

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

CABINET - 30 MAY 2019

TELFORD AND WREKIN COUNCIL – OUR 4 YEAR PROGRAMME TO INVEST, PROTECT AND CARE FOR THE BOROUGH

REPORT OF MANAGING DIRECTOR – RICHARD PARTINGTON

LEAD CABINET MEMBER – CLLR SHAUN DAVIES, LEADER

PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT

1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS

1.1. Following the outcome of the May Telford & Wrekin Council elections, this report identifies the Council's strategic focus through to 2023 and a process to drive its delivery.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1. That Cabinet:

- adopt the proposed five **“Community Commitments”**, organisational themes and actions (paragraphs 4.2, 4.3, 4.4);
- endorse the proposed review of the Council's service and financial planning policy framework to drive the delivery of these commitments, themes and actions (paragraph 4.7);
- endorse the proposed timetable for Cabinet to receive a refreshed Council Plan in July.

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Co-Operative Council priority objective(s)?	
	Yes	All
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	Yes	All sections of the Borough. As delivery proposals are developed specific impact assessments will be undertaken as necessary.
TARGET COMPLETION /DELIVERY DATE	Once adopted as the strategic focus of the Council, a delivery programme for these objectives will be developed.	
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	Yes	The funding outlook for the Council beyond the end of the current

		<p>financial year is unclear with the Government proposing significant changes to the local government finance system which are scheduled to be implemented in April 2020. However, using best available information, it is currently anticipated that the Council will need to identify around £25m of additional budget savings over the next two years (2020/21 and 2021/22). The financial implications of the actions identified in Appendix One will be assessed and incorporated into the Medium Term Service & Financial Planning Strategy as this strategy is developed over coming months as the funding position for future years becomes clearer. PH 17/05/2019</p>
LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	<p>It is appropriate for the Cabinet to review its strategic focus as a new administration takes on a new 4 year term of office, taking into account manifesto commitments and from canvassing. The Council Plan and the Community Strategy form part of the Council's Policy Framework and final versions will need the endorsement of full Council. These proposals also affect the budget framework, see Financial Comments from the Chief Finance Officer. Individual projects will be subject to normal project planning and consultation requirements. Scrutiny, independent from the Cabinet, may well review its work programme in the light of this strategic focus. JE 17/05/2019</p>
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	No	
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	No	Borough-wide impact

PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

4. INFORMATION

4.1. The Council's current vision for the Borough is "**Telford & Wrekin – the place to live, learn work and do business**". Delivery of this vision is driven by 7 priorities:

- Put our children and young people first;
- Protect and create jobs as a 'Business Supporting, Business Winning Council';
- Improve local people's prospects through education and skills training
- Protect and support our most vulnerable children and adults;
- Ensure that neighbourhoods are safe, clean and well maintained;
- Support neighbourhoods most in need and work to ensure that local people have access to suitable housing;
- Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities and address health inequalities.

4.2. The Council elections in May were in effect a community-wide consultation on the future focus of the organisation and how it delivers its priorities. In response to the results of the election, it is proposed that the Council adopts the following five clear "**Community Commitments**":

1. We will continue to fight the closure of our 24/7 A&E and Consultant led Women and Children's Centre.
2. We will continue to keep Council Tax amongst the lowest in the Midlands.
3. We will continue to invest £80m per year in protecting the most vulnerable adults and children in our community including those who are victims and survivors of sexual exploitation and domestic abuse.
4. We will invest £50m in roads and footpaths across Telford & Wrekin and continue to invest in creating new jobs for residents.
5. We will continue to fight any proposed merger with Shropshire Council or other authorities as we believe that the Borough is best served by retaining its own council.

4.3. Our ambition is for Telford & Wrekin to be a family friendly borough and Telford & Wrekin Council will seek to protect, care and continue to invest in services and the community despite the severe financial challenges that still lie ahead. To support this, underpinning these five "**Community Commitments**", are 13 themes which will inform the organisation's delivery focus:

- *Working for Every Community*
- *Improving Health & Wellbeing across Telford & Wrekin*
- *Securing the best start in life for Children & Young People*

- *Investing in Telford & Wrekin*
- *Supporting inclusive growth, jobs and new skills*
- *Supporting home owners and renters*
- *Making Telford & Wrekin Safer*
- *A Home for Heroes*
- *Improving Transport in Telford & Wrekin*
- *Ensuring a Sustainable Environment in Telford & Wrekin*
- *Our, past present & future – Community Pride*
- *Making Telford & Wrekin A Great Place to Visit*
- *Culture, Leisure & Arts at the Heart of Telford & Wrekin*

4.4. Key actions that have so far been identified to deliver against these themes are set out in Appendix One.

4.5. It is important to emphasise that these themes and actions build on the Council's track record of delivery and achievements for and with the community over the past 8 years. Equally, they are a foundation and the minimum of what the Council will seek to deliver over the next 4 years. As set out in paragraph 4.7 further work will be undertaken to develop these actions which will be reported to Cabinet.

4.6. Delivering on these commitments in their own right will be challenging. However, we will seek to deliver them whilst the Council continues to face significant issues which will also need to be addressed. These include:

- Protecting front-line services whilst delivering an estimated further £30m budget savings by 2022 – in addition to the £117m savings delivered to date.
- Uncertainty over the Government's funding model for local authorities linked to the 2019 Comprehensive Spending Review.
- Lack of certainty over the future of adult social care whilst demand and costs increase. The Government's Green Paper on this was promised in 2017 and has not yet been delivered.

Driving Delivery

4.7. To ensure that these commitments and objectives are driven, the organisation's service and financial planning policy framework will be refreshed. Key steps to achieve this are:

- Revise the:
 - "Council Plan" - this sets out the organisation's strategic vision and priorities and how the organisation will continue to change so that these priorities can be delivered in the context of ongoing

financial challenges. It is proposed that a refreshed Council Plan is presented to Cabinet in July.

- “Community Strategy” - this sets out a long-term vision for the borough which the Council will seek to work with partners to deliver. The current strategy is due for revision and a refreshed document will be presented to Cabinet in the Autumn.
- Develop a framework to track and drive delivery of these objectives which will be reported to Cabinet twice each year (at “6 months” and “year-end”). This will form part of the report to Cabinet in July setting out a new Council Plan.
- Review the Council’s financial strategy to ensure resources are aligned to the delivery of these objectives.

5. PREVIOUS MINUTES

None

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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