

Shropshire Council
Legal and Democratic Services
Shirehall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
SY2 6ND

Date: Wednesday, 5 January 2022

Committee: Council

Date: Thursday, 13 January 2022

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: The Auditorium - Theatre Severn, Frankwell Quay, Frankwell, Shrewsbury. SY3 8FT

You are requested to attend the above meeting. The Agenda is attached

Members of the Council – a briefing note will be circulated by e-mail prior to the meeting with important housekeeping details and arrangements for the morning.

Members of the Public – there will be some access in the Theatre for the public to attend the meeting. If you wish to attend the meeting please e-mail democracy@shropshire.gov.uk to check whether a seat will be available for you.

Members of the public will be able to access the live stream of the meeting by clicking on this link

<https://shropshire.gov.uk/CouncilMeeting13January2022>

Tim Collard
Interim Assistant Director – Legal and Democratic Services

Vince Hunt (Chairman)	Steve Charmley	Ruth Houghton
Brian Williams (Vice Chairman)	Ted Clarke	Richard Huffer
Lezley Picton (Leader)	Gerald Dakin	Tracey Huffer
Ed Potter (Deputy Leader)	Rosemary Dartnall	Kirstie Hurst-Knight
Roy Aldcroft	Steve Davenport	Mike Isherwood
Jeff Anderson	Mary Davies	Mark Jones
Caroline Bagnall	Julian Dean	Simon Jones
Nicholas Bardsley	Geoff Elner	Duncan Kerr
Joyce Barrow	David Evans	Heather Kidd
Bernie Bentick	Julia Evans	Christian Lea
Thomas Biggins	Roger Evans	Hilary Luff
Ed Bird	Paul Gill	Nigel Lumby
Andy Boddington	Rob Gittins	Elliott Lynch
Peter Broomhall	Nat Green	Robert Macey
Julia Buckley	Kate Halliday	Richard Marshall
Garry Burchett	Simon Harris	David Minnery
Gwilym Butler	Nigel Hartin	Dan Morris
Dean Carroll	Nick Hignett	Pamela Moseley

Alan Mosley
Cecilia Motley
Peggy Mullock
Ian Nellins
Kevin Pardy
Vivienne Parry
Tony Parsons

John Price
Chris Schofield
Dan Thomas
Robert Tindall
Edward Towers
Dave Tremellen
Kevin Turley

David Vasmer
Alex Wagner
Claire Wild
Rob Wilson
Leslie Winwood
Paul Wynn

Your Committee Officer is:

Tim Ward Committee Officer

Tel: 01743 257713

Email: tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk

AGENDA

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Members are reminded that they must declare their disclosable pecuniary interests and other registrable or non-registrable interests in any matter being considered at the meeting as set out in Appendix B of the Members' Code of Conduct and consider if they should leave the room prior to the item being considered.

Further advice can be sought from the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.

3 Minutes (Pages 1 - 18)

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 September 2021

4 Announcements

To receive such communications as the Chairman, Leader and Head of Paid Service may desire to lay before the Council.

5 Public Questions

To receive any questions from the public, notice of which has been given in accordance with Procedure Rule 14. Deadline for notification is 10am on Tuesday 11 January 2022

6 Setting the Council Tax Taxbase for 2022/23 (Pages 19 - 42)

Report of the Executive Director, Resources is attached

Contact: James Walton. Tel. 01743 258915

7 Treasury Strategy 2021/22 – Mid Year Review (Pages 43 - 70)

Report of the Executive Director, Resources is attached

Contact: James Walton. Tel. 01743 258915

8 Report of the Portfolio Holder Finance and Corporate Support

Report of the Portfolio Holder Finance and Corporate Support is to follow

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Gwilym Butler

9 Provision of Wheeled Bins for Kerbside Recycling of Plastic, Metal and Glass Recycling (Pages 71 - 94)

Report of the Head of Transport and the Environment is attached

Contact Steve Brown Tel: 01743 257809

10 Carbon Reporting

Report of the Executive Director of Place is to follow

Contact Mark Barrow Tel: 01743258919

11 Proposed Public Path Extinguishment Order to delete Footpath 19 (PART) in the Parish of St Martins - Delegation to Wrexham County Borough Council to make the Order on our behalf

Report of the Executive Director of Place is to follow

Contact Mark Barrow Tel: 01743258919

12 Youth Justice Plan (Pages 95 - 132)

Report of the Executive Director of People is attached

Contact Tanya Miles Tel: 01743 255811

13 Programme Approach to the purchase of Temporary Accommodation

Report of the Executive Director of Place is to follow

Contact Mark Barrow Tel: 01743258919

14 Appointments to Committees

People Overview Committee

Councillor Roy Aldcroft to replace Councillor Ed Bird as a member of the People Overview Committee.

Place Overview Committee

Councillor Claire Wild to be appointed as a substitute member of the Place Overview Committee

Councillor Nick Bardsley to be appointed as a substitute member of the Place Overview Committee

Councillor Roger Evans to replace Councillor Nat Green as a substitute member of the Place Overview Committee

Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Steve Charmley to replace Councillor Simon Jones as a member of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Nick Bardsley to replace Councillor Roy Aldcroft as a member of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Strategic Licensing Committee

Councillor Robert Macey to replace Councillor Simon Jones as a member of the Strategic

Licencing Committee

Councillor David Evans to replace Councillor Robert Tindall as a member of the Strategic Licencing Committee

Councillor Mary Davies to replace Councillor Alex Wagner as a member of the Strategic Licencing Committee

Health & Wellbeing Board

Councillor Simon Jones to replace Councillor Dean Carroll as a member of the Health and Wellbeing Board

Southern Planning Committee

Councillor Geoff Elner to be appointed as a substitute member of the Southern Planning Committee

15 Motions

The following motions have been received in accordance with Procedure Rule 16:

1. The following motion has been received from Councillor Kate Halliday and is supported by the Labour Group:

Clean, healthy rivers are essential to Shropshire's prosperity and wellbeing. In recent years the water quality has deteriorated for a variety of reasons but the chief contributor is the frequent and intermittent discharges of sewage when it rains. These combined sewage outfalls (CSOs) have contributed to the deterioration of water quality and biodiversity. Fish stocks have reduced by 60% in the last 10 years. Water firms discharged raw sewage into English waters 400,000 times last year, an increase of 27% on the previous year.

The Environment Bill requires sewerage undertakers to ensure progressive reduction of the adverse impact of discharges, and introduces additional monitoring and reporting obligations. However it does not give water companies a timetable to invest and update the sewage system, and there remains no legal duty on water companies not to release sewage into our waterways. It is therefore important that Shropshire Council plays an active role in holding key partners to account.

Motion: This council will:

1. Call on Place Scrutiny and Overview Committee to set up a Task and Finish Group to look into the issue and meet the Environment Agency and Severn Trent Water. Their report should seek to better understand the reporting and reasons for both sewage discharges and farm-related discharges and their impact on the bio-diversity of rivers and the health of those who swim in the river.
2. Urge Severn Trent to increase funding and provide timescales for mitigating the effects of sewerage and other pollutants being discharged into our rivers
3. Investigate how the main rivers in Shropshire may achieve and maintain Blue Flag status
4. Map and analyse the additional impact on sewerage into the rivers from the proposed additional house building in the draft Shropshire Plan to 2038, and consider investing CIL monies into schemes to end the discharge of sewerage and other pollutants into our rivers.

