



## **Borough of Telford and Wrekin**

### **Communities Scrutiny Committee**

**Thursday 2 October 2025**

**6.00 pm**

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

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<b>Committee Members:</b>	<b>Councillors E Davies (Chair), E Aston (Vice-Chair), F Doran, S Handley, G Luter, P J Scott and G Thomas</b>
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<b>2.0</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b>	<b>3 - 6</b>
	To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 July 2025.	
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Domestic Abuse Strategy</b>	<b>7 - 14</b>
	To receive an update on the Domestic Abuse Strategy to encompass the Violence Against Women & Girls prevention agenda and proposed actions.	
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Work Programme Review</b>	<b>15 - 20</b>
	The review the updated Work Programme for the Communities Scrutiny Committee.	
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Chair's Update</b>	

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## **COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of a meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Committee held on Tuesday 8 July 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), S Handley, P J Scott and G Thomas

**Also Present:** Councillor R A Overton (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Highways, Housing and Enforcement)

**In Attendance:** A Brookes (Highways, Engineering & Project Delivery Service Delivery Manager), R Phillips (Registrars, Public Protection, Legal & Democracy Service Delivery Manager), Dean Sargeant (Director: Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services) and C Sweeney (Locum Democracy Manager)

**Apologies:** Councillors F Doran and G Luter

### **COMSC1 Declarations of Interest**

None.

### **COMSC2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**RESOLVED**, that the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 12 March 2025, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **COMSC3 Terms of Reference 2025/26**

The Service Delivery Manager for Registrars, Public Protection, Legal and Democracy introduced the report, which set out for review and agreement, the Terms of Reference for the Committee, as set out at Appendix A to the report.

**RESOLVED**, that the Committee's Terms of Reference, as set out at Appendix A to the report, be reconfirmed and approved.

### **COMSC4 Communities Scrutiny Work Programme 2025/25**

The Service Delivery Manager for Registrars, Public Protection, Legal and Democracy introduced the report, which set the work programme for the Committee for 2025/26, as set out at Appendix A to the report.

**RESOLVED**, that the Committee's work programme for 2025/26, as set out at Appendix A to the report, be approved.

## **COMSC5 Traffic Regulation Orders in Telford and Wrekin**

By way of introduction, Councillor Overton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Highways, Housing and Enforcement said that with regard to Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs), the Council looked at all the work and comments made on certain proposals to ensure that these were legally compliant before consulting with Town and Parish Councils.

The Service Delivery Manager for Highways, Engineering and Project Delivery, delivered a presentation to assist members in their understanding of the Council's processes and procedures for developing and delivering TROs within the Borough.

The presentation also provided clarification as to what a TRO was and how much had been invested by the Council (£7m+) to deliver 20mph zones, safer school routes and behaviour change campaigns.

It went on to describe how consultations were carried out, the production of resultant public notices, managing objections and the periods involved in making TROs.

The presentation highlighted effectiveness risk; post implementation review; limited consultation engagement; improving public involvement and ongoing mitigation all as key risks.

With regard to improving public engagement, members were advised of the use of a modern, digitised TRO Process, which allowed access to all and current TROs online, and which would improve transparency as it enhanced the visibility of TRO activity. Additionally, in terms of boosting engagement, it was stated that local consultation was complemented by digital tools, which encouraged greater community involvement in shaping road safety measures.

From a community focused approach perspective, annual Traffic and Road Safety Reports were produced to include known enquiries, current works and future schemes. These reports were shared annually with ward members and Town and Parish Councils to guide decision-making and raise new priorities.

It went on to talk about supporting the development of future highways investment programmes; ensuring the Council remained responsive to community needs and delivered on locally identified priorities and that regular updates would maintain transparency and progress tracking for all stakeholders.

In response to a member's question raised during the meeting with regard to enforcement, officers welcomed working closer with the Council's Enforcement Team despite all TROs in place stating quite clearly what they could and could not permit.

