



Borough of Telford and Wrekin

Communities Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 12 February 2026

6.00 pm

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

Democratic Services: Paige Starkey 01952 380110

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Committee Members: Councillors E Davies (Chair), E Aston (Vice-Chair), F Doran, S Handley, G Luter, P J Scott and G Thomas

	Agenda	Page
1.0	Apologies for Absence	
2.0	Declarations of Interest	
3.0	Minutes of the Previous Meeting	3 - 6
	To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting held on 2 October 2025.	
4.0	Community Action Team Report	7 - 12
	To review the effectiveness of the Community Action Team Programme including accessibility and funding.	
5.0	Telford & Wrekin Skills Strategy	To Follow
	To receive an update on the effectiveness of the strategy against the five key principles and its impact on improving skill levels across the Borough.	

6.0 Work Programme Review

13 - 18

The review the updated Work Programme for the Communities Scrutiny Committee.

7.0 Chair's Update

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COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday 2 October 2025 at 6.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, Southwater One, Telford, TF3 4JG

Present: Councillors E Davies (Chair), E Aston (Vice-Chair), F Doran, S Handley and G Luter.

In Attendance: E Harvey (Lead Lawyer: Property & Commercial), T Mercer (Service Delivery Manager: Public Health), H Onions (Director: Public Health) and P Starkey (Senior Democracy Officer (Scrutiny)).

Also Present: Councillor K Middleton (Cabinet Member: Public Health & Healthier Communities).

Apologies for Absence: Councillors P J Scott and G Thomas.

COMSC7 Declarations of Interest

None.

COMSC8 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was noted that an amendment was required to record Councillor Fiona Doran as having been present at the previous meeting held on 8 July 2025.

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 July 2025, subject to the amendment above, be approved and signed by the Chair.

COMSC9 Domestic Abuse Strategy

The Committee received a presentation from the Director: Public Health and the Service Delivery Manager: Public Health which provided an update on progress made against the Domestic Abuse Strategy 2023–2025 and the integration of Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) prevention activity within the refreshed approach.

Officers outlined the four-pillar approach of the current strategy which included Partnership, Prevention, Provision and Pursuing & Protection and summarised the significant achievements made since the introduction of the Strategy in 2023 including the establishment of the Lived Experience Advisory Forum (LEAF), the development of the multi-agency DALP dashboard, the expansion and delivery of a comprehensive training programme across Council Partners, improvements to the Domestic Homicide Review processes and the completion of the Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment.

Members were provided with an overview of the work which had been undertaken within the prevention pillar including the expansion of the Community Champions and Workplace Ambassador programmes, the continued development of the White Ribbon campaign, the delivery of domestic abuse awareness and healthy relationships programmes across all primary, secondary and alternative education settings, and strengthened links with Safeguarding Teams. Officers also noted that training uptake from local businesses had been lower than anticipated and that new approaches were being explored.

In terms of provision, Officers reported that the integrated Domestic Abuse Service commissioned in 2023 had delivered specialist support for victims and families, a Single Point of Contact (SPOC) service, support for children and young people, and increased safer accommodation capacity across the borough. It was highlighted that all services had become increasingly trauma-informed and that clearer integrated pathways had been developed for children, young people and adults, linking to services such as Family Connect, Strengthening Families, Adult Social Care, substance misuse services and housing.

As part of the work undertaken within the pursuing and protection pillar, Officers highlighted the increased engagement of victims in the criminal justice processes, the commissioning of perpetrator behaviour-change interventions, and an independent review of MARAC arrangements with actions now in progress.

Officers provided an update on the proposals for refreshed strategic commitments for 2026–2028, including strengthening existing perpetrator programmes, enhanced screening during and after pregnancy in partnership with SaTH and the expansion of White Ribbon activity during the 16 Days of Action. At the time of the meeting, work was also underway to improve safety for women and girls in the night-time economy through partnership activity including CCTV and taxi marshal schemes. Members were also advised that target-hardening measures, including a sanctuary scheme delivered with the Police and a Council-led pilot scheme for low to medium risk victims were being considered to support victims wishing to remain safely in their homes.

Members were informed that market engagement had commenced for the retendering of the Domestic Abuse Service from June 2026. Proposed changes included bringing the management of safer accommodation in-house to the Council's Housing Solutions Team and the separate tendering process for the perpetrator programme tendered due to commissioning arrangements. A part-time VAWG Prevention Lead had recently been appointed to coordinate this work and support delivery of the White Ribbon campaign.

