



Our programme to protect, care and invest to create a better borough

Council Plan 2020 - onwards





Introduction

Welcome to Telford & Wrekin Council

In July 2019, the Council adopted a new vision for the organisation to **"protect, care and invest to create a better borough"** together with a series of commitments to deliver that vision. This built on a strong track record of delivering investment and to make the borough a better place to live. Including:

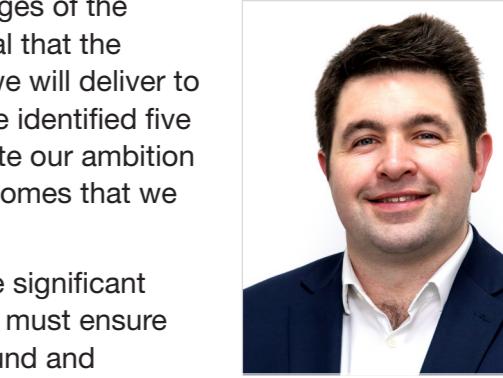
- Improving educational attainment
- Attracting and securing jobs
- Ensuring that every resident has a decent place to live
- Investing £50m in roads and streets

We have now delivered over 90% of our commitments, despite the ongoing financial challenges that we face as a result of government cuts. We have delivered around £125m of savings and the Government is yet to confirm how local authorities will be funded in the future.

Much of 2020 has seen the Council responding to the flooding of the Ironbridge Gorge and then the Covid-19 pandemic. We are extremely proud of how the borough has come together in response to these two challenges and worked successfully to protect the most vulnerable in our communities. This includes individual volunteers, community and voluntary groups, Town and Parish Council and our partners including the NHS, Police and schools.

Whilst we continue to respond to the challenges of the pandemic and plan for recovery, it is essential that the Council takes a medium-term view of what we will deliver to create a better borough. In this Plan, we have identified five new priorities to deliver our vision. These state our ambition and aspirations for the borough and the outcomes that we want to achieve.

At the heart of this is the need to address the significant inequalities that still exist in the borough. We must ensure that everyone, no matter what their background and circumstances, benefits from a strong economy, can fulfil their potential and live well, in a good, safe home. As a Co-operative Council, our approach will be informed by the views and voices of our residents, communities and partners. These must shape and influence what we do and how we do it if we are to continue to create a better borough.



Cllr Shaun Davies
Council Leader



David Sidaway
Chief Executive

TELFORD AND WREKIN - THE BOROUGH

Population

 **179,000**

Population to grow to
198,000 by 2030



Housing



1000+ net new builds

for each of the past 3 years



Health



Physically Active Adults increased in 2018/19 to
68.5%

from 55.4% in 2016/17

Skills & Education



People with NVQ level 4 increased to 29.8%

Economy

GVA per capita higher

than West Midlands average

Employment



16.5% manufacturing

Challenges

18 neighbourhoods ranked among the **10% most deprived** nationally for health, skills, employment and housing.

Transport



3rd best unitary authority

for 'overall satisfaction with highways and transportation'

Tourism

4.5 million visitors

£800m Economic benefit



TELFORD & WREKIN - THE COUNCIL

Unitary Council Created 1998

We have
54 Councillors
30 Wards

We function with a

Strong leader model
supported by
9 Cabinet Members

The last full Council election was in May 2019 with the next election due in 2023

Net revenue budget of £121.4m

Council tax Lowest in the Midlands £1,353
band D property

and our gross budget is £408m

Labour 34

Conservative 13

Liberal Democrats 4

Independent 1

Vacant seat 2

Workforce

the Council has a workforce of
2000 FTE employees

Capital programme of £234m



Making the Borough a Better Place to live...