Officers said that speed restrictions, for example, were enforced by the Police and that the Council could not amend these on its own authority. In terms of

capacity with the team to manage its workload, officers confirmed that there was currently a vacancy within the team and that this would be advertised shortly.

In response to a member's question raised during the meeting with regard to updates on current TROs, officers said they would look into how this might be provided in future.

In response to a member's question raised during the meeting with regard to the use of social media in this area of work, and what could be done to share what a TRO was and the process around it, officers said there was currently engagement at a local level and were looking at social media templates, however this was a little way off at present.

In response to a member's question raised during the meeting with regard to the average time for a TRO to take effect, officers said that around 12 months from the date of the request was the norm to allow for the legal process to be conducted and TRO implemented etc.

When limited responses were received to a consultation on a TRO, officers confirmed they would ordinarily go back to ward members who may take a view as to whether the TRO was required, or not.

In response to a member's question raised during the meeting with regard to reaching out to Town and Parish Councils to include on their respective websites to enable residents to see what the position was with any TRO at any given time, officers said that some Town and Parish Councils did include these on their websites, whilst others did not but it was something that officers would look to explore with them.

In response to a member's question raised during the meeting with regard to costs and did these vary from one TRO to another, officers said it depended upon what the TRO was for, for example, if a TOR was to impose a revised speed limit, then this would require additional capital investment.

#### **COMSC6 Chair's Update**

None.

The meeting ended at 6.37 pm

**Chairman:** .....

**Date:** Thursday 2 October 2025

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Telford & Wrekin  
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## Borough of Telford and Wrekin

### Communities Scrutiny Committee

2 October 2025

#### Domestic Abuse Strategy and Violence Against Women & Girls Update

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<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Cllr Kelly Middleton – Cabinet Member: Public Health and Healthier Communities
<b>Lead Director:</b>	Helen Onions – Director of Public Health
<b>Service Area:</b>	Health & Wellbeing
<b>Report Author:</b>	Tony Mercer – SDM Public Health
<b>Officer Contact Details:</b>	<b>Tel:</b> 01952 381366 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:tony.mercer@telford.gov.uk">tony.mercer@telford.gov.uk</a>
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All Wards
<b>Forward Plan:</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Report considered by:</b>	Communities Scrutiny Committee – 2 October 2025

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#### 1.0 Recommendations for decision/noting:

- 1.1 To note the contents of the report.

#### 2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To receive an update on the Domestic Abuse Strategy, to encompass the Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) prevention agenda and proposed actions.

#### 3.0 Background

- 3.1 The Telford & Wrekin Domestic Abuse Strategy 2023-2025 was approved by Cabinet in February 2023. Governance and oversight of strategy implementation is provided by the Telford & Wrekin Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board (DALP). A local multi-agency Domestic Abuse Forum brings together a wide range of partners to develop annual action plans to implement the strategy commitments and the forum independent chair sits on the DALP.

### 3.2 The strategy is structured around four pillars:

- **Partnership:** driving change shaped by survivors, through collaborative leadership, partnership working and a skilled workforce;
- **Prevention:** Reducing the incidents of domestic abuse across our community through effective awareness, prevention and education programmes and a culture of early intervention;
- **Provision:** reducing impact & minimising harm by systematically offering integrated, tailored whole family services and support at the right time;
- **Pursuing and Protection:** providing effective, engaged, supportive, responsive and timely protection and justice and a multi-agency approach to perpetrators.

The strategy sets out a number of commitments under each of the four pillars. Notable achievements during the last three years in delivering these commitments under each pillar are described in the following sections.

### 3.3 Partnership

- A Lived Experience Advisory Forum (LEAF) has been established to listen to local survivors, with their expertise having a wide influence.
- A partnership dashboard has been developed to collate accurate evidence and intelligence to better understand the profile of need, performance and outcomes.
- A comprehensive training programme is put in place across the partnership to ensure staff at all levels and community members are upskilled to recognise and discuss domestic abuse and signpost and refer appropriately.
- The new Homicide Review Panel has been established with robust and timely processes and the implementation of learning identified.
- A Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment has been completed in line with the requirements of the Domestic Abuse Act.