2. The following motion has been received from Councillor Nat Green and is supported by the Liberal Democrat Group:

It is well known that excessive noise is damaging to both physical and mental health. It also is degrading to the environment and general amenity of an area. In recent years there have been successful trials of acoustic cameras to catch motorists and motorcycle riders with vehicles that emit excessive noise. The threshold set in the trials in London was 80db. Emergency vehicles and otherwise law-abiding HGVs would not suffer fines. This motion calls on the administration to consider a pilot scheme that, if successful, could be rolled out across towns in Shropshire.

3. The following motion has been received from Councillor Heather Kidd and is supported by the Liberal Democrat Group:

This Council Notes

1. The worsening of ambulance services in Shropshire over recent years despite the best efforts and dedication of ambulance staff.
2. That patients are dying waiting for an ambulance in Shropshire
3. Queues of ambulances at both the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and the Princess Royal Hospital because there are no beds available for patients.
4. The Government's failure to release funds to bring the improvements in hospital services that Future Fit promised
5. The poor location of the current Shropshire ambulance hub in Meole near two secondary schools.
6. That the Shrewsbury & Telford Hospital NHS Trust (SaTH) has not attended meetings called to discuss ambulances queuing outside hospitals

This Council Resolves to:

1. Demand that all parties be required to attend regular meetings between the West Midlands Ambulance Service and the Shrewsbury and Telford NHS Trust hosted by Shropshire Council. The aim would be to draw up an action plan with completion dates so that the number of ambulances queuing outside hospitals is reduced.
2. Work with the West Midlands Ambulance Service Trust to find an alternative site for a hub that gives quicker access to major roads without passing through residential areas.
3. Organise a lobbying campaign of Government with the support of both the ambulance and hospital trusts working in Shropshire with two demands:
 - a. Funds be released to fund Future Fit
 - b. Increase the number of ambulances working in Shropshire from the current 12 to a maximum capacity of 16.

4. The following motion has been received from Councillor Julian Dean and is supported by the Green Group:

Council notes that since the last Shropshire Economic Strategy was published the UK has left the EU, the world has struggled with the Coronavirus pandemic, the UK government has made a legally binding commitment to achieve net zero carbon by 2050 and Shropshire Council has declared a climate emergency with a commitment to achieve net zero by 2030.

We further note that the Corporate Plan 2019-20 to 2021-22 makes no mention of working towards 'net zero', nor of the opportunities for work, healthier living and economic well being involved in a just transition to a fossil fuel free economy. In particular we note that the performance management dashboard related to the Corporate Plan contains only 3 targets, two related to care and one related to recycling rates. Examples of possible areas for performance measures that are missing include levels of local renewable energy generation; proportion of homes built to zero carbon standards; proportion of homes undergoing retrofit; proportion of journeys shifted to sustainable transport modes; proportion of council procurement and contracting going to sustainable and local enterprises; availability of EV charging.

Council believes that Shropshire deserves a robust Corporate Plan and associated Economic and Wellbeing Strategy that puts a just transition to a zero-carbon local economy at its heart, drawing on best practice in community wealth building.

We note that the Place Overview Committee recommended extended member workshops on 'building back better, including input from experts beyond the council' to support the development of the economic strategy.

We call on the cabinet to create meaningful opportunities for engagement involving members, communities, local organisations and businesses to help shape these strategies.

16 Questions from Members

To receive any questions from Members, notice of which has been given in accordance with Procedure Rule 15.2.

Report to follow

17 Report of the Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority (Pages 133 - 136)

To receive the report of the Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority arising from its meetings held on 13 October 2021 and 15 December 2021

18 Exclusion of Press and Public

To resolve that, in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and Paragraph 10.4 [3] of the Council's Access to Information Rules, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items.

19 Exempt Minutes (Pages 137 - 142)

To approve as a correct record the exempt minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 September 2021

20 Options for delivery of Oswestry Innovation Park and associated infrastructure

Exempt report of the Executive Director of Place is to follow

Contact Mark Barrow Tel: 01743258919

21 Alveley Industrial Estate

Exempt report of the Executive Director of Place is to follow

Contact Mark Barrow Tel: 01743258919

22 Maesbury Road Oswestry - Solar Power Generation Revised Scheme

Exempt report of the Executive Director of Place is to follow

Contact Mark Barrow Tel: 01743258919



Committee and Date

Council

13 January 2021

COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2021

**In the The Auditorium - Theatre Severn, Frankwell Quay, Frankwell, Shrewsbury.
SY3 8FT**

10am – 3.50pm

Responsible Officer: Tim Ward

Email: tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 257713

Present

Councillors Vince Hunt (Chairman and Lezley Picton (Leader), Brian Williams (Vice Chairman), Steve Charmley (Deputy Leader), Roy Aldcroft, Jeff Anderson, Caroline Bagnall, Nicholas Bardsley, Joyce Barrow, Thomas Biggins, Andy Boddington, Peter Broomhall, Julia Buckley, Garry Burchett, Gwilym Butler, Dean Carroll, Ted Clarke, Gerald Dakin, Rosemary Dartnall, Mary Davies, Julian Dean, Geoff Elner, David Evans, Julia Evans, Roger Evans, Paul Gill, Rob Gittins, Nat Green, Kate Halliday, Simon Harris, Nigel Hartin, Nick Hignett, Ruth Houghton, Kirstie Hurst-Knight, Mike Isherwood, Mark Jones, Simon Jones, Duncan Kerr, Heather Kidd, Christian Lea, Hilary Luff, Nigel Lumby, Elliott Lynch, Robert Macey, Richard Marshall, Dan Morris, Pamela Moseley, Alan Mosley, Cecilia Motley, Peggy Mullock, Ian Nellins, Kevin Pardy, Vivienne Parry, Tony Parsons, Ed Potter, John Price, Dan Thomas, Robert Tindall, Edward Towers, David Vasmer, Alex Wagner, Claire Wild, Rob Wilson and Paul Wynn

36 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bernie Bentick, Chris Schofield, Les Winwood, Dave Tremellen, Kev Turley, Ed Bird and David Minnery.

37 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Members were reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

Councillor Claire Wild declared a Pecuniary Interest in Exempt Agenda Item 18, Pride Hill, Civic Accommodation and Riverside Development Opportunities and stated that she would leave the theatre during consideration of the item, taking no part in the debate or vote.

Councillor Lezley Picton declared a Pecuniary Interest in Exempt Agenda Item 18, Pride Hill, Civic Accommodation and Riverside Development Opportunities and stated that she would leave the theatre during consideration of the item, taking no part in the debate or vote.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2021, as circulated with the agenda papers, be approved and signed as a correct record.

39 Announcements

Chairman's Engagements

The Chairman referred Members to the list of official engagements carried out by himself and the Vice Chairman since the last meeting of the Council on 15 July 2021, which had been circulated by email.

