



Borough of Telford and Wrekin

Full Council

Thursday 17 July 2025

6.00 pm

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

Democratic Services: **Jayne Clarke / Paige Starkey** **01952 383205 / 380110**

Media Enquiries: **Corporate Communications** **01952 382406**

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 Jhawar, 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, K L Tomlinson,
W L Tomlinson, K Tonks, R Tyrrell, J Urey, O Vickers, P Watling
and D R W White

	Agenda	Page
1.0	Prayers and Reflections	
2.0	Apologies for Absence	
3.0	Declarations of Interest	
4.0	Minutes of the Previous Meeting	7 - 14

To confirm the minutes of the Special Meeting of Full Council and the Full Council AGM held on 15 May 2025.

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 15 - 16

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 17 - 22

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 2024/25 Financial Outturn Report 23 - 54

To receive the 2024/25 Financial Outturn Report.

11.0 2025/26 Financial Monitoring Report 55 - 72

To receive the 2025/26 Financial Monitoring Report.

12.0 Councillor Leave of Absence 73 - 74

To receive a report requesting a Councillor Leave of Absence.

13.0 Governance Committee - Amendments to the Constitution 75 - 78

To receive an update on the Council's Constitution.

14.0 Motions on Notice

14a Councillor Lee Carter will propose 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 to doing everything it can to provide the best possible local response to tackling this horrific and heinous crime.”

The Motion will be seconded by Councillor Kelly Middleton.

14b Councillor Richard Overton will propose 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 anti-social 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 will be seconded by Councillor Nathan England.

14c Councillor Andrew Eade will propose 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.”

The Motion will be seconded by Councillor Gareth Thomas.

14d Councillor Andrew Eade will propose 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.”

The Motion will be seconded by Councillor Rachael Tyrrell.

14e Councillor Andrew Eade will propose 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.”

The Motion will be seconded by Councillor Stephen Burrell.

14f Councillor Rachael Tyrrell will propose 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.”

The Motion will be seconded by Councillor Stephen Burrell.

14g Councillor Ollie Vickers will propose 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.”

The Motion will be seconded by Councillor Corrine Chikandamina.

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FULL COUNCIL

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Full Council held on Thursday 15 May 2025 at 5.30 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, 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 Jhawar, J Kaur, G C W Latham-Reynolds, 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, S Syrda, P Thomas, J Thompson, K L Tomlinson, W L Tomlinson, K Tonks, R Tyrrell, J Urey, O Vickers, P Watling and D R W White

In Attendance: J Clarke (Senior Democracy Officer (Democracy)), A Lowe (Director: Policy & Governance) and D Sidaway (Chief Executive)

Apologies: Councillors G H Cook, J Jones, L Lewis, R Sahota, P J Scott and G Thomas

65 Honorary Freedom of the Borough

This special meeting of the Council had been convened for the purpose of asking members to admit D (Shropshire Yeomanry) Squadron to be Honorary Freemen and Freewomen of the Borough in recognition of the Squadron being of distinction and being considered to have rendered eminent service to the people of Telford and Wrekin.

The admission of D (Shropshire Yeomanry) Squadron was proposed by Councillor L D Carter, seconded by Councillor T J Nelson and supported by Councillor T L B Janke.

Upon being put to the vote, it was:

RESOLVED that D (Shropshire Yeomanry) Squadron be admitted as Honorary Freemen and Freewomen of the Borough of Telford and Wrekin.

The meeting ended at 5.43 pm

Chairman:

Date: Thursday 15 May 2025

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FULL COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Full Council held on Thursday 15 May 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, 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 Jhawar, J Kaur, G C W Latham-Reynolds, 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, S Syrda, P Thomas, J Thompson, K L Tomlinson, W L Tomlinson, K Tonks, R Tyrrell, J Urey, O Vickers, P Watling and D R W White

In Attendance: J Clarke (Senior Democracy Officer (Democracy)), A Lowe (Director: Policy & Governance) and D Sidaway (Chief Executive)

Apologies: Councillors G H Cook, J Jones, L Lewis, R Sahota, P J Scott and G Thomas

1 Declaration

Councillor A Jhawar read the following declaration:

“Colleagues, aware of our responsibilities to promote democracy and the wellbeing of all local people, on behalf of the Council, I make this commitment to our office as elected representatives. Elected to serve the public good, we recognise that public office is a privilege granted by the people and not a right. We, elected representatives of the people of Telford & Wrekin, declare that we will, to the best of our ability, uphold the Council's Constitution and serve the community above any private or personal interest.”

Members signified their affirmation of the Declaration.

2 Prayers and Reflections

Bishop Nick Barrett of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Wellington said prayers.

3 Honorary Alderman of the Borough



The Mayor presented former Councillor, Mr Alan Mackenzie, with his scroll and badge as Honorary Alderman of the Borough as he was unable to attend the Special Meeting held on 30 November 2023.

4 Presentation to AFC Telford United

A presentation was made to AFC Telford United in recognition of its recent promotion to the National League North Football League.

5 Election of Mayor

It was moved by Councillor A Jhawar, seconded by Councillor J Kaur, that Councillor E Callear be elected as Mayor of the Council for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED – that Councillor E Callear be elected as Mayor of the Council for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

6 Election of Speaker

It was moved by Councillor K Middleton, seconded by Councillor P Davis, that Councillor A R H England be elected as Speaker of the Council for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED – that Councillor A R H England be elected as Speaker of the Council for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

7 Election of Deputy Speaker

It was moved by Councillor G Latham-Reynolds, seconded by Councillor S J Reynolds, that Councillor H Rhodes be elected as Deputy Speaker of the Council for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED – that Councillor H Rhodes be elected as Deputy Speaker of the Council for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

8 Election of Deputy Mayor

It was moved by Councillor N England, seconded by Councillor C Chikandamina, that Councillor N Page be elected as Deputy Mayor of the Council for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED – that Councillor N Page be elected as Deputy Mayor of the Council for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.



9 Vote of Thanks to the Retiring Mayor

A vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor, Councillor I Preece, was proposed by Councillor R Mehta and seconded by Councillor R Overton.

RESOLVED – that the Council record its thanks to the retiring Mayor, Councillor I Preece, for his service over the 2024/25 term of office.

10 Reply to Vote of Thanks

In response, the retiring Mayor thanked Members for their kind messages and stated that it had been a great honour to serve as Mayor. He highlighted a number of engagements that he had attended with businesses, dignitaries and charities.

11 Declarations of Interest

None.

12 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2025 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

13 Announcements

The Leader welcomed visitors who had attended this important civic occasion.

The Leader thanked the Cabinet for its work over the previous year, which had delivered its 20 pledges in 20 weeks.

The Leader expressed his thanks to the local MP for his support with local projects.

The Leader looked forward to 2025 and, although there would be challenges, his focus would be set on delivering a balanced budget to protect, care and invest in Telford and Wrekin for a better borough, and he outlined projects that would come forward to enable this.

The Leader was proud to announce that the Council continued to maintain the lowest Council Tax in the West Midlands and had committed to keeping the fortnightly garden waste collections and free car parking in the borough. The Leader informed Members of some of the transformation projects, which were due to come forward in the coming months and which included Station



Quarter and Addenbrooke House, the YMCA, the Orbit in Wellington and the Theatre and surrounding area in Oakengates.

The Leader concluded by praising events and successes that had taken place, which included the VE 80 Celebrations and the recent promotion of AFC Telford United to the National League North Football League.

The Leader of the Conservative Group congratulated those Members who had been given new roles and would welcome a responsible and collaborative approach to the challenges going forward in order to jointly evolve the best policies and get the best results for the borough.

The Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group thanked the staff for their hard work and praised the work of the Children and Adults services. He reminded Members that Councillors were there to represent the people and asked that they listened to residents.

14 Appointment of Cabinet

Councillor L Carter notified the meeting of his appointments to Cabinet, as follows:

- Councillor Lee Carter – Leader
- Cllr Richard Overton Deputy - Leader and Cabinet Member: Highways, Housing & Enforcement
- Councillor Paul Davis - Cabinet Member: Communities & Civic Pride
- Councillor Zona Hannington - Cabinet Member: Finance, Governance & Customer Services
- Cllr Carolyn Healy - Cabinet Member: Neighbourhoods, Planning & Sustainability
- Cllr Angela McClements - Cabinet Member: Leisure, Tourism, Culture & The Arts
- Councillor Kelly Middleton - Cabinet Member: Public Health & Healthier Communities
- Councillor Shirley Reynolds - Cabinet Member: Children & Young People, Learning, Employment & Skills
- Councillor Paul Watling - Cabinet Member: Adult Social Care & Health
- Councillor Ollie Vickers - Cabinet Member: The Economy & Transport

15 Delegation Scheme

Councillor Z Hannington proposed that the Council reassert the delegation scheme as detailed in the Council Constitution.



RESOLVED - that the discharge of Council functions by Committees, as set out in the Council's Constitution dated 5 March 2020, be approved under the provisions of Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972.

16 Governance Update

Councillor L Carter moved and Councillor Z Hannington seconded the Governance update.

RESOLVED: that

- a) the political balance for the forthcoming municipal year be noted;
- b) the Committees and Boards, for the 2025/26 Municipal Year, and the appointment of the Chair and Vice-Chair for each body be approved;
- c) delegated authority be granted to the Monitoring Officer to make any further calculations of political balance following any additional changes in membership;
- d) the review and approval of the Terms of Reference for each Committee and Board be delegated to the relevant Committee or Board to agree;
- e) the Monitoring Officer, to give effect to nominations to Committees and Boards notified to her, in writing, by Group Leaders be authorised;
- f) the revised Constitution, noting the changes set out within the body of this report be approved; and
- g) the creation of a special responsibility allowance for the new positions of Chair and Vice-Chair of Regulatory Committee be approved.

17 Programme of Ordinary Meetings of the Council

The programme of dates for ordinary meetings of the Council for 2025/26 to 2026/27 were set out in the report.

The meeting ended at 7.14 pm

Chairman:



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Date: Thursday 17 July 2025

MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS **May 2025 – July 2025**

MAY	23	M	Meadows Primary School Rainbow Run, Ketley
	25	M	Smithfields Charity Event, Wellington
	31	M	St John Ambulance Telford Network Launch event, Telford
JUNE	01	DM	Telford Walk Week, Telford
	02	M	Pride Month Flag Raising, Telford
	06	DM	Hotshot Awards, Telford
	07	DM	Flavour Town Session, Hollinswood
	13	M	Innovation Growth Event, Telford
	14	M	PODS Open Day, Telford
	15	M	Scarecrow Festival, St Georges
	21	M	Satideh Soup, Ironbridge
		DM	Bridge Cheese Company Family Fun Day, Hollinswood
	22	M	Windrush Day Garden Party, Hadley
	24	M	Newdale Primary School Visit, Telford
	26	M	Heaven Skincare Unveiling, Hadley
JULY	28	M	Telford Samaritans 50 th Anniversary, Wellington
	02	DM	Make a change project, Telford
	04	DM	TGI Friday's Re-opening, Telford
	06	DM	Hollinswood & Randlay Annual Fun Day, Hollinswood
	09	M	

		Summer Event at Bourneville House, Telford
10	M	Crucial Crew VIP Day, Wellington



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Cabinet Decisions Made Since the Last Meeting of the Council

Cabinet Member:	Cllr Zona Hannington - Cabinet Member: Finance, Governance & Customer Services	
Lead Director:	Anthea Lowe - Director: Policy & Governance	
Service Area:	Policy & Governance	
Report Author:	Jayne Clarke - Senior Democracy Officer (Democracy)	
Officer Contact Details:	Tel: 01952 383205	Email: jayne.clarke@telford.gov.uk
Wards Affected:	All Wards	
Key Decision:	Not Key Decision	
Forward Plan:	Not Applicable	
Report considered by:	Full Council – 17 July 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 3 April 2025, 15 May 2025 and 19 June 2025.

3.0 Background

3.1 The report sets out those matters determined by the Cabinet since the Full Council meeting on 27 February 2025 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>3 April 2025</u>
K	2.1.1	Vision 2032 Partnership Annual Review
NK	2.1.2	5 by 5
	2.2	<u>15 May 2025</u>
NK	2.2.1	Building Safer & Stronger Communities
NK	2.2.2	Annual Governance Statement for 2024/25
	2.3	<u>19 June 2025</u>
K	2.3.1	2024/25 Financial Outturn Report
NK	2.3.2	Biodiversity Duty Consideration Report & Action Plan
NK	2.3.3	The Green Pledge
NK	2.3.4	Representation on Outside Bodies 2025/26

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
Building Safer & Stronger Communities	Director: Neighbourhood & Enforcement in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member: Highways, Housing & Enforcement	to submit bids for external funding that supports Building Safer & Stronger Communities
Telford & Wrekin Skills Strategy	Director for Education & Skills, in consultation with the Cabinet member: Children, Young People, Education, Employment & Skills	to amend future versions of the Skills Strategy in light of changes to national policy
2024/25 Financial Outturn Report	Director: Finance, People & IDT	to make any changes required, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, Governance and Customer Services
The Green Pledge	Director of Prosperity and Investment and Director of Policy and Governance, in consultation with the Cabinet member for Neighbourhoods, Planning & Sustainability	to complete declaration process of Green Pledge sites
Outside Bodies Report 2025/25	Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member: Finance, Governance and Customer Services	to consider which bodies to nominate to and which Councillor is nominated



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17 July 2025

2024/25 Financial Outturn Report

Cabinet Member:	Cllr Zona Hannington - Cabinet Member: Finance, Governance and Customer Services
Lead Director:	Michelle Brockway - Director: Finance, People & IDT
Service Area:	Finance & Human Resources
Report Author:	Pauline Harris - Finance Manager: Corporate Finance
Officer Contact Details:	Tel: 01952 383701 Email: pauline.harris@telford.gov.uk
Wards Affected:	All Wards
Key Decision:	Key Decision
Forward Plan:	Yes - 2 April 2025
Report considered by:	Senior Management Team – 13 May 2025 Business Briefing – 22 May 2025 Cabinet – 19 June 2025 Full Council – 17 July 2025

1.0 Recommendations for Decision/Noting

Full Council is recommended to:

- 1.1 Note the performance against the 2024/25 Net Revenue budget which resulted in outturn being within budget by £91k
- 1.2 The revenue outturn position for 2024/25, which remains subject to audit by the Council's external auditors, and related virements in Appendix C
- 1.3 The transfers to reserves, and associated approval to the relevant members of the Senior Management Team after consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member to spend the reserves detailed in Appendix E. 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.

