



FULL COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Full Council held on Thursday 17 July 2025 at 6.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, Southwater One, Telford, TF3 4JG

Present: Councillors E Aston, S Bentley, K T Blundell, M Boylan, A J Burford, S P Burrell, E M Callear, L D Carter, C Chikandamina, E Davies, P Davis, 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 Jhawar, J Jones, J Kaur, L Lewis, G Luter, A D McClements, R Mehta, K Middleton, H Morgan, T J Nelson, R A Overton, N Page, L Parker, S J Reynolds, S A W Reynolds, H Rhodes, R Sahota, P J Scott, S Syrda, G Thomas, P Thomas, J Thompson, R Tyrrell, J Urey, O Vickers, P Watling and D R W White.

Apologies for Absence: Councillors G H Cook, S Davies, F Doran, G C W Latham-Reynolds, I Preece, K L Tomlinson, W L Tomlinson and K Tonks.

18 Prayers and Reflections

Gurdit Singh, from Sangat Parchar Sabha Gurdwara from Oakengates, said prayers.

19 Declarations of Interest

None.

20 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Special and Annual Meetings of the Council held on 15 May 2025, be confirmed as correct records and signed by the Mayor.

21 Leader's Report & Announcements

The Leader of the Council made the following announcements:

(i) Successes Across the Borough

The Leader said that as the summer break approached, he wanted to take this opportunity to celebrate the many successes across the Borough. He said that the role of Members was always to serve the residents of Telford and Wrekin to the best of their abilities, and it



was heartening to see individuals and organisations in the community recognised for their contributions.

The Leader said that, on the back of Telford and Wrekin Interfaith Council and Sustainable Newport, both had received well deserved King's Awards for Voluntary Services at the end of last year, and that, in May this year, it had been very pleasing to see Fabwell Steel Products based in Madeley given the honour of King's Award for Enterprise for sustainable development, which again showed how Telford businesses were leading the way.

The Leader went on to say that, in the even more recent King's Birthday Honours, the Council was proud to learn that Telford-based recipients, Richard Howells, founder of Bronze Software Labs, had received an OBE for services to business and technology (another example of innovation and opportunity thriving in the Borough); Christine Still of Newport had been awarded an MBE for her dedication to gymnastics and sports broadcasting, and had inspired generations through coaching and commentary; and John McGlasson, Training Development Officer at RAF Cosford, who had received the British Empire Medal for his service to defence and charitable fundraising.

(ii) Armed Forces Community

The Leader said that everyone was proud of the Borough's strong Armed Forces community and that this week had seen the soft launch of the Christopher Turley Armed Forces Community Hub, a one-stop-shop for serving personnel, veterans, and their families. He said that this initiative strengthened the Council's ongoing support and commitment to those who served.

(iii) Council of the Year 2025

The Leader said that this evening's meeting marked the first Full Council meeting since being named Council of the Year 2025 at the prestigious Local Government Chronicle Awards. He said that this was a remarkable achievement and a testament to the dedication of its members, staff, partners, and residents and confirmed that the work being done in Telford and Wrekin was exceptional.

The Leader went on to say that the Council had demonstrated a sustained track record of success and was one of only a few authorities to have received back-to-back 'outstanding' ratings for children's services from Ofsted. Also, he said, the Council's SEND



services had received the highest inspection outcome from both Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission.

The Leader went on to say that the Council's work around child sexual exploitation remained its top priority. He said that in respect of partnering with individuals with lived experience, the Council had been recognised nationally for its approach to tackling this horrific crime and that its efforts had recently earned a national award. He said that, later this evening, members would be asked to support the Council's call for the new National Inquiry to include Telford and Wrekin and that the Council welcomed a government finally committed to addressing this horrific crime.

(iv) Community Safety

The Leader said that community safety was central to building a prosperous Borough. He said that, from the Telford Land Deal, which had brought over £1 billion in inward investment, to Invest Telford support and Council-led Growth Fund investing £65 million to create jobs, the Council had a compelling story to tell. He said that other authorities were keen to learn from Telford and Wrekin's success, including the recent announcement that Rheinmetall would produce tank gun barrels in Hadley, a development the Council's Administration backed. He said that the Council's team had beat competition from five other areas to secure this investment.