40 Public Questions

The Chairman advised there were two public questions from Jamie Russell and Stephen Mulloy. Answers to the questions were provided by the respective Portfolio Holders. A copy of the questions and the responses provided are attached to the signed minutes and available from the web page for the meeting.

[Agenda for Council on Thursday, 23rd September, 2021, 10.00 am — Shropshire Council](#)

A petition, bearing over 1000 signatures had been received from Rachel Connolly, requesting a debate under the Council's Petition Scheme. The petition requested that the Council:

Hold a full member debate on the rationale and impact of Kier and Shropshire Council's proposal to centralise the highways service delivery by closing the 2 depots serving the East of the county. Members are asked to consider whether closing and selling off the depots in Bridgnorth & Hodnet is in the interests of local residents and quality of service.

Members will take a vote on whether the proposed closures should go ahead or not.

The petitioner was allowed 5 minutes to outline their case, after which there was a debate of up to a maximum of 15 minutes.

The Portfolio Holder, Councillor Charmley, thanked the petitioner. He replied for the Council and at the end of the debate and in line with the options laid out in the Constitution; proposed that the Council undertake further research into the matter and consult those affected before bringing a report to Council or Cabinet (as appropriate) in due course.

Clarification was sought whether the proposal would result in the closure of the depots in the interim period. Members were advised that the depots were temporarily closed for health and safety reasons. Permanent closures would be brought to Council or Cabinet for Members' decision.

On being put to a recorded vote the proposition was carried by 38 Members voting in favour, 26 against and no abstentions, as follows:

For – Councillors Aldcroft, Anderson, Bardsley, Barrow, Biggins, Broomhall, Burchett, Butler, Carroll, Charmley, Dakin, Elner, D Evans, Gill, Gittins, Harris, Hignett, Hunt, Hurst-Knight, M Jones, S Jones, Lea, Luff, Lumby, Lynch, Macey, Marshall, Morris, Motley, Mullock, Nellins, Picton, Potter, Price, Thomas, Wild, Williams, Wynn

Against – Bagnall, Boddington, Buckley, Clarke, Dartnall, M Davies, Dean, J Evans, R Evans, Green, Halliday, Hartin, Houghton, Isherwood, Kerr, Kidd, Moseley, Mosley, Pardy, Parry, Parsons, Tindall, Towers, Vasmer, Wagner, Wilson

Abstentions - Nil

41 Annual Treasury Report 2020/21

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Councillor Gwilym Butler, and seconded by Councillor Jeff Anderson that the report of the Executive Director of Resources, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

To accept the position as set out in the report.

42 Annual Assurance Report of the Audit Committee to Council 2020/21

It was proposed by the Chairman of the Audit Committee, Councillor Brian Williams, and seconded by Councillor Simon Harris, that the report of the Executive Director of Resources, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

Members commended the Audit Committee for the report and recognised that Audit Committee would not be as effective without the backing, reports and training from Audit staff.

RESOLVED:

To receive and agree the report.

43 Changes to the Appointment of the External Auditor

It was proposed by the Chairman of the Audit Committee, Councillor Brian Williams, and seconded by Councillor Simon Harris, that the report of the Executive Director of Resources, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

To accept the report and the recommendation to endorse the Audit Committee's preferred approach to opt into the Sector Led Body, the PSAA.

44 **Adoption of LGA New Model Code of Conduct**

It was proposed by the Chairman of the Standards Committee, Councillor David Evans, and seconded by Councillor Vince Hunt, that the report of the Interim Assistant Director for Legal and Democratic Services, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

That members:

- Approve the adoption of the LGA Model Code of Conduct in its entirety as the member Code of Conduct for Shropshire Council from 1st December 2021 following training
- Request that the Monitoring Officer write to all Town and Parish Council in Shropshire to recommend that they too adopt the LGA Model Code of Conduct

45 **Appointment of Monitoring Officer**

It was proposed by the Chairman, Councillor Vince Hunt, and seconded by Councillor Brian Williams, that the current Interim Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services, Tim Collard, be appointed as Monitoring Officer of the Council on a temporary basis until the post is filled permanently.

RESOLVED:

That Tim Collard be appointed as Monitoring Officer of the Council on a temporary basis until the post is filled permanently.

46 **Allocation of Committee Seats and Appointments**

It was proposed by the Chairman, Councillor Vince Hunt, and seconded by Councillor Brian Williams, that the report of the Interim Assistant Director for Legal and Democratic Services, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

3.1 That the Council confirms the revised allocation of seats to each of the political groups for the 2021/22 municipal year as a consequence of the change in group membership as follows:

- a) That the composition and revised allocation of seats on its committees and other bodies as detailed in the report be approved.

b) That the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group provides notification of which of its members will continue as a member of the Housing Supervisory Board.

c) That the Leader of the Independent Group confirms its representation to the Housing Supervisory Board

3.2 That the appointment of Councillor Roy Aldcroft as Deputy Portfolio Holder for Communities, Place, Tourism & Transport be noted

3.3 That following changes to committee membership be noted:

a) Northern Planning Committee

Councillor Steve Davenport appointed as a substitute member of the Northern Planning Committee

b) Southern Planning Committee

Councillor Robert Tindall to replace Councillor Dave Tremellen as a Member of the Southern Planning Committee

Councillor Dave Tremellen appointed as a substitute member of the Southern Planning Committee

c) Communities Overview Committee

Councillor Nick Bardsley appointed as a substitute member of the Communities Overview Committee

d) People Overview Committee

Councillor Roy Aldcroft appointed as a substitute member of the People Overview Committee

e) Place Overview Committee

Councillor Julia Evans to replace Councillor Mike Isherwood as a substitute member of the Place Overview Committee

f) Audit Committee

Councillor Roger Evans to replace Councillor David Vasmer as a Member of the Audit Committee

Councillor David Vasmer to replace Councillor Roger Evans as a substitute Member of the Audit Committee

47 Motions

The following motions had been received in accordance with Procedure Rule 16:

1. From Councillor Duncan Kerr, supported by the Green Group

Motion to Shropshire Council on White Ribbon Accreditation.

According to the Government ([Domestic Abuse Act 2021: overarching factsheet - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/101212/Domestic-Abuse-Act-2021-overarching-factsheet-GOV.UK.pdf)) over 2.3 million people suffer domestic abuse each year at a total cost to the public purse of over £66bn. We also know that two women a week lose their lives to domestic abuse and this number has increased during the Covid lock-down.

In Shropshire Domestic Abuse is a major cause of the escalating number of children being made subject to a Child Protection Plan and is the single biggest reason for Section 42 adult safeguarding enquiries and conclusions. West Mercia Police report that it accounts for 17% of reported crimes with a 22% increase year on year ([PCC-Domestic-Abuse-Strategy-V4.pdf \(westmercia-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk/media/1234567890/PCC-Domestic-Abuse-Strategy-V4.pdf)).

We are sure that all members of the Council welcome the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 which provides for a legal definition of domestic abuse and increases the powers and responsibilities of the Council to victims and survivors. However, if we really care about these victims we need to go further than simple legal compliance and follow the many Councils who are leading their communities in taking a stand against domestic abuse by becoming White Ribbon Accredited organisations.

