



## Borough of Telford and Wrekin Cabinet 14 May 2026 Building Safer & Stronger Communities

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<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Cllr Richard Overton, Deputy Leader, and Cabinet Member: Highways, Housing & Enforcement	
<b>Lead Director:</b>	Dean Sargeant – Director: Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	
<b>Service Area:</b>	Neighbourhood & Enforcement	
<b>Report Author: Officer Contact Details:</b>	Jas Bedesha, Head of Building Safer & Stronger Communities	
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<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All Wards	
<b>Key Decision:</b>	Yes	
<b>Forward Plan:</b>	Yes – 16 April 2026	
<b>Report considered by:</b>	SMT – 28 April 2026 Business Briefing – 30 April 2026	

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### 1.0 Recommendations for decision/noting:

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 1.1 Note the achievements to date in Building Safer & Stronger Communities across the borough.
- 1.2 Note withdrawal of funding previously provided by the West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner to Building Safer & Stronger Communities from April 2026.
- 1.3 Note council's allocation of funding to maintain the Building Safer & Stronger Communities programme, as set out in this report, to deliver initiatives and develop partnerships that promote neighbourhood safety and youth activity across the borough.
- 1.4 Endorse the prevention interventions and initiatives as outlined in this report which reinforces the council's commitment in addressing violence against women and girls (VAWG) as part of the domestic abuse strategy.

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- 1.5 Endorse the co-ordinated and rapid deployment of resources for youth engagement and community concerns by integrating current response times for environmental, highway, and anti-social behaviour matters as outlined in this report.
- 1.6 Delegates authority to the Director for Neighbourhood & Enforcement in consultation with the Deputy Leader, and Cabinet Member for Highways, Housing & Enforcement, to submit bids for external funding that enhances neighbourhood safety.

### **2.0 Purpose of Report**

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Building Safer & Stronger Communities investment since 2021.
- 2.2 If approved, this report seeks approval to utilise council funding as set out in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) to deliver initiatives and develop partnerships that promote neighbourhood safety. This includes measures to strengthen the council's commitment to tackle domestic abuse and violence against women and girls (VAWG) while further enhancing the Youth Offer.
- 2.3 Underpinned by community engagement, data and intelligence, the development of neighbourhood safety plans will focus the deployment of resources from the council and partners in areas of the borough that need it most.

### **3.0 Background**

- 3.1 Telford & Wrekin Council is committed to building safer, stronger & healthier communities while protecting and enhancing our environment.
- 3.2 In April 2021 the Council launched the £2.5m Building Safer & Stronger Communities programme in partnership with the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner and West Mercia Police. The aim of this initial investment was to work with partners to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour in areas most in need.
- 3.3 To date, £6.5m has been invested in Building Safer & Stronger Communities programme which has underpinned a 12% reduction in crime and 45% reduction in anti-social behaviour reports across key areas of the borough. In parallel, areas of the borough have seen a 43% reduction in fly tipping.
- 3.4 As the programme enters its fifth year, withdrawal of funding from the West Merica Police and Crime Commissioner from April 2026 has resulted in the council prioritising a further £1.5m investment into Building Safer & Stronger Communities over the next four years.
- 3.5 The next phase of the investment, funded by the council, will prioritise neighbourhood safety by targeting reductions in crime, anti-social behaviour, and fly tipping as well as interventions and initiatives that reinforce the council's commitment in addressing violence against women and girls (VAWG). In parallel interventions will be bought forward to prevent individuals from engaging in crime and violence, alongside activities for adults and young people.

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- 3.6 Building Safer & Stronger Communities will continue to be underpinned by locality working through a Neighbourhood Coordinator. The Neighbourhood Coordinator will act as a conduit for elected representatives, partners and the community to address concerns raised in co-developed neighbourhood safety action plans that have an emphasis on the following themes:
- Education & Skills
  - Housing Standards
  - Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour
  - Environmental Crime
  - Community Resilience
  - Health Inequalities
- 3.7 A decent place to live is the foundation on which residents across the borough build their lives. The council will continue to tackle housing concerns where they exist and build on the work undertaken to date which has seen over 700 proactive housing inspections completed. These inspections have ensured rented accommodation is to the correct standard while providing opportunity to support both tenants and landlords.
- 3.8 Recent work has comprised ongoing engagement with landlords and tenants in Hollinswood to tackle issues that residents have raised on the standard of communal areas, rough sleeping, grounds maintenance and fly tipping on private land. This has been supported through regular engagement with residents by teams from across the council as well as West Mercia Police Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) with positive progress being made.
- 3.9 Building on activity to date in Sutton Hill, Brookside and Woodside, landlord/resident engagement will continue as part of the £30m investment into these areas through governments recently launched Pride in Place programme. All of this work underpins the council's commitment to tackle housing inequalities which includes consideration of further regulation on Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO).
- 3.10 Evidence suggests that well-designed youth activities, including after-school programs, mentoring, and sports programs, can reduce crime and reoffending, particularly when they focus on building skills, promoting positive behaviours, and providing structured supervision.
- 3.11 In March 2026, the Council launched the Telford and Wrekin Youth Strategy ([Telford and Wrekin Youth Strategy](#)), setting out a clear, long-term commitment to improving outcomes for children and young people across the borough.
- 3.12 The strategy has been developed in partnership with young people and key stakeholders and focuses on ensuring access to positive activities, trusted relationships, early support, and opportunities to develop skills and aspirations. The delivery of the Youth Strategy aligns with the Building Safer & Stronger Communities investment, through emphasis on prevention, diversion from crime/anti-social behaviour, and investment in safe, inclusive spaces and activities during evenings, weekends and school holidays. Future youth activity