(v) Environment

The Leader said that while development continues, the Council's environmental efforts had also earned national recognition. He said that the Borough had been named among the top 20 greenest places to live in the UK, and this week had won a record eight Green Flag awards for its parks and green spaces.

(vi) Service Provision

The Leader said that day-to-day services remained a priority. He said the Council was proud of its clean streets and well-maintained parks and was one of only 10 councils that still offered free year-round garden waste collections. He said the Council also provided free council car parking and had capped local bus fares at £2, all while maintaining the lowest Council Tax rate in the Midlands and among the lowest nationally.



(vii) Transport Infrastructure

The Leader said that, from individuals receiving King's Honours to the Council's staff delivering outstanding public service, the Borough had much to be proud of. He said that, just weeks after being named Council of the Year, the Council had received confirmation from the Government that the M54–M6 link road had been given the go-ahead. This, he said, was a landmark moment for the Borough, supporting economic growth and cutting journey times for commuters and it was thanks to an MP for Telford and a Government keen to partner with the Council to continue moving this fantastic Borough forward.

In conclusion, the Leader said that, for those heading away this summer, know that when they returned to Telford and Wrekin, they were coming home to a nationally leading Borough, one that was thriving, ambitious, and very much on the move.

22 **Mayor's Announcements**

The Mayor drew Members' attention to the list of engagements she had undertaken since the last meeting of the Council in May 2025, which had been circulated.

She said that, in the whirlwind weeks since being elected Mayor, she had the privilege of attending a glorious mix of events across the Borough, a highlight of which, she said, had been celebrating the Telford Samaritans' 50th Anniversary, which, she said, had been a truly moving occasion.

The Mayor said that, just days into the role, she had found herself sitting on the back of a motorcycle at the opening of the True North Bikers Hub in Donnington.

She said she had also had the honour of meeting one of the remarkable charities she was supporting this year, "Hillbrae", along with the Deputy Mayor Councillor Nathalie Page, and had witnessed their vital work firsthand, which had been both humbling and genuinely inspiring.

The Mayor said that, over the past few months, she had had the joy of connecting with residents, community groups, event organisers, and local businesses. These encounters, she said, had been both enlightening and uplifting, and she was looking forward to meeting many more such people in the future.

The Mayor said that last Thursday, she had attended the VIP Crucial Crew Day, which marked its impressive 30-year milestone. She said the event had



been engaging, informative, and gave an insight into the new scenarios being introduced this year as well as a brilliant opportunity to chat with the dedicated partners and facilitators who made these sessions such a success.

In conclusion, the Mayor thanked everyone for your warm messages welcoming her to her year in office. She said she was excited for the year ahead, especially if some of it involved unexpected motorcycle rides.

23 Public Questions

The following two questions from the public had been received.

- (i) The following question to Councillor Kelly Middleton, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Healthier Communities was submitted by Mr Mark Webster:

"Despite the perceived U-turn on disability welfare plans, there is still widespread condemnation from many councils, public bodies, and 86 charities, will Council commit to opposing the disability welfare cuts and advocate for their reversal to protect our local services, budgets and our vulnerable residents?"

In response, Councillor Kelly Middleton, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Healthier Communities said that as part of the Welfare Reform Bill (Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payment Bill) the Government had, during the passage of the Bill, listened and reviewed the impact on people receiving various benefits in order to ensure the balance of need and ensure an equitable system to support people with varying needs to live as independently as possible.

She said that the specific impact on people in Telford would depend on how these national proposals were implemented locally and how they interacted with existing local services and support systems. It was, she said, important for individuals in Telford to stay informed about these changes and to participate in any consultations or opportunities to make their voices heard. She said the Council would be reviewing its own discretionary welfare support and hardship policies and working with local voluntary sector partners to ensure people were supported if there was a change to their benefits".

