnership and the Council were embarking on joint work and as a result, the Committee requested a further meeting with the organisation in the next municipal year to review the outcomes of the collaboration.



A further update was presented to the Committee at its meeting in March 2024 which included an overview of the work undertaken in relation to the Shropshire Food Trail. Members acknowledged the work of the Partnership and their links with the local community and the Authority. Members agreed for the Partnership to return on an annual basis to provide a regular update on the work undertaken to support the Council's approach towards sustainability.

## Corporate Catering



In September 2023, Members received a presentation from the Catering Group Manager summarising the work that the Corporate Catering Team had undertaken to promote sustainability and healthy eating within local schools and across Council services. Members asked a number of questions in relation to the challenges around recycling facilities, correct food waste disposals, the impact of food price increases

and the percentage of children eligible for free school meals who opted for home packed lunches.

## Climate Change Adaptation

Members received a presentation summarising the work of the Council's Climate Change Team in relation to Climate Change Adaptation which included the development of a strategic risk register to mitigate carbon emissions and further explore how services within the Council could adapt.

Members participated in a workshop where they highlighted the local concerns of climate change and provided feedback on measures already put in place including the Council's tree policy. Members agreed to receive regular updates as part of the Committee work to monitor the progression of the risk register as well as the impact that Climate Change Adaptation has on Council services and its residents.

## Biodiversity Net Gain

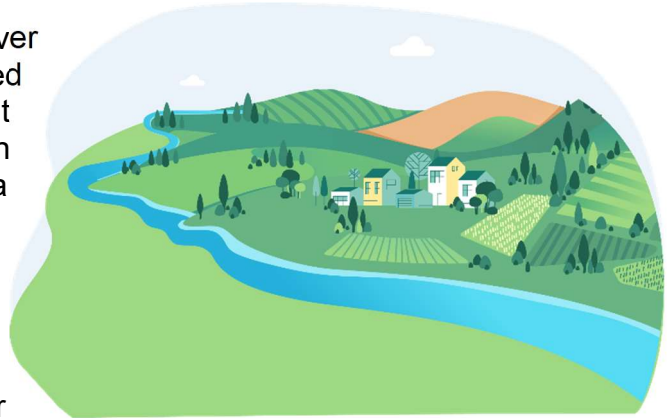
After the Committee had held a series of workshops on this subject to provide a response to a consultation held by the Council's Planning Policy, the Committee received two updates in relation to Biodiversity Net Gain within the 2023/24 municipal year which highlighted recent legislative changes to planning procedures where new applications would need to

demonstrate the level of biodiversity net gain that they would deliver to ensure the sustainability of the environment for 30 years.

Under legislative changes, new applications would be required to specify how they intend to produce at least 20% biodiverse net gain which could be delivered on-site or off-site and the Council would provide support to developers where appropriate. The level of net gain required is based on a biodiversity hierarchy set out within legislation.

## River Pollution

Concerned about reports of high levels of river pollution, the Committee invited representatives from the Environment Agency to attend a meeting. At its meeting in November 2023, the Committee received a presentation from the Environment Agency which highlighted the work that had been undertaken to monitor and tackle river pollution. The presentation also addressed the support services available to residents to report instances of sewage in water courses, including a 24/7 helpline. Members were given insight into the processes for identifying and tackling sewage across water courses and how best the Council, the Environment Agency and Severn Trent could work together. The Committee recommended to formulate a task and finish group to begin work in the next municipal year to further explore how elected Members, the Authority and external Partners can deliver efficient methods of communication to increase awareness of pollution in water courses across the Borough and mechanisms to appropriately report incidents.



to report instances of sewage in water courses, including a 24/7 helpline. Members were given insight into the processes for identifying and tackling sewage across water courses and how best the Council, the Environment Agency and Severn Trent could work together. The Committee recommended to formulate a task and finish group to begin work in the next municipal year to further explore how elected Members, the Authority and external Partners can deliver efficient methods of communication to increase awareness of pollution in water courses across the Borough and mechanisms to appropriately report incidents.

## Severn Trent Site Visit

In April 2024, Severn Trent Water invited the Committee to visit the Rushmoor Sewage Treatment Plant, one of the largest plants in the Borough. During their visit, Members were provided with an overview of how the treatment plant and pumping stations operate to keep sewage out of homes and clear the pollution from water courses across Telford and Wrekin. A tour of the plant highlighted the process for filtering contaminants and how treated water is successfully released back into water courses. Rushmoor Sewage Treatment Plant treats 3.1 billion litres of waste water every day whilst Severn Trent Water monitors and maintains 93,000 km of pipelines in the Borough.