In response to questions raised around engagement with young people and Colleges, the Service Delivery Manager: Public Health confirmed that within the proposed commitments Telford College had committed to supporting one of the 16 Days of Action with a dedicated youth-focused event.

Officers also explained that commissioned providers such as Loudmouth had continued to deliver workshops, assemblies and drama-based sessions in schools to stimulate conversations about healthy relationships, while programmes for young people not in mainstream education were delivered collaboratively by domestic abuse specialists, Early Help teams and partner organisations.

Members discussed the development and sustainability of the Lived Experience Advisory Forum (LEAF) where Officers explained that while many survivors chose to move forward after their personal experience of abuse, the existing group was actively expanding links with survivor-voice forums across West Mercia and Women's Aid. This work was intended to strengthen representation and ensure that lived experience continued to influence strategy delivery and future planning.

Following questions raised on how work around domestic abuse aligned with safeguarding and Early Help teams, particularly within school settings, Officers explained that safeguarding leads (DSLs) in schools were already engaged in domestic abuse partnership structures and that activity continued to strengthen those links. Domestic abuse programmes delivered in schools were said to complement existing safeguarding practice, with Early Help and specialist workers supporting assemblies, staff development sessions and targeted interventions for identified pupils.

As part of the discussion around safe accommodation and support for families, Officers explained that the Council was required to provide safe accommodation in addition to safe shelter, and that many units were already equipped for children and infants. Members expressed the importance of safe sleep expectations and ensuring essential items were available in temporary accommodation for parents.

Members welcomed the refreshed community-based approach for the 2025 White Ribbon campaign which would include pop-up events and an expanded communications plan. The Cabinet Member: Public Health & Healthier Communities encouraged Members to act as ambassadors for the campaign and confirmed that training, event information and supporting materials would be shared with councillors in advance of the 16 Days of Action. Officers confirmed that a review of the current training offer for domestic abuse was underway including consideration of future refresher requirements.

The Chair thanked officers for their comprehensive update and acknowledged the significant progress made across all four pillars of the strategy, noting that the Committee looked forward to contributing to and reviewing the refreshed commitments for 2026–2028. Members also expressed their thanks to those involved in sharing their experiences to help develop the strategy.

Members noted the report.

COMSC10 Work Programme Review

The Lead Lawyer: Property & Commercial presented the updated work programme as set out in the agenda pack and highlighted that the next meeting would take place on 12 February 2026.

Members were informed that proposed items for that meeting included a review of the Community Action Team (CAT) programme and consideration of the Telford & Wrekin Skills Strategy, which aligned with work undertaken by the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee.

Members discussed the importance of shaping the scope of the CAT programme review, with the Chair noting the opportunity for the Committee to steer the focus of the item, assess progress to date, identify achievements and areas requiring further attention and contribute meaningfully to future development.

Members noted the update.

COMSC11 Chair's Update

The Chair invited Members to consider any additional matters they wished to see included on the Committee's work programme, noting that Members may have identified issues within their wards or broader community areas that could benefit from future scrutiny.

The Chair encouraged Members to bring forward any suggestions, highlighting that there was capacity within the forthcoming municipal year to explore further topics of interest or emerging concerns.

The meeting ended at 6.38 pm

Chairman:

Date: Thursday 12 February 2026



Telford & Wrekin
Co-operative Council

Protect, care and invest
to create a better borough

Borough of Telford and Wrekin

Communities Scrutiny Committee

12 February 2026

Community Action Team Partnership

Cabinet Member:	Cllr Richard Overton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Highways, Housing and Enforcement Cllr Carolyn Healy, Neighbourhoods, Planning & Sustainability
Lead Director:	Dean Sargeant – Director: Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services
Service Area:	Waste & Neighbourhood Performance Services & Neighbourhood Enforcement
Report Author:	Debbie Germany – Head of Waste & Neighbourhood Performance Paul Fenn – Head of Neighbourhood Enforcement
Officer Contact Details:	Tel: 01952 384384 Email: Debbie.germany@telford.gov.uk 01952 382107 Paul.fenn@telford.gov.uk
Wards Affected:	As Noted in the Report
Report considered by:	SMT 3 rd February 2026