Councillor Middleton shared the following information from the Government's website:

New welfare legislation to ensure there were robust protections in place to support the most vulnerable and severely disabled.



Nearly 4 million households to benefit from uprating of Universal Credit standard rate, the largest, permanent real-terms increase to basic out of work support since 1980, according to the IFS.

More than 200,000 people with most severe, lifelong conditions to be protected from future reassessment for Universal Credit entitlement.

13-week period of financial support for those affected by PIP changes as part of upcoming welfare reforms.

Came alongside £1 billion employment support package that would unlock opportunity and grow the economy as part of the Plan for Change.

The Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payment Bill would provide 13-weeks of additional financial security to existing claimants affected by changes to the PIP daily living component, including those who lost their eligibility to Carers Allowance and the carer's element of Universal Credit.

The 13-week additional protection would give people who would be affected by the changes time to adapt, access new, tailored employment support, and plan for their future once they were reassessed and their entitlement ended.

This transitional cover was one of the most generous ever and more than three times the length of protection provided for the transition from DLA to PIP.

This Government inherited a broken social security system, with costs spiralling at an unsustainable rate and millions of people trapped out of work. The case for change was stark:

Since the pandemic, the number of PIP awards had more than doubled – up from 13,000 a month to 34,000 a month. That was around 1,000 people signing on to PIP every day – that was roughly the size of Leicester signing up every year.

The surge had been largely driven by a substantial increase in the number of people who reported anxiety and depression as their main condition. Before the pandemic (in 2019), 2,500 people a month were awarded PIP for these conditions, this had more than tripled to 8,200 a month in 2023.

Almost 1 million young people – 1 in 8 - were not in education, employment or training.



1-in-10 people of working age were now claiming a sickness or disability benefit. Without reform, the number of working age people on disability benefits was set to more than double this decade to 4.3 million.

Spending on working age disability and incapacity benefits was up £20 billion since the pandemic and was set to increase by almost that much again by the end of this Parliament, to a staggering £70 billion a year.

In conclusion, Councillor Middleton said that was why, through the introduction of this Bill; the Government was fixing the broken social security system so it supported those who could work to do so, while protecting those who could not - putting welfare spending on a more sustainable path to unlock growth as part of its Plan for Change.

- (ii) The following question to Councillor Richard Overton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Highways, Housing and Enforcement was submitted by Mr Piers Ashdown:

Incremental unauthorised development, planning creep, is plaguing rural communities. Creep is difficult to enforce against and pre-empts formal planning decisions. Employed as a deliberate “get around”, it is draining of resources and undermines the integrity of the Local Plan. What is being done to proactively get control of this?

In response, Councillor Richard Overton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Highways, Housing and Enforcement said that the Council took its responsibilities regarding planning enforcement extremely seriously.

Each year, he said, the Council received between 700 and 800 complaints, all of which were thoroughly investigated. He said that these cases ranged from developments carried out without planning permission to breaches of conditions attached to approved permissions, as well as other responsibilities of the Local Planning Authority.

Councillor Overton said that, while the Council’s officers worked diligently, it was not possible for them to monitor every site at all times and, therefore, they relied upon the support of elected members and the public to report suspected breaches of planning control.

In conclusion, Councillor Overton said that every report the Council received was carefully assessed and, where appropriate, investigated in line with the Council’s enforcement policies.



24 Councillor Questions On Notice

The following questions were asked under Council Procedure Rule 6.2.2:

- (a) Councillor Thomas Janke asked the following question of Councillor Shirley Reynolds, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Learning, Employment and Skills:

“In 2023, after months of effective cross-party collaboration through scrutiny, and a clear commitment from the then Cabinet Member for Education, the Council appeared more than ready to pilot 'School Streets' schemes across the Borough. Given the well-documented benefits of these schemes for children's safety, mental health, and the environment, why has such a pilot not been implemented? What specific barriers prevented its rollout, and how does the Council intend to honour the previous commitment to progressing this initiative?”