- 1.4 The capital outturn position and related supplementary estimates, re-phasing and virements shown in Appendix D and as summarised in the report
- 1.5 To grant delegated authority to the Director: Finance, People & IDT to make any changes required, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, Governance and Customer Services
- 1.6 To note the performance against income targets
- 1.7 The suite of Medium Term Financial Strategy reports approved by Full Council on 27 February 2025 is 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 will support the future financial position.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To present the final outturn position for the year to members, relating to: the revenue budget, capital programme and income collection and seek the necessary approvals to comply with financial regulations.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2024/25 – 2027/28 was approved at Full Council on 29 February 2024, which included the 2024/25 revenue budget and medium term capital programme. Since the MTFS was approved, the economic climate has continued to be challenging with costs pressures being experienced, particularly in relation to the provision of Adult Social Care
- 3.2 Good financial management is an essential element of good governance and long-term service planning which are critical to ensuring that local service provision is sustainable and the use of resources is maximised in order to meet the needs of our residents.
- 3.3 Financial monitoring reports have been provided during 2024/25 showing the projected outturn position i.e. how projected net revenue spend compares to the budget set for the year; progress against the 2024/25 capital programme; the key issues to be highlighted; together with a summary of collection information in relation to Council Tax, Business Rates and Sales Ledger income. This report now shows the final financial outturn position for 2024/25.
- 3.4 The funding outlook for the medium term remains very uncertain and will undoubtedly continue to be challenging. The Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2025/26 – 2028/29 was approved at Full Council on 27 February 2025 and regular updates of the projected financial position for 2025/26 will be provided to Cabinet throughout 2025/26.

4.0 Summary of main proposals

- 4.1.1 Nationally, Councils continue to face extreme challenges with unprecedented pressures fuelled by high inflation and high demand for services – particularly Adult Social Care, Children’s Safeguarding and School Travel Assistance.
- 4.1.2 While inflation is expected to reduce in the medium term, current indicators show that the economy will be slower to recover than was expected when the Council’s 2024/25 budget was set. In March 2025 CPI inflation stood at 2.6% which is above the Bank of England’s 2% target. The Bank of England reduced the base rate from 5.25% to 5.00% in August with further cuts of 0.25% in November, February and May, taking the rate to 4.25%.
- 4.1.3 Despite the significant pressures faced during 2024/25, the Council ended the year within budget which is a considerable achievement and clearly demonstrates the strong financial management and financial resilience which is embedded in the authority; a testament to Cabinet Members, Management Teams and all employees. This has been achieved through a range of measures including, maximisation of external income including grants received in year and trading income, capitalisation of revenue spend under the flexibilities of the capitalisation directive and one off savings from vacancy management.
- 4.1.4 The gross revenue budget for 2024/25 was £529m and the net budget was £157m. The revenue outturn position is within budget by £0.091m (which is equivalent to -0.06% of net budget). The year end position allowed a small number of one off investments in key areas to be made which support the Council’s priorities and future financial sustainability. These are detailed in Appendix E and are included in the overall year end position shown.

A summary of the year end position is:-

	£m
Net Revenue Budget	157.295
Net Revenue Outturn	157.204
Underspend	-0.091
Underspend as a % of Net Budget	-0.06%

It is pleasing to report that the Council has not had to make any unplanned use of the budget strategy reserve, which remains at £21.7m and has retained a prudent level of balances which will support the delivery of the medium-term Financial Strategy and support financial resilience in future years, as we will continue to feel the impacts of inflationary pressures in the economy, continued increasing demand for services and at the same time also face the uncertainties of the changes to the local government funding system which are due to be implemented in April 2026.

Clearly, given the scale and complexity of the Council’s budget, the vast number of different services provided to our residents and the pressures faced, there were a number of variations from the approved budget in 2024/25. It is very pleasing to report that Children’s Safeguarding & Family Support ended the year within budget, an unprecedented position compared to previous years and a clear demonstration of

the positive work being undertaken by the service. Other benefits arose during the year from Treasury Management, optimisation of grant income and one-off staff savings due to vacant posts. The key pressure area during the year was Adult Social Care (ASC), with £8.8m essential additional investment being required relating to the cost of providing care and support across all client groups. This includes the impact of market price increases, more complex needs, higher demand and longer periods of care being required. This is after additional net investment of £5.9m into ASC in 2024/25 as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy. Work continues in the service to deliver care which maximises prevention and independence where possible.

4.2 **2024/25 Capital Outturn**

Capital spend ended the year at £87.17m against an approved budget of £93.15m. Some re-phasing of expenditure into 2025/26 will take place as a result of re-profiling spend. The re-phasing will generate some treasury management benefits in 2025/26.

4.3 **Corporate Income Collection**

At the end of the year, NDR collection was ahead of target while Council Tax and Sales Ledger Debt were slightly behind targets set.

Ultimately, all debt will be rigorously pursued and will continue to be collected after the end of the financial year with appropriate recovery avenues being pursued at appropriate times.

4.4 **NuPlace Ltd**

NuPlace is the Council's wholly owned housing investment company. It was set up primarily to improve standards in the private rented sector and to offer homes for life to tenants operated by a responsible and responsive landlord. It is a separate legal entity and as such prepares its own accounts; in addition the Council is also required to prepare consolidated group accounts as part of its financial statements which incorporates NuPlace's financial position. The unaudited accounts show that NuPlace received rental income of £5.046m in 2024/25 and generated an operating profit after interest and taxation of £0.448m. The company issued a dividend of £0.302m in 2024/25 which was paid to the Council as its sole investor. Including the dividend, the Council received a total of £2.0m from NuPlace during 2024/25, net of additional interest and other marginal costs. The financial benefits that arise from NuPlace are invested in providing front line services such as providing Adult Social Care services to vulnerable residents and have helped to reduce the budget savings that would otherwise have had to have been made as a result of Government grant cuts. The total value of fixed assets on NuPlace's balance sheet at 31 March 2025 is £122.8m which includes a revaluation gain of 6.3% (£5.6m) over all completed sites.

4.5 **General**

The draft formal statement of accounts will be considered at the Audit Committee and audited by KPMG, the Council's external auditors. The accounts will also be available for public inspection as required by legislation. The Statutory deadlines for publishing the audited accounts for the financial years 2024/25 to 2027/28 were

amended in 2024 to help address the national back-log of local authority audits. The backstop date for 2024/25 is 27 February 2026; KPMG will begin their audit work in July and we expect to be well within this deadline. The Council was able to meet the back stop for the 2023/24 Statement of Accounts and an unqualified/unmodified audit opinion (which is the best possible opinion) was issued by KPMG. 38% of bodies in the sector received unmodified audit opinions with nearly 50% having a modified opinions, the majority of which were disclaimed opinions.

- 4.6 Summaries of the outturn on revenue and capital along with major variations are shown as appendices to this report.

5.0 Additional Information

5.1 2024/25 REVENUE BUDGET

The Council had a gross revenue budget of £529m for 2024/25 and the final net revenue outturn position is as follows (a more detailed summary is provided in Appendix A):

	£m
Net Revenue Budget	157.295
Net Revenue Outturn	157.204
Underspend	-0.091
Underspend as a % of Net Budget	-0.06%

- 5.2 Variations by Service Delivery Unit are summarised below and further detail is provided in Appendix B.

Service Area	Final Net Revenue Budget £	Outturn £	Variation £
Finance, People & IDT	13,676,268	12,354,647	(1,321,621)
Policy & Governance	1,409,803	1,389,620	(20,183)
Adult Social Care	68,912,956	77,786,862	8,873,906
Housing, Commercial & Customer Services	4,726,076	3,966,839	(759,238)
Children's Safeguarding & Family Support	49,431,463	49,335,384	(96,079)
Education & Skills	6,602,471	6,957,875	355,404
Health & Wellbeing	393,414	403,451	10,037
Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	26,202,582	26,112,116	(90,467)
Prosperity & Investment	(9,626,651)	(9,592,592)	34,059
Council Wide	(4,432,542)	(11,509,817)	(7,077,276)
Total	157,295,840	157,204,384	(91,456)

This table shows the position for each service area after transfers to reserves detailed in the report. The figures in the above table exclude budgets and variances on capital, IFRS 16 Leasing and pensions charges which are “non-controllable” accounting entries.

- 5.3 Service variances over £0.250m are highlighted; all other variances over £50k are detailed in Appendix B.

Service Area	Variance £m
<u>Finance, People & IDT</u>	
Treasury – impact of capital spend re-profiling and positive cash flow positions during the year. This benefit is offsetting the income pressure in the Property Investment Portfolio and Housing shown below.	-1.084
<u>Adult Social Care</u>	
Longer Term Care Purchasing –expenditure relating to block and spot contracts. Additional investment has been required due to the continued increase in the costs of care and demand	+7.035

Service Area	Variance £m
for care. The service continues to work on delivering care which maximises prevention and independence where possible.	
Income – overall shortfall on income targets	+1.066
My Options – Adults & Children’s Services – pressure on staffing budgets to meet demand	+0.538
Autism, Learning Disability & Mental Health Purchasing Care – in house purchasing; pressure from increased demand.	+0.497
Prevention & Enablement - intermediate care	+0.264
Older People & Disability – mainly due to staffing vacancies due to recruitment challenges	-0.415
<u>Housing, Commercial & Customer Services</u>	
Strategic Housing, Income – income shortfall which will be delivered when Housing Schemes become operational (Red Lion development due 2025/26). Note, borrowing costs are also reduced which is reflected in the Treasury benefit reported under Finance.	+0.290
Homelessness & Prevention – maximisation of grant income	-0.352
Housing Benefit Subsidy – planned use of reserves	-0.295
<u>Children’s Safeguarding & Family Support</u>	
Children in Care, Leaving Care Team & Speciality Services, Family Solutions:	
CIC placements, Post 16 Staying Put & Leaving Care Support – lower than budgeted due to ongoing work on prevention, early intervention and review of placement costs; together with the new provision for supported accommodation at Octavia Court.	-0.271
Health Funding – anticipated health contributions in relation to health needs are lower than budgeted, impacted by reduced overall placement costs.	+0.481
Operational Expenditure – costs associated with placement costs fully funded from government grant, together with pressure arising from aids and adaptations	+1.171

Service Area	Variance £m
Income – additional grant income received	-1.777
<u>Prosperity & Investment</u>	
Operational Buildings – property improvements at Lakewood Court	+0.260
Operational Buildings – lower NNDR charge at Oakengates Leisure Centre due to closure for part of the year	-0.271
Property Investment Portfolio - capital investment re-phased into future years with corresponding impact on budgeted income. Note, this is offset by a reduction in borrowing costs which is reflected in the Treasury benefit reported under Finance	+0.392
Planning – down turn in planning fees during 2024/25.	+0.451
<u>Council Wide</u>	
Budgeted Contingency	-5.909
Other Council Wide Items – including lower than budgeted contract and pay inflation, NDR levy account surplus redistributed and WME dividend and rebate	-3.649
Transfers to Reserves – see Appendix E	+2.866

Transfers to reserves are detailed in Appendix E.

5.4 Public Health

The Council receives a ring-fenced grant to support its Public Health responsibilities. In 2024/25 this grant totalled £14.102m. The conditions of the grant are that it must be used to address health needs and improve health and well-being in the community. Work to support improving public health outcomes is delivered across a number of the Council's Service Areas and a summary of the grant in 2024/25 is shown in the table below:

	£
Public Health Reserve (grant bfwd from 2023/24)	2,270,996
Public Health Grant allocation 2024/25	14,101,750
Total Funding available	16,372,746
Funding applied during 2024/25	14,833,430
Grant carried forward to 2025/26	1,539,316

5.5 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)

Excluding funds passed to academies and colleges, Dedicated Schools Grant totalled £123.66m in 2024/25. There was an overspend of £2.84m during the year. As a deficit balance of £1.82m had been carried forward into 2024/25 from the previous year, a year-end deficit of £4.66m has been carried forward to 2025/26.

This deficit arises because of high needs budget pressures. This is a national issue, illustrated by most upper tier Councils having a DSG deficit by the end of 2023/24 totalling £2.148bn nationally. In order to alleviate pressure on the 2025/26 high needs budgets, Telford & Wrekin's schools forum again agreed to transfer 0.5% of the schools block to high needs, amounting to £0.9m. This agreement illustrates the positive relationships with schools and other providers which are invaluable in assisting the Council to maintain budgetary control of DSG, whilst ensuring that we meet our responsibilities to young people.

The increase in the Government's 2025/26 high needs funding allocation to Councils, including Telford & Wrekin, is higher than in 2024/25, which will assist in meeting cost pressures. The Council has established a cost improvement plan to address high needs budget pressures and continues to work hard to tackle the high needs pressures in partnership with the Forum, schools and other providers of education. However, with continuing growth in demand for high needs support, the budget situation will remain challenging in 2025/26.

The way in which local authorities account for DSG deficits was altered in 2020. DSG deficits are now required to be held in a separate reserve in local authorities' accounts and is disregarded from the measure of local authority reserves. These regulations apply up to 31 March 2026, arrangements beyond this point have yet to be confirmed by the government.

6.0 RESERVES & BALANCES

- 6.1 The main General and Special Fund balances were £4.569m at 1 April 2024. The position on the main General and Special Fund Balances is now:

	£m
Balances at 1 st April 2024	4.569
Planned approved use to support investment in footway lighting	(0.216)
2024/25 Final Contribution to Balances	+0.091
Balances at 31st March 2025	4.444

The General/Special Fund balance forms part of the Council's overall reserves and balances.

