

APPENDIX ONE – COMMUNITY COMMITMENTS, THEMES AND ACTIONS

1. Working for Every Community 2

2. Improving Health & Wellbeing across Telford & Wrekin 3

3. Securing the best start in life for Children & Young People 4

4. Investing in Telford & Wrekin..... 5

5. Supporting inclusive growth, jobs and new skills 6

6. Supporting home owners and renters 7

7. Making Telford & Wrekin Safer..... 8

8. A Home for Heroes..... 9

9. Improving Transport in Telford & Wrekin 10

10. Ensuring a Sustainable Environment in Telford & Wrekin 11

11. Our, past present & future – Community Pride..... 12

12. Making Telford & Wrekin A Great Place to Visit 13

13. Culture, Leisure & Arts at the Heart of Telford & Wrekin 14

1. Working for Every Community

Putting fairness, care, compassion, equality and integrity at the heart of everything we do. To achieve this we will:

- Keep our Council Tax amongst the lowest in the Midlands.
- Ensure that pensioners on low incomes are supported with their Council Tax bills.
- Explore ways to support our young people to get onto the housing ladder.
- Continue to support & champion WASPI woman
- Increase funding to allow carers to access respite as part of developing a 'Carers Rights Covenant'.
- Continue to provide free child burials in Council cemeteries.
- Strengthen our longstanding partnership with local food banks, building on the £150,000 funding given to support their work by guaranteeing this for a further four years.
- Strengthen our partnership with 'Citizens Advice'; building on the £2 million of funding given to support their work since 2011.
- We will work to build a 'Care Leavers Covenant' in our Borough which will provide care leavers the best start to their adult life.
- Provide support for care leavers up to the age of 25, ensuring that the Council plays its part in supporting young people leaving care. This will include a guarantee of a work placement with the Council.
- Promote fostering and adoption with a renewed public campaign.
- Ensure that when the Council secures contracts with businesses, they provide opportunities for young people including care leavers.
- Encourage and support local businesses and industry to provide training and work experience for young people and care leavers.
- We will- ensure that our Council services are available to all regardless of any disability
- Work with Trade Unions to ensure that workers have access to representation and support in the workplace.

2. Improving Health & Wellbeing across Telford & Wrekin

Fighting to protect health services and continuing to invest in health and wellbeing in the Borough. We will:

- Continue to fight the closure of our 24/7 A&E and the Consultant led Women and Children's Centre at PRH.
- Commit extra funding for adult social care and children services.
- Campaign against the £250,000 cut to 'Severn Hospice' by Telford & Wrekin CCG.
- Extend 'Family Connect' to include a single point of contact for care referrals, providing the right care, at the right time in the right way.
- Train Council staff in dementia awareness, and work towards being a dementia-friendly Council and Borough.
- Expand our support in schools and colleges for children, young adults and children in care suffering from mental ill health.
- Continue to support the local Community and Voluntary Sector who provide support services for mental health and addiction.
- Continue to provide mental health support and training for Council staff and encourage local businesses and community groups to support mental health awareness.
- Continue to support the delivery of good quality mental and physical health by charity and community partners
- Continue to support our charity and community partners, who provide a lifeline in our borough by providing good quality mental and physical health services where they are needed.
- Continue our preventative programmes in schools and community centres to take the burden off our health service.

3. Securing the best start in life for Children & Young People

We have invested hundreds of millions of pounds to create some of the best schools in the Midlands. These new facilities have played a big part in our teachers and students achieving more year on year. We are also home to exceptional further education establishments and two world-class Universities. We will:

- Invest £35 million into our local schools.
- Invest £600,000 in safer routes to school.
- Provide new High Needs School places to meet the specialised needs of some of our children.
- Aspire to ensure all primary schools are good or outstanding
- Continue to build on the success of our local Primary Schools, a record number of which have been rated good or outstanding by OFSTED in Telford & Wrekin.
- Aspire to ensure that all Secondary Schools reach good or outstanding.
- Continue to invest in the best facilities for our children from early year to the workplace.
- Continue to protect all Children's Centres across Telford and Wrekin.
- Work with schools and parents to explore ways to introduce a fair system so families can take an annual holiday without penalty, whilst protecting their education.
- Expand the provision of higher education in Telford and Wrekin and work in partnership with universities to train and educate young people in the Borough.
- Continue working with universities to bring specialised training and workplace programmes for those out of work.
- Supporting our network of colleges to provide lifelong education and training, enabling everyone to upskill or retrain at any point in life.
- Continue to support children and young people with SEND across our fantastic schools in the borough.