Generated £7.7m income

from our Property Investment Portfolio to reinvest in front-line services

Telford Land Deal

Delivered 617 new homes and 1114 new jobs

Built 329 homes

through our wholly-owned housing company NuPlace

Telford Town Park

voted Best Park in the West Midlands

First Council in the West Midlands to be judged Outstanding for Children's Services

Protected from development

**200 greenspaces
16 nature reserves**

Adult Social Care
Shared Lives service judged outstanding

Supported more than 1900 volunteers to make a difference in their communities

Delivered £123m savings

our Council Tax is the lowest in the Midlands

Our Plan

We have made many great strides to improve our services and outcomes for local people, whilst managing continued financial pressures. Since 2010 we have delivered budget savings of £123 million largely as a result of funding reductions from Government whilst experiencing significant increase in demand on our services.

Despite these challenges, we have continued to deliver for our community:

- Protected the most vulnerable through “outstanding” children safeguarding services and adult Shared Lives Services
- Attracted and secured investment to create jobs
- Delivered 1000+ new homes each year

We recognise that not all of our communities have benefitted equally from the progress that has been made. There are communities within the borough that face significant challenges with some neighbourhoods that have nationally significant levels of social disadvantage. The impact of this is that there are inequalities between neighbourhoods in life expectancy, health, employment and skills, quality of housing and experience of crime and anti-social behaviour.

These differences have been amplified by Covid-19 which has had significant impact on the local economy and employment levels, particularly in the retail sector and manufacturing sector automotive supply chain. The number of people unemployed in the borough has risen too. As the Covid-19 pandemic continues, we will continue to work with and provide support to our communities and businesses, whilst developing and implementing our plans to drive recovery.

To deliver better outcomes for everyone and address these inequalities, we need to maintain and sustain the progress we have made growing and strengthening our economy whilst ensuring that additional focus is applied to those issues which negatively impact on

the potential of some of our communities to tackle social disadvantage and enhancing the resilience and prosperity of our communities.

We want to ensure that everyone in the borough has the same life chances, irrespective of their background.

As a Cooperative Council we recognise that the people in our communities are best placed to understand the issues that they face, the priorities for their area and to lead the development of solutions to these issues, but we also recognise that, at times, they may require support from the Council and other partners.

Our Council Plan sets out how your Council will operate and what we will focus on delivering. At the heart of this is our vision to **“protect, care & invest to create a better borough”** which we will deliver through four priorities:

- Every child, young person and adult lives well in their community
- Everyone benefits from a thriving economy
- All neighbourhoods are a great place to live
- Our natural environment is protected, and the Council has a leading role in addressing the climate emergency

It will be the core focus of the Council to drive delivery of these priorities. This will only be achieved by the Council using its resources efficiently and effectively, and by working in partnership, with communities, partners and stakeholders. We have adopted a priority for the organisation to enable us to drive and steer our approach:

- A community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services

Our Council Plan sets out what we will focus on delivering against each priority and our performance framework will enable us to understand the impact and difference we are having and identify where we need to do things differently. This framework will shape the focus of all of our services and we will review our Council Plan each year to ensure that our focus is improving outcomes and creating a better borough.

As important as what we are going to do is how we are going to do it. Our co-operative values provide the framework for how we will work. They set out the basis for the Council’s relationship, or “deal”, with residents, a commitment for what the Council will do but also that we are asking our residents to accept and act on their own responsibilities.

Openness and Honesty

- **we will** - be open and honest in the way we work and make decisions and communicate in a clear, simple and timely way
- **we would like everyone** - to be open and honest about what they want to improve in their community

Ownership

- **we will** - be accountable for our own actions and empower others with the skills to help themselves
- **we would like everyone** - to the best of their abilities, to take action and responsibility for themselves and their community