# Health Scrutiny Committee

## Members for the 2022/23 Municipal Year:

Councillors Derek White (Chair), Nigel Dugmore, Arnold England, Veronica Fletcher, Vanessa Holt, Gemma Offland, Stephen Reynolds, Jacqui Seymour, Jean Gulliver (Co-Optee), Fiona Doran (Co-Optee), Hilary Knight (Co-Optee), and Dag Saunders (Co-Optee)



## Members for the 2023/24 Municipal Year:

Councillors Derek White (Chair), Nigel Dugmore, Stephen Handley, Luke Lewis, Gemma Offland, Ranbir Sahota, Sarah Syrda, Jenny Urey, Ollie Vickers, Simon Fogell (Co-Optee), Hilary Knight (Co-Optee) and Dag Saunders (Co-Optee)



**Cllr Derek White**  
Chair for 2022/23 and 2023/24

## Chair's Summary:

The Health Scrutiny Committee scrutinises and monitors the planning and performance of the Council's adult social care services and health service matters related to the Borough of Telford and Wrekin. Some Members of the Committee are also appointed to work jointly with colleagues from Shropshire Council on the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

## Primary Care Services – Call To Action

Several Members had reported concerns from residents regarding access into primary care services across the Borough. The Committee therefore agreed to undertake an in-depth review of the first point of access into primary care. The Committee established a Working Group, which held a series of informal workshops and evidence gathering sessions.

The Working Group heard directly from the Integrated Care System, a GP, Healthwatch Telford & Wrekin and patient representatives. The Working Group considered a model that had been implemented in Somerset. The Committee were extremely grateful to hear directly from a representative of Taunton Vale Surgery regarding their model.

In February 2023, the Committee agreed to produce an Interim Report for future consideration and recommended that further work be completed on this vital service area in the next municipal year.

In July 2023, Members received a presentation on the Interim Report for the Access into Primary Care Working Group. Representatives from the NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Integrated Care System (ICS) were in attendance to answer questions from Members. As part of the recommendations, Members agreed to form a new Working Group to consider the role of community pharmacies in primary care to continue previous work of the committee and hear from further witnesses including local GPs. The Working Group is planned to continue into the 2024/25 municipal year.

## Adult Social Care Regulation

The Committee received an update on recent changes to adult social care regulation. The Committee heard that the CQC had a new duty to independently review and assess Local Authorities and the particular areas of focus relating to this, such as the new 'OFSTED style' grading system in relation to care provision provided by the Local Authority. The Committee asked questions in relation to the survey that was required to be sent out to service users and the legislation around the charging policy.

## Integrated Care System Update

Members received two progress updates from the NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Integrated Care System (ICS). The Committee heard that an Integrated Care Strategy would be developed in partnership with the NHS, Local Authorities and local stakeholders to improve health and care outcomes and experiences for the local population.

## Hospital Discharge and Intermediate Care

The Committee received a presentation on hospital discharge and the intermediate care system. Members raised queries regarding the process of hospital discharge, funding arrangements and future planning. Members raised particular concerns around equity of service provision, in particular relating to the disparity between Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin in terms of community hospitals. Members received information on the proposed virtual wards and requested more

information be provided at a future meeting, particularly in relation to funding and allocation of support and to receive assurances around equity for residents of Telford & Wrekin.



## Virtual Wards Briefing

In July 2023, Members received a briefing from the Shropshire Community Health Trust in relation to Virtual Wards following a national mandate that these services must be introduced. Members welcomed the introduction of the service and requested further updates be provided to the committee later in the municipal year. Members recognised that the implementation of virtual wards across the Borough was still in early development and would require monitoring to ensure that the service was effective in supporting patients and welcomed the opportunity to review the effectiveness of the service in the future.

## Adult Social Care Charging Policy

The Committee were presented with the draft proposals in relation to the proposed changes to the Adult Social Care Charging Policy. The policy had not altered since 2014 and funding from Government had substantially reduced over time. The Committee noted that the demand for services had increased and made suggestions on how to minimise the impact of changes to residents across the Borough. As a result, the Committee recommended to Cabinet to consider a phased implementation of the new policy with further consultations for Town and Parish Councils and external social care organisations to help signpost clients. The Committee also recommended that a six month review of the policy be brought back to Committee to provide an update on the impact of the policy following its implementation.