This motion therefore resolves that Shropshire Council will seek to become an accredited White Ribbon Authority by March 2022.

Councillor Mike Isherwood seconded the motion.

Following a vote, it was

RESOLVED:

That Shropshire Council will seek to become an accredited White Ribbon Authority by March 2022.

2. From Councillor Rob Wilson, supported by the Liberal Democrat group

Active Travel

This council notes:

1. Shropshire Council declared a Climate Emergency in May 2019.
2. Shropshire Council unanimously voted to support Gear Change and ensure that all cycle infrastructure in Shropshire conforms to LTN 1/20 in September 2020.
3. In April 2021 Shropshire appointed an Active Travel Officer to lead on the development of a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan for Shropshire (LCWIP), as well as other active travel projects.

4. According to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure, the total capital budget available to highways for 2021/22 is approximately £28.5m.
5. £0.314m has been specifically allocated to active travel measures, this is just over 1%, and approximately £1 per head of population.
6. Shropshire Climate Action Partnership (of which Shropshire Council is a founding member), Living Streets, Sustrans and Cycling UK all agree that Local Authorities should commit 10% over their highways budget to Active Travel.
7. In Scotland it was announced in August 2021 that the governing parties will increase the proportion of Transport Scotland's budget spent on Active Travel initiatives so that by 2024-25 at least £320 million or 10 per cent of the total transport budget will be allocated to active travel. That's around a threefold increase on the 3.5 per cent of the transport budget currently allocated to active travel. This is nearly £60 per head of population.
8. Research by Nottingham Trent University in 2020 determined that Local Authorities spend on average £2 per head of population on active travel.
9. Research by Cycling UK in 2021 determined that Local Authorities spend on average per head of population £2.58 on active travel measures from Core Funding.
10. In Groningen in the Netherlands they spend €85 euro per head of population.
11. The economic case for investment in active travel is strong. We get £5.50 for every £1 we invest and the benefits are cross-cutting: a healthier population; stronger, safer local communities; better access to jobs and education; and lower levels of pollution.
12. Enabling active travel is important in Shropshire's rural and urban communities alike.
13. Research by YouGov in July 2020 found that 77% of the people in the UK are in support of road space reallocation to enable safer cycling and walking.
14. To date Shropshire has been awarded £86,000 from Tranche 1 of the Active Travel Fund, and £259,500 from Tranche 2.
15. In "Gear Change: one year on" (July 2021) it was stated by the Government that Local Authorities who do not take Active Travel seriously will see their funding reduced.
16. On 28 July 2020, the Government of the United Kingdom announced the establishment of Active Travel England as part of a Gear Change. Active Travel England will be an inspectorate and funding body. Active Travel England will act as a statutory consultee within the planning system to press for adequate walking and cycling provision in all developments over a certain threshold.

This council resolves:

1. To make Active Travel England a statutory consultee on all planning applications in Shropshire.
2. To support the ambition of 10% of highways funding being allocated to active travel measures.
3. To ensure that all active travel measures conform to LTN 1/20.
4. That the Cabinet Member for Highways should report to the Council in September of each year, what percentage of the total highways budget has been spent on active travel measures in the preceding financial year.

5. To increase spending on Active Travel Measures by 3% of the total highways capital budget each year.
 - a. 2022/23 – 4% of the total highways budget
 - b. 2023/24 – 7% of the total highways budget
 - c. 2024/25 – 10% of the total highways budget

Councillor Heather Kidd seconded the motion.

Concern was raised that the proposals would result in a commitment for expenditure; placing a strain on the budget.

On being put to a recorded vote the proposal fell by 24 Members voting in favour, 36 against and 4 abstentions, as follows:

For – Bagnall, Boddington, Buckley, Clarke, Dartnall, Davies, Dean, J Evans, R Evans, Green, Halliday, Hartin, Houghton, Isherwood, Kerr, Kidd, Moseley, Mosley, Pardy, Parry, Parsons, Vasmer, Wagner, Wilson

Against – Aldcroft, Anderson, Bardsley, Barrow, Biggins, Broomhall, Burchett, Butler, Carroll, Charmley, Dakin, Elnor, Gill, Gittins, Harris, Hignett, Hunt, Hurst-Knight, Lea, M Jones, S Jones, Lumby, Lynch, Macey, Marshall, Morris, Motley, Mullock, Nellins, Picton, Potter, Price, Thomas, Wild, Williams, Wynn

Abstentions – D Evans, Luff, Tindall, Towers

3. From Councillor Alex Wagner, supported by the Liberal Democrat group.

Motion of support for the 'Shrewsbury Horseshoe' bus route

Council notes:

- The Government's recent Bus Back Better Campaign which calls on Shropshire Council to construct a comprehensive Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP)
- The Government's Active Travel Policies – Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP), Mini Holland Bids, Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and School Streets Initiative.
- Shropshire Council's support for the Shrewsbury Big Town plan and the Government's Active Travel Policies
- That there is an urgent need to dramatically reduce our carbon footprint.
- That current bus services in Shrewsbury do not link places that people need to visit
 - a poor service for those who do not own car and not one that will encourage car owners to leave their vehicle at home.
- The 'Shrewsbury Horseshoe' bus route proposal as discussed at the 13th September Shrewsbury Town Council meeting, in the Shropshire Star, and as supported by Shrewsbury Town FC, the Bus Users Shropshire Group, and the Zero Carbon Shropshire Group.

Council resolves;

- To support the proposal for a new 'Shrewsbury Horseshoe' peripheral bus route and its potential to be an integral part of the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP).

Councillor David Vasmer seconded the motion.

An amendment was received and accepted as follows:

The Council resolves to support the detailed consideration of the introduction of peripheral and cross town services in and around Shrewsbury and calls for a report prior to proposals being included in the BSIP.

Following a vote, it was

RESOLVED:

To support the detailed consideration of the introduction of peripheral and cross town services in and around Shrewsbury and calls for a report prior to proposals being included in the BSIP.

4. From Councillor Roy Aldcroft, is supported by Councillors David Evans, Kirstie Hurst-Knight and John Price.

Closure of Community Ambulance Stations

As local representatives of our communities we are concerned that West Midlands Ambulance Service is proposing to close Community Ambulance Stations across Shropshire. The reason given being the costs of these rest points and operational efficiency. We are also very unhappy that the town councils have not been advised or consulted about this review.

We do not agree with the closure of the Community Ambulance Stations in Shropshire for the following reasons:

- a. The public have always been keen to support their local ambulance stations. During the 1990's the service was reliant from all four of these areas to buy lifesaving paramedic equipment and supporting Community First Responder Schemes. The community identifies with its ambulance station in a similar way to community fire stations.
- b. Given that Ambulance Crews are mobile almost as soon as their shift starts, the 'local crew' may not spend much time at their station. That includes the hubs at Shrewsbury and Donnington. With that we agree, however, those crews are travelling areas all over the West Midlands and may make use of these Community Stations for short periods instead of returning to the hubs at Shrewsbury and Donnington.
- c. The stations deemed for closure are all in the vicinity of major routes, the A5, A49, A53 and A442 used by many ambulances as they answer or return from calls. These Community Ambulance Stations give an added layer of flexibility for crew welfare and standby along major routes. After all we don't want to return to the days of using laybys as standby points.

