

**TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL
 CABINET 11 JULY 2019
 COUNCIL 25 JULY 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. In May, Cabinet adopted a series of commitments as the Council's strategic focus through to 2023. This report sets out a refreshed high level Council programme to drive the delivery of these commitments.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1. That Cabinet:

- Approves the programme for the Council;
- Reviews the progress to date in delivering the commitments.

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 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 updated strategic plan and priorities 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 25/06/2019
LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	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
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	No	
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	No	Borough-wide impact

PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

4. INFORMATION

4.1. 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, Cabinet (30 May) adopted five ***“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 and 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.
- 4.2. Underpinning the delivery of these community commitments, is the ambition for Telford and Wrekin to be a family friendly borough and that Telford & Wrekin Council would seek to protect, care and continue to invest in services.
- 4.3. To drive delivery of commitments and ambition, the Council's strategic programme (Appendix One) has been revised, setting out a borough vision and 8 priorities:
- ***Protect and support our most vulnerable children and adults***
 - ***Securing the best start in life for children and young people***
 - ***Protect and create jobs as a 'Business Supporting, Business Winning Council'***
 - ***Improve local people's prospects through better education, skills and training***
 - ***Keep neighbourhoods safe, clean and well connected***
 - ***Support communities and those most in need and work to give residents access to suitable housing***
 - ***Improving health & wellbeing across Telford and Wrekin***
 - ***Protect and champion our environment, culture and heritage***
- 4.4. Through this programme we want to be clear to the community and partners what we are seeking to deliver with the resources available. The programme is also an important part of communicating the organisation's ongoing development with the workforce.
- 4.5. The second part of the programme sets out how the organisation is going to continue to transform to deliver these priorities in the face of significant challenges which include:
- Protecting front-line services whilst delivering an estimated further £25m 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.

4.6. This transformation strategy is called "Be the Change" and is driven by 5 themes:

- **Solving problems and promoting social responsibility and action to manage and reduce demand for services**
- **Challenging & changing, reviewing and reimagining how we do things**
- **Reducing our dependency on Government grants**
- **Being a modern organisation with modern practices and where we always get the basics right**
- **"Joining the dots" – ensuring that our services, together with partners and the community, are working effectively together**

4.7. Underpinning the delivery of these priorities are our co-operative values, which define how we do things, both collectively as an organisation and individually. These are about:

- **Openness & Honesty**
- **Fairness & Respect**
- **Ownership**
- **Involvement**

Driving Delivery

4.8. Despite the challenges which the organisation faces (see para 4.5), following adoption of the community commitments by Cabinet 30th May, action has commenced to drive delivery of them. This includes:

- Commenced a review of the Council's budget to deliver:
 - £80 million 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
 - £50 million in roads and footpaths and infrastructure across Telford & Wrekin and continue to invest in creating new jobs for residents
 - £50 million 'Telford Growth Deal'
 - £35 million into our local schools
 - £5 million Investment fund which will be invested in our Borough Town Centres. This includes Oakengates, Wellington, Madeley, Dawley, Ironbridge and Newport

- £1million into a ‘Stronger Community’ fund which will support the continued regeneration of our New Town and existing estates
 - £600,000 in safer routes to school
 - £100,000 in rights of way and park walks
- Continued to fight for the future of Telford & Wrekin Council – only in June the prospect of a merger with Shropshire Council was raised and pressure put on government.
- Secured a fact finding visit from the Independent Referral Panel who are considering our referral of Future Fits decision over the future of hospital services, which would see 24/7 A&E services and consultant-led Women’s and Children’s services move from PRH in Telford to RSH in Shrewsbury.
- Low Council Tax – for a band D property our Council Tax is 6.7% lower than Shropshire Councils, 14% lower than the unitary average and 14.6% lower than the Midlands average. We have the lowest Council Tax in the Midlands.
- The Independent Enquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Telford and Wrekin has now appointed a chair and is consulting on terms of reference which will be published in July.
- Adopted a new strategy to continue the transformation and modernisation of the treatment of drug and alcohol dependency.
- Launched Mental Health First Aid training for Council staff, raising awareness of the importance of mental health, how to recognise the signs and where to seek support.
- Commenced a programme for the organisation to become “Dementia Friendly” and support the creation of a Dementia Friendly Community.
- With the Telford & Wrekin CCG (NHS) and Police, adopted new safeguarding partnership arrangements for children and adults to protect and support our most vulnerable.
- Continued our work to protect the environment:
 - Reduce the use of plastic – signed up to the “Refill” initiative to reduce the use of single-use water bottles;
 - Started to prepare for the introduction of a household food waste recycling scheme from September 2019;

- Launched a campaign to increase household recycling;
- Prosecuted a company for an environmental breach and a second for the breach of a tree protection order.

- Continued to tackle rogue landlords – including the successful prosecution of a landlord for falsifying tenancies to avoid Council tax.

- Expanded the Council’s Landlord Accreditation scheme to landlords who use an accredited letting agent to manage their property.

- Launched our “Let’s Get Telford Active” campaign with over 1,000 people signed up, with more events taking place across the borough this summer.

- Culture and heritage:
 - Seen work funded through the Council’s Pride in our Community High Street initiative commence in Ironbridge to transform shop frontages.
 - Supported communities in Oakengates and Wellington to deliver significant new community facilities with the support of Telford 50 Legacy Fund (Wellington Orbit Cinema and the Wakes improvements).

- Appointed an Armed Forces Champion, Cllr Raj Mehta, while holding our first free family Armed Forces day event and offering special discounts for Armed Forces members.

4.9. Work will continue to drive the delivery of these priorities through service planning (Assistant Director level) and the development of a performance framework which will be reported to Cabinet twice each year.

5. PREVIOUS MINUTES

Telford & Wrekin Council, Cabinet 30th May 2019.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Report prepared by Jon Power, Organisational Delivery & Development Manager. Telephone 01952 380141