- 6.2 In addition to the General and Special Fund Balances, the Council has a general contingency of £7.2m in 2025/26 (£3.2m of which is ongoing) and £5.9m held centrally for inflation and pay awards in 2025/26. Further, there is a prudent level of reserves and provisions available to support the medium term financial strategy including the uncommitted balance of £21.7m held in the Budget Strategy Reserve.
- 6.3 A number of specific transfers to reserves are proposed which support the Council's priorities. These are included in the overall outturn position as reported above and are detailed in Appendix E.
- 6.4 The balance of the Public Health ring-fenced grant has also been carried forward to 2025/26 (in line with the grant conditions see section 5.4 above) as has the residual balance of other grants received in year, in line with accounting requirements.

7.0 2024/25 CAPITAL PROGRAMME

- 7.1 The capital programme for 2024/25 totalled £93.15m. Some re-phasing of expenditure into 2025/26 will take place as a result of and re-profiling of capital schemes in delivery. Spend at year end was £87.17m as summarised in the table below, all schemes that have been re-phased are already in progress:
- 7.2 The main scheme re-phasing to future years is shown below with detail included in Appendix D.

Service Area	Budget £m	Spend £m	% Spend £m	Year End Variance £m
Adult Social Care	0.03	0.03	100%	0.00
Prosperity & Investment	51.25	51.42	100%	0.17
Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	12.86	10.98	85%	-1.88
Education & Skills	15.52	12.92	83%	-2.60
Housing, Commercial & Customer Services	6.47	5.48	85%	-0.99
Policy & Governance	0.09	0.06	67%	-0.03
Finance, People & IDT	6.93	6.28	91%	-0.65
Total	93.15	87.17	94%	-5.98

Note: The approved estimate excludes the new allocations, slippage and virements detailed in Appendix D

	£m
<u>Prosperity & Investment</u>	
Towns Fund projects– reprofiling of spend in line with revised programme of delivery, all fully committed	+2.26
Levelling Up Fund and Capital Regeneration Projects –reprofile of spend in line with delivery profile, mainly Telford Theatre project, fully committed	-3.80

HE Land Deal, and Liability sites – rephasing of spend, mainly site preparation	-0.47
Housing Company –spend ahead of budget for Telford and Wrekin Homes portfolio	+2.22
Property Investment Portfolio –rephasing of schemes identified for delivery	-1.03
Condition and decarbonisation works leisure – schemes progressing ahead of schedule at Wellington Leisure centre	+0.94
<u>Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services</u>	
Highways, Carriageways, structures, drainage, footways and Integrated Transport –fully committed to schemes currently in delivery	-0.14
Flood Capital Grant – reprofiled for schemes in delivery	-0.16
Active Travel Scheme –rephased to match delivery profile	-0.73
On Street residential charge point scheme – spend rephased to 25/26	-0.50
Violence against Women and Girls – slippage into future years, under Health & Wellbeing	-0.182
<u>Education & Skills</u>	
Other School Schemes – funding slipped to allow for consideration of High Needs delivery places	-2.60
<u>Housing, Employment & Infrastructure</u>	
Housing Upgrade Grant Programmes, unallocated grant, and slippage of unspent grant into future years	-0.79
Housing - spend on a number of initiatives slipped to future years	-0.45
Disabled facilities grant –increased allocation to meet demand	+0.35
<u>Finance, People & IDT</u>	
ICT/eGov – spend slipped into 2025/26 to meet schemes in delivery, including Gigabit Telford project	-0.78
Capitalisation of Efficiency Schemes/Severance costs in accordance with eligible spend during 24/25 and available capital receipts in year	+0.13

7.3 There are a number of new approvals, virements and slippage which are also detailed in Appendix D and require formal approval.

7.4 The funding for the capital programme in 2024/25 included £4.6m estimated income from capital receipts. The actual income received in year was lower at £2.18m – the difference was mainly due to the slippage of corporate receipts in line with delivery profiles.

8.0 NUPLACE

8.1 Nuplace Ltd, is the Council's wholly owned housing investment company. It was set up primarily to improve standards in the private rented sector and to offer homes for life to tenants operated by a responsible and responsive landlord. The principal activity of which is the procurement of the construction and management of private and affordable residential property for rent, responding to the Borough's housing needs including the availability of accessible and adaptable housing. Nuplace also operates a sub brand known as Telford & Wrekin Homes, intended to acquire and refurbish existing housing stock, which focusses on refurbishment and ensuring we make the best use of homes in the borough.

8.2 At 31 March 2025, Nuplace's housing portfolio comprised of 608 homes. Upon completion of the dwellings currently under construction, the programme will have resulted in the regeneration of over 47.94 acres of brownfield land and refurbished or converted 4,656 sqm of redundant floor space, addressing stalled sites and bringing back into use redundant and underused premises.

8.3 During the year, works were completed at Wild Walk, Donnington and the former New College site in Wellington, with all 86 houses tenanted by the year end. The Telford and Wrekin Homes portfolio has increased by 32 over the year, with houses acquired across the borough.

Work has commenced on site to build 28 homes on the former Abacus Nursery site in Ketley Bank, including 7 converted dwellings alongside 21 new build, to help safeguard a building of historical significance on a prominent site within the locality.

Work has continued on the schemes being jointly delivered with Telford & Wrekin Council, including;

- The Gower, St Georges, with the construction of 10 new build properties alongside the creation of 3 converted dwellings within the Grade 2 listed building.
- Limes Walk, Oakengates involving the conversion and creation of 10, one and two bedroom apartments, as part of a wider regeneration scheme. Completed properties are due to transfer from Telford & Wrekin Council to Nuplace in 2025/26.
- Walker Street, Wellington, where work is ongoing to convert a redundant space within a historic building into 9, one and two bedroom dwellings, as part of a wider regeneration project.

- Work has commenced on the mixed use scheme within the Station Quarter area of Telford Town Centre which will see the delivery of 117 town houses and apartments for Nuplace, kick-starting the creation of a “city living” offer within Nuplace’s predominantly suburban portfolio. This scheme is being delivered in conjunction with Telford & Wrekin Council as part of the wider Station Quarter regeneration project with the homes being transferred to Nuplace upon practical completion. The first 84 furnished apartments are due to be completed in March 2026, followed by a further 33 townhouses in early 2027.

In addition, a further 32 properties have been acquired and refurbished in year as part of the Telford & Wrekin Homes Programme bringing the total properties held within the Telford & Wrekin programme to 56 against a target of 100, with further acquisitions planned in 2025/26.

- 8.4 In addition there is a strong pipeline of properties at feasibility stage as part of the ongoing programme with further planning applications being brought forward in the year ahead.
- 8.5 In accordance with the Company’s accounting policy, the housing portfolio was revalued at the year end, which has resulted in an increase in value of 6.3% (£5.6m) over all completed sites. The total value of fixed assets on Nuplace’s balance sheet at 31 March 2025 is £122.8m.
- 8.6 Nuplace Ltd is a separate legal entity and as such will prepare its own Statement of Accounts and comply with company regulations. The accounts will be independently audited. As Nuplace is wholly owned by Telford & Wrekin Council, the Council is required to prepare Group Accounts as part of its Statement of Accounts for 2024/25 which will consolidate the Council and Nuplace’s financial position.
- 8.7 Nuplace distributed a final dividend of £0.012 per ordinary share registered on 5th February 2025, totalling £302,400. The company received rental income of £5.046m in 2024/25 and reported an operating profit before taxation of £0.687m, £0.448m after tax. It should be noted that the Council has received income totalling £2.0m from Nuplace during 2024/25 net of additional interest and other associated costs which is a combination of interest paid relating to the loan agreement, dividend income and services Nuplace purchased from the Council. The Council will also benefit from additional Council Tax, and New Homes Bonus as Nuplace properties are completed. The financial benefits that arise from Nuplace are invested in providing front line services such as providing Adult Social Care and have helped to reduce the budget savings that would otherwise have had to been made as a result of Government grant cuts.

9.0 **CORPORATE INCOME MONITORING**

- 9.1 The Council’s budget includes significant income streams which are regularly monitored to ensure they are on track to achieve targets that have been set and so that remedial action can be taken at a very early stage. The three main areas are Council Tax, NNDR (business rates) and Sales Ledger. Current monitoring

information relating to these is provided below. The Council pursues outstanding debt vigorously, until all possible recovery avenues have been exhausted, but also prudently provides for bad debts in its accounts.

- 9.2 In summary, NNDR collection is ahead of target, but council tax and sales ledger collection are slightly behind target.

INCOME COLLECTION – 2024/25			
	Actual	Target	Performance
Council Tax Collection	97.15%	97.3%	0.15% behind target
NNDR Collection	98.11%	98.0%	0.11% ahead of target
Sales Ledger Outstanding Debt	7.80%	5.25%	2.55% behind target

9.3 **Council Tax (£119.2m)**

The percentage of the current year liability for council tax which the authority should have received during the year, as a percentage of annual collectable debit. The measure does not take account of debt that continues to be pursued and collected after the end of the financial year in which it became due. The final collection figure for all financial years exceeds 99%.

Year End performance 2023/24	97.31%
Year End Target for 2024/25	97.3%

Performance is cumulative during the year and expressed against the complete year's debit.

Year End Target	Year End Actual	Last year Actual
97.3%	97.15%	97.31%

Council Tax collection performance is 0.15% behind target and last years performance. A comparison of performance across the West Midland authorities is currently underway.

9.4 **NNDR-Business Rates (£81.9m)**

The % of business rates for 2024/25 that should have been collected during the year. This target, as for council tax, ignores our continuing collection of earlier years' liabilities.

The measure does not take into account the debt that continues to be pursued and collected after the end of the financial year in which it became due. As a general rule the final collection figure for any financial year exceeds 99%.

Year End performance 2023/24	97.4%
Year End Target for 2024/25	98.0%

Year End Target	Year End Actual	Last year Actual
98.0%	98.11%	97.4%

Collection has out turned 0.11% ahead of target and performance last year.

9.5 Sales Ledger (£105.5m)

This includes general debt and Social Care debt. Debt below 2 months is classified as a normal credit period.

The target percent is set relating cumulative debt outstanding from all years to the current annual debit. The targets and performance of income collection for 2024/25 are as follows:

Age of debt	Annual Target %	March 2025	
		£m	%
Total	5.25	8.226	7.80%

Sales ledger is outside of target although can tend to fluctuate from one month to the next.

10.0 Alternative Options

- 10.1 Budget holders will have investigated a number of options to seek to deliver required service outcomes from within available resources during the year. Decisions made by the Chief Financial Officer and Senior Management Team as part of the closure of accounts process aim to safeguard the Council's financial position in 2025/26 and optimise the Council's position in terms of financial sustainability and resilience.

11.0 Key Risks

- 11.1 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. It is considered that there is an adequate level of reserves and provisions set aside to cover anticipated risks.

12.0 Council Priorities

- 12.1 Delivery of all Council priorities depends on the effective use of available resources. Strong and effective financial management ensures the best use of resources.

13.0 Financial Implications

- 13.1 The financial impacts are detailed throughout the report.

14.0 Legal and HR Implications

- 14.1 The Council's s151 Officer has a statutory duty to monitor income and expenditure and to take action if overspends/shortfalls emerge.

The Statutory deadlines for publishing the audited accounts for the financial years 2024/25 to 2027/28 were amended in 2024 to help address the national back-log of local authority audits. The backstop date for publishing the 2024/25 Statement of Accounts is 27 February 2026; KPMG will begin their audit work in July and it is expected to be complete well before this deadline. Audit Committee has delegated authority to approve the SOA and updates will be provided to the Committee as appropriate.

15.0 Ward Implications

- 15.1 Funds have been set aside as part of financial outturn towards an additional Community Action Team in the Brookside Ward. There are no specific impacts on any other wards.

16.0 Health, Social and Economic Implications

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

17.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

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

18.0 Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environmental Implications

- 18.1 There are no Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environmental Implications directly arising from this report.

19.0 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
		Cabinet 05/12/2024
		Council 23/01/2025
4	2024/25 Financial Monitoring Report	Cabinet 13/02/2025
5	Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025/26 to 2028/29	Council 27/02/2025

20.0 Appendices

Appendix A	Summary Revenue Outturn
Appendix B	Detailed Revenue Outturn
Appendix C	Virements
Appendix D	Capital Approvals

Appendix E Reserves

21.0 Report Sign Off

Signed off by	Date sent	Date signed off	Initials
Director	08/05/2025	08/05/2025	MLB
Finance	08/05/2025	08/05/2025	PH
Legal	08/05/2025	15/05/2025	RP

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2024/25 SUMMARY OUTTURN POSITION

<<<<<< Analysis of Variation >>>>>>

Service Area	Final Net Revenue Budget	Outturn	Variation	Capital & Pensions Technical Entries	Public Health	Service
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Finance, People & IDT	16,805,028	15,187,267	(1,617,760)	(296,139)		(1,321,621)
Policy & Governance	1,411,243	1,298,079	(113,164)	(92,980)		(20,183)
Adult Social Care	68,943,436	77,709,412	8,765,976	(107,930)		8,873,906
Housing, Commercial & Customer Services	5,126,206	4,108,024	(1,018,182)	(258,944)		(759,237)
Children's Safeguarding & Family Support	49,577,503	49,076,782	(500,720)	(404,641)		(96,079)
Education & Skills	12,838,151	33,617,884	20,779,733	20,424,329		355,404
Health & Wellbeing	393,414	345,051	(48,363)	(58,400)	0	10,037
Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	33,306,642	33,020,368	(286,274)	(195,808)		(90,467)
Prosperity & Investment	(6,587,931)	(9,963,084)	(3,375,153)	(3,409,212)		34,059
Council Wide	(24,517,852)	(47,195,400)	(22,677,549)	(15,600,273)		(7,077,276)
Total	157,295,840	157,204,384	(91,456)	0	0	(91,456)

(0)

Note, there are further technical entries in relation to Capital Charges and IFRS 16 Leases which will be made as part of finalising the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Account (which forms part of the formal Statement of Accounts). These will not impact on the Service position or the Council's General Fund position shown in Appendices A and B.