- d. Community Ambulance Stations provide a backup in remote parts of the county where crews can get a break, wherever they started from. This provides an element of 'rolling cover' throughout this, the largest inland county in the UK particularly in a county with regular floods and snow challenges.
- e. The amount of money saved will be minimal, just enough to equip a modern ambulance, rather than the ambulance or its crew.
- f. Patient handovers at receiving hospitals have been a major problem for many years even before the pandemic. Losing 1,000 hours of operational time in July 2021, taking something like 85 ambulances off the road. Now, that does have serious financial consequences. Now that does need sorting!

This proposed closure exercise merely tinkers around the edges it does not address the biggest drain on resources. When paramedic crews are held at hospital for such long periods, is it not the case that High dependency crews, without the equipment and training, are attending Cat 1 and Cat 2 calls until qualified assistance is available?

For these reasons we strongly object to the closure of these Community Ambulance Stations and therefore this Council resolves to:

1. Ask the Leader and Chief Executive to write to West Midlands Ambulance Service to express our opposition to the proposed closures
2. Ask the Leader and Chief Executive to write to local MPs to raise the proposals with the Secretary of State for Health & Social Care

Councillor David Evans seconded the motion.

Councillor Julia Evans proposed the following amendment:

For these reasons we strongly object to the closure of these Community Ambulance Stations and therefore this Council resolves to:

1. Ask the Leader and Chief Executive to write to West Midlands Ambulance Service, Dr Anthony Marsh to express our opposition to the proposed closures for the closures and ask for staff Welfare issues to be rectified.
2. Ask the Leader and Chief Executive to write to local MPs to raise the proposals with the Secretary of State for Health & Social Care and include the welfare issues stated, the ambulance turnaround times at SaTH are urgently addressed.

Remove points c and d and replace with:

Ambulance staff welfare should be paramount. It is not. During long 12 hour shifts, breaks are broken, delayed and long time away from Stations and Hubs. Without Stations they cannot have a substantial break, eat, drink or toilet. At the end of a long, hard 12 hour, Crews are then expected to remain for a further extended time until they can be relieved or able to hand over to the Hospital Staff. This is why rural Stations should be maintained and used – staff welfare. It is their human right to have access to food and drinks as well as toileting.

We ask that the Ambulance Stations be properly maintained and not left to dereliction and be returned to a useable state.

After point f. add new point g)

We note the deterioration of ambulance response times to patients and waiting times outside hospitals. Latest figures show a 14% rate of more than 1 hour wait to transfer from Ambulance to Hospital. There are regular occurrences of over a dozen ambulances waiting to transfer patients in to SaTH hospitals, which results in ambulances not being available to respond to emergencies. Late running shifts impacts availability on subsequent days further reducing the standard of service.

This service failure is partly attributable to the failing SaTH management board which continues to rely on the flawed Hospital Transformation Programme (previously known as Future Fit). This programme fails to address the key problem of bed shortages, instead looking to 'move deckchairs on the titanic'.

We note that the Clinical Quality Commission recently warned SaTH that higher dependency and intensive care unit regular occupancy rates of 95% were not acceptable.

(g)We also need to ask for the return of crews to our County – too many spend the proportion of their shift elsewhere in the West Midlands, leaving the Shropshire population with unacceptably long waiting times.

Ask the leader and Chief Executive to write to Dr. Anthony Marsh requesting that he not close the Ambulance Stations to improve Ambulance Staff welfare for adequate breaks and use of toilet facilities. That the Stations are maintained and that Shropshire Crews have only essential time out of County for patient need and returned promptly.

Ask the leader and Chief Executive to write to Louise Bennett, SaTH CEO calling on her to urgently improve the system of handover from Ambulance crews giving a shorter turn around and cease Emergency Department exit blocking with an increase in bed spaces.

Ask the Leader and Chief Executive to write to local MPs, to the CEO of NHS England and Improvement and to the SaTH NHS Trust Board asking for urgent action to eradicate unacceptable ambulance response and transfer delays.

We call on the SaTH board to provide details of a plan to overcome these delays to the joint Health Overview Scrutiny Committee as soon as possible in order to prevent the related ambulance station closures.

Councillor Heather Kidd seconded the amendment.

On being put to a vote, the amendment failed.

The original motion was then voted upon and

RESOLVED:

To:

1. Ask the Leader and Chief Executive to write to West Midlands Ambulance Service to express our opposition to the proposed closures
2. Ask the Leader and Chief Executive to write to local MPs to raise the proposals with the Secretary of State for Health & Social Care

It was agreed that the concerns expressed within the amendment were important to strengthen the reasoning behind the Council's opposition to the proposed closures and should therefore be stated in any correspondence.

5. From Councillor Nat Green, supported by the Liberal Democrat Group

Motion of support for blue-badge friendly Shrewsbury Town Centre pedestrianisation

Council notes;

- Trial pedestrianisation of Shrewsbury Town Centre was a success, with footfall above pre-pandemic levels despite a national slump of 20%.
- Data from the Shrewsbury Business Improvement District shows that 80% of businesses in Shrewsbury Town Centre would like some form of pedestrianisation to be in place – with most businesses favouring complete closure rather than allowing some vehicles through.
- Support from residents of Town Walls and other local streets for the introduction of Low Traffic Zones in Shrewsbury Town Centre.

This Council resolves to;

- Reintroduce a weekend closure trial, addressing concerns with disabled access.
- Reintroduce daily closures on Milk Street and The Square to allow hospitality businesses to have additional space available for customer use
- Work with the Shrewsbury Big Town Plan Partners to address concerns raised during the trial and develop a holistic strategy to reduce through traffic

The motion was seconded by Councillor Mary Davies.

On being put to a vote, it was

RESOLVED:

To;

- Reintroduce a weekend closure trial, addressing concerns with disabled access.
- Reintroduce daily closures on Milk Street and The Square to allow hospitality businesses to have additional space available for customer use
- Work with the Shrewsbury Big Town Plan Partners to address concerns raised during the trial and develop a holistic strategy to reduce through traffic

6. From Councillor Julian Dean, supported by the Green Group

Carbon Tax

Concentrations of CO₂ in the atmosphere continue to rise despite international agreements. Whilst targets can serve a purpose, what has been lacking are mechanisms to drive down emissions quickly. Crucially, this means a Carbon Tax, given that 'Cap and Trade' systems have failed to drive the change we need.

- The moral and economic case for such a tax rests on the 'polluter pays' principle:
- Currently the costs of climate breakdown are not born by the industries and activities that are causing the damage but by people and communities coming under increasing pressure and danger. As The Economist leader states (17/7/21); 'The opportunity to pollute the atmosphere without penalty is ... a kind of distorting subsidy'.
- A Carbon Tax, set at the right level, will drive fossil fuel burning out of the economy and promote investment in clean alternatives.
- Applied at the border it will have the same effect internationally.

Such a tax will produce a dividend that can be used to ensure a just transition for communities facing rapid change, as well as to help communities around the world adapt to the inevitable change and disruption that climate breakdown is already bringing. This approach is supported by a broad coalition of NGOs and civil society groups and was recently included in a set of proposals from the European Commission. COP26 should establish an international carbon tax framework, but if this doesn't happen, the UK and other countries wishing to show leadership should introduce their own carbon taxes.