In response, Councillor Shirley Reynolds, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Learning, Employment and Skills thanked Councillor Janke for his question and said that, firstly, she wanted to reassure the chamber that, as a result of the focused work from scrutiny, the Council had very much progressed activity to promote active travel to school, reduce car usage and improve road safety for all at the school gate. She recognised the work of the cross-party group on the initiative, School Streets, that took place during 2021, however the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee later determined to implement an alternative scheme, called A New School Journey, given the wider benefits this approach would bring. A New School Journey, she said, encompassed multiple activities that promoted active travel to school over and above the offer that would have been provided via School Streets, which largely focused on road closures. She said that, founded on data and intelligence about journeys to and from school, the Council had worked with a number of schools including Newport Infant and Junior Schools, Lawley Primary School, Ladygrove Primary, Teagues Bridge, Meadows Primary and Aqueduct Primary to support the transition to travelling actively to school and ditching the car. She said members may recall recent news where over 300 pupils from Lawley Primary school walked to school on one day, with 50 of those joining Telford's first ever Bike Bus. Councillor Reynolds went on to say that the Council continued to support residents in taking a new journey to school, which continued to grow in popularity. She said the Council's work had not and did not stop here, and it was currently working with Lantern Academy and Muxton Primary who were signed up for next academic year with



more interested to build on the successes demonstrated to date. She said that this was a clear demonstration of the Council's commitment to improve outcomes for children and young people and their active travel choices to and from school and she thanked those members involved in the initial scrutiny work on School Streets from which the Council's successful New Journey to School project was founded.

By way of a supplementary question, Councillor Janke asked whether the Cabinet Member would be willing to recommit the Council's pilot to school streets schemes in the future to unlock the significant potential they offered, not just the safer journeys but for healthier communities overall and in the spirit of collaboration and learning from best practice, would she also consider engaging with the new Liberal Democrat administration at Shropshire Council who had successfully pursued and implemented several such schemes, many of which were now permanent features delivering clear benefits to both pupils and local residents.

In response, Councillor Reynolds said that this administration was really clear, that knew where it was going and what it was doing, and this was not just about shutting some streets to stop cars going there, which could divide the community with some in favour of it and others not. She said that the Administration was working with the users, the schools and the children and was re-educating the parents, which was how this should be approached. Councillor Reynolds went on to say that this approach fitted into the Council's Health and Well-being Strategy, which school streets did not. She said the Administration was taking a holistic approach to the matter, which was better for the children, for the school and the whole neighbourhood.

In conclusion, Councillor Reynolds said that it would be really helpful when opposition members required the Cabinet to undertake certain projects then they should have voted for these in the Budget.

- (b) Councillor Raj Mehta asked the following question of Councillor Ollie Vickers, Cabinet Member for the Economy and Transport:

"Please can the Cabinet Member for the Economy and Transport provide an update on the council run bus services, including on how we can boost public transport connectivity in communities like mine in Horsehay and Lightmoor?"



In response, Councillor Ollie Vickers, Cabinet Member for the Economy and Transport, thanked Councillor Mehta for his question and said that members would be aware of the excellent progress this Council had made in providing affordable and well-connected bus services for residents across the borough.

He said that the Council first launched the work express 100 service in December 2022, which now complete, provided an incredible 4,000 passenger trips a month, connecting residents to education, employment and services. Since then, he said, the Council had continued to evolve and grow its bus services, which now totalled six separate routes across the borough from service 99 to 104. Councillor Vickers was pleased to confirm that these services had completed over 600,000 passenger trips in the last few years, which is fantastic news.

Councillor Vickers said that all this enhanced connectivity came with being among the lowest bus fares in the country at £2 an adult and £1 a child. He said that the Council had worked hard to maintain these fares against a backdrop of changes to government policy in increasing the fare cap to £3.