2024/25 Revenue Budget Variations over £50,000									
Description		Budget	Outturn	Variation	Analysis of Variation				Comments
					Capital Charges	IAS19	Public Health	Service	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Finance, People and IDT									
Treasury	Treasury	14,644,469	13,560,416	(1,084,053)				(1,084,053)	Impact of capital spend re-profiling and positive cash flow positions during the year.
Payments	Duplicate payments recovery	0	(55,286)	(55,286)				(55,286)	Duplicate Payments recovery
Finance	Employees	2,431,680	2,300,441	(131,239)				(131,239)	Temporary vacancies in structure
Learning & Development	Employees	297,616	228,620	(68,996)				(68,996)	Temporary vacancies in structure
IDT Schools Gold Service	Various	69	70,101	70,032				70,032	Loss of income as a result of schools not buying back into the Gold Service. This has been reflected in pricing models for 2025/26.
IDT Telephone Recharges	Various	(171,500)	(100,807)	70,693				70,693	Loss of income due to the reduced number of calls however, costs recharged to services will be lower therefore generating an in year saving against service budgets.
IDT Corporate Supply & Services	Various	5,207,885	5,324,717	116,832				116,832	One off overspend re VOIP/WAN contract due to new contract arrangements
Variations under £50k		(5,605,191)	(6,140,935)	(535,743)	(49)	(296,090)	0	(239,604)	
Total Finance, People & IDT		16,805,028	15,187,267	(1,617,760)	(49)	(296,090)	0	(1,321,621)	
Policy & Governance									
Protection, Legal & Democracy:-									
Land Charges	Income	(220,982)	(155,779)	65,203				65,203	Shortfall of Land Charges income due to reduced demand reflective of current market position. Improving position compared to 23/24.
Legal	Net position	636,310	749,457	113,147				113,147	Shortfall on capitalisation income due to legal work which did not realise a capital asset.
Associate Director - Policy & Governance	Net position	(36,680)	(89,742)	(53,062)				(53,062)	Use of one off reserve.
Variations under £50k		1,032,595	794,143	(238,452)	34,140	(127,120)		(145,472)	
Total Policy & Governance		1,411,243	1,298,079	(113,164)	34,140	(127,120)	0	(20,183)	
Adult Social Care									
All long term care purchasing-Spot & block for all ages	Spot & block purchasing	83,874,125	90,908,675	7,034,550				7,034,550	Increasing demand for care and increasing rates have continued to put pressure on this budget. This is largely a legacy from the past two years in which very significant (20%+ per annum) expenditure growth was experienced. In 24/25, with significant savings and income generation being delivered, net expenditure increase in year (8.5%) was materially in line with the additional investment in the budget for that year. However, local and national indicators suggest adult social care will continue to place significant pressure on Council budgets into the future and cost modelling is being further developed to track estimated growth.

2024/25 Revenue Budget Variations over £50,000									
Description		Budget	Outturn	Variation	Analysis of Variation				Comments
					Capital Charges	IAS19	Public Health	Service	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Income - service wide		(22,845,648)	(21,779,936)	1,065,712				1,065,712	Overall shortfall in income targets. Whilst there was an overachievement of some targets e.g. income from client contributions and reimbursed direct payments where funding is no longer required, there was a shortfall in income expected to be received from partners towards care costs. In order to mitigate this pressure, ASC have revised processes and monitoring in order to maximise income.
Older People & Disability	Staffing & Operational expenditure	3,237,039	2,821,924	(415,115)				(415,115)	Mainly from vacancies in structure
Autism, Learning Disability & Mental Health	Staffing & Operational expenditure	1,855,424	2,059,086	203,662				203,662	Pressure on staffing budgets to meet demand
	Transforming Care Partnership income	(280,004)	(280,004)	0					
	My Options-Adults & Children's services	975,501	1,513,685	538,184				538,184	Pressure on staffing budgets to meet demand
	In House purchasing (from My Options)	6,943,213	7,440,457	497,244				497,244	Increased demand for delivering care to mainly the 18-64 client group
Prevention & Enablement	Staffing & Operational expenditure	1,444,976	1,527,439	82,463				82,463	Pressure on staffing budgets to meet demand
	Intermediate Care- expenditure	7,482,817	10,407,004	2,924,187					
	Intermediate Care funding -income	(6,711,328)	(9,371,350)	(2,660,022)					
		771,489	1,035,654	264,165				264,165	Continued pressure on reablement discharge services helping people to retain their independence, although it should be noted that this is a significant improvement on the 2023/24 overspend.
Service, Improvement & Efficiency	Staffing & Operational expenditure	1,635,499	1,471,767	(163,732)				(163,732)	Underspend is made up of vacancies in year as well as exceeding budget target on income received from client charging.
Place Based Commissioning and Procurement	Staffing & Operational expenditure	997,421	804,929	(192,492)				(192,492)	Over half of this underspend is made up of vacancies during the year as well as an underspend on non-staffing costs
Accountancy Adjustments	IAS19 Adjustment & Asset Rentals	0	0	0				0	
Contribution from reserves	Use of one off reserves	0	(199,000)	(199,000)				(199,000)	Use of one off reserves
Variations under £50k	Variations under £50k	(9,665,599)	(9,615,264)	50,335	412,680	(520,610)		158,265	
Total Adult Social Care		68,943,436	77,709,412	8,765,976	412,680	(520,610)	0	8,873,906	
Housing, Commercial and Customer Services									
Strategic Housing & Regeneration: Affordable Housing	Income	(289,730)	0	289,730				289,730	HIF income target shortfall; target is £424k and will be delivered when Housing Schemes become operational; Red Lion development due in 2025/26. There is a benefit in relation to lower borrowing costs which is included in the Treasury benefit reported within Finance.
Supporting People	Supplies & Services	1,085,375	1,270,879	185,504				185,504	The new Floating Support contract commenced 1st December 2024. This will deliver the full £200k saving in 2025/26.
Housing Solutions:									

2024/25 Revenue Budget Variations over £50,000									
Description		Budget	Outturn	Variation	Analysis of Variation				Comments
					Capital Charges	IAS19	Public Health	Service	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Homelessness & Prevention	Net position	91,300	(260,329)	(351,629)				(351,629)	One off maximisation of HPG grant use, plus additional £120k MHCLG Homelessness grant notification, received in March with conditions to be defrayed in 24/25.
Housing	Income	(609,615)	(705,240)	(95,625)				(95,625)	Higher level of DFG income due to increased level of spend on DFG cases, in addition to agreed increase in NuPlace property management charges. Staffing budgets to be realigned in 25/26.
Arts & Culture: Telford Theatre	Net position	(196,248)	(63,136)	133,112				133,112	Costs in relation to the closure. This over spend is being mitigated by a (£133k) underspend within the BIT team as a result of premises cost savings.
Leisure Services: Telford Ice Rink	Income	(1,064,213)	(1,213,536)	(149,323)				(149,323)	Over achievement of income.
Town Park	Supplies & Services	105,790	167,288	61,498				61,498	Subcontractor costs linked with R&M at pools across the Borough.
Catering	Net position	(135,391)	(276,649)	(141,258)				(141,258)	Over delivery on income.
Customer Relationships & Welfare Services:	Housing Benefit Subsidy net position	(190,000)	(485,615)	(295,615)				(295,615)	Planned use of one off reserve.
Customer contact centre	Employees	899,405	953,228	53,823				53,823	Vacancy target linked to staff turnover.
Discretionary awards & Welfare Benefit team	Supplies & Services	148,622	66,708	(81,915)				(81,915)	Maximisation of Housing Support Grant
	Transfer Payments	111,130	(2,082)	(113,212)				(113,212)	Maximisation of Housing Support Grant
	Contribution to Reserve		111,000	111,000				111,000	Approved one off contribution to support the 2025/26 budget
Community Services: Solar Farm	Income	(989,810)	(939,204)	50,606				50,606	Shortfall in PPA and FIT income.
Community Engagement	Net position	296,121	234,806	(61,315)				(61,315)	One off vacancy management.
Variations under £50k		5,863,470	5,249,906	(613,564)	207,576	(466,520)		(354,620)	
Total Housing, Commercial & Customer Services		5,126,206.17	4,108,024.27	(1,018,181.90)	207,575.58	(466,520.00)	0.00	(759,237)	
Children's Safeguarding & Family Support									
Children in Care, Leaving Care Team & Speciality Services, Family Solutions	CIC Placements, Post 18 Staying Put & Leaving Care Support	32,161,580	31,988,848	(172,733)	98,163			(270,896)	Additional budget, allocated in the context of 2023/24 outturn and the budget model, currently exceeds projected costs of placements. The work with Impower and ongoing work on prevention, early intervention and review of placement costs has had a positive impact on the cost of placements. The Council's new provision for supported accommodation, Octavia Court, which opened over the summer of 2024, has had a positive impact on placement costs.
	Health funding	(6,997,900)	(6,517,237)	480,663				480,663	The budget was realigned in accordance with the placements model. The under recovery of income against budget is partly offset against the underspend against placements costs.
	Children with Disabilities	2,058,540	2,027,411	(31,129)				(31,129)	Expenditure in this area has increased significantly in recent years, as the level of need in the CYP population has increased. The realigned budget is now more realistic for this area and in line with current spend.

2024/25 Revenue Budget Variations over £50,000									
Description		Budget	Outturn	Variation	Analysis of Variation				Comments
					Capital Charges	IAS19	Public Health	Service	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Child Protection & Family Support, Parenting Assessment & Contact Teams	Operational expenditure	1,650,570	2,821,891	1,171,321				1,171,321	£1.039m relating to placement costs fully funded by additional government grant income (see line below). Also includes £50k overspend against Section 17 costs (for children in need) and £70k CWD - aids and adaptations.
	Income	- 2,602,374	(4,379,577)	(1,777,203)				(1,777,203)	£1.039m government grant offsetting additional placement costs plus additional income received from government grants.
	Operational expenditure	455,235	689,897	234,662				234,662	Increase in No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) expenditure and Hotel/B&B costs linked to homelessness where there is no longer a housing duty and therefore the duty transfers to Children's Social Care and provision required under Children Act 1989.
	Family Safeguarding	2,817,301	2,783,458	(33,843)				(33,843)	Various small underspends across service area
	Service Wide	19,265,216	19,336,203	70,987				70,987	A budget saving of £300,000 arising from the ending of a short-term investment in staffing plus overall vacancy factor saving of £299,000. Partly offset by savings from vacancies across service.
	Independent Review	705,450	710,864	5,414				5,414	
	Operational expenditure	114,376	130,832	16,456				16,456	Small overspends across service including interpreter fees.
Variations under £50k		(50,492)	(515,807)	(465,315)	1,736	(504,540)		37,489	
Total Children's Safeguarding & Family Support		49,577,503	49,076,782	(500,720)	99,899	(504,540)	0	(96,079)	
Education & Skills									
Specialist Services		596,580	773,785	177,205	0	0	0	177,205	Significant additional expenditure has been incurred in Educational Psychology due to the use of agency staff to process an increased demand in statutory assessments.
Premature Retirement costs		1,171,024	1,407,373	236,349	0	0	0	236,349	There has been increasing costs largely around inflationary pressures for teachers who have prematurely retired due to a legacy policy where the local authority picked up premature retirement costs. This policy ceased some years ago, but annual costs continue to be incurred through the duration of teacher retirement that are part of the scheme.
Variations Under £50,000		11,070,547	31,436,726	20,366,179	21,642,079	(1,217,750)	0	(58,149)	This variance includes the £142K vacancy factor for Education & Skills.
Total Education & Skills		12,838,151	33,617,884	20,779,733	21,642,079	(1,217,750)	0	355,404	
Health & Wellbeing									
Telford Coroner Service	Contracted Services	266,450	348,780	82,330				82,330	Pressure on budget from services being delivered by the Coroner and associated services. Demand for Post Mortems and body conveyancing is increasing costs. This should be resolved in 25/26
Health Protection		153,630	78,350	(75,280)				(75,280)	Additional Income
Public Health Services	All Services	13,876,511	13,985,364	108,853			108,853		Pressure within Public Health funded contracts mainly NHS pay award-Agenda for Change increasing contract costs
Public Health Grant	Grant	(13,876,511)	(14,101,750)	(225,239)		0	(225,239)		Additional award in 2024/25