By including border tax adjustment this can drive other economies to follow suit.

Therefore Council resolves to support calls for a Carbon Tax by;

Writing to Shropshire's MPs, to Alok Sharma, President of COP26, and to the Prime Minister, calling for the UK to:

1. Propose an international carbon tax framework to the COP; the tax to be applied to imports as well as to domestic production
2. Introduce a UK-wide carbon tax by the end of 2022.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Julia Evans

On being put to a vote, the motion failed.

7. From Councillor Rosemary Dartnall, supported by the Labour Group

Code Red for Humanity

Last month the United Nations warned that the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report is a Code Red for Humanity. We, all of humanity, live here, on Earth, on borrowed time unless we can mend our ways.

This latest IPCC assessment strongly evidenced a rise in global mean surface temperature (GMST) directly attributable to greenhouse gas emissions created by human activity, that will deliver progressively more extreme weather events to every society, in every corner of the world.

The principal problem is greenhouse gas emissions, particularly carbon dioxide (CO₂). Rapidly increasing volumes of CO₂ stored in our atmosphere and our oceans is causing intense temperature rise and ocean acidification, leading us inexorably to climate catastrophe. The Biodiversity Crisis is the Climate Emergency's twin sister: one a direct consequence of the other. There are six known mass extinction events in Earth's history, the sixth being the current one. The extinction of 40% of living species is needed to earn the dubious title. Species become extinct as a result of being unable to adapt to rapidly changing environmental circumstances. We must adapt in order to survive.

Carbon dioxide emissions must be cut by 7.6% each year for the next ten years to avert severe climate disruption. We simply cannot continue to carry on regardless. We must act now, as individuals and on all levels of civilisation. This is a collective challenge that requires everyone's attention.

The Code Red for Humanity is incumbent on all leaders, at every level of government, to exercise responsibility, to act decisively with a liveable future in mind, on behalf of our constituents, their children, and their children's children.

Shropshire Council is requested to declare that following the 2019 Climate Change declaration and the 2021 Code Red for Humanity it is now time to act with vigour across all directorates to address the Climate Emergency. To position and retain improved Climate Emergency mitigation, carbon dioxide emission reduction and biodiversity retention at the very heart of all policy making, all day-to-day management and all projects the council manages, including requiring the same standard in all service and other contracts with third party organisations and suppliers.

- Urgently expand the Climate Change Task Force
- Develop Climate Emergency mitigation training for all teams across the council, including cabinet and other members. Appoint champions in all departments
- Strengthen the council's procurement policy so that all suppliers and contractors operate appropriate and rigorous Climate Emergency mitigation practice aligned with our own
- Measure and count the performance of our suppliers and contractors when undertaking council operations against Shropshire Council's Climate Emergency performance
- Produce a monthly report detailing Climate Emergency performance and the impact of the management and operation of all council services and projects
- Proactively reduce the number of short car journeys taken, particularly in our towns at first: Act to discourage cars from our town centres, develop low traffic zones, create safe active travel routes and improve urban public transport

- Provide advice and support service to Shropshire companies, charities and organisations seeking to develop and implement Climate Emergency mitigation practices
- Identify means, such as providing office support, to enable Shropshire Climate Action Partnership to act as an exemplar

We need nothing short of a revolution to combat the Climate Emergency and this motion requests that revolution in Shropshire, right now.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Kate Halliday.

Councillor Ian Nellins, Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, Natural Assets & The Green Economy, gave an update on progress so far regarding expanding the work force, training and improvements made to carbon usage.

A minor amendment was received from Councillor Dean Carroll that in recommendation 5, monthly meetings be replaced with quarterly meetings. The amendment was accepted.

Councillor Nellins was thanked for his update.

On being put to a vote, it was

RESOLVED:

To declare that following the 2019 Climate Change declaration and the 2021 Code Red for Humanity it is now time to act with vigour across all directorates to address the Climate Emergency. To position and retain improved Climate Emergency mitigation, carbon dioxide emission reduction and biodiversity retention at the very heart of all policy making, all day-to-day management and all projects the council manages, including requiring the same standard in all service and other contracts with third party organisations and suppliers.

- Urgently expand the Climate Change Task Force
- Develop Climate Emergency mitigation training for all teams across the council, including cabinet and other members. Appoint champions in all departments
- Strengthen the council's procurement policy so that all suppliers and contractors operate appropriate and rigorous Climate Emergency mitigation practice aligned with our own
- Measure and count the performance of our suppliers and contractors when undertaking council operations against Shropshire Council's Climate Emergency performance
- Produce a quarterly report detailing Climate Emergency performance and the impact of the management and operation of all council services and projects
- Proactively reduce the number of short car journeys taken, particularly in our towns at first: Act to discourage cars from our town centres, develop low traffic zones, create safe active travel routes and improve urban public transport

- Provide advice and support service to Shropshire companies, charities and organisations seeking to develop and implement Climate Emergency mitigation practices
- Identify means, such as providing office support, to enable Shropshire Climate Action Partnership to act as an exemplar

48 **Questions from Members**

The Chairman advised that the following questions had been received in accordance with Procedure Rule 15. A copy of the report containing the detailed questions and their formal response is attached to the signed minutes.

Received from Councillor Pam Moseley and answered by Councillor Cecilia Motley, Portfolio Holder for Communities, Place, Tourism & Transport, in relation to the statue of Clive of India in Shrewsbury's Town Square. By way of supplementary question, Councillor Moseley asked why there has been no progress yet on the reinterpretation of the Clive statue, and also, when this will take place. The Portfolio Holder agreed to investigate this and provide an answer by email.

Received from Councillor Roy Aldcroft and answered by Councillor Steve Charmley, Portfolio Holder for Physical Infrastructure, Highways and Built Housing, in relation to HS2 traffic. Councillor Aldcroft did not have a supplementary question.

Received from Councillor Viv Parry and answered by Councillor Steve Charmley, Portfolio Holder for Physical Infrastructure, Highways and Built Housing, in relation to fly tipping. By way of supplementary question, Councillor Parry asked if refuse could be removed within 5 days. The Portfolio Holder agreed to investigate this and provide an answer by email.

Received from Councillor Nigel Hartin and answered by Councillor Steve Charmley, Portfolio Holder for Physical Infrastructure, Highways and Built Housing, in relation to electric car charging points. By way of supplementary question, Councillor Hartin asked if a map of electric vehicle charging points could be made available. The Portfolio Holder agreed to investigate this and provide an answer by email.

Received from Councillor Alex Wagner and answered by Councillor Kirstie Hurst Knight, Portfolio Holder for Children & Education, in relation to Shrewsbury Secondary School places. By way of supplementary question, Councillor Wagner asked if more data could be collected regarding school preferences. The Portfolio Holder agreed to investigate this and provide an answer by email.

49 **Exclusion of Press and Public**

In response to a Member proposal that Agenda Item 18 - Pride Hill, Civic Accommodation and Riverside Development Opportunities be considered in public session, the Interim Assistant Director Legal and Democratic Services advised that the report contained exempt information.