4. Investing in Telford & Wrekin

We are committed to helping our Local High Streets and to improving our whole Borough. To help achieve this we will:

- Commit to a £5 million Investment fund which will be invested in our Borough Town Centres. This includes Oakengates, Wellington, Madeley, Dawley, Ironbridge and Newport.
- Guarantee free car parking on all Council car parks currently offering free parking. This includes our Borough Town Centres Oakengates, Wellington, Madeley, Dawley and Newport.
- Continue to offer grants to businesses wishing to locate in our high streets and to businesses wishing to upgrade their shop fronts.
- Ensure our high streets are safe and welcoming environments through our investment into CCTV and LED streetlights.
- Create a new fund to ensure that buildings of community importance like Banks and Pubs are retained for a use of similar importance to the community.
- Explore a new mentoring scheme for young people who are setting up in business for the first time.
- Continue to work with Town and Parish Councils who wish to invest in initiatives aimed at improving our local high streets.
- Ensure Randlay Centre is completed.
- Continue to invest in new parking spaces on our estates expanding on the nearly 300 we have recently created.
- Provide improved and more responsive street cleaning and environmental maintenance in every neighbourhood.
- Lobby Government for a £50 million regeneration fund for our New Town Estates and infrastructure.

5. Supporting inclusive growth, jobs and new skills

We are a business-winning, business supporting Labour administration; promoting jobs, growth and training for the benefit of local residents.

- Continue to support the £50 million 'Telford Growth Deal'
- Continue to deliver near Newport the region's first 'Agricultural Technology Park' as a home for high-tech businesses.
- Continue to be one of the leading councils in the country for attracting new businesses and industry.
- Ensure that new businesses in the Borough offer residents opportunities for apprenticeships, support local groups with volunteering time and financial support, and spend as much of their money in the local economy as possible.
- Lobby the Government to allow us to retain a greater percentage of our business rates so that money can be reinvested locally rather than sent to Westminster.
- Unlock disused brownfield sites for the development of affordable homes, supporting hundreds of jobs in the construction and manufacturing sector.
- Continue to tackle youth unemployment. Since 2011, we have reduced youth unemployment by over 50% across Telford and Wrekin.
- Work to develop one of the country's first employment delivery centres, preparing local people to take up work with local businesses.
- Continue to promote meaningful apprenticeship programmes within the Council and make it more attractive for local businesses to take on apprentices to learn important trades and skills.
- Bring together our partners in business and education to identify the critical skills gaps in the local economy and tackle this by training local people.
- Continue to improve all digital infrastructures, after the successful rollout of high-speed broadband across the Borough.
- Maintain the best highways and roads in the Midlands in order to attract and maintain businesses.
- Lobby the Government for greater investment into regional transport links including greater rail capacity, new money for an upgrade of the A442 'EP', the electrification of the railway from Birmingham to Telford, and the M54 northern link to the M6.

6. Supporting home owners and renters

We have introduced measures to help improve the standard of the private rented sector and we have built over 300 NuPlace homes which are wholly owned by the Council. We have also invested record amounts into our neighbourhoods. To continue this work we will:

- Launch a £500,000 fund dedicated for Lawley and Lightmoor and work with Bourneville Village Trust to reduce and reform the stewardship fees and make Lawley & Lightmoor an even better place to live.
- Invest £1million into a 'Stronger Community' fund which will support the continued regeneration of our New Town and existing estates. This programme will be led by residents to identify the specific needs of each community.
- Build 200 NuPlace homes – owned and run by the Council at affordable rates, re-investing into local Council services.
- Increase the range and availability of Council owned accommodation for older residents, including adapted living and retirement bungalows for over 55s.
- Take robust action to reduce the number of empty and unused properties including an extra Council tax charge for homes which have been empty for 2 years with proceeds invested to prevent and reduce homelessness.
- Continue to tackle rogue landlords, work with good landlords and support private tenants by continuing to invest in our 'Better Homes for All' scheme.
- Through NuPlace, we will bring forward more brownfield sites to provide more quality homes to rent.
- By 2021, we will halve the number of people living in temporary accommodation.
- We will explore ways to eradicate rough sleeping by 2023.
- Maintain funding to ensure there will be an offer of a safe and warm bed for anyone who needs it all year round.
- Work with agencies to provide more homes which are affordable.
- Work with the voluntary sector to tackle the root causes of homelessness.
- Lobby the Government to address the tragedy of 120,000 children who are homeless in the UK. In Telford & Wrekin, we are committed to ensuring every family has a safe and affordable home.

