



Borough of Telford and Wrekin

Cabinet

Thursday 7 November 2024

Telford & Wrekin Council Plan

Cabinet Member:	Cllr Lee Carter - Leader	
Lead Director:	Anthea Lowe - Director: Policy & Governance	
Service Area:	Policy & Governance	
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Wards Affected:	All Wards	
Key Decision:	Key Decision	
Forward Plan:	September 2024	
Report considered by:	Senior Management Team - 24 September 2024 Business Briefing - 3 October 2024 Cabinet – Thursday 7 November 2024	

1.0 Recommendations for decision/noting:

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 1.1 Approves the updated Council Plan 2024/25 to 2026/27 including the vision and key priorities.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 This report presents an updated Council Plan to drive delivery of the Council's vision to ***“protect, care and invest to create a better borough”*** for the period from 2024/25 to 2026/27.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 In 2022, the Council adopted two new overarching strategies:

- a 10-year vision for what the borough will be like in 2032, presenting a clear ambition and direction of travel for the borough. The vision was developed through detailed consultation and working with partners across the public and third sector; and
- a medium-term Council Plan which sets out what the council would focus on delivering over the following three years to drive delivery of the organisational vision to **“protect care and invest to create a better borough”**.

3.2 To deliver the Council’s vision, the Council Plan identifies four priorities to drive delivery of the Council’s vision to the community we serve:

- ***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***

3.3 Since 2022, the Council has made significant progress delivering against these priorities, including:

- Being the first council in the West Midlands to be judged outstanding in successive inspections by OFSTED for Children’s Social Care Services, illustrating that we have continued to put young people in the borough at the heart of everything we do and ensuring that all children are safeguarded.
- Reduced the number of referrals for safeguarding and statutory services by over 30% with more families accessing the right help earlier through the introduction of Family Hubs, the adoption of the Family Safeguarding model.
- An increase in the number of offenders referred for treatment from criminal justice of 44.2% in the 12 months ending May 2024 compared to 2023/24 by continuing to deliver one of the best alcohol treatment rates in the country and further improved access to alcohol and drugs treatment across the criminal justice system.
- Supporting specialised living accommodation with 340 units of extra care housing being delivered in 2024/25.
- Providing over 37,500 people with over £7million in financial support through a variety of welfare support schemes including the household support fund, discretionary housing payments, emergency welfare assistance and council tax hardship fund over 23/24 and 24/25.
- Investing £1.17m for Environmental improvements and enhancements into our parks, local nature reserves and green guarantee sites. This has resulted in the planting of 11,664 trees and creation of 32 new wildflower areas.

4.0 Summary of main proposals

4.1 To respond to the change in leadership of the Council, the Council plan has been reviewed and updated. It is proposed that the Council will continue its focus on the delivery of its vision to ***“Protect, Care & Invest to create a better borough”*** through the pre-existing priorities.

4.2 The Council Plan identifies four priorities to deliver the council’s vision. These reflect our ambition and aspirations for our residents and the outcomes we want to achieve:

- ***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***

4.3 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. Through the priorities contained in the Council Plan, the Council will continue to focus on addressing these.

4.4 As a co-operative council, it is recognised 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 it is also recognised that, at times, they may require support from the council and other partners.

4.5 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. To enable the Council to drive and steer its approach to how it continues to develop its workforce, ICT systems and data, use its financial resources appropriately and to ensure good governance and decision-making informed by the views of local residents, the refreshed Plan also includes a priority for the organisation:

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

4.6 To drive delivery of the Council Plan the following work will be undertaken:

- Service Strategies for each directorate within the Council will be reviewed to ensure that they set out what each service area will deliver over the next 3 years and the key outcomes they are expected to achieve.

- The corporate performance framework will continue to be monitored. Through this, the council will understand the progress that is being made towards delivering the outcomes contained in each of the service strategies.

5.0 Alternative Options

5.1 The alternate option would be to not update the Council Plan further to the recent changes in administration. This may impact on the delivery of the Councils Priorities.

6.0 Key Risks

6.1 The development of a comprehensive Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) is essential to support the effective use of available resources to deliver outcomes for all Council priorities. The refreshed Council Plan aligns to the approved MTFS.

7.0 Council Priorities

7.1 The vision will drive implementation of all of the Council's 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
- The natural environment is protected, and the Council is taking a leading role in tackling the climate emergency
- A community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services.

8.0 Financial Implications

8.1 The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) Report sets out the resources available for the Council to deliver the priorities highlighted in the Council Plan. The Council continues to demonstrate strong financial management, delivering £156.9m savings since 2009/10 and effectively managing spend within budgets set. The MTFS includes funding for a range of investments, both revenue and capital, to *Protect, Care and Invest in the Borough* which are detailed in the Council Plan. The funding outlook for the council is uncertain due to the pending reform of the Local Government Finance System and the MTFS will be updated accordingly, when further information becomes available, with a continued focus on the vision and key priorities outlined in the Council Plan.

9.0 Legal and HR Implications

9.1 The Council Plan sets the strategic priorities of the organisation and forms part of the Council's policy framework. It also impacts upon the Council's budget framework. In accordance with the Council's Constitution, full Council will need to endorse the plan. Proposals that are brought forward to achieve the strategic

priorities contained in the Council Plan will remain subject to appropriate approval as required by the Council's Constitution

10.0 Ward Implications

10.1 This report has borough wide impact

11.0 Health, Social and Economic Implications

11.1 The Council Plan articulates a clear ambition to address long-term health, social and economic challenges in the borough.

12.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

12.1 The Council Plan articulates a clear ambition to enhance equality and diversity “to create a more inclusive borough”.

13.0 Climate Change and Environmental Implications

13.1 The Council Plan articulates a clear ambition to address the climate emergency, protect the environment and to create a more sustainable community and economy.

14.0 Background Papers

1 Council Plan 2022/23 to 2025/26

15.0 Appendices

A Telford & Wrekin Council Plan 2024/25 to 2026/27

16.0 Report Sign Off

Signed off by	Date sent	Date signed off	Initials
Finance	19/09/2024	19/09/2024	ER
Legal	19/09/2024	01/10/2024	RP