Councillor Vickers said that the Council would continue to evolve its bus services and, next week, would see further improvements to routes and timetabling and all with enhancing connectivity and founded on resident feedback. Earlier this year, he said, the Council launched its Demand Responsive Transport service, which linked residents of the Gorge to Madeley and the Town Centre, and, last month, the Council expanded that connectivity to Princess Royal Hospital and would continue to do so. Councillor Vickers was pleased to confirm that, as a council that listened to residents, from September, it would be rolling out the demand responsive transport offer to a number of residents of Horsehay and Lightmoor that currently did not have access to a public bus service, with low cost £2 fare for adults and that further details would follow shortly.

By way of a supplementary question, Councillor Mehta asked the Cabinet Member if he could update the Chamber as to changes to bus services that would be rolled out in Telford and Wrekin from next week.

In response, Councillor Vickers said that the Administration was redefining public transport across the Borough by connecting communities with affordable and reliable bus services. He said that from Monday 21 July, the Council would roll-out a series of service enhancements across its Council-run network, which would include



more frequent buses on key routes, improved early evening and weekend coverage, better access to timetable information, clearer and more accessible service and all with the £2 fare cap. He said that many of the improvements to the Council-run bus services the Administration was making next week, was as a result of feedback received from residents on the bus survey, which was conducted at the end of 2024.

Councillor Vickers said that he was proud of the collaborative process the Council had been on together and the fact that residents had been able to play their part in shaping the bus service they would like to see across Telford and Wrekin. He said that this proved that the Council was delivering on the priorities of residents across the borough.

Councillor Vickers said that Councillor Bill Tomlinson would be pleased to hear that the Administration was delivering on one of its promises to reinstate the hourly service on the 99 route, which would give more certainty and connectivity to residents there. He said it was a promise kept and a promise delivered and that the raft of changes would also include an earlier timetable and improved reliability on the Work Express 100 service, which, again, he said was a promise kept and a promise delivered.

More regular service on the 102, as well as a brand-new Saturday service to help people get around at the weekend, a promise kept, and a promise delivered. He said that this Labour Administration was redefining public transport across Telford and Wrekin and was only just getting started.

- (c) Councillor Andrew Eade asked the following question of Councillor Lee Carter, Leader of the Council:

“At an earlier meeting of this Full Council on 27 February this year, the Administration tabled a report a report concerning CSE markers for the year to date.

Having noted that referrals to the Council’s Cate Team had significantly increased and that eight months figures had been omitted from the report, I requested as an elected member and Corporate Parent, that they be made available to me.

Despite the Leader of the Council stating that he would look into the matter, I have heard nothing over the past four months and would ask Councillor Carter why he hasn’t responded?”



In response, Councillor Lee Carter, Leader of the Council said that he had been clear, over many years, that CSE should not be used as a political football and he knew that colleagues in this Chamber agreed. He said he assumed that Councillor Eade was not deliberately misrepresenting the contents of the report he referred to in an effort to be political but, rather that he had misunderstood the report that was presented in February. Councillor Carter went on to say that contrary to what Councillor Eade had said, there was not a significant increase in referrals to the CATE team for CSE. He said that, in 2023/24, there were 54 cases progressed to the CATE team, which compared to 65 as an average figure across the three-year baseline report covering 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23. He said the case was that this represented a higher percentage of the number of overall referrals into the Council where CSE had been identified as a concern. Councillor Carter said this was testament to the work that this Council, and its officers had carried out to make sure that the Council took a robust approach to tackling CSE and gave him assurance that the Council was providing more intensive support to those at risk of CSE. He added that the number of those identified as having been exploited, went down in the 23/24 reporting period, compared to the average across the three-year baseline report. He said that reports into the Council for CSE concerns accounted for 1.2% of all referrals compared with 1.4% against the baseline report.

Councillor Carter said that, in terms of the omission of eight months of data, again, this was not correct and that Councillor Eade ran the risk of misleading the borough's residents. Councillor Carter said the report was a report on annual data and so was reporting the figures in the previous reporting year, which was 2023/24. The data for 2023/24, he said, was a full year of data, not a four-month period so to suggest otherwise was irresponsible.