2024/25 Revenue Budget Variations over £50,000									
Description		Budget	Outturn	Variation	Analysis of Variation				Comments
					Capital Charges	IAS19	Public Health	Service	
Public Health	Underspend/(Overspend) to/(from) Reserve	(722)	115,664	116,386			116,386		Ring-fenced Public Health grant transferred to Public Health reserve
Variations under £50k		(25,944)	(81,357)	(55,413)		(58,400)		2,987	
Total Health & Wellbeing		393,414	345,051	(48,363)	0	(58,400)	0	10,037	
Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services									
Street Lighting	Supplies & Services	1,979,350	2,181,358	202,008	0	0	0	202,008	Net overspend on street lighting due to increased maintenance and energy costs
Street Lighting	Use of Reserve		(216,000)	(216,000)				(216,000)	Approved use of reserve
Winter Maintenance - flooding	Supplies & Services	0	68,577	68,577	0	0	0	68,577	Additional spend to support deployment of flood barriers
Enforcement Control	Income	(70,000)	(9,653)	60,347	0	0	0	60,347	Shortfall against budgeted income
On Street Car Parking	Income	(60,000)	0	60,000	0	0	0	60,000	Shortfall against budgeted income
Off Street Car Parking	Income	(326,080)	(208,973)	117,107	0	0	0	117,107	Shortfall against budgeted income
Waste & Neighbourhood Services	Various	16,675,230	16,572,120	(103,110)	0	0	0	(103,110)	Reduction in Waste Tonnages and associated Treatment processing costs
Concessionary Travel	Supplies & Services	1,629,610	1,528,537	(101,073)	0	0	0	(101,073)	Reduction in Operating Costs
Variations under £50k		13,478,532	13,104,402	(374,130)	25,742	(221,550)	0	(178,322)	
Total Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services		33,306,642	33,020,368	(286,274)	25,742	(221,550)	0	(90,467)	
Prosperity & Investment									
BIT:-									
BiTs - Arch & Build Hold Ac	Net Position	(1,883,380)	(1,780,180)	103,200				103,200	One off vacancy management underspend partially offsetting income pressure.
FM - Building Support Services	Net Position	(37,400)	(240,903)	(203,503)				(203,503)	One off vacancy management and over achievement in income as a result of various one off Housing schemes.
Admin Buildings	Net Position - Addenbrooke House	52,840	201,207	148,367	(55)			148,422	Running costs and NNDR of Addenbrooke House up to transfer of property. Savings were taken in 23/24.
Operational Buildings	Premises - Lakewood Court	205,960	465,797	259,837	(41)			259,878	Property Improvement costs, including additional staffing re fire safety works.
	Premises - The Place	486,710	348,766	(137,944)	(23)			(137,921)	One off underspend due to closure for refurbishment.
	Premises - Oakengates Leisure	1,082,320	811,504	(270,816)	(56)			(270,760)	One off NNDR rebates and reduced in year NNDR.
	Premises - Ice Rink	749,370	697,450	(51,920)	8,607			(60,527)	One off utility underspends and reduced security expenditure at site.
	Premises - Wellington Civic & Leisure	754,970	1,215,105	460,135	632,862			(172,727)	One off underspend across utilities, budgets to be realigned in 25/26 to reflect tenants use of site & Leisure usage.
	Income - Wellington Civic	0	(65,000)	(65,000)				(65,000)	Rental income received from tenant, budgets to be realigned in 25/26.
	Premises - other properties	3,949,007	4,190,341	241,334	464,891			(223,557)	One off R&M and utility underspends across other Operational properties.
Travellers & Gypsy Sites	Net Position	147,590	294,304	146,714	33,835			112,878	Ongoing R&M pressure with costs higher than budget due to upkeep at these sites.
Regeneration & Investment:-									
PIP	Net Position	(9,241,130)	(8,848,905)	392,225				392,225	Growth fund slippage, offset with one off salary underspends from vacancy management.
	Service Charges	(551,070)	(675,746)	(124,676)				(124,676)	Improved occupancy levels resulting in a positive void position with an underspend against budgeted voids.
Income Initiative	Income	(200,000)	0	200,000				200,000	Alternative for site identified which will deliver improved outputs to be delivered in future years.
Inward Investment:-									
Management	Employees	346,770	211,051	(135,719)				(135,719)	One off vacancy management and UKSPF grant contributions to staff costs.
Development Management:-									

2024/25 Revenue Budget Variations over £50,000									
Description		Budget	Outturn	Variation	Analysis of Variation				Comments
					Capital Charges	IAS19	Public Health	Service	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Planning	Net Position	984,400	1,435,554	451,154				451,154	Downturn in year to date trends compared to 23/24, net of one off salary underspends from vacancy management.
Variations under £50k		(3,434,888)	(8,223,428)	(4,788,540)	(4,360,903)	(188,330)		(239,307)	
Total Prosperity & Investment		(6,587,931)	(9,963,084)	(3,375,153)	(3,220,882)	(188,330)	0	34,059	
Council Wide									
Depreciation & Revaluations	Depreciation / Asset Rentals	(20,085,310)	(39,286,493)	(19,201,183)	(19,201,183)				
Budgeted Contingency		5,909,000		(5,909,000)				(5,909,000)	
Other Council Wide Items		(14,349,402)	(17,861,201)	(3,511,800)				(3,511,800)	Includes contract and pay inflation contingency, NDR levy account surplus redistributed
	Purchase Rebates - income	(590,000)	(1,088,306)	(498,306)				(498,306)	Additional WMS Dividend & WME Rebates Received
	Employees (staff misc)	733,390	894,897	161,507				161,507	corporate pension costs higher than budgeted
	Pension - lump sum discount	(200,040)	(590)	199,450				199,450	Prepayment option not taken in 24/25; cashflow benefit in Treasury
	Transfers to Reserves		2,866,000	2,866,000				2,866,000	
Variations under £50k	IAS 19 Pensions Accounting Adjustment	4,064,510	3,600,910	3,600,910		3,600,910		(3,206)	
		4,061,304	(3,206)						
Total Council Wide Items		(24,517,852)	(46,813,480)	(22,295,628)	(19,201,183)	3,600,910	0	(6,695,355)	
		157,295,840	157,586,304	290,464	0	0	0	290,464	
Corporate Funding									
Funding	Collection Fund	(1,416,070)	(1,416,070)	0				0	
	Council Tax	(86,952,800)	(86,952,805)	(5)				(5)	
	NDR	(37,629,330)	(37,670,967)	(41,637)				(41,637)	
	NDR Top Up	(5,918,750)	(5,987,847)	(69,097)				(69,097)	
	Section 31 Grant	(13,018,760)	(13,289,937)	(271,177)				(271,177)	
	Revenue Support Grant	(12,393,040)	(12,393,040)	0				0	
	Council Tax Support - Parish Council	32,910	32,905	(5)				(5)	
Variations under £50k				0					
Total Corp Items Funding		(157,295,840)	(157,677,761)	(381,921)	0	0	0	(381,921)	
TOTAL		(0)	(91,456)	(91,456)	0	0	0	(91,456)	

APPENDIX C

2024/25 Revenue Virements for Approval

Virements To:		£	Virements From:		£
Finance, People & IDT					
IDT Telephone Recharges		70,693	Treasury Management		1,084,053
IDT Corporate Supply & Services		116,832	Payments - duplicate payments		55,286
IDT Schools Gold Service		70,032	Finance - employees		131,239
			Learning & Development - employees		68,996
			Variations under £50,000		239,604
			IAS 19 Pension Charges		296,090
			Capital Charges		49
		257,557			1,875,317
Policy & Governance					
Land Charges - Income		65,203	Policy & Governance - use of reserves		53,062
Legal		113,147	Variations under £50,000		145,472
			IAS 19 Pension Charges		127,120
Capital Charges		34,140			
		212,490			325,653
Adult Social Care					
All long term care purchasing-Spot & block for all ages		7,034,550	Income - client contributions		681,018
Health funding contributions-all ages and care types		1,939,463	Older People & Disability - staffing & operational expenditure		415,115
Autism, Learning Disability & Mental Health - staffing & operational expenditure		203,662	Older People & Disability - income		546,201
		353,468	Service Improvement & Efficiency - staffing & operational expenditure		163,732
Autism, Learning Disability & Mental Health - income					
		538,184	Place Based Commissioning and Procurement - staffing & operational expenditure		192,492
My Options-Adults & Children's services					
In House purchasing (from My Options)		497,244	Contribution from reserves		199,000

2024/25 Revenue Virements for Approval

<u>Virements To:</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Virements From:</u>	<u>£</u>
Prevention & Enablement - staffing & operational expenditure	82,463		
Prevention & Enablement - intermediate Care	264,165		
		IAS 19 Pension Charges	520,610
Capital Charges	412,680		
	11,325,879		2,718,168
Housing, Commercial and Customer Services			
Affordable Housing - income	289,730	Catering	141,258
Supporting People - supplies and services	185,504	Housing Benefit Subsidy net position	295,615
Telford Theatre	133,112	Discretionary awards & Welfare Benefit team - supplies and services	81,915
Town Park - supplies and services	61,498	Discretionary awards & Welfare Benefit team - transfer payments	113,212
Customer Contact Centre - employees	53,823	Homelessness & Prevention	351,629
Discretionary awards & Welfare Benefit team - contribution to reserves	111,000	Housing - Income	95,625
Solar Farm - income	50,606	Telford Ice Rink - income	149,323
		Community Engagement - employees	61,315
		Variations under £50,000	354,620
		IAS 19 Pension Charges	466,520
Capital Charges	207,576		
	1,092,849		2,111,031
Children's Safeguarding & Family Support			
Children in Care, Leaving Care Team & Speciality Services, Family Solutions - health funding	480,663	Children in Care, Leaving Care Team & Speciality Services, Family Solutions - placements	270,896

2024/25 Revenue Virements for Approval

Virements To:	£	Virements From:	£
Children in Care, Leaving Care Team & Speciality Services, Family Solutions - operational expenditure	1,171,321	Children in Care, Leaving Care Team & Speciality Services, Family Solutions - income	1,777,203
Child Protection & Family Support, Parenting Assessment & Contact Teams - operational expenditure	234,662		
Service Wide - staffing	70,987		
		IAS 19 Pension Charges	504,540
Capital Charges	99,899		
	2,057,531		2,552,639
Education & Skills			
Specialist Services	177,205	Variations under £50,000	58,149
Premature Retirement costs	236,349		
		IAS 19 Pension Charges	1,217,750
Capital Charges	21,642,079		
	22,055,632		1,275,899
Health & Wellbeing			
Telford Coroner Service - contracted services	82,330	Health Protection - income	75,280
Public Health services	108,853	Public Health Grant	225,239
Public Health - contribution to reserve	116,386		
		IAS 19 Pension Charges	58,400
	307,569		358,919
Neighbourhood & Enforcement			
Street Lighting - supplies & services	202,008	Street Lighting - use of reserves	216,000
Winter Maintenance, flooding - supplies and services	68,577	Waste & Neighbourhood Services	103,110
Enforcement Control - income	60,347	Concessionary Travel - supplies and services	101,073
On Street Car Parking - income	60,000	Variations under £50,000	178,322

2024/25 Revenue Virements for Approval

<u>Virements To:</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Virements From:</u>	<u>£</u>
Off Street Car Parking - income	117,107		
IAS 19 Pension Charges		IAS 19 Pension Charges	221,550
Capital Charges	25,742		
	533,781		820,055
Prosperity & Investment			
BiTs - Arch & Build Hold Ac	103,200	FM - Building Support Services	203,503
Admin Buildings	148,422	Operational Buildings - premises	605,615
Travellers & Gypsy Sites	112,878	Operational Buildings - income	65,000
Property Investment Portfolio	392,225	Property Investment Portfolio - service charges	124,676
Income Initiative	200,000	Inward Investment - employees	135,719
Planning	451,154	Variations under £50,000	239,307
		IAS 19 Pension Charges	188,330
		Capital Charges	3,220,882
	1,407,879		4,783,032
Corporate			
Transfer to Reserves	2,866,000	Budgeted Contingency	5,909,000
Staff Miscellaneous - employees	161,507	Other Council Wide Items	3,511,800
Pension Lump Sum	199,450	Purchase Rebate Income	498,306
		Funding	138,031
IAS 19 Pension Charges	3,600,910		
		Capital Charges	19,201,183
	6,827,867		29,258,320
	46,079,034		46,079,034

Capital Approvals - by Service Area

Virements			
Scheme	Service Area	Funding Source	24/25 £
Telford Town Park	Housing Commercial & Customer Service	Prudential	32,646.24
Service & Financial Approved Schemes	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	Prudential	(32,646.24)
Town Centre Connectivity	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	Prudential	(120,514.68)
Integrated Transport	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	External	60,000.00
Air Quality	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	Grant	(19,670.18)
HCA Land Deal	Prosperity & Investment	External	(60,000.00)
Towns Fund	Prosperity & Investment	Prudential	120,514.68
Decarbonisation	Prosperity & Investment	Prudential	63,935.56
Climate Change	Housing, Commercial & Customer Service	Prudential	(63,935.56)
Climate Change	Housing, Commercial & Customer Service	Grant	19,670.18
Adults Supported Accommodation	Adult Social Care	Prudential	9,531.70
Asset Management Plan-General Works & Survey	Prosperity & Investment	Prudential	(9,531.70)
ICT Investment Programme	Finance, People and IDT	Grant	82,005.63
All Other School schemes	Education & Skills	Grant	(82,005.63)
			0.00

New Allocations						
Scheme	Service Area	Funding Source	24/25 £	25/26 £	26/27 £	27/28 £
Affordable Housing Programme	Housing, Commercial & Customer Service	Grant		255,000.00		
Housing	Housing, Commercial & Customer Service	Grant	(153,785.00)	451,200.00		
Housing	Housing, Commercial & Customer Service	Capital Receipts	30,498.67	126,920.23		
Pride in our Play Areas	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	External	9,108.00			
Pride in our Play Areas	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	Revenue	650.00			
Flood Defence Grant in Aid	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	Grant		66,000.00		
Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	Grant		102,000.00	408,000.00	510,000.00
Property Flood Resilience	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	Grant	9,496.05			
Integrated Transport	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	External	883.09	45,533.90		
Integrated Transport	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	Revenue	9,230.93			
Highways / Footpaths	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	Revenue	3,000.00			
Highways / Footpaths	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	External	20,443.70			
Integrated Transport	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	External	70,498.23			
Service & Financial Approved Schemes	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	Revenue		10,000.00		
Service & Financial Approved Schemes	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	External	155,532.79			
Town Centre Connectivity	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	External	120,514.68			
Integrated Transport	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	Grant		6,890,000.00		
Potters Group Landfill Community Fund	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	Revenue	6,894.45			
Highways Strategic Projects	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	External		36,464.00		
Towns Fund	Prosperity & Investment	External	20,912.69			
Towns Fund	Prosperity & Investment	Grant	223,510.00			
Towns Fund	Prosperity & Investment	Prudential	116,578.01			
Regeneration Funding	Prosperity & Investment	Grant		142,826.00		
Property Investment Portfolio	Prosperity & Investment	Capital Receipts	1,754,186.40			1,339,967.40
Accommodation Options	Prosperity & Investment	Revenue	(19,379.00)			
Rights of Way	Prosperity & Investment	Revenue	550.00			
Rights of Way	Prosperity & Investment	External	26,120.00			
Orleton Park Recreation	Prosperity & Investment	Prudential	(18,000.00)			
Asset Management Plan-General Works & Survey	Prosperity & Investment	Grant	(7,070.00)			
Asset Management Plan-General Works & Survey	Prosperity & Investment	External	45,036.67			
Levelling Up Fund	Prosperity & Investment	Prudential	43,619.44			
Decarbonisation	Prosperity & Investment	Prudential	19,179.69			
St Georges Regeneration	Prosperity & Investment	Prudential	44,467.56			
Land Deal Board Schemes	Prosperity & Investment	External		(253,424.10)		
ICT Investment Programme	Finance, People and IDT	Prudential	89,919.04			
ICT Investment Programme	Finance, People and IDT	External	(21,562.44)	32,473.22		
All Other Schools Schemes	Education & Skills	External	924,888.49			
All Other Schools Schemes	Education & Skills	Grant		4,016,853.56	2,255,134.61	1,430,399.67
Cemeteries	Policy & Governance	Revenue		(142,966.38)		
Managing the Funding of the Capital Programme	Corporate Items	Capital Receipts	16,283.21			
Managing the Funding of the Capital Programme	Corporate Items	Prudential	(16,283.21)			
			3,525,922.14	11,778,880.43	2,663,134.61	3,280,367.07