Upon a vote, the proposal to consider this item in public session failed and therefore the matter was considered in private session.

RESOLVED:

That in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and Paragraph 10.4 [3] of the Council's Access to Information Rules, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items.

50 Exempt Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the exempt minutes of the previous meeting held on 15th July 2021 be approved as a correct record.

51 HRA Purchase of Affordable Homes at Frith Close, Shrewsbury and Ellesmere Wharf, Ellesmere

It was proposed by Councillor Steve Charmley and seconded by Councillor Dean Carroll, that the exempt report of the Director of Place and the recommendations therein be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

That the seven recommendations in the exempt report be agreed.

52 Shrewsbury Pitch & Putt Golf Development

It was proposed by Councillor Dean Carroll and seconded by Councillor Gary Burchett that the exempt report of the Director of Place and the recommendations therein be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

That the five recommendations in the exempt report be agreed.

53 Pride Hill, Civic Accommodation and Riverside Development Opportunities

It was proposed by Councillor Ed Potter and seconded by Councillor Dean Carroll that the exempt report of the Director of Place and the recommendations therein be received and agreed.

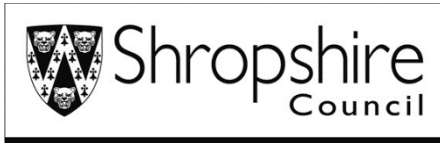
RESOLVED:

That the four recommendations in the exempt report be agreed.

Signed (Chairman)

.....

Date:



<u>Committee and Date</u> Council 13 th January 2022

<u>Item</u> <u>Public</u>
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Setting the Council Tax Taxbase for 2022/23

Responsible Officer James Walton
 e-mail: james.walton@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 258915

1. Synopsis

The Council Tax Taxbase is a representation of the number of properties in Shropshire. As well as Shropshire Council this report is essential for Town and Parish Councils, the Police and Fire and Rescue Service to enable them to set their precept for 2022/23.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. In order to determine the appropriate Council Tax levels for Shropshire Council, it is necessary to determine the Council Tax taxbase for the area. The budget requirements of the various precepting authorities are divided by this figure to arrive at the Band D Council Tax. To determine the taxbase, properties are grouped into bands A-G, based on their estimated value and aggregated as Band D equivalents to produce a calculation of the Taxbase.
- 2.2. This report sets out the Council Tax taxbase for 2022/23 and outlines the policies used to determine the taxbase including the Council Tax discount policies, Council Tax Support Scheme and the Collection Rate.
- 2.3. For 2022/23 the Council Tax taxbase will be 115,485.33 Band D equivalents, this is an increase of 1.58% from 2021/22.
- 2.4. The policies and assumptions used in determining the taxbase are:
 - A. The minor amendments to the Council Tax Support scheme have no impact on the taxbase determination.
 - B. Continuation of the Council Tax discount policy of 0% in respect of second homes (other than those that retain a 50% discount through regulation as a result of job related protection)
 - C. Continuation of the discretionary Council Tax discount policy to not award a discount in respect of vacant dwellings undergoing major repair, i.e. former Class A exempt properties

- D. Continuation of the discretionary Council Tax discount policy in respect of vacant dwellings, i.e. former Class C exempt properties, of 100% for one month
- E. Continuation of the "six week rule" in respect of vacant dwellings, i.e. former Class C exempt properties.
- F. Continuation of the discretionary Council Tax discount policies in respect of properties which have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for more than two years
- G. Estimated Collection rate of 97.9% for 2022/23

3. Recommendations

Members are asked:

- 3.1. To approve, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, the amount calculated by Shropshire Council as its Council Tax taxbase for the year 2022/23, as detailed in Appendix A, totalling 115,485.33 Band D equivalents.
- 3.2. To note the changes to the Council's localised Council Tax Support (CTS) scheme in 2022/23. The scheme is attached at Appendix B.
- 3.3. To note the Council Tax Support Scheme amendments detailed in Appendix B have no impact on the taxbase determination.
- 3.4. To note the exclusion of 8,780.28 Band D equivalents from the taxbase as a result of localised Council Tax Support.
- 3.5. To note continuation of the discretionary Council Tax discount policy of 0% in respect of second homes (other than those that retain a 50% discount through regulation as a result of job related protection) and note the inclusion of 705.17 Band D equivalents in the Council Tax taxbase as a result of this discount policy.
- 3.6. To note continuation of the discretionary Council Tax discount policy to not award a discount in respect of vacant dwellings undergoing major repair, i.e. former Class A exempt properties.
- 3.7. To note continuation of the discretionary Council Tax discount policy in respect of vacant dwellings, i.e. former Class C exempt properties, of 100% for one month i.e. effectively reinstating the exemption and the resulting exclusion of 160.66 band D equivalents from the taxbase.
- 3.8. To note continuation of the "six week rule" in respect of vacant dwellings, i.e. former Class C exempt properties.
- 3.9. To note continuation of the discretionary Council Tax discount policy to levy a Council Tax premium of 100% in relation to dwellings which have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for more than two years

(but less than five years) and the resulting inclusion of an additional 328.10 Band D equivalents in the taxbase.

- 3.10. To note continuation of the discretionary Council Tax discount policy to levy a Council Tax premium of 200% in relation to dwellings which have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for more than five years (but less than ten years) and the resulting inclusion of an additional 175.56 Band D equivalents in the taxbase.
- 3.11. To note continuation of the discretionary Council Tax discount policy to levy a Council Tax premium of 300% in relation to dwellings which have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for more than ten years and the resulting inclusion of an additional 224.67 Band D equivalents in the taxbase.
- 3.12. To approve a collection rate for the year 2022/23 of 97.9%.

REPORT

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1. Expression of Council Tax Support in terms of Band D equivalents results in a higher potential for inaccuracies in the determination process as Council Tax Support is a significantly more volatile discount element.
- 4.2. Details of the potential risk in relation to establishing a collection rate allowance is detailed within this report in Section 8.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. The Council Tax taxbase figure impacts on the Council Tax that will be levied by the Council for 2022/23.
- 5.2. The implication of the Council's localised Council Tax Support scheme are detailed in Appendix B. The Council Tax Support Scheme results in the exclusion of 8,780.28 Band D equivalents from the taxbase.
- 5.3. The financial implications of the discounts and premiums to be applied in 2022/23 are detailed in Appendix C and are summarised below:
 - Maintaining the discount in respect of second homes at 0% results in the inclusion of 705.17 Band D equivalents in the taxbase.
 - Maintaining the discount in respect of vacant dwellings results in the exclusion of 160.66 Band D equivalents from the taxbase.
 - Maintaining the premium of 100% in respect of properties which have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for more than two years, maintaining the premium of 200% in respect of properties which have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for more than five years and maintaining the premium of 300% in respect of properties which have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for more than ten years results in the inclusion of 328.10, 175.56 and 224.67 Band D equivalents respectively in the taxbase.

5.4. The implications regarding the determined collection rate are detailed in Section 8.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

6.1. The Setting the Council Tax Taxbase 2022/23 report and recommendations have no direct effect on climate change.

7. Background

7.1. Shropshire Council has responsibility for determining the Council Tax taxbase for the Council's geographical area.

7.2. The taxbase for Council Tax must be set between 1 December 2021 and 31 January 2022 in relation to 2022/23 as prescribed by the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 2012.