## Pharmaceutical Services

In October 2023, the Committee received a presentation from the NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Integrated Care System (ICS) which provided an overview and summary of the work of Community Pharmacies in Telford and Wrekin. The main focus of Community Pharmacies is to discharge medicine services, provide consultation, provide hypertension case-finding services, provide pharmacy contraception services and to provide extended care. Members acknowledged that Community Pharmacies were an underutilised resource and highlighted to the ICS representatives the need for increased public awareness of the services offered by them. Members asked a series of questions in relation to the number of sites, services available and additional funding.



## The Better Care Fund

Members received a presentation on the Better Care Fund (BCF) which included an overview of its key priorities, the ongoing work between the Local Authority and the Integrated Care System and how the fund is subsidised. The BCF was set for a two-year period in line with National Government directives to ensure that there was a standard quality of care being delivered. At a local level, work had been undertaken to ensure the effectiveness of discharges and that the care settings patients were discharged into were suitable.

## Primary Care Recovery Access Plan

The Committee received an update from the NHS, Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Integrated Care System (ICS) on the work undertaken to improve the provision of primary care services across the Borough. By the end of March 2024, it was proposed that practices across Telford and Wrekin would become digitally inclusive and offer patients the option to book appointments via the NHS app. The Recovery Plan had been developed to support residents when accessing services. Members were keen to continue to monitor the progress of the Recovery Access Plan as part of the continued work of the Primary Care task and finish group.

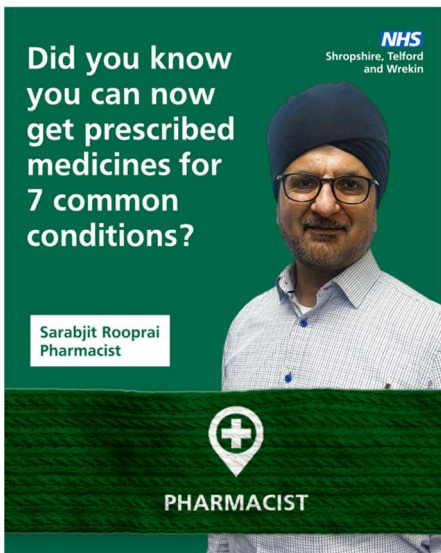
## Care Quality Commission Update

In April 2024, the Committee received an update from the Service Delivery Manager: Assurance and Transformation regarding the pending inspection by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) into Adult Social Services following the introduction of legislative changes under the Health and Care Act 2022, in which Local Authorities were to be regulated and inspected by the CQC. Local authorities would be assessed over four key themes which include working with people, providing support, ensuring safety and leadership and governance structures. Following notification in February 2024, the Council had submitted its self-assessment data which highlighted a rise in the number of people who had received care under the Local Authority and the average costs of service provision. The Committee acknowledged the steps that the Council had already taken in relation to the pending inspection.



## Big Conversation Campaign

The Committee received a presentation from the NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Integrated Care System (ICS) on the “Big Conversation” campaign launched in February 2023. The overarching aim of the campaign was to improve the experiences of local health and care services and to gather feedback to inform the development of the Joint Forward Plan (JFP). Members recognised that the campaign had a particular focus on seldom-heard groups and had illustrated a largely positive response to health care across the county. Members acknowledged areas of improvement including the availability of GP appointments and access to Pharmacy supplies.



### Pharmacy First Service

The NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Integrated Care System (ICS) provided the Committee with an update on the new Pharmacy First service launched in January 2024. Pharmacy First adds to the existing consultation service and enables community pharmacies to complete episodes of care for seven common conditions following defined clinical pathways. By 2026, new pharmacists would be able to become independent prescribers through the introduction of modern technology. Members recognised that the Pharmacy First service had supported 3,000 consultations and saved over 500 hours of GP practice’s time.

### Communications, Marketing and Engagement in the NHS

The Committee received an update on the work that the NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Integrated Care System (ICS) had undertaken in relation to communication, marketing and engagement channels. Across the winter of 2022/23 the ICS ran a successful campaign aimed at relieving pressure on A&E and GP services by signposting the public to the most appropriate service for their healthcare needs.

Post-campaign research showed an impact on changing behaviour but also demonstrated that there was more work to be done to ensure our population know which service to use and when. Data analysis showed a decrease in A&E activity, an increase in Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) activity and an increase in NHS 111 online activity leading to an overall reduction in ambulance handover delays during the campaign period.

Members were pleased that engagement with the campaign had been positive with a total number of 304 residents who had engaged with the campaign, 53% of those being ‘aware’ in comparison to 31% in 2023.





# Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee



## Members for the 2022/23 Municipal Year:

Councillors Derek White (Co-Chair, Telford & Wrekin Council), Steve Charmley (Co-Chair, Shropshire Council), Nigel Dugmore (Telford & Wrekin Council), Stephen Reynolds (Telford & Wrekin Council), Kate Halliday (Shropshire Council), Heather Kidd (Shropshire Council), Fiona Doran (Telford & Wrekin Co-Optee), Hilary Knight (Telford & Wrekin Co-Optee), Dag Saunders (Telford & Wrekin Co-Optee), Lyn Cawley (Shropshire Co-Optee), Louise Price (Shropshire Co-Optee) and David Sandbach (Shropshire Co-Optee)

## Members for the 2023/24 Municipal Year:

Councillors Ollie Vickers (Co-Chair, Telford & Wrekin Council), Geoff Elnor (Co-Chair, Shropshire Council), Nigel Dugmore (Telford & Wrekin Council), Derek White (Telford & Wrekin Council), Kate Halliday (Shropshire Council), Heather Kidd (Shropshire Council), Simon Fogell (Telford & Wrekin Co-Optee), Hilary Knight (Telford & Wrekin Co-Optee), Dag Saunders (Telford & Wrekin Co-Optee), Lyn Cawley (Shropshire Co-Optee), Louise Price (Shropshire Co-Optee) and David Sandbach (Shropshire Co-Optee)



**Cllr Derek White**  
Telford Co-Chair for 2022/23



**Cllr Ollie Vickers**  
Telford Co-Chair for 2023/24

### Co-Chairs' Summary:

A Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee is required where a relevant NHS body consults more than one local authority about substantial reconfiguration proposals.

Telford & Wrekin Council and Shropshire Council have delegated the health scrutiny power to this committee for health issues which cross boundaries for both authorities.

The Committee has held 11 formal meetings over the last two years, in addition to a number of informal planning and briefing meetings with officers and healthcare professionals.

The Committee has overseen a number of different areas of healthcare such as the scrutiny of the Integrated Care System, the progress of the Ockenden Report actions and the Winter Plan from the NHS.

### Winter Plan & Urgent and Emergency Care Action Plan

The Committee received an update on the Winter Plan and the Urgent and Emergency Care (UEC) Improvement Plan for 2022/23. Members were informed that following the coronavirus pandemic, the profile of patients had changed and the impact this was having on healthcare delivery.

Members heard that there were three key areas of change in relation to the UEC; pre-hospital improvement, in hospital improvement and discharge improvement. Members raised concerns regarding deficits already present within the system and the impact this would have on patient care going forward.

### Ambulance Summit Update

Members were provided with an overview of the Ambulance Summit which had been attended by local Members of Parliament. Discussions had taken place around delays in ambulance discharges at both Princess Royal Hospital and the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital (Shrewsbury & Telford Hospital Trust, SaTH). The Committee requested that the plans from this summit be shared with them when they were available.



## Integrated Care System

Members received two updates on the Integrated Care System (ICS) and the development of the Integrated Care Board. Members raised a number of concerns around primary health care and mental health care and stressed their importance when developing the Integrated Care Strategy. Members considered that tackling health inequalities should be the top priority of the ICS and requested that Scrutiny needed to be consulted regularly during the development of the strategy and in its ongoing work.



**Integrated  
Care System**  
Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin

When the draft strategy returned to the Committee, Members discussed the language used within the report and requested clarification on definitions be included within the strategy.

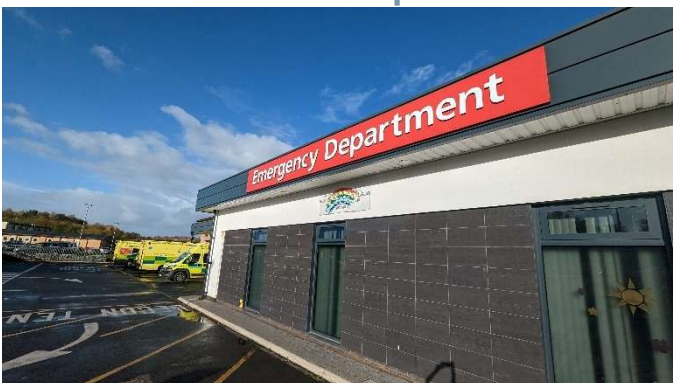
## Ockenden Review Update

The Committee received an update on the Ockenden Review of maternity services at the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital Trust following the publication of the final report in March 2022. The Committee requested regular updates on the progress of the implementation of the recommendations of the report.

Members raised questions about midwifery training across the country, as further reports from other Trusts and Hospitals around the country were raising similar concerns and issues.