Slippage						
Scheme	Service Area	Funding Source	24/25 £	25/26 £	26/27 £	27/28 £
Integrated Community Schemes	Adult Social Care	Prudential	21,389.33	(21,389.33)		
Childrens & Adults ICT Systems Review	Adult Social Care	Prudential	(26,934.12)	26,934.12		
ICT Investment Programme	Finance, People and IDT	Capital Receipt	(23,820.72)	23,820.72		
ICT Investment Programme	Finance, People and IDT	Prudential	(908,973.13)	908,973.13		
All Other Schools Schemes	Education & Skills	Grant	(3,435,931.60)	3,435,931.60		
All Other Schools Schemes	Education & Skills	Capital Receipts	(9,912.51)	9,912.51		
Regeneration Funding	Prosperity & Investment	Grant	26,312.55	(26,312.55)		
Regeneration Funding	Prosperity & Investment	Prudential	(86,895.00)	86,895.00		
Stalled Sites	Prosperity & Investment	Capital Receipt	123,913.59	(123,913.59)		
HCA Land Deal	Prosperity & Investment	External	(232,733.72)	232,733.72		
Land Deal Liability Sites	Prosperity & Investment	External	(183,972.98)	183,972.98		
Capital Receipts Site Preparation	Prosperity & Investment	Capital Receipt	79,144.02	(79,144.02)		
Levelling Up Fund	Prosperity & Investment	Grant	(4,617,853.82)	4,617,853.82		
Levelling Up Fund	Prosperity & Investment	Prudential	830,709.47	(830,709.47)		
Towns Fund	Prosperity & Investment	External	1,975,310.81	(1,975,310.81)		
Towns Fund	Prosperity & Investment	Prudential	(235,730.64)	235,730.64		
Towns Fund - Oakengates	Prosperity & Investment	Prudential	(163,789.78)	163,789.78		
Towns Fund- Oakengates	Prosperity & Investment	External	2,483.76	(2,483.76)		
Towns Fund -Wellington	Prosperity & Investment	Grant	297,864.47	(297,864.47)		
Towns Fund- Wellington	Prosperity & Investment	Prudential	(98,923.89)	98,923.89		
Stronger Communities	Prosperity & Investment	Prudential	200,159.05	(200,159.05)		
St Georges Regeneration	Prosperity & Investment	Capital Receipts	(230,161.84)	230,161.84		
Housing Company -Housing	Prosperity & Investment	Prudential	2,407,668.90	(2,407,668.90)		
Playing Pitch Investment	Prosperity & Investment	Capital Receipts	(240,379.78)	240,379.78		
Condition Works - Leisure	Prosperity & Investment	Prudential	1,199,352.25	(1,199,352.25)		
Property Investment Porfolio	Prosperity & Investment	Capital Receipts	(2,516,181.41)	2,516,181.41		
Property Investment Porfolio	Prosperity & Investment	Prudential	(267,055.08)	267,055.08		
Rights of Way	Prosperity & Investment	Prudential	(815.33)	815.33		
Decarbonisation	Prosperity & Investment	Grant	(41,992.00)	41,992.00		
Decarbonisation	Prosperity & Investment	Prudential	(296,878.32)	296,878.32		
Asset Management Plan-General Works & Survey	Prosperity & Investment	Prudential	110,811.49	(110,811.49)		
Pride in Your High Street	Prosperity & Investment	Revenue	(80,000.00)	80,000.00		
Pride in Your High Street	Prosperity & Investment	Prudential	(152,822.56)	152,822.56		
Leisure Capital Schemes	Housing Commercial & Customer Services	Prudential	(41,126.82)	41,126.82		
Housing	Housing Commercial & Customer Services	Prudential	(170,984.41)	170,984.41		
Housing	Housing Commercial & Customer Services	Grant	(305,706.02)	305,706.02		
Affordable Housing Programme	Housing Commercial & Customer Services	Grant	641,513.51	(641,513.51)		
Affordable Housing Programme	Housing Commercial & Customer Services	Prudential	(920,186.48)	920,186.48		
Climate Change	Housing Commercial & Customer Services	Prudential	(20,424.62)	20,424.62		
Swimming Pool in the Dawley Area	Housing Commercial & Customer Services	Capital Receipts	(41,445.30)	41,445.30		
Ironbridge Gorge Stability	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	Prudential	(16,645.26)	16,645.26		
Environmental Improvements/ Enhancements	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	Prudential	(62,892.56)	62,892.56		
Flood Defence Grant in Aid	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	Grant	(157,402.85)	157,402.85		
Violence Against Women & Girls	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	Prudential	(181,810.93)	181,810.93		
Mobile Enforcement Hub & CCTV	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	Prudential	(8,993.00)	8,993.00		
Active Travel	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	Grant	(730,348.61)	730,348.61		
Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	Grant	(501,676.07)	501,676.07		
Safer Routes to Schools	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	Prudential	(65,175.76)	65,175.76		
Pride in our Play Areas	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	Prudential	(19,249.26)	19,249.26		
Integrated Transport	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	Grant	(36,389.00)	36,389.00		
LED Lighting	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	Prudential	(19,775.01)	19,775.01		
Highways / Footpaths	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	Prudential	(269,283.95)	269,283.95		
Service & Financial Approved Schemes	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	Prudential	(109,033.44)	109,033.44		
Legal Fees	Policy & Governance	Prudential	(6,753.09)	6,753.09		
Branding Refresh	Policy & Governance	Prudential	(12,605.98)	12,605.98		
Cemeteries	Policy & Governance	Revenue	(6,605.50)	6,605.50		
Efficiency Schemes Capitalisation	Corporate Items	Capital Receipts	136,022.77	(136,022.77)		
Managing the Funding of the Capital Programme	Corporate Items	Capital Receipts	(1,512,839.59)	1,512,839.59		
Managing the Funding of the Capital Programme	Corporate Items	Prudential	1,512,839.59	(1,512,839.59)		
			(9,503,616.18)	9,503,616.18		

TRANSFERS TO RESERVES - YEAR END 2024/25

Description	Amount £
Invest to Save / Capacity Fund - to support the delivery of future ongoing savings	900,000
Income Equalisation / Budget Equalisation	900,000
Severance Fund - to support the delivery of future ongoing savings	500,000
Job Box	200,000
Amphitheatre	150,000
Business Development Centre - roof refurbishment to meet EPC regulatins, work committed in 25/26	119,306
Capacity to deliver Service Reviews	100,000
Forum 50+	50,000
Street Lighting	45,334
Councillors Pride Fund - committed to schemes to be delivered in 25/26	34,462
Invest to Save Commercial Marketing	30,000
Funding for land stability monitors	23,313
To support Nursery provision	22,750
Procurement Social Value Tool	16,000
Repairs/Replacment Fund (tenant damage)	11,910
Community Pride Initiative	10,000
BACS - system costs	5,000
Vision 2032	2,000
Training	3,000
	3,123,075
Grant Income - various grant funding received, including Public Health Grant and Asylum Seeker/Refugee funding, to be carried forward to new year	4,461,851
Pooled Funds, including Better Care Fund	399,732
Third Party/External Funds	54,095
	8,038,753



Telford & Wrekin
Co-operative Council

Protect, care and invest
to create a better borough

Borough of Telford and Wrekin

Full Council

17 July 2025

2025/26 Financial Monitoring Report

Cabinet Member:	Cllr Zona Hannington - Cabinet Member: Finance, Governance and Customer Services
Lead Director:	Michelle Brockway - Director: Finance, People and IDT
Service Area:	Finance, People and IDT
Report Author:	Pauline Harris – Finance Manager
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Wards Affected:	All Wards
Key Decision:	Key Decision
Forward Plan:	21 May 2025
Report considered by:	SMT – 17 June 2025 Business Briefing – 26 June 2025 Cabinet – 17 July 2025 Full Council – 17 July 2025

1.0 Recommendations for Decision/Noting

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 1.1 Notes the 2025/26 revenue budget position, which shows that the Council is projecting to be within budget at year end, without having to use the Budget Strategy or General Fund reserves;
- 1.2 Notes the position in relation to capital spend; and recommends that Full Council approve 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

- 1.3 Notes the collection rates for NNDR, council tax and sales ledger.

It is recommended that Council:

- 1.4 Notes the 2025/26 revenue budget position, which shows that the Council is projecting to be within budget at year end, without having to use the Budget Strategy or General Fund reserves;
- 1.5 Notes the position in relation to capital spend and approves 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.
- 1.6 Notes the collection rates for NNDR, council tax and sales ledger.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To provide Cabinet with the latest financial monitoring position for the year relating to: the revenue budget, capital programme and income collection.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2025/26 to 2028/29 was approved at Full Council on 27 February 2025, which included the 2025/26 revenue budget and medium term capital programme. Since the MTFS was approved, the economic climate has continued to be challenging with cost and demand pressures being experienced, particularly in relation to the provision of Adult Social Care.
- 3.2 Good financial management is an essential element of good governance and long-term service planning which are critical to ensuring that local service provision is sustainable and the use of resources is maximised in order to meet the needs of our residents.
- 3.3 Financial management is the responsibility of budget holders and is supported by Finance staff using a risk-based approach: more focus is given to higher risk areas (high value/more volatile) whilst less frequent financial monitoring is undertaken on budgets deemed to be medium to lower risk. Financial monitoring provides Cabinet and Senior Management Team with a focussed view on the Council's financial performance, to inform and support decision making and to ensure financial sustainability.
- 3.4 This Financial Monitoring Report for 2025/26 provides the latest projections in relation to the projected outturn position i.e. how projected net revenue spend compares to the budget set for the year - progress against the approved 2025/26 capital programme - the key issues to be highlighted; together with a summary of collection information in relation to Council Tax, Business Rates and Sales Ledger income.
- 3.5 The Government has committed to reforming the Local Government Finance System with the intention that 2026/27 will be the first year of a new funding regime for Local Authorities. The new system will include an updated assessment of relative needs and resources and a reset of the Business Rates Retention Scheme.

While there will be some transitional measures to smooth the impact of changes, the detailed implications for individual authorities are unlikely to be known until December 2025. As part of the process, a consultation was launched in June: The Fair Funding Review, which is seeking views on determining new funding allocations for local authorities and outlines proposals to update the overall funding system. This will feed into a Policy Statement to be published in the Autumn. This context makes financial planning extremely challenging. The funding outlook for the medium term therefore remains very uncertain and will clearly continue to be challenging, particularly given the Council has already had to deliver £181.7m ongoing budget savings since 2009/10.

- 3.6 There is a statutory duty for local authorities to set a balanced and robust budget each financial year and to take timely action to address financial pressures. In order to support unforeseen pressures the approved budget for 2025/26 includes contingencies of £7.2m (£3.95m General contingency and £3.25m specific contingencies including £2m for Adult Social Care). This supports the Council's aim to continue to deliver quality services whilst ensuring a balanced budget.

4.0 Summary of main proposals

- 4.1.1 Nationally, Councils continue to face extreme challenges in 2025/26 with unprecedented pressures driven by high costs and high demand for services – particularly Adult Social Care, Children's Safeguarding and School Travel Assistance.
- 4.1.2 On 11 June 2025 the Chancellor announced the Spending Review which set out budgets for all government departments for the period 2026/27 to 2028/29, and up to 2029/30 for capital investments.

The Local Government settlement showed an additional £3.3 billion grant funding in real terms for local authorities in 2028/29 compared with 2023/24, resulting in an average overall real terms increase in local authority core spending power between 2023/24 and 2028/29 of 3.1% per year.

The key announcements relating to local government at a national level include, additional housing investment, early intervention funding for the prevention of homelessness, additional funding for Adult Social Care (via increases to NHS budgets), funding to transform Children's Social Care, a SEND reform (with a White Paper due in the Autumn) and consolidation of the Household Support Fund into a new Crisis and Resilience Fund for households..

The Spending Review also reaffirmed the Government's commitment to multi-year allocations and moving to a more up-to-date assessment of each council's needs and resources as part of the 2026/27 Local Government Finance Settlement.

Overall, the Spending Review provides some additional investment for local government which is welcome however financial pressures will continue in 2025/26 and detailed information for individual council is unlikely to be fully available until the Local Government Finance Settlement is announced in December 2025, and further detail relating to grant funding is available, to determine the implications for Telford & Wrekin Council.

- 4.1.3 Whilst inflation is expected to reduce in the medium term, current indicators show that the economy will be slower to recover than was expected when the Council's budget was set. In May 2025, CPI was 3.4% which is above the Bank of England's 2% target. The Bank of England reduced base rate from 4.5% in April to 4.25% in May but is still higher than was anticipated when the Council's budget was set.
- 4.1.4 Given these factors, monitoring for 2025/26 indicates a number of variations from the approved budget, notably relating to Adult Social Care where in order to meet the needs of the most vulnerable residents, additional investment is required.
- 4.1.5 Strong financial management and prudent financial planning mean that the Council has budgeted contingencies in place, £3.95m General Contingency and £3.25m specific contingencies including £2m for Adult Social Care, to meet the financial pressures currently being projected. This will ensure that the overall position will be within the budget set at year end.
- 4.1.6 The Council has an excellent track record of strong financial management and Cabinet Members and budget holders will continue their work to manage budgets as effectively as possible during the year.
- 4.1.7 Projections will continue to be refined as the year progresses. Whilst extremely challenging, the Council's aim is to continue to deliver quality services to the residents of the borough and protect critical front-line services.
- 4.1.8 A summary of the current projection for the year end position is:-

	£m
Net Revenue Budget	167.640
Projected Net Revenue Outturn	172.503
Projected Pressures	+4.863
Use of One off Budgeted Contingency (earmarked for Social Care Pressures)	-2.000
Use of One off Budgeted Contingency (earmarked for general pressures)	-0.750
Use of General Budget Contingency	-2.113
Projected Year End Variance i.e. net spend will be within budget	0.000

- 4.1.9 There are a number of variations from the approved budget, detailed in Section 5. The key variance is Adult Social Care (ASC), with £5.6m additional investment currently being required relating to the cost of providing care packages across all client groups. This includes the impact of market price increases, more complex needs, higher demand and longer periods of care being required; all of which are being analysed by the Service with the aim of refining projections and managing spend. This is after additional net investment of £7.7m into ASC in 2025/26 as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

4.2 Capital

The capital programme totals £138.6m for 2025/26 which includes all approvals since the budget was set. Schemes are in progress and at the time of compiling this report spend is projected to be under budget which indicates that there is likely to be re-phasing into 2026/27 at year end. It is, however early in the year and the programme will continue to be monitored and updates brought in future reports.