Councillor Carter said for those, such as Councillor Eade, who had a deep interest in matters relating to CSE, he would now know that since that meeting, Baroness Casey had reported her findings on a national level and had made a recommendation that authorities should report data in the way that this Council did. He said that Baroness Casey also made recommendations about improving the data that was available and, since then, the Council's hardworking officers had been working to ensure that the figures for 2024/25 took into account those recommendations wherever possible, recognising that some of it required input from partners such as police and health. In conclusion, Councillor Carter said that the Council had taken that approach because it was important to it that it adopt its approach to reflect any learning it could and that was what was important. He said that work was ongoing.



By way of a supplementary question, Councillor Eade asked whether Councillor Carter would make this information available to him, yes, or no?

In response, Councillor Carter said that there had been no omission of data from the report in question and, as Leader, he had produced more reports on CSE to this Chamber than he (Councillor Eade) had done in the four years he had been Leader of the Council and that he would continue to do so.

(d)

Councillor

Stephen Bentley asked the following question of Councillor Richard Overton, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Highways, Housing and Enforcement:

"Can the Cabinet member responsible, provide a total and full breakdown of how much council tax or government grant is currently being spent in Telford and Wrekin to support refugees and asylum seekers?"

In response, Councillor Richard Overton, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Highways, Housing and Enforcement said that the Home Office was responsible for refugees and asylum. He was sure members would appreciate that the Council spends none of its council tax revenue on supporting national immigration programmes.

In relation to government grants, Councillor Overton said that the Council received a number of grants, for example, transport, public health, social care, education to name a few areas and, as with council tax, grants were not broken down into specific demographics.

By way of a supplementary question, Councillor Bentley asked Councillor Overton to confirm how this correlated in the alarming rise in the last six years of residents in the borough of 99.65% now in receipt of personal independent payments (PIP), which placed Telford and Wrekin, as the local authority with the largest increase in the West Midlands.

In response, Councillor Overton said that the question was now not related to asylum, but to PIP, which had nothing to do with the first question.



- (e) The published question from Councillor Stephen Bentley to Councillor Carolyn Healy, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, Planning and Sustainability was WITHDRAWN.

25 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.

26 2024/25 Financial Outturn Report

Councillor Z Hannington, Cabinet Member for Finance, Governance and Customer Services, presented the report of the Director for Finance, People and IDT, which presented the final outturn position for the year in respect of the Council's revenue budget, capital programme and income collection and sought the necessary approvals to comply with financial regulations.

RESOLVED – that:

- (a) the performance against the 2024/25 Net Revenue budget, which resulted in outturn being within budget by £91k, be noted;
- (b) the revenue outturn position for 2024/25, which remained subject to audit by the Council's external auditors, and related virements in Appendix C, be noted;
- (c) The transfers to reserves, and associated approval to the relevant members of the Senior Management Team, following consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member to spend the reserves detailed in Appendix E;
- (d) In relation to the Income/Budget equalisation reserve, to grant delegated authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Section 151 Officer, to approve its use;
- (e) The capital outturn position and related supplementary estimates, re-phasing and virements shown in Appendix D and as summarised in the report, be noted;
- (f) Authority be delegated to the Director of Finance, People and IDT to make any changes required, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, Governance and Customer Services;
- (g) The performance against income targets, be noted; and
- (h) The suite of Medium-Term Financial Strategy reports approved by Full Council on 27 February 2025 be the Council's Efficiency Strategy for 2025/26, to enable new capital receipts to be used to fund the revenue costs of transformation and efficiency projects which would support the future financial position.



27 2025/26 Financial Monitoring Report

Councillor Z Hannington, Cabinet Member for Finance, Governance and Customer Services, presented the report of the Director for Finance, People and IDT, which provided Council with the latest financial monitoring position for the year relating to the revenue budget, capital programme and income collection.