1.0 Recommendations for decision/noting:

Communities Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- 1.1 Note the partnership working of the Community Action Team with Town and Parish Councils and the success of this partnership to date; and
- 1.2 Consider any further opportunities for enhancement of the Community Action Team offer in tackling local priorities.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 This report is intended to provide Communities Scrutiny with an overview of the Community Action Team partnership with town and parish councils.
- 2.2 In doing so, this report offers Communities scrutiny the opportunity to build on the success to date and provide areas of enhancement to give greater focus on addressing issues locally.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 Civil parking enforcement powers transferred to Telford & Wrekin Council in January 2020 from West Mercia Police. As part of these new enforcement powers, working with town and parish councils, provided an opportunity to develop a partnership approach to tackling local issues such as problematic parking, fly tipping and anti-social behaviour.
- 3.2 In 2021, the offer of enhanced maintenance, local enforcement and environmental liaison developed into the Community Action Team, known locally as CAT. These multi-disciplinary teams are an evolution of parish environmental teams that bring together enhanced place-based maintenance and neighbourhood enforcement.
- 3.3 In developing the partnership locally, town and parish councils were offered the ability to secure additional locally led services which includes:
 - Neighbourhood enforcement
 - Added value grounds and cleansing (work not in scope of the core operation)
 - Area engagement through a dedicated officer to support liaison, inspection and reporting
- 3.4 Town and parish councils were given the opportunity to purchase all or elements of the partnership offer with the support of 50% funding being provided by Telford & Wrekin Council.
- 3.5 In April 2024, using feedback from town and parish councils, the partnership was refined to provide a longer duration up to March 2029 with the option for fixed or flexible pricing to assist with budgetary management.
- 3.6 Partnering parish and town councils that utilise this opportunity in some form include:
 - Dawley Hamlets Parish Council
 - Donnington & Muxton Parish Council
 - Great Dawley Town Council
 - The Gorge Parish Council
 - Hadley & Leegomery Parish Council
 - Hollinswood & Randlay Parish Council
 - Ketley Parish Council
 - Lawley & Overdale Parish Council
 - Madeley Town Council

Community Action Team Partnership

- Newport Town Council
 - Oakengates Town Council
 - St Georges & Priorslee Parish Council
 - Wellington Town Council
 - Wrockwardine Wood & Trench Parish Council
- 3.7 The Community Action Team partnership provides opportunity to focus on local priorities over and above that provided by Telford & Wrekin Council. Utilising collective resource provides the ability to deliver better outcomes locally.
- 3.8 The enhanced neighbourhood enforcement offer includes the following services;
- Engagement outside schools to promote safe parking
 - Patrol identified problematic parking hot spots (not outside schools)
 - Undertake environmental investigations such as fly tipping investigations, dog fouling, littering and overgrown vegetation
 - Hold monthly meetings supported by a detailed action plan with feedback on activities undertaken and the impact made
 - Develop working relationships with West Mercia Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT's)
 - Deployment and management of CCTV in identified areas (where purchased)
 - Community engagement for appeals via Telford & Wrekin Watch
 - Targeted support via the mobile CCTV hub
 - Direct communication with Clerks to support action planning and response
 - Attend events/meetings as required
- 3.9 For grounds and cleansing, the offer of enhanced environmental maintenance services include a dedicated public realm team to compliment the routine maintenance provided by the council's core operations. This offer also provides the ability to deliver local smaller projects.
- 3.10 The two-person public realm operative team has light hand tools such as strimmer and hedge cutter and an electric vehicle (where requested). The team is supported by an annual budget of £5,000 for materials which is allocated to the parish or town council.
- 3.11 The list below is not intended to be exhaustive but provides examples of value added tasks from the public realm team:
- Removal and/or maintenance of shrub beds
 - Edging of footpaths
 - Sign cleaning
 - Painting litter bins, bollards or other street furniture such as fencing and railings
 - Maintenance (mowing/strimming) of land where ownership is unclear
 - Planting and maintenance of bulb areas or annual bedding plants /planters
 - Enhancing areas e.g. areas outside local centres or community areas
 - Vegetation clearance/trimming
 - Gritting of footpaths (adopted)

Community Action Team Partnership

3.12 The Environment Community Liaison Officer oversees the work of public realm team which includes management and delivery of projects while monitoring hot spot areas to identify local issues and liaise with Clerks, local groups and residents.