4.3 Corporate Income Collection

Income collection rates are currently behind the targets set, however it is early in the year and work continues to actively pursue all income due. Ultimately, all debt will be pursued and will continue to be collected after the end of the financial year with all appropriate recovery avenues being pursued.

5.0 Additional Information

5.1 The overall 2025/26 monitoring position against the budget is summarised in the table below:

Service Area	Budget	Total Current Variation
	£m	£m
Finance, People & IDT	18.836	0.000
Policy & Governance	1.282	0.045
Adult Social Care	77.235	5.569
Housing, Commercial & Customer Services	6.253	0.000
Children's Safeguarding & Family Support	49.565	(0.004)
Education & Skills	14.308	0.483
Health & Wellbeing	0.828	0.000
Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	31.612	0.001
Prosperity & Investment	(6.318)	0.000
Council Wide	(25.960)	(1.231)
Total Pressures	167.641	+4.863
Use of Budgeted Contingencies		-4.863
Projected Year End Position - Within Budget		0.000

5.2.1 Projected variances over £0.250m are highlighted below, all other variances over £50k are detailed in Appendix B.

Service Area	Variance £m
<u>Adult Social Care</u>	
Longer Term Care Purchasing –expenditure relating to block and spot contracts continues to be under significant pressure. The trajectory of growth is being monitored closely. The service continues to work on delivering care which maximises prevention and independence where possible.	+5.370
Income – anticipated to be higher than income targets	-0.433
My Options – in house purchasing - the impact of increased demand and increased charges.	+0.950
Short-term Reablement Care & Prevention Work continues with the ICB to reduce the pressure on the Better Care Fund budget, this will be closely monitored through the year	
<u>Children’s Safeguarding & Family Support</u>	
Children in Care, Leaving Care Team & Speciality Services, Family Solutions:	
CIC placements, Post 18 Staying Put & Leaving Care Support – lower than budgeted costs which includes the full year impact of savings from the work with Impower and ongoing work on prevention, early intervention and review of placement costs.	-0.257
Homelessness – relates to homelessness accommodation costs	+0.353
<u>Education & Skills</u>	
Employee costs – additional costs due to inflationary pressures relating to historic teacher pension costs	+0.268
<u>Council Wide</u> - various underspends, including higher than budgeted Business Rates Retention Section 31 grant and release of provision for savings which do not benefit general fund.	-0.989

5.2.2 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)

Dedicated Schools Grant sits within Education & Skills and is monitored separately to the Council's General Fund position shown in Section 5.1. Excluding funds passed to academies and colleges, Dedicated Schools Grant totals £130m in 2025/26. DSG deficits are currently required to be held in a separate reserve in local authorities' accounts.

Telford & Wrekin's DSG had a deficit of £4.66m at the end of 2024/25 which has carried forward into 2025/26. This was made up of £1.82m deficit carried forward from 2023/24 plus the 2024/25 in year overspend of £2.84m.

The deficit arises because of high needs budget pressures. This is a national issue, illustrated by most upper tier Councils having a DSG deficit by the end of 2023/24 which totals £2.148bn nationally. In order to alleviate pressure on the 2025/26 high needs budgets, Telford & Wrekin's schools forum again agreed to transfer 0.5% of the schools block to high needs, amounting to £0.9m. This agreement illustrates the positive relationships with schools and other providers which are invaluable in assisting the Council to maintain budgetary control of DSG, whilst ensuring that we meet our responsibilities to young people.

The increase in the Government's 2025/26 high needs funding allocation to Councils, including Telford & Wrekin, is higher than in 2024/25, which will assist in meeting cost pressures. The Council has established a cost improvement plan to address high needs budget pressures and continues to work hard to tackle the high needs pressures in partnership with the Forum, schools and other providers of education. However, with continuing growth in demand for high needs support, the budget situation will remain challenging in 2025/26.

The way in which local authorities account for DSG deficits was altered in 2020. DSG deficits are now required to be held in a separate reserve in local authorities' accounts and is disregarded from the measure of local authority reserves. These regulations currently apply up to 31 March 2026. The Government is proposing to extend this to March 2028 and will work with local authorities to manage DSG deficits. Further detail is anticipated as part of the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement later in the year.

The position is being closely monitored and updates will be included in future reports when more information is known.

5.3 CONTINGENCIES, RESERVES & BALANCES

- 5.3.1 The 2025/26 budget includes a general revenue contingency of £3.950m which is set aside to meet any unforeseen expenditure or income shortfalls during the year and a one-off contingency of £3.250m set aside specifically for Social Care pressures, PIP and other pressures.

The current projected position would require use of all of the one-off contingency earmarked for Social Care and would leave a balance of £1.837m in the general contingency and £0.5m in the other contingency for the remainder of the year (see table in 4.1.8).

5.3.2 There is also a contingency amount held centrally for contractual and pay inflation. Any residual balance, when the pay award and inflation requirements are known, will be applied to support the overall position.

5.3.3 The Budget Strategy Reserve remains at £21.7m.

5.4 CAPITAL

5.4.1 2025/26 Capital Programme

The 2025/26 capital programme totals £138.6m. The financial position is shown in the table below and shows projected spend at £135.7m which indicates that there will be some re-phasing into 2026/27 required at year end. It is early in the year and the programme will continue to be monitored and updates brought in future reports.

Service Area	Approved Budget	Spend	% Spend	Year End
	£m	£m		£m
Prosperity & Investment	72.96	4.79	6.57%	71.87
Policy & Governance	0.07	0.00	0.00%	0.07
Education & Skills	21.65	1.85	8.57%	21.65
Adult Social Care	0.09	0.00	0.00%	0.02
Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	21.13	0.87	4.10%	21.13
Hsg, Commercial & Customer Services	14.97	0.95	6.35%	13.58
Finance, People & IDT	5.89	0.46	7.87%	5.91
Corporate Items	1.81	0.00	0.00%	1.51
Total	138.57	8.92	6.4%	135.74

5.4.2 The 2025/26 capital programme is underpinned by capital receipts as part of its funding. Capital receipts included in the medium term budget strategy are kept under continual review and any changes will be reflected in future budget projections but are currently projected to be on target.

5.4.3 Changes to the capital programme are shown in Appendix C for approval.

6.0 CORPORATE INCOME MONITORING

6.1 The Council's budget includes significant income streams which are regularly monitored to ensure they are on track to achieve targets that have been set and so that remedial action can be taken at a very early stage. The three main areas are Council Tax, NNDR (business rates) and Sales Ledger. Current monitoring information relating to these is provided below. The Council pursues outstanding debt vigorously, until all possible recovery avenues have been exhausted, but also prudently provides for bad debts in its accounts.

- 6.2 In summary, collection is outside the targets, however it is early in the year and work continues to actively pursue all income due.

INCOME COLLECTION – MAY 2025			
	Actual	Target	Performance
Council Tax Collection	18.82%	19.09%	0.27% behind target
NNDR Collection	23.99%	24.25%	0.26% behind target
Sales Ledger Outstanding Debt	9.34%	6.00%	3.34% behind target

6.3 Council Tax (£127.3m)

This measure represents the percentage of the current year liability for council tax which the authority should have received during the year, as a percentage of annual collectable debit. The measure does not take account of debt that continues to be pursued and collected after the end of the financial year in which it became due. The final collection figure for all financial years exceeds 99%.

Year End performance 2024/25	97.1%
Year End Target for 2025/26	97.3%

Performance is cumulative during the year and expressed against the complete year's debit.

Month End Target	Month End Actual	Last year Actual
19.09%	18.82%	18.97%

Collection rates are slightly behind target. There are more accounts paying by 12 monthly instalments than this time last year which should have a positive impact on collection rates by year end.

6.4 NNDR-Business Rates (£86.8m)

This measure represents the percentage of business rates for 2025/26 that should have been collected during the year. This target, as for council tax, ignores our continuing collection of earlier years' liabilities.

The measure does not take into account the debt that continues to be pursued and collected after the end of the financial year in which it became due. As a general rule the final collection figure for any financial year exceeds 99%.

Year End performance 2024/25	98.1%
Year End Target for 2025/26	98.1%

Month End Target	Month End Actual	Last year Actual
24.25%	23.99%	24.25%

Collection rates are slightly behind the monthly target and performance last year, although this does not cause concern so early in the financial year.

6.5 Sales Ledger (£96.9m)

This includes general debt and Social Care debt. Debt below 2 months is classified as a normal credit period.

The target percent is set relating cumulative debt outstanding from all years to the current annual debit. The targets and performance of income collection for 2025/26 are as follows:

	Annual Target %	May 2025	
		£m	%
Total	6.00	9.051	9.34

Sales ledger performance is outside of target, although there are some larger organisational debts which we are working with Finance colleagues to liaise with the debtor to recover.

7.0 Alternative Options

- 7.1 Budget holders will investigate a number of options to seek to deliver required service outcomes from within budgeted resources. Options to deliver savings and additional income have been explored.

8.0 Key Risks

- 8.1 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.

9.0 Council Priorities

- 9.1 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 prompt action can be taken to effectively manage the Council's budget.

10.0 Financial Implications

- 10.1 The financial impacts are detailed throughout the report.

11.0 Legal and HR Implications

- 11.1 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. There is also a legal requirement to ensure that the statutory service provision meets demands.

- 11.2 Legal services will provide ongoing advice in relation to specific proposals relating to the making of savings, including on any requirement to undertake consultation as such proposals are brought forward for consideration, the impact of any proposed savings on the delivery of statutory services and any other legal matter arising.

12.0 Ward Implications

- 12.1 There are no impacts on specific wards

13.0 Health, Social and Economic Implications

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

14.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

- 14.1 There are no Equality & Diversity implications directly arising from this report. Proportionate impact assessments are carried out and a range of consultation mechanisms are used where appropriate.

15.0 Climate Change and Environmental Implications

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

16.0 Background Papers

- 1 Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025/26 to 2028/29 Council 27/02/2025

17.0 Appendices

Appendix A	Summary of 2025/26 Projected Variations
Appendix B	2025/26 Revenue Variations over £50,000
Appendix C	Capital Approvals

18.0 Report Sign Off

Signed off by	Date sent	Date signed off	Initials
Director	11/06/2025	20/06/2025	MLB
Finance	10/06/2025	20/06/2025	ER
Legal	11/06/2025	19/06/2025	ACL

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APPENDIX A

2025/26 Revenue Budget Variations

Service Area	Budget	Total Current Variation
	£	£
Finance, People & IDT	18,835,600	0
Policy & Governance	1,281,868	45,000
Adult Social Care	77,234,567	5,569,397
Housing, Commercial & Customer Services	6,252,783	0
Children's Safeguarding & Family Support	49,564,539	(4,753)
Education & Skills	14,308,065	483,367
Health & Wellbeing	827,948	0
Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	31,611,541	972
Prosperity & Investment	(6,317,526)	0
Council Wide	(25,959,705)	(1,231,000)
Total	167,639,680	4,862,983
	0	0

2025/26 Revenue Budget Variations				
Description		Budget	Total Variation	Comments
		£	£	
Finance, People & IDT				
Finance, People & IDT	Variations under £50K	18,835,600	0	
Total Finance, People & IDT		18,835,600	0	
Policy & Governance				
	Variations under £50k	1,281,868	45,000	
Total Policy & Governance		1,281,868	45,000	
Adult Social Care				
All long term care purchasing-Spot & block for all ages and short-term intermediate care	Spot & block purchasing	90,974,325	5,370,121	The long term care projection continues to be under significant pressure. The trajectory of growth is being monitored closely. The management team continue to focus on delivering care which maximises prevention and independence wherever possible.
Short term reablement care & Prevention		7,132,817	0	
Health funding contributions-all ages and care types	Joint Funding	(7,486,218)	0	The team are continuing to focus on maximising joint funding contributions, including historical claims
Income	Client Contributions	(14,195,690)	(433,000)	
Prevention & independence - Older People & Disability	Staffing & Operational expenditure	3,425,444	(93,890)	Mainly from vacancies
My Options in house purchasing	In House purchasing (from My Options)	8,086,352	949,882	Increase in costs linked to increasing demand and increase in charges
Service Improvement & efficiency	Staffing & Operational expenditure	1,699,487	(65,264)	
	Variations under £50k	(12,401,950)	(158,452)	
Total Adult Social Care		77,234,567	5,569,397	
Housing, Commercial & Customer Services				
Housing Strategy & Regeneration	Income	(424,000)	155,000	Income target shortfall; will be delivered when Housing Schemes become operational; Red Lion development due in Q3 of 2025/26. There is a benefit in relation to lower borrowing costs which is included in the Treasury benefit reported under Finance.
	Contribution from Reserves	-	(155,000)	
	Variations under £50k	6,676,783	0	One off use of reserves to mitigate above pressures.
Total Housing, Commercial & Customer Services		6,252,783	0	