7. Making Telford & Wrekin Safer

We will fight to keep all our communities safe. We will invest in providing support services to those who have been victims of crime. To do this we will:

- Continue to tackle child sexual exploitation, as one of our top priorities.
- Continue to fund 'The Holly Project' every year.
- Ensure the Independent Inquiry into child sexual exploitation is delivered and all of its recommendations acted upon.
- Continue our anti-domestic abuse strategy and ensure those at risk of abuse have access to a place of safety.
- Continue to be a 'White Ribbon Town' committed to eliminating all forms of domestic violence and supporting victims.
- Create a new grant fund scheme for voluntary sector organisations wanting to provide services to support victims.
- We will continue our campaign to bar those convicted or cautioned for sexual or domestic abuse from standing as Councillors.
- Invest in upgrading our CCTV network across the Borough.
- Use new powers to crack down on illegal & unsafe parking with proceeds from fines ring-fenced and re-invested into communities.
- We will work in partnership with others to introduce new Environmental and Enforcement Officers.
- Use the full extent of the law to stop those who fly-tip and leave waste on public land. This includes a fine of up to £50,000.
- Working with responsible dog owners, we will continue to campaign for zero tolerance of dog mess on our pavements and fine owners who do not clean up after their dog.
- Lobby Government to reverse cuts to frontline policing and reinstate the police & support officers cut from Telford and Wrekin.

8. A Home for Heroes

Our Borough has a very special connection with the Armed Forces, and we recognise the contribution they have made to our country and the contribution they continue to make to our Borough. We will:

- Continue to respect those who have served in our Armed Forces. We will commit to improving the Military Covenant and services which improve the lives of Veterans and their families.
- Appoint a Veterans' advocate for the Borough, to ensure our veterans and armed forces personnel get the services and support they need.
- Each year continue to mark the sacrifice of those who have served with the planting of poppies around War Memorials in our Borough.
- Continue to protect our War Memorials and maintain plaques with the names of the fallen.
- We will seek to get all War Memorials in our borough listed to protect these for future generations.
- Introduce a discount for Armed Forces Personnel who use our Council owned leisure facilities.
- Expand provisions to support our veterans, care leavers and over 65s at home and in the community.
- Lobby Government to implement greater mental health support for veterans and guarantee housing fit for heroes.

9. Improving Transport in Telford & Wrekin

A growing town needs a transport infrastructure to support residents to access education, places of work and leisure. We have always invested in our infrastructure, including the single biggest-ever investment into roads and footpaths.

To continue this further, we will:

- Continue to invest a record £50 million in our roads and footpaths across Telford and Wrekin.
- Launch a new fund to upgrade bus shelters and introduce real-time information at shelters.
- Introduce a new fund and continue to work with partners to pilot new travel schemes to our Industrial Estates and for young people getting to college.
- Explore a new 'on demand' bus service which is accessible for all.
- Explore ways in which to make public transport more affordable and accessible for all.
- Continue to lobby Government to stop bus companies from scrapping rural routes for residents living in our rural communities.
- Continue to improve our network of park and ride services to alleviate congestion and parking concerns.
- Ensure our rural roads and highways are swept and kept accessible all year round.
- Explore with partners new smarter ticketing initiatives.
- Lobby Government to give councils greater powers to control local transport, giving local people control of local bus and train services.

10. Ensuring a Sustainable Environment in Telford and Wrekin

We are proud to have protected the borough's network of green spaces by introducing new protections and designations for a record number of green sites and thousands of hectares of Local Nature Reserves.