### 3.4 Prevention

- A Community Champions/Workplace Ambassadors Programme recruits and trains people to improve the understanding of domestic abuse across the community.



## Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women & Girls Update

- That White Ribbon campaign continues to evolve year-on-year, expanding the reach across our communities, and providing opportunity for men to challenge behaviours.
- Programmes are delivered in primary and secondary schools, and to young people not in mainstream education, across the borough, to support and signpost those affected by domestic abuse, educate about healthy relationships, and challenge attitudes that enable domestic abuse.
- That collaborative work with our safeguarding teams supports early identification of abuse of vulnerable adults at risk of exploitation, including those with learning disabilities and abuse affecting older victims and survivors.

### 3.5 **Provision**

- An integrated Domestic Abuse Service was commissioned and commenced in June 2023, comprising of Specialist Support, Single Point of Contact (SPOC), Specialist Support for Children and Young People and Safe Accommodation.
- There are clear integrated pathways in our offer for children and young people (Start for Life Programme, Family Connect, Strengthening Families and Family Safeguarding) and adults (adult social care, substance misuse services (STaRS), housing support, and mental health services).
- The number of Safe Accommodation units has increased to meet growing local need and demand and meet the requirements of the Domestic Abuse Act.
- All services and support offers have become more systematically trauma informed.
- There has been clear promotion and publicity of our local service offer, the SPOC and the integrated pathways, so that everyone understands what is available and how it can be accessed.

### 3.6 **Pursuing and Protection**

- Joined up processes are in place to support individuals and families through criminal justice pathways and the number of victims engaged in court proceedings and civil remedies has increased significantly.
- Robust and evidence-based perpetrator programmes and interventions have been commissioned that can lead to sustainable behaviour change.

## Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women & Girls Update

- Robust information sharing practices have been put in place to ensure a joint understanding of risk and harm, with timely action planning to address vulnerabilities and disrupt offenders.
- An independent review of the local MARAC has been completed and an action plan is being developed to implement recommendations.

3.7 Following a successful stakeholder event in March 2025 to highlight local good practice, it has been agreed that Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) prevention work will be incorporated into a refreshed Telford & Wrekin Domestic Abuse Strategy. A part-time temporary VAWG Prevention lead has been recruited to lead on this work and the White Ribbon campaign.

3.8 The current contract for the local Domestic Abuse Service expires in May 2026 and a competitive tender process has commenced. The safe accommodation element of the contract will come in-house to Telford & Wrekin Council's Housing Solutions Team. The perpetrator behaviour change programme will be tendered as a separate lot because of different timescales and funding sources.

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

4.1 Progress against the delivery of the strategy commitments will be reported to the DALP in January 2026 and a refreshed set of commitments under each of the four pillars agreed for 2026 - 2028 agreed.

4.2 A series of community events will be organised by the Council and its partners for the White Ribbon 16 days of Action in November/December 2025, supported by an impactful social media campaign.

4.3 A number of commitments to prevent and reduce VAWG will be incorporated into the refreshed Telford & Wrekin Domestic Abuse Strategy, backed by a detailed, multi-agency annual action plan.

4.4 Contracts will be awarded early in 2026, following a competitive tendering process, for the provision of a Domestic Abuse Specialist Support Service.

### **5.0 Alternative Options**

5.1 None.

### **6.0 Key Risks**

6.1 There are clear responsibilities and duties for local authorities set out in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and this strategy includes local implementation of those expectations. The Council is funded to deliver these duties through the Domestic

Abuse Grant and there are associated monitoring returns tracking the spend of this funding in-line with the duties of the Act. The Domestic Abuse Commissioners Office for England & Wales is a member of the Telford & Wrekin DALP.

### **7.0 Council Priorities**

7.1 The domestic abuse agenda contributes to the following Council Priorities:

- Every child, young person and adult lives well in their community
- All neighbourhoods are a great place to live
- A community focused innovative council providing effective, efficient and quality services.