2025/26 Revenue Budget Variations				
Description		Budget	Total Variation	Comments
		£	£	
Children's Safeguarding & Family Support				
Children in Care, Leaving Care Team & Speciality Services, Family Solutions	CIC Placements, Post 18 Staying Put & Leaving Care Support	29,911,232	(257,445)	Net (of health funding) reduction in placements budget from 2024/25 of £1.07m. Children in care numbers remain stable. Assumed costs include all known and agreed inflationary increases for 2025/26. Projected placement costs are £1.15m or 4.4% lower than 2024/25 spend as we see full year impact of savings from the work with Impower and ongoing work on prevention, early intervention and review of placement costs.
	Health funding	(6,437,780)	107,154	Income currently projected in line with health income received in 24/25 by way of % of placements costs. Projected to receive £187k less than in 24/25 . Ongoing risk of funding being cut by ICB.
	Children with Disabilities	2,086,020	(56,941)	The realigned budget is now more realistic for this area, but there continues to be a high demand for support for children with disabilities.
	Operational expenditure	1,360,285	39,091	Non placement related expenditure across Children in Care, Leaving Care Team & Speciality Services, Family Solutions
Child Protection & Family Support, Parenting Assessment & Contact Teams	Income	(1,169,550)	(127,032)	Difference between budgeted grant income and actual grant received
	Operational expenditure	678,270	(444)	
Family Safeguarding Service Wide	Operational expenditure	2,102,620	(63,653)	Includes vacancy factor saving of £299,000 and historic pressure of out of hours team, offset by savings from vacancies across service.
	Staffing expenditure	20,006,882	27,465	
Independent Review	Homelessness	130,000	352,944	Majority of overspend relates to accommodation (housing) costs and homelessness
	Income	0	(200,000)	Includes one of use of £200k reserve to offset pressure above
	Staffing expenditure	731,420	35,184	Use of one agency staff to cover sickness
	Operational expenditure	122,741	37,725	Overspends in interpreter fees
Variations under £50k		42,399	101,199	
Total Children's Safeguarding & Family Support		49,564,539	(4,753)	
Education & Skills				
Specialist Services		885,526	100,000	Pressure arises from the Educational Psychology service. Increased internal staffing will mitigate the pressure arising from use of external agency staff, but will not be in place until the Autumn and the volume of statutory assessment work means that income targets for traded services to schools are unlikely to be achieved
Employee Costs		1,139,024	268,349	This policy ceased some years ago however, the local authority remains responsible for any historic pension costs and additional costs are due to inflationary pressures.
Insurance		25,806	89,340	The conversion of maintained schools to academies has led to a reduction in insurance contributions from schools.
Variations Under £50,000		12,257,709	25,678	
Total Education & Skills		14,308,065	483,367	

2025/26 Revenue Budget Variations				
Description		Budget	Total Variation	Comments
		£	£	
Health & Wellbeing				
Health & Wellbeing	Variations under £50K	827,948	0	
Total Health & Wellbeing		827,948	0	
Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services				
Enforcement	Income - Car Parking	(56,220)	160,000	Shortfall against budgeted income from parking
	Variations under £50k	709,033	(42,122)	
Neighbourhood & Environmental Services	Variations under £50k	5,770,975	9,044	
Highways, Engineering & Project Delivery	Supplies & Services - Street Lighting	2,111,130	70,437	Increased Maintenance Costs to be funded by special fund
	Income - Use of Reserves	0	(70,437)	Use of Special Fund to mitigate overspend
	Variations under £50k	9,814,746	(30,000)	
Strategic Transport & Highway Network Management	Supplies & Services - Concessionary Travel	1,653,680	(57,861)	Reduction in operating costs
	Variations under £50k	(3,638)	(100,000)	Projected overachievement against budgeted NRSWA (New Roads & Streetworks Act) income
Safer & Stronger Communities	Variations under £50k	(2,207,585)	16,948	
Waste & Neighbourhood Services	Waste Treatment	13,829,430	45,046	Initial Waste pressure due to projected annual tonnage increases in disposal costs
	Variations under £50k	(10,010)	(83)	
Total Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services		31,611,541	972	
Prosperity & Investment				
	Variations under £50k	(6,317,526)	-	
Total Prosperity & Investment		(6,317,526)	0	

2025/26 Revenue Budget Variations

Description		Budget	Total Variation	Comments
		£	£	
Corporate				
Purchase Rebates		(430,000)	(242,000)	Additional WMS Rebate
Council Wide			(989,000)	Various council wide underspends, including additional BRR Section 31 grant and provision for savings not benefitting general fund
Council Wide	Variations under £50K	(25,529,705)	0	
Total Corporate		(25,959,705)	(1,231,000)	
Total		167,639,680	4,862,983	

APPENDIX C

Capital Approvals - by Service Area

Slippage

Scheme	Service Area	Funding Source	25/26 £	26/27 £	27/28 £	28/29 £
Climate Change	Housing Commercial & Customer Services	Prudential	(507,989.58)	507,989.58		
Affordable Housing Programme	Housing Commercial & Customer Services	Prudential	(2,346,386.00)	2,346,386.00		
All Other School Schemes	Education & Skills	Grant	(14,328,019.36)	14,328,019.36		
All Other School Schemes	Education & Skills	Capital Receipts	(1,200,000.00)	1,200,000.00		
Pride in Your High Street	Prosperity & Investment	Prudential	(644,258.08)	644,258.08		
Housing Company - Housing	Prosperity & Investment	Prudential	(3,323,904.00)	(966,031.00)	(8,710,065.00)	13,000,000.00
Levelling Up Fund	Prosperity & Investment	Grant	(6,441,054.37)	6,441,054.37		
Playing Pitch Investment	Prosperity & Investment	Capital Receipt	(500,000.00)	500,000.00		
Stronger Communities	Prosperity & Investment	Prudential	(1,000,000.00)	1,000,000.00		
Towns Fund - Wellington	Prosperity & Investment	Prudential	(38,000.00)	38,000.00		
Towns Fund - Oakengates	Prosperity & Investment	Prudential	(189,855.00)	189,855.00		
Towns Fund	Prosperity & Investment	External	(98,689.19)	98,689.19		
Towns Fund	Prosperity & Investment	Prudential	(1,331,759.79)	1,331,759.79		
HE liability Sites	Prosperity & Investment	Prudential	(700,000.00)	700,000.00		
HE liability Sites	Prosperity & Investment	External	(600,000.00)	600,000.00		
Regeneration Funding	Prosperity & Investment	Prudential	5,284.69	(5,284.69)		
Regeneration Funding	Prosperity & Investment	Grant	(408,560.00)	408,560.00		
Property Investment Programme	Prosperity & Investment	Prudential	(2,595,925.00)	2,595,925.00		
Property Investment Programme	Prosperity & Investment	Capital Receipts	(1,151,805.00)	1,151,805.00		
Property Investment Programme	Prosperity & Investment	External	(1,197,424.00)	1,197,424.00		
Capital investment Fund	Corporate Items	Prudential	(65,367.00)	65,367.00		
Managing the Funding of the Capital Programme	Corporate Items	Capital Receipts	2,851,805.00	(6,851,805.00)		4,000,000.00
Managing the Funding of the Capital Programme	Corporate Items	Prudential	(2,851,805.00)	6,851,805.00		(4,000,000.00)
Efficiency Schemes Capitalisation	Corporate Items	Capital Receipts		(2,000,000.00)		2,000,000.00
Legal Fees	Policy And Governance	Prudential	(90,000.00)	90,000.00		
ICT Investment Programme	Finance, People & IDT	Prudential	1,770,000.00	(1,421,000.00)	(349,000.00)	
			(36,983,711.68)	31,042,776.68	(9,059,065.00)	15,000,000.00

New Allocation

Scheme	Service Area	Funding Source	25/26 £	26/27 £	27/28 £	28/29 £
Affordable Housing Programme	Housing Commercial & Customer Services	Grant	25,000.00			
Housing	Housing, Employment & Infrastructure	Grant	2,862,309.00			
Violence Against Women & Girls	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	Revenue	(181,810.93)			
Social Care Capital Grant	Adult Social Care	Grant	(5,497.52)			
ICT Investment Programme	Finance, People and IDT	Capital Receipts		950,000.00		
			2,700,000.55	950,000.00	0.00	0.00



Telford & Wrekin
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Full Council

Councillor Leave of Absence

Cabinet Member:	Cllr Zona Hannington – Cabinet Member: Finance, Governance & Customer Services
Lead Director:	Anthea Lowe – Director: Policy and Governance (Monitoring Officer)
Service Area:	Registrars, Public Protection, Legal and Democracy
Report Author:	Colin J Sweeney – Locum Democracy Manager
Officer Contact Details:	Tel: 01952 384190 Email: colin.sweeney@telford.gov.uk
Wards Affected:	Shawburch and Dothill
Key Decision:	Not Key Decision
Forward Plan:	Not Applicable
Report considered by:	Full Council – 17 July 2025

1.0 Recommendation for Decision:

Council is recommended to:

- 1.1 Approve a leave of absence for Councillor Karen Tomlinson, for the purposes of section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 until 16 January 2026.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 Council is asked to approve a leave of absence for Councillor Karen Tomlinson, owing to caring responsibilities, until 16 January 2026

3.0 Background

- 3.1 Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, states that any member of a local authority who fails to attend any meeting of the authority for a period of six months ceases to be a member of that authority, unless the Council approves the reason for such failure before the expiry of that period of six months. This is known as the six-month rule.

4.0 Summary of main proposals

- 4.1 Councillor Karen Tomlinson has given notice to the Monitoring Officer to ask for a dispensation from Full Council to undertake a period of caring responsibilities for a close relative.
- 4.2 Full Council is recommended to approve a leave of absence for Councillor Karen Tomlinson until 16 January 2026 and note that this be an approved reason for the purposes of section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

6.0 Legal and HR Implications

- 6.1 Full Council is empowered pursuant to section 85 the Local Government Act 1972, to agree the absence of Councillors where there is a risk that they may breach the six-month rule.

7.0 Background Papers

There are no background papers arising from this report.

8.0 Appendices

There are no appendices arising from this report.

9.0 Report Sign Off

Signed off by	Date sent	Date signed off	Initials
Legal	02/07/2025	03/07/2025	RP
Finance	02/07/2025	03/07/2025	PH



Telford & Wrekin
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Borough of Telford and Wrekin

Full Council

Thursday 17 July 2025

Constitution Update Report

Cabinet Member:	Cllr Zona Hannington - Cabinet Member: Finance, Governance & Customer Services	
Lead Director:	Anthea Lowe - Director: Policy & Governance	
Service Area:	Policy & Governance	
Report Author:	Richard Phillips – Service Delivery Manager: Registrars, Public Protection, Legal & Democracy	
Officer Contact Details:	Tel: 01952 383241	Email: richard.phillips@telford.gov.uk
Wards Affected:	All Wards	
Key Decision:	Not Key Decision	
Forward Plan:	Not Applicable	
Report considered by:	Governance Committee - 15 July 2025	

1.0 Recommendations for decision/noting:

It is recommended that Full Council:

- 1.1 Approves the adoption of the revised and updated Constitution at Appendix A **(please note that the draft Constitution is being considered by Governance Committee on 15 July 2025 and so will be published following that meeting)**

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the significant piece of work undertaken to review and update the Constitution and seek approval for the adoption of the Constitution.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 Governance Committee has responsibility for considering proposed changes to the Constitution and recommends Full Council adopts the Constitution.
- 3.2 The Constitution governs the way in which the Council operates and who makes which decisions. There is a statutory requirement to maintain an up to date Constitution and the Monitoring Officer has the responsibility of maintaining it.
- 3.3 As part of an ongoing review into various elements of the Constitution which required updating due to legislative changes it was considered an appropriate time to update the formatting, reduce the complexity, enhance document navigation and enable key points to be identified more easily.

4.0 Summary of main proposals

- 4.1 The exercise undertaken has been a comprehensive reformatting of the Constitution to make it more accessible, easier to understand and better reflect the way in which the Council operates.
- 4.2 The first change is the re-ordering of sections so that the document flows in a more methodical manner. This also makes it easier to read, access and use.
- 4.3 It has been broken down into smaller constituent parts so that users can move to the sections they require more easily. The numbering has also been updated so that there are now Chapters and Parts and therefore a reference to any particular element is clear and accurate with consistent numbering.
- 4.4 The terms of reference for the Council's various Committees have been moved to form appendices so the main body of the Constitution has been significantly reduced with ancillary documents being appended. This means that should there be changes to terms of reference, for example, they will be easier to update and locate but they still have the same status and require the same approval process as exists currently.
- 4.5 Processes have been streamlined and statutory updates have been made (for example changes required by the Procurement Act 2023 which came into force on 28 February 2025) mean that the Contract Procedure Rules needed to be updated.
- 4.6 Most references to "Leader and Cabinet" have been amended to "the Executive" to mirror legislation.
- 4.6 Wherever possible hyperlinks have been added so that users can easily cross-reference other parts of the document.
- 4.7 Out of date text has been removed and/or updated where appropriate.

4.8 In areas where text has changed these paragraphs have been highlighted in red.

5.0 Alternative Options

5.1 Full Council could decide not to adopt the revised Constitution but this might result in the Constitution not being legally compliant and the Council may be found to be in breach of its duties to maintain an up to date Constitution.

6.0 Key Risks

6.1 There are no key risks arising from this report.

7.0 Council Priorities

7.1 This report supports all Council priorities as the Constitution has an impact on the delivery of all Council services.

8.0 Financial Implications

8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

9.0 Legal and HR Implications

9.1 The Local Government Act 2000 requires the Council to have a Constitution and maintain it. Governance Committee has oversight of the Constitution and is empowered to consider proposed changes to the Constitution and, if appropriate, make recommendations to Full Council to make changes to it.

9.2 There are no HR implications arising from this report.

10.0 Ward Implications

10.1 There are no direct ward implications arising from this report.

11.0 Health, Social and Economic Implications

11.1 There are no health, social or economic implications directly arising from this report.

12.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

12.1 There are no equality or diversity implications arising from this report.

13.0 Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environmental Implications

13.1 There are no direct climate change or environmental implications arising from this report.

14.0 Background Papers

1 Current Council Constitution – May 2025

15.0 Appendices

A Draft Constitution July 2025 – to follow

16.0 Report Sign Off

Signed off by	Date sent	Date signed off	Initials
Legal	09/07/2025	09/07/2025	EH
Finance	09/07/2025	09/07/2025	MB