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commissioned through Building Safer & Stronger Communities will facilitate expansion of the Youth Offer while contributing to the priorities set out within the Youth Strategy. New provision will be co-produced with involvement from young people that will provide opportunity to expand the Youth Offer through term time, late evening and weekend activity.

- 3.13 Launched in 2022, Urban Games provides those aged 8-16 the ability to participate in a range of sports and physical activity during the school holidays. To date, over 14,000 sessions have been delivered which complements the 16,000 sessions offered through Happy Healthy Active Holiday programme.
- 3.14 Urban Games is complemented by Telford Kicks which is a Friday night free football offer across the borough that regularly has over 130 children and young people attend each week. Some attendees of Telford Kicks have secured their own coaching qualifications and are now supporting Telford Kicks in a coaching and mentoring capacity. Continuation of Building Safer & Stronger Communities programme will provide opportunity to support more young people with coaching and mentoring qualifications into other areas of interest beyond football/sport.
- 3.15 In total there are 32 youth clubs operating across the borough through partner organisations; this includes nine youth clubs at Park Lane Centre, Woodside, Arleston Community Centre, Wellington, Great Dawley Town Hall, Dawley, Ketley Bank and Wrockwardine Wood which have been established through collaboration with Parish and Town Councils. Details are available on the Youth Offer web pages ([Telford & Wrekin Youth Offer](#)).
- 3.16 As part of the delivery of the Local Youth Strategy, the council will be collating attendance and outcome data for all youth clubs across the borough. This will support monitoring for impact of provision against a number of delivery performance indicators in line with National Youth Agency (NYA) framework. In addition, it will provide opportunity to plan for future need(s) across the borough.
- 3.17 Engagement with education settings has enabled the 'Making A Change' competition. This provides children and young people the opportunity to secure funding for their ideas to become reality. In its third year, the competition has funded 18 initiatives, such as mental health programs, cooking projects, youth festivals, multi-generational activities and improving local assets. The council's commitment to continue to invest in Building Safer & Stronger Communities, provides opportunity to continue to support young people bring forward their ideas that provide activities that complement the existing Youth Offer for example.
- 3.18 The council has well established timescales in responding to concerns that communities report including environmental, highway and anti-social behaviour. As part of this next phase of Building Safer & Stronger Communities, neighbourhood safety will build on successes to date by having a co-ordinated and rapid deployment of resources to tackle local concerns which will be supported by use of the 'Here to Help' community engagement vehicle where required.
- 3.19 This co-ordinated approach will build on the success to date of local area action plans that have been co-developed with partners to tackle anti-social behaviour in local centres including Oakengates, Wellington Centre, and Dawley High Street as

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well as areas including Hadley and Brookside where resources have been deployed to provide reassurance and focus.

- 3.20 This new funding will be used to support the installation of new street lighting and CCTV as local need requires. Use of such equipment will help the council and West Merica Police tackle persistent anti-social behaviour and fly tipping while building on the reports presented to Cabinet on 15 May 2025 and 18 February 2021 which contained information regarding activities around the night-time economy and taxi licensing that aimed to enhance community safety.
- 3.21 Continued investment into Building Safer & Stronger Communities programme aligns to the well-established Domestic Abuse Local Partnership (DALP) programme, specifically in relation to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). For example, through continuation of targeted education for young people on sexual exploitation, violence and unhealthy relationships, the White Ribbon campaign, and the successful target hardening programme, which improves home security for those at risk.
- 3.22 As part of the council's commitment to reduce council's domestic abuse and women and girls from violence, Cabinet will receive a further update on the impact of the domestic abuse programme and refreshed strategy at its June meeting.
- 3.23 The refreshed strategy incorporates new partnership commitments for VAWG, aligned to the new national strategy, which strengthen prevention activities, including; education and early intervention for young people, expanding the reach of the White Ribbon campaign and improving the safety of women and girls in the night-time economy.
- 3.24 The Council continues to engage with residents on tackling fly tipping to reduce the impact this crime has on the community and environment. Over the past 12 months, the number of fly tips reported to the council has decreased by up to 43% in some parts of the borough. In the last 12 months, the Council has investigated over 3,000 fly tips and taken action in over 610 incidents where evidence has been found. This action has included issuing of fixed penalty notices where fines of £650 have been issued and paid.
- 3.25 Community engagement and awareness in relation to fly tipping will continue through Telford & Wrekin Watch that launched in 2022. These web pages ([Telford and Wrekin Watch](#)) allow residents to support the council with the identification of offenders.
- 3.26 The Health & Wellbeing Strategy clearly references the importance that inclusive resilient communities have on resident's wellbeing. The council's ongoing investment in the Building Safer & Stronger Communities programme will keep supporting and developing low impact activities for adults and community clubs. With 30 groups already established throughout the borough, initiatives like walking football and hockey will continue, helping improve health, wellbeing, tackle isolation and loneliness, and encourage physical activity.