RESOLVED – that:

- (a) the 2025/26 revenue budget position, which showed that the Council was projecting to be within budget at year end, without having to use the Budget Strategy or General Fund reserves, be noted;**
- (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; and**
- (c) the collection rates for NNDR, council tax and sales ledger, be noted.**

28 Councillor Leave of Absence

Councillor Z Hannington, Cabinet Member for Finance, Governance and Customer Services, presented the report of the Director for Policy and Governance (Monitoring Officer), which sought Council's approval to a leave of absence for Councillor Karen Tomlinson, owing to caring responsibilities, until 16 January 2026.

RESOLVED – that a leave of absence for Councillor Karen Tomlinson, for the purposes of section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 until 16 January 2026, be approved.

29 Governance Committee - Amendments to the Constitution

Councillor Z Hannington, Cabinet Member for Finance, Governance and Customer Services, presented the report of the Director for Policy and Governance (Monitoring Officer), which updated Members on the significant piece of work undertaken to review and update the Constitution and sought approval for the adoption of the reviewed and updated Constitution.

The matter had been considered by the Council's Governance Committee on 15 July and recommended to Council for adoption.



RESOLVED – that the revised and updated Constitution, as detailed at Appendix A, be approved.

30 Motions on Notice

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

“This Council welcomes and supports the ongoing work of the Government to address Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) including commissioning the Casey Review, noting the previous Conservative Government's failure to implement any of the recommendations from the National Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) its failure to insist that the National Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse visit Telford and it's failure to establish a standalone Inquiry with statutory powers in Telford 2018.

This Council resolves to share its best practice and learning from the Independent Inquiry into Telford's Child Sexual Exploitation (which it commissioned and funded) and pledges to support the Government and other Councils using the recommendations and work from that Inquiry which are highly regarded.

This Council notes the letter from the Leader to the Home Secretary unequivocally stating the Council's support for the new National Inquiry, that it would welcome the National Inquiry to include Telford & Wrekin and that it will comply with any requests arising from the Casey Report and the subsequent National Inquiry.

This Council continues to pay tribute to the victims and survivors of CSE and continues to welcome the work of those with Lived Experience who are helping the Council to tackle CSE. This Council continues to resolve doing everything it can to provide the best possible local response to tackling this horrific and heinous crime.”

Councillor K Middleton seconded the motion.

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

RESOLVED – that the motion be approved.

- (b) Councillor Richard Overton moved, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 7, the following Motion:

“This Council is deeply concerned by the decision of the Conservative Police and Crime Commissioner to reduce the hours during which



Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) are deployed, particularly after 8pm.

Residents and businesses have already expressed concerns regarding the visibility of police and PCSOs. These concerns are likely to intensify with fewer PCSOs present on the streets during evening hours.

This Council has been a key partner with the police in reducing crime and antisocial behaviour through its Safer Stronger Communities project. Since 2021, the Council has invested £5.5 million in this initiative, complementing police efforts and enhancing community safety. The proposed reduction in PCSO working hours threatens to undermine the success of this project and may be perceived as a step backward in community policing, potentially increasing feelings of insecurity among residents.

The Council notes that the new Labour government has committed to providing real-term increases in police funding annually over the next five years. This stands in contrast to previous cuts to policing, particularly neighbourhood policing, under the Conservative government.

Since 2016, the budget for the Police and Crime Commissioner's office has increased by £7 million—from £5 million in 2016 to £12 million in the current year—while frontline services face reductions.

The Council believes that every individual has the right to feel safe in their community. A visible police presence is fundamental to achieving this. Reducing PCSO hours will negatively impact community safety and may erode public confidence in local policing.

The Council resolves to:

- Call on the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable to withdraw the proposal to reduce PCSO hours after 8pm and to identify the £350,000 required to maintain current PCSO staffing levels, as this reduction is the equivalent of 25,735 PCSO hours of policing and this can be done by reducing waste and administrative costs, including those associated with Hindlip Hall and the Police and Crime Commissioner's office.
- Write to fellow West Mercia councils requesting their support in opposing this proposal and to collectively advocate for the restoration of full PCSO hours.