The Committee asked a number of questions about staffing and culture within the Trust and requested that this specifically be brought back to the Committee for further consideration.

## Prevention, Primary Care, Urgent and Emergency Care, and Discharge Task and Finish Group



Members received the report of Shropshire Council's Task and Finish Group in relation to Primary Care, Urgent and Emergency Care, and Discharge. The report focused on the pressures on urgent and emergency care within the healthcare system. The Group had concluded that progress for the system could only be made through a system-wide approach.

Members requested further information be provided in relation to timelines for the bed utilisation exercise. Members asked for updates on the winter plan ahead of next year's winter season.

## SaTH Maternity Services – Our Improvement Journey

The Committee received a presentation from the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital Trust (SaTH) on the improvement journey within maternity services. Members received an update on the progress of the recommendations from the Ockenden Review, particularly in relation to the culture of the organisation.

SaTH had invested in psychological support for staff, in addition to support available for patients, parents and family. The Committee asked questions in relation to staffing, both for the level of staffing and the seniority of staff available at all times. Members discussed staff morale and the impact the Ockenden Report had on the team at SaTH.

Members requested further information on the funding of maternity services, and it was agreed that this would be provided at a later date.

### Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Joint Forward Plan

The Committee received a presentation from the NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Integrated Care System (ICS) on the draft Joint Forward Plan (JFP). The Joint Forward Plan is a rolling 5 year system plan created to deliver the Integrated Care Strategy set out by the Integrated Care Partnership (ICP). Members asked a series of questions in relation to public engagement, community pharmacy provision and the transition between primary and secondary care services.

A further update of the Joint Forward Plan is expected to be presented to each Local Authority's Health & Wellbeing Boards in Summer 2024.

### Winter Planning Update

At its meeting in July 2023, Members received an annual update from representatives of NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Integrated Care System (ICS) on Winter Planning which included a summary of lessons learnt and focused on draft proposals for the upcoming winter period for 2023/24.

A further update was requested by the Committee which was presented at its meeting in February 2024 following the conclusion of the winter period.

### Primary Care and Community Pharmacy Update

Following legislative changes in relation to the provision of Primary Care, the Committee held two informal briefing sessions in August 2023. Members were provided with an update on recent changes to Pharmacy, Optometry and Dentistry, as the responsibility for the provision of these services had returned to the local Integrated Care Systems (ICSs).



### Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Hospital Trust Performance Review

In October 2023, the Committee received a presentation from the Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Hospital Trust (SaTH) and the Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Integrated Care Board (ICB) on the current performance levels at Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals and how they are being supported by the local and national health care system.

Members asked a number of questions in relation to quality improvement, the current CQC rating, performance levels and service development.

### **Urgent Emergency Care Update**

At its meeting in February 2024, the Committee received an update from the NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Integrated Care System (ICS) on Urgent Emergency Care. The presentation focused on four key areas including performance data, operational plan components and an overarching review of winter planning and virtual wards.

Members raised a number of concerns in relation to length of stays for patients, ambulance handover times, patient discharge and bed capacity.

In light of representatives who were unable to attend the meeting, the Committee requested for an additional meeting of the Joint HOSC to be arranged for April 2024.

### **Rural Proofing in Health and Care Task and Finish Group**

Members received the report of Shropshire Council's Task and Finish Group in relation to rural proofing in Health and Care. The report outlined the group's research into options to effectively 'rural proof' the amendment or introduction of strategies, plans, policies and provision in health and care in Shropshire.

# Looking ahead to 2024/25

Looking ahead to the new municipal year, the work of scrutiny remains as vital as ever. With a new intake of Members in May 2023, residents can continue to expect new insights and perspectives to come to the fore, providing cross-party overview of the key policies and partners that matter to all of Telford and Wrekin's residents, visitors, and workers.

## **Scrutiny Team Structure:**

Anthea Lowe – Director: Policy & Governance

Richard Phillips – Service Delivery Manager: Legal & Democracy

Anna Plummer – Democracy Manager

Paige Starkey – Senior Democracy Officer (Scrutiny) (Statutory Scrutiny Officer)

Sam Yarnall – Democracy Officer (Scrutiny)

Ashley Hickman – Democracy & Scrutiny Assistant

## **Further Information**

To find out more about Scrutiny visit: [www.telford.gov.uk/scrutiny](http://www.telford.gov.uk/scrutiny)

To find meeting dates and agendas for scrutiny meetings visit: [www.telford.gov.uk/meetings](http://www.telford.gov.uk/meetings)

The Scrutiny team can be contacted at [scrutiny@telford.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@telford.gov.uk)