3.13 The community action team partnership continues to go from strength to strength with the following examples of the impact made locally:

- Lawley & Overdale Parish Council reported dog fouling issues within a specific location. Targeted patrols, CCTV and additional signage resulted in a reduction of reports by 58% over a 12 month period.
- Monthly evening patrols target nuisance parking across identified hotspot areas. This focused activity resulted in the issuing of 12 Penalty Charge Notices in one evening while removing the historic problem.
- The public realm team complete regular inspections in hot spot locations while undertaking ad-hoc work. Not all jobs are recorded due to the responsive nature of some of the work. However, to date over 21,000 regular inspections have been completed alongside over 2,400 jobs.

4.0 Summary of main proposals

4.1 This report provides an update to the Communities Scrutiny Committee on the success of Community Action Teams (CATs) across the borough.

5.0 Alternative Options

5.1 If the Community Action Team model were to be removed, neighbourhood enforcement activity would revert to timescales that align to borough wide priorities and pressures. This has the potential to reduce the ability to focus on hotspot areas, respond quickly to emerging issues, and share real-time updates. This has the potential to dilute the current enforcement offer through the partnership.

5.2 For grounds and cleansing, additional work would need to be scheduled alongside borough wide priorities. This has the potential to be slower and would reduce the flexibility, monitoring of issues, and delivery within local areas.

6.0 Key Risks

6.1 With the partnership in place, enforcement activity benefits from far greater flexibility, enabling teams to proactively prioritise hotspots, respond quickly, and share real-time updates.

6.2 Grounds and cleansing operations also gain from enhanced responsiveness, supported by deep local knowledge and a clearer understanding of community needs.

7.0 Council Priorities

7.1 The Community Action Team supports the delivery of the following council priorities.

- Every child, young person and adult lives well in their community
- All neighbourhoods are a great place to live
- Our natural environment is protected – we take a leading role in tackling the climate emergency
- A community-focused, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services

8.0 Financial Implications

8.1 The Community Action Team's operate on a joint-funding model, with 50% match-funding provided by Telford & Wrekin Council.

8.2 There are no immediate additional budgetary requirements arising from this report as all match funding is included within the latest Medium Term Financial Strategy. Any future changes or enhancements to the current partnership model would be subject to separate financial assessment and approval through the council's established budget-setting processes.

9.0 Legal and HR Implications

9.1 The Council has the ability to enter into agreements with Town and Parish Councils to provide enhanced services.

9.2 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

10.0 Ward Implications

10.1 The Community Action Team partnerships are located within Parish and Town Councils as outlined in this report. Where partnerships do not currently exist, these areas form part of the council's core function which is subject to the balance of competing priorities.

11.0 Health, Social and Economic Implications

11.1 Grounds and cleansing services focus on our green spaces and enhancing the natural environment which are known to bring health benefits for residents and visitors, as well as attracting visitors to the borough.

11.2 The reduction in immediate responses and local engagement could have an impact on how connected residents feel to enforcement services. Without prompt updates or visible interaction, communities may feel less informed about what is happening locally, which might lead to reduced participation in reporting issues.

12.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

Community Action Team Partnership

- 12.1 The services provide benefit to all residents and visitors with the delivery of projects, monitoring and enforcement of areas for all our communities.
- 12.2 Neighbourhood enforcement supports positive parking, allowing those with disabilities to park in suitable parking bays.
- 12.3 Added and more frequent environmental standards such as path clearance and leaf sweeping improve accessibility with tailored local knowledge to the local community.
- 12.4 Removing the partnership model could reduce the ability to deliver tailored enforcement and engagement in diverse communities. The partnership enables the council to respond quickly to localised issues which helps build trust and inclusion.

13.0 Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environmental Implications

- 13.1 Grounds and cleansing projects will deliver projects to enhance biodiversity such work to support Friends of Groups on Local Nature Reserves and planting of wildflower areas. Electric vehicles and tools are utilised where possible as part of the partnership.
- 13.2 Reducing or removing the partnership model may make it more challenging to maintain proactive environmental management. Without localised enforcement and quicker response times, issues such as fly tipping, litter and dog fouling may take longer to address. A reduction in hotspot monitoring and community engagement may also limit the early identification of problems, potentially affecting local biodiversity where unmanaged waste or invasive species can disrupt ecosystems.