- Call on Councillors to encourage residents to sign Shaun Davies MP's petition demanding that the proposal to reduce PCSO hours be scrapped."

The Motion was seconded by Councillor N England.

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

RESOLVED – that the motion be approved.

- (c) Councillor Andrew Eade moved, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 7, the following Motion:

"As this Council's Labour Administration operates the Cabinet system of decision making it is vital that the Scrutiny process is adequately resourced and resolves that funding is made available immediately to repair the current broken system."

Councillor G Thomas seconded the Motion.

Following a robust debate, the motion was lost by a majority vote.

RESOLVED – that the motion be not approved.

- (d) Councillor Andrew Eade moved, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 7, the following Motion:

"This Council notes with dismay the Labour Government's decision not to mandate the inclusion of at least one hollow "Swift Brick" to provide nesting facilities for endangered birds in this country. This Council further resolves to write to Housing Minister, Matthew Pennycook, to request he reverses his incoherent decision and further resolve that Telford & Wrekin Council formally request every developer in the Borough to include at least one "Swift Brick" in every dwelling."

Councillor R Tyrrell seconded the motion.

By way of an amendment, with additional words shown in bold and underlined, Councillor Carolyn Healy, seconded by Councillor Giles Luter, moved that:

This Council notes **the wide-ranging provisions for enhancing the natural environment contained within the Environment Act, The Planning and Infrastructure Bill and the National Planning Policy Framework, where specific reference is made to 'incorporating features which support priority for threatened species such as**



swifts, bats and hedgehogs', and updated Natural Environment Planning Practice Guidance which encourages the use of swift bricks.

This council also notes the Labour Government's decision, **in line with the position of the previous Conservative government**, not to mandate the inclusion of at least one hollow "Swift Brick" **in new builds over 5m** to provide nesting facilities for endangered birds in this country.

This council recognises that biodiversity enhancements are needed in all developments and that swift bricks can be beneficial to other bird species. This Council **therefore** resolves to write to Housing Minister, Matthew Pennycook, to request he reverses his decision.

This council further resolves that Telford & Wrekin Council, **in line with the draft local plan policies**, formally request every developer in the Borough to include **habitat improvements including** "Swift Bricks", **bird and bat boxes, tree planting and so on, in every development and also resolves to develop a Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document to provide further guidance to developers.**

Following debate and being put to the vote, the amendment was declared carried and became the substantive motion.

Following a robust debate, the substantive motion was carried by a majority vote.

RESOLVED – that the motion, as amended, be approved.

- (e) Councillor Andrew Eade moved, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 7, the following Motion:

"This Council notes with huge concern the Labour Government's recent and chaotic major policy U-Turns and agrees to write to the current Chancellor, Rachael Reeves, to urge her not to increase taxation to fill the Government created fiscal black hole to the detriment of our community in the Borough."

Councillor S Burrell seconded the motion.

Following a robust debate, the motion was lost by a majority vote.

RESOLVED – that the motion be not carried.



- (f) Councillor Raechel Tyrrell moved, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 7, the following Motion:

“Following Wolverhampton University’s announcement of their Priorslee site’s closure during July this year, this council remains committed to the site’s use for education and community purposes and that it will protect the grade II listed Priorslee Hall for community use.”

Councillor S Burrell seconded the motion.

On the consent of both the mover and seconder of the motion, the motion was **WITHDRAWN**.

- (g) Councillor Ollie Vickers moved, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 7, the following Motion:

“This Council commits to support Lingen Davies in its fundraising efforts as part of the Sunflower Appeal which will see the development of the Lingen Davies Cancer Centre at the Princess Royal Hospital.

The new Centre will mean most chemotherapy patients living in and around Telford can be treated at the PRH.

The Sunflower Appeal will mean patients across the region can have quicker and easier access to the care they need, when they need it.”

Councillor C Chikandamina seconded the motion.

Following a robust debate, the Motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

RESOLVED – that the motion be approved.

The meeting ended at 8.36 pm

Chairman: _____

Date: Thursday 13 November 2025