Fairness and Respect

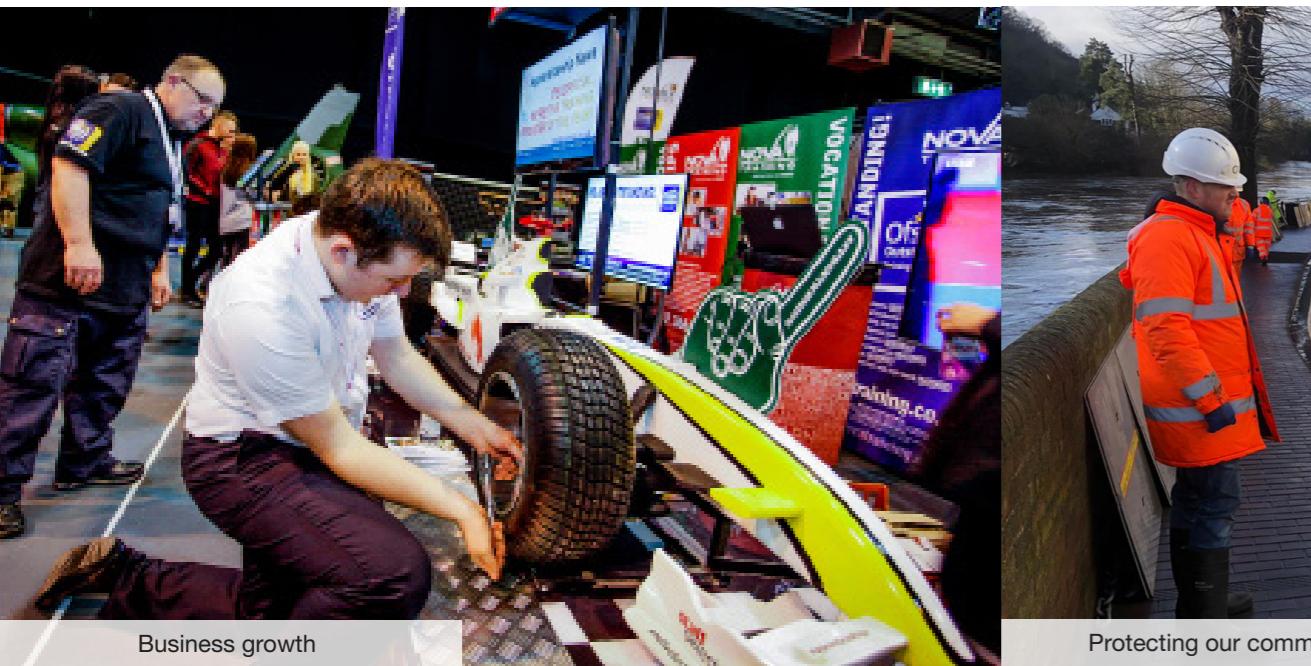
- **we will** - respond to people’s needs in a fair and consistent way
- **we would like everyone** - to respect and care for themselves and others, valuing the different ideas and skills that people bring and treating each other as equals

Involvement

- **we will** - work together with our communities, involving people in decisions that affect their lives and be prepared to listen and take on new ideas
- **we would like everyone** - to work with and support others, get involved and share their views to help us develop the way we do things



One of our ‘green guarantee’ sites



Business growth



Protecting our communities



Community events



Reducing health inequalities

Delivering Our Vision to Protect, Care and Invest to create a better Borough through Priorities

Every child, young person and adult lives well in their community

We want everyone in the borough to fulfil their potential, to be the best they can be. To do this it is essential that children and young people get the best possible start to life, that they receive a “good” or outstanding education, that they learn how to stay healthy and well, and that as adults they can access lifelong learning to develop their skills. We know that everyone, whether child or adult, thrives best when they live in a community with family, friends and networks of support. The Council and our partners will work to this goal where it best meets the interest of the person. Our other four priorities will support the delivery of this priority.