14.0 Background Papers

- 14.1 None

15.0 Report Sign Off

Signed off by	Date sent	Date signed off	Initials
Director	21/01/2026	22/01/2026	DRS
Finance	30/01/2026	03/02/2026	PT
Legal	30/01/2026	03/02/2026	RP

Issue / Topic	Brief Description	Directorate	Council Values/Priorities	Format	Meeting Comments
8 July 2025 – Committee Meeting					
Terms of Reference	For the Committee to agree the Terms of Reference for 2025/26.	Policy & Governance	A community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services.	Committee Agenda Item	Constitutional Function.
	Outcomes: Members agreed the terms of reference for the 2025/26 municipal year.				
Work Programme	For the Committee to agree the proposed work programme for 2025/26.	Policy & Governance	A community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services.	Committee Agenda Item	Draft work programme delegated to each scrutiny committee by SMB on 19 June 2025.
	Outcomes: Members agreed the updated work programme for the 2025/26 municipal year.				
Traffic Regulation Orders	For the Committee to review the process undertaken for the management and implementation of Traffic Regulation Orders including the legislative processes.	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services Policy & Governance	A community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services	Committee Agenda Item	New suggestion received for the work programme.
	Outcomes: Members received a presentation on the Council’s Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) process, including legal requirements, consultation methods, and implementation timelines. Members were provided an overview of the digital tools used by Officers to improve transparency and public engagement, and learned about the Council’s investment in road safety initiatives. Officers addressed questions on enforcement, communication, and costs, and committed to exploring better updates and outreach, including through social media and Town/Parish Council websites.				

Page 6

Agenda Item 6



Issue / Topic	Brief Description	Directorate	Council Values/Priorities	Format	Meeting Comments
2 October 2025 – Committee Meeting					
Page 14 Domestic Abuse Strategy – Violence Against Women & Girls	For the Committee to receive an update on the Domestic Abuse Strategy to encompass the Violence Against Women & Girls prevention agenda and proposed actions.	Public Health	All neighbourhoods are a great place to live. Every child, young person and adult lives well in their community. A community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services.	Committee Agenda Item	New suggestion received for the work programme following update presented to Committee on Domestic Abuse grants in 2024/25.
	Outcomes: Members received a presentation which outlined the progress against the Telford & Wrekin Domestic Abuse Strategy, including integration of VAWG prevention into strategic commitments. Members heard about the Council’s multi-agency work across areas such as partnership, prevention, provision, and protection, with a focus on trauma-informed services, education, and community engagement.				



Issue / Topic	Brief Description	Directorate	Council Values/Priorities	Format	Meeting Comments
12 February 2026 – Committee Meeting					
Community Action Team Programme (CAT)	For the Committee to review the effectiveness of the Community Action Team Programme including accessibility and funding.	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	<p>A community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services.</p> <p>Every child, young person and adult lives well in their community.</p>	Committee Agenda Item	New suggestion received for the work programme.
Outcomes:					
Telford & Wrekin Skills Strategy	For the Committee to monitor the effectiveness of the strategy against the five key principles and its impact on improving skill levels.	Education & Skills	<p>Every child, young person and adult lives well in their community.</p> <p>A community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services.</p>	Committee Agenda Item	<p>New suggestion received for the work programme.</p> <p>Cross-cutting to include members from CYP Scrutiny.</p>
Outcomes:					

PAGE 15



Issue / Topic	Brief Description	Directorate	Council Values/Priorities	Format	Meeting Comments
23 April 2026 – Committee Meeting					
To be determined.					
	Outcomes:				



Issue / Topic	Brief Description	Directorate	Council Values/Priorities	Format	Meeting Comments
To be scheduled					
Littering Strategy	For the Committee to review the measures taken by the Council to reduce the amount of litter in the Borough including processes for street cleansing and prevention.	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	<p>Our natural environment is protected, and the Council is taking a leading role in tackling the climate emergency.</p> <p>A community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services.</p> <p>All neighbourhoods are a great place to live.</p>	Committee Agenda Item/Task and Finish Group	New suggestion received for the work programme.
	Outcomes:				
Night Time Economy	For the Committee to examine night-time economy within the Borough with a focus on safe travel and the impact of a reduced Community Support Officer presence.	Policy & Governance Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services External	<p>A community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services.</p> <p>All neighbourhoods are a great place to live.</p>	Committee Agenda Item	New suggestion received for the work programme.
	Outcomes:				



Social Value in Contracts	For the Committee to review the Social Value in Contracts scheme, with a focus on corporate social responsibility, and consideration of the development of a social value impact fund and if this would be beneficial for the community.	Policy & Governance	Everyone benefits from a thriving economy. A community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services.	Workshop	Carried forward from 2024/25.
Outcomes:					