### **8.0 Financial Implications**

8.1 The core budget for funding domestic abuse services is provided by the Domestic Abuse Grant from the Government £506k in 2025/26 plus £72k of resource brought forward from previous years. The Domestic Abuse Grant cannot be used to fund Perpetrator Behaviour Change Programmes therefore funding of £109k from Council one off resources is being utilised in 2025/26 to fund this activity.

8.2 Commitments under the four pillars will be delivered from within existing resources including the grant detailed above. As stated earlier in the report there are new contracts to be awarded in 2026. Existing resources are the funding envelope within which the contracts should be funded, any requirement to meet expenditure outside of these resources would need to be considered as part of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

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

9.1 The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 received Royal Assent on 29th April 2021 and defines domestic abuse (Section 1) and children as victims (Section 3). Part 2, when in force, sets out the duties of the Domestic Abuse Commissioner and the duty of public authorities, including local authorities and partners, to cooperate with the Commissioner, details include:

- Section 57 (in force 01.10.2021) sets out the duties of local authorities to provide support to victims, to prepare and publish a strategy for such and to monitor and evaluate the strategy's effectiveness.
- Section 58 requires local authorities to appoint Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Boards to advise local authorities about the exercise of their Section 57 functions.
- Section 59 requires local authorities to submit an annual report to the Secretary of State at the end of each financial year.
- Section 60 requires local authorities to exercise their functions under the Act in accordance with statutory guidance (published on 08.07.2022).

This is also to be read in light of the creation of the DHR panel by the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004, SAR panel creation and the duty to promote individual well-being under the Care Act 2014 and Children Act duties to safeguard children appropriately.

### **10.0 Ward Implications**

10.1 None.

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

- Domestic abuse is a significant issue in our communities given the impact on individuals and families affected, especially children and young people. It is well known that domestic abuse is an adverse childhood experience which can have life-long effects and that it also has the potential to cause trauma in adults.
- Reducing the impact of domestic abuse is of particular concern to the Safeguarding Children's Board and Safeguarding Adults Board and both boards receive regular updates from the DALP.
- There are overlaps between the domestic abuse agenda and the Building Safer Stronger agenda, given the shared commitment to tackling behaviours and attitudes in our communities, especially in respect to violence against women and girls.
- The local NHS organisations are key members of both the DALP and the DA Forum, and NHS services have a key role to play in identifying patients affected by domestic abuse and then referring appropriately for specialist services and support.

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

12.1 The Telford & Wrekin Domestic Abuse Forum is a network of more than 50 organisations and individuals representing local communities and our strong local lived experience voice continues to evolve. Work is on-going in the forum to strengthen connections with the Interfaith Council and other faith organisations and the LGBTQ+ community.

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

13.1 None.

### **14.0 Background Papers**

## Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women & Girls Update

- 1 Thursday 16 February 2023, Cabinet Telford & Wrekin Domestic Abuse Strategy 2023 - 2025.

### 15.0 Appendices

None.

### 16.0 Report Sign Off

<b>Signed off by</b>	<b>Date sent</b>	<b>Date signed off</b>	<b>Initials</b>
Director	20/09/2025	22/09/2025	HO
Finance	20/09/2025	24/09/2025	RP
Legal	20/09/2025	24/09/2025	ON

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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.				

Issue / Topic	Brief Description	Directorate	Council Values/Priorities	Format	Meeting Comments
2 October 2025 – Committee Meeting					
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	<p>All neighbourhoods are a great place to live.</p> <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	New suggestion received for the work programme following update presented to Committee on Domestic Abuse grants in 2024/25.
	Outcomes:				



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	A community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services.  Every child, young person and adult lives well in their community.	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	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.  Cross-cutting to include members from CYP Scrutiny.
	Outcomes:				

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	Our natural environment is protected, and the Council is taking a leading role in tackling the climate emergency.  A community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services.  All neighbourhoods are a great place to live.	Committee Agenda Item/Task and Finish Group	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:				

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