Key outcomes we will work towards:

- children and young people are as prepared as possible for independent, successful adulthood
- children live in safe and supportive families wherever it is safe to do so
- pregnancy and birth outcomes for women, their babies and families are good for everyone
- everyone receives the quality education and training they need to secure and maintain employment in an ever changing job market
- every learner feels safe in a setting appropriate to their needs
- people help themselves through the provision of early information and advice
- where it is safe to do so, people support people to live independently
- people are safe and live a life free from abuse
- everyone is as healthy as possible and health inequalities have reduced
- incidents, outbreaks, and emergencies are dealt with effectively

Everyone benefits from a thriving economy

The borough has an outstanding track record of attracting and securing investment to create jobs. Whilst Covid-19 has brought challenges, our focus will be to attract investment, drive innovation and support businesses whilst they recover from these challenges and enable the economy to continue to grow. This is essential if we want an economy that everyone can benefit from which will enable inequalities across our communities to be addressed.

Key outcomes we will work towards:

- jobs are created and protected through growth and investment
- business resilience and productivity is increased through entrepreneurship and innovation
- all age unemployment is addressed by connecting residents to jobs, support and training
- the leisure and business visitor economy recovers and grows

All neighbourhoods are a great place to live

We want all our neighbourhoods to be safe and inclusive for everyone, including the young and the old. We want neighbourhoods to thrive and be places where people want to live. We want people to feel pride in, and ownership of, their communities and to feel as though they belong whatever their background. We want our communities to be well connected and for everyone to have access to good, affordable housing.



Our Vision, Priorities and Values



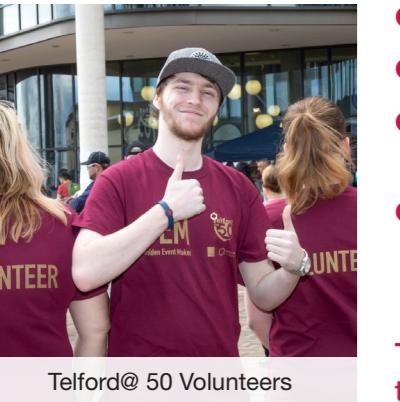
- Key outcomes we will work towards:
 - the Council and borough is carbon neutral by 2030
 - communities are resilient to the impact of climate change

A community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services

To deliver our community priorities, we will maximise the use of our resources, ensuring that we work efficiently and effectively together as one system, one organisation. We will continue to develop and support our workforce, our ICT systems and data, and our financial resources. Our decisions about how we do this will be informed by robust engagement and consultation with communities, businesses, partners and stakeholders.

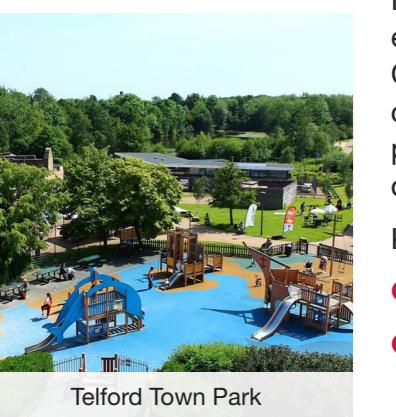
Key outcomes we will work towards:

- local people and organisations are consulted and involved in the development of services
- all communities are engaged in local democracy
- the Council is recognised as an employer of choice with a workforce that is empowered, skilled, diverse and responsive and is proud to work for the Council
- our customer experience is the best possible and facilities are accessible to all
- our ICT infrastructure is secure, reliable and resilient
- continue to deliver a balanced budget
- continue to use income from commercial activities to contribute to financial sustainability
- governance and decision making is transparent and evidence-led



Telford@ 50 Volunteers

The natural environment is protected, and the Council is taking a leading role in tackling the climate emergency



Telford Town Park

In October 2019, the Council recognised the climate emergency by committing to make the operation of the Council and the borough carbon neutral by 2030. We are committed to protecting our heritage and habitats too, protecting biodiversity both in the way in which the Council delivers its services but also through local planning policy.

Key outcomes we will work towards:

- our heritage is protected and championed
- habitats and wildlife are protected and enhanced

Organisational Delivery & Development

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