To help achieve this, we will:

- Protect the green belt and the network of green spaces that run through our Borough and/or neighbours our border
- Ensure that green bin collections remain free,
- Maintain the current bin collection frequency.
- Keep Halesfield and Hortonwood Recycling centres open and strive to increase recycling rates.
- Retain ownership of the Council's Solar Farm
- Provide funding for the creation of more Green Guarantee sites and Local Nature Reserves.
- Establish a grant fund for local community groups to improve their local green spaces and public parks.
- Champion and support our 'Friends of' groups to protect our local green and open spaces.
- Invest £100,000 in rights of way and park walks including working with groups to identify and register paths that are not on the definitive map.
- Ensure that all Council owned buildings are as environmentally friendly as they can be including investment into new LED lighting.
- Continue to invest in LED streetlights and encourage companies to use renewable & low emission energy.
- Increase the number of electric car charging points.
- Start to modernise and improve cycle routes, making it easier and safer for bike users to travel across the Borough.

11. Our, past present & future – Community Pride

We are proud of Telford and Wrekin. We know residents are proud of Telford and Wrekin, with thousands involved in volunteering across the Borough. We are committed to celebrating our proud culture and industrial heritage.

To help continue this, we will:

- Develop a 'Volunteer for Telford' initiative, rewarding those who give their time to make our community a better place. We will create an incentive scheme to reward volunteers' hard work.
- Continue to grow our network of community volunteers to over 1,000 residents, including our snow wardens and street champions.
- Continue to work with English Heritage to protect the Iron Bridge following its full restoration.
- Create a grant fund to support groups wishing to help preserve local history including our proud industrial heritage.
- Re-invigorate the Telford & Wrekin Community Panel so that residents can have a greater input into the decision making of the Council.
- Continue the work of the Telford 50 Legacy Fund. This fund secured over £2 million for community facilities, buildings and green spaces across our Borough.
- Continue to restore the heritage of Telford New Town, including the restoration of the Thomas Telford Square.
- Work closely in partnership with many of our museums and local heritage groups to protect historical sites and our links to the Industrial Revolution.
- Work with community groups to protect significant local heritage, as seen in our partnership working with The Anstice Building, The Gower, The Orbit (Clifton), Belmont Hall and The Guild Hall. We will support local groups seeking Heritage Lottery and other funding to protect significant buildings, particularly for community use.
- Support and promote the importance of community trusts in establishing local services for residents.
- Work closely with our local residents to ensure services are retained and improved. This includes providing community and voluntary groups with a point of contact so that they can access advice, support and guidance.

12. Making Telford & Wrekin A Great Place to Visit

Telford & Wrekin plays host to hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. Our events are attended by thousands of people. We are also home to hundreds of tourism-related businesses and a World Heritage Site. We have invested in protecting the cultural and arts offer available in the Borough. We will continue the work to make Telford & Wrekin a great place to visit by:

- Continuing to invest in our award-winning Town Park.
- Developing a 'Welcome to Telford' programme designed to sell the very best of our Borough and encourage people to visit and stay.
- We will continue to use profits from Southwater and the Ice Rink to boost our local economy and support services provided by the Council.
- Continuing to support the expansion and development of the Town Centre, creating a diverse range of shops, restaurants and hotels.
- Continuing to protect and champion the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site, ensuring it remains for future generations.
- Building on the success of the Telford 50 celebrations, we will continue to host free events across the Borough, bringing 10,000's of extra visitors a year and a financial boost to our local economy.
- Continuing the very popular St. Georges Day Celebration, Telford Carnival of Giants, Balloon Festival and Christmas Markets.
- Look at ways of illuminating key local landmarks at important times of the year across the Borough.
- Supporting our fantastic borough town events, such as the Oakengates and Newport carnivals, which attract thousands into our local high streets.
- Ensure our parks, nature trails and green spaces are attractive and welcoming to all visitors.

13. Culture, Leisure & Arts at the Heart of Telford & Wrekin

During austerity many Local Authorities have closed their libraries, community centres, leisure centres and museums. We have protected these in Telford & Wrekin and commit to securing their long-term future. We will:

- Not close any library or leisure centre in our Borough.
- Continue to support and invest in our Council-owned theatre.
- Continue to invest in our libraries across the borough.
- Work in partnership with local Town and Parish Councils to secure the long-term future of all our local community centres and work directly with the local residents to ensure they become the heart of each Borough Town.
- Promote community sport, ensuring our sports facilities offer great value for money.
- Pilot targeted free-swimming lessons for local primary school children.
- Extend free swimming to all young people under 18.
- Maintain the £1 swim for over 50's.
- We will introduce free skating at the Council owned Telford Ice Rink for young carers.
- Protect the Councillor Pride fund which every year supports hundreds of local community groups and projects with over £100,000 of grants a year for the benefit of residents.