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

- 4.1 The Building Safer & Stronger Communities programme seeks to deliver initiatives and develop partnerships that promote neighbourhood safety through deployment of resources while focusing on prevention and diversion. This includes measures to strengthen the council's commitment to tackle domestic abuse and violence against women and girls (VAWG) while further enhancing the Youth Offer.
- 4.2 This approach is underpinned through data and intelligence to ensure investment decisions are based on evidence and the impact can be demonstrated. The interventions delivered to date continue to evolve to the needs of residents and local communities.

#### **5.0 Alternative Options**

- 5.1 There is a variety of legal powers and techniques available that tackle crime and anti-social behaviour.
- 5.2 Partnership working and maximising effective use of available resources ensures a continued focus on reducing crime, anti-social behaviour and fly tipping. This breadth of partnership working has already delivered a variety of interventions and is contributing towards enhancing neighbourhood safety.
- 5.3 The Council could choose not to invest in the Building Safer & Stronger Communities programme. However, given the progress to date, such a decision may be counterproductive.

#### **6.0 Key Risks**

- 6.1 Data and intelligence demonstrates that this programme to date is making a difference to residents and communities across the borough.
- 6.2 There is a risk that the focus and interventions bought forward do not improve the sense of safety for communities. This will be captured through feedback on interventions and activities to ensure they remain fit for the intended purpose.
- 6.3 There is a risk that interventions bought forward may not have the impact or outcome as initially envisaged. To mitigate this risk, interventions are based on data and intelligence and regularly reviewed to ensure the impact made and the value added.

#### **7.0 Council Priorities**

- 7.1 The Building Safer & Stronger Communities programme supports the following priorities:
- Every child, young person, and adult lives well in their community.
  - All neighbourhoods are a great place to live; and
  - Our natural environment is protected – we take a leading role in addressing the climate emergency.

#### **8.0 Financial Implications**

- 8.1 The Building Safer & Stronger Communities programme has invested £4.5m since April 2021. In addition to this, a further £1.5m was secured from the Home Office

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through the Safer Streets Programme along with £500,000 from the UK Shared Prosperity (UKSP) fund.

- 8.2 In continuing this programme, existing budgets will be used to bring forward initiatives that enhance neighbourhood safety, strengthen the council's commitment to tackle domestic abuse and violence against women and girls while further enhancing the Youth Offer. Opportunity will be sought to maximise external funding opportunities where available.
- 8.3 Costs associated with fly tipping are met from existing budgets with the income received from issuing fixed penalty notices used to offset associated costs.

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

- 9.1 Enforcement Officers have delegated powers under a wide range of legislation relating to environmental offences. This enables them to carry out investigations, issue fixed penalty or other statutory notices, or to refer offences for prosecution where appropriate. Legal advice is sought on an on-going basis in relation to individual cases.
- 9.2 There are no known HR matters arising from the content of this report.

### **10.0 Ward Implications**

- 10.1 While focused on priority areas, the Building Safer & Stronger Communities programme has borough wide benefit with all wards being affected.

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

- 11.1 Through tackling crime, Building Safer & Stronger Communities seeks to address the long-term issues of social deprivation that creates opportunities to improve the quality of life and wellbeing for all communities in the Borough.
- 11.2 The programme promotes and utilises green spaces across the Borough and has seen the use of Apley Woods and the Wrekin to encourage use and awareness of local nature reserves as part of nature walks. This not only promotes physical activity but improves mental health.
- 11.3 Adult and youth activities that continue to be supported by this programme provide a range of active sessions that improve both physical and mental health while reducing isolation and loneliness.
- 11.4 Reducing the fear of crime and creating safe vibrant spaces actively contributes to economic and social activity.

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

- 12.1 The Building Safer & Stronger Communities programme seeks to work with all residents, to build vibrant, inclusive and cohesive communities.

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

- 13.1 The Council is committed to tackling fly tipping while working hard to inform residents on the correct ways in which to dispose waste appropriately. The council

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has two household recycling centres and a bulk waste collection service which complements weekly kerb side collections.

- 13.2 The Building Safer & Stronger Communities programme works in partnership with the community to bring forward volunteering opportunities. This includes supporting those interested in enhancing environmental standards through the 1,935 Street Champions who volunteer to complete additional litter picks in their community.

### 14.0 Background Papers

[Cabinet – 15 May 2025](#)

[Cabinet - 18 February 2021](#)

### 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>
Legal	22/04/2026	23/04/2026	RP
Finance	22/04/2026	23/04/2026	PT
Director	23/04/2026	23/04/2026	DRS