7.3. The Council is also required to inform the major precepting authorities, West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner and Shropshire & Wrekin Fire Authority, of the taxbase in order to enable the calculation of Council Tax for the following year. Each town and parish council is also notified of its own Council Tax taxbase. A detailed build of the taxbase analysed by both parish and town council and Environment Agency region is shown in Appendix A.

7.4. The purpose of this report, therefore, is to determine and approve the Council Tax taxbase for Shropshire Council for 2022/23.

8. Additional Information

8.1. Taxbase Calculation

8.2. Based on the valuation list, the Council Tax taxbase is the number of properties in the area falling within each council tax property valuation band, modified to take account of the adjustments set out below. Taxbase is expressed as a Band D equivalent.

8.3. An analysis of Council Tax bands within Shropshire Council is detailed below:

Property Band	House Value	Ratio to Band D	Analysis of Dwellings on the Valuation List (%) (as at 13 September 2021)	% Increase / (Decrease) over 2020/21
A	Under £40,000	6/9	18.3	0.2
B	40,001 - 52,000	7/9	25.6	1.0
C	52,001 - 68,000	8/9	20.8	0.9
D	68,001 - 88,000	9/9	14.4	1.3
E	88,001 - 120,000	11/9	11.4	1.7
F	120,001 - 160,000	13/9	6.1	2.0
G	160,001 - 320,000	15/9	3.2	0.7
H	Over 320,000	18/9	0.2	(0.6)

8.4. There are 147,414 properties in the valuation list for the Shropshire Council area. This compares with a figure of 145,953 in the list at the

same time last year. There has been an increase of 1,461 properties overall, which equates to 1.00%.

8.5. The methodology followed for calculating the taxbase is as follows:

- Ascertain the number of properties in each Council Tax band (A to H) shown in the valuation list as at 13 September 2021.
- Adjust for estimated changes in the number of properties through new build, demolitions and exemptions.
- The number of discounts and disabled relief allowances which apply as at 4 October 2021.
- Convert the number of properties in each Council Tax band to Band D equivalents by using the ratio of each band to Band D and so arrive at the total number of Band D equivalents for the Council.
- Adjust the total number of Band D equivalents by the estimated Council Tax collection rate for the year

8.6. These calculations are undertaken for each property band in each parish.

8.7. Collection Rate

8.8. In determining the taxbase, an allowance has to be made to provide for changes to the taxbase during the year (e.g. due to new properties, appeals against banding, additional discounts, Council Tax Support award changes, etc.) as well as losses on collection arising from non-payment. This is achieved by estimating a Council Tax collection rate for the year and must be common for the whole of Shropshire.

8.9. A collection rate of 97.7% was assumed for the 2021/22 financial year and it is recommended that a collection rate of 97.9% should be assumed for the purpose of determining the Council Tax taxbase in 2022/23.

8.10. Actual in year collection rates in 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21 were 98.2%, 98.2% and 97.7% respectively. The reduction in the Collection Rate for 2020/21 and 2021/22 compared to previous years is due to the impact of Covid-19. It is expected that the collection rate will improve however not to pre Covid-19 levels.

8.11. If the actual rate exceeds 97.9% a surplus is generated, which is shared between the Unitary Council, West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner and Shropshire & Wrekin Fire Authority, pro rata to their demand on the Collection Fund for the relevant year. Conversely, any shortfall in the collection rate results in a deficit, which is shared in a similar manner. The surplus or deficit is taken into account in setting the Council Tax in the following year.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Gwilym Butler

Local Member

Appendices

Appendix A: 2022/23 Parish and Town Council Tax Taxbase Summary for Shropshire Council.

Appendix B: Shropshire Council's Localised Council Tax Support Scheme

Appendix C: Discretionary Discount Policies

2022/23 Parish and Town Council Council Tax Taxbase Summary for Shropshire Council	APPENDIX A
Parish / Town Council	Council Tax Taxbase (Band D Equivalents)
Abdon & Heath	109.15
Acton Burnell, Frodesley, Pitchford, Ruckley & Langley	255.90
Acton Scott	43.36
Adderley	207.39
Alberbury with Cardeston	403.91
Albrighton	1,622.73
All Stretton, Smethcott & Woolstaston	178.14
Alveley & Romsley	849.32
Ashford Bowdler	39.28
Ashford Carbonel	182.73
Astley	209.02
Astley Abbots	249.80
Aston Bottrell, Burwarton & Cleobury North	112.72
Atcham	224.72
Badger	55.43
Barrow	263.08
Baschurch	1,143.98
Bayston Hill	1,802.77
Beckbury	149.88
Bedstone & Bucknell	313.89
Berrington	457.14
Bettws-Y-Crwyn	93.27
Bicton	451.38
Billingsley, Deuxhill, Glazeley & Middleton Scriven	164.51
Bishops Castle Town	661.11
Bitterley	353.46
Bomere Heath & District	888.89
Boningale	142.07
Boraston	76.04
Bridgnorth Town	4,572.09
Bromfield	123.67
Broseley Town	1,552.31
Buildwas	104.75
Burford	427.88
Cardington	206.81
Caynham	529.98
Chelmarsh	232.30
Cheswardine	393.56
Chetton	161.96
Childs Ercall	301.09
Chirbury with Brompton	335.33
Church Preen, Hughley & Kenley	127.78
Church Pulverbatch	165.42
Church Stretton & Little Stretton Town	2,174.01
Claverley	889.66
Clee St. Margaret	69.14
Cleobury Mortimer	1,212.97
Clive	250.21
Clun Town with Chapel Lawn	516.72
Clunbury	253.22

2022/23 Parish and Town Council Council Tax Taxbase Summary for Shropshire Council	APPENDIX A
Parish / Town Council	Council Tax Taxbase (Band D Equivalents)
Clungunford	152.15
Cockshutt-cum-Petton	320.15
Condover	890.08
Coreley	139.21
Cound	208.68
Craven Arms Town	813.51
Cressage, Harley & Sheinton	414.70
Culmington	169.34
Diddlebury	280.20
Ditton Priors	348.29
Donington & Boscobel	601.08
Eardington	244.54
Easthope, Shipton & Stanton Long	203.65
Eaton-Under-Heywood & Hope Bowdler	182.32
Edgton	47.18
Ellesmere Rural	979.56
Ellesmere Town	1,484.09
Farlow	185.19
Ford	323.10
Great Hanwood	424.10
Great Ness & Little Ness	550.57
Greete	47.89
Grinshill	114.75
Hadnall	373.77
Highley	1,111.37
Hinstock	545.50
Hodnet	589.89
Hope Bagot	28.59
Hopesay	243.63
Hopton Cangeford & Stoke St. Milborough	162.71
Hopton Castle	40.80
Hopton Wafers	301.60
Hordley	104.70
Ightfield	199.00
Kemberton	116.58
Kinlet	415.40
Kinnerley	511.14
Knockin	139.73
Leebotwood & Longnor	201.65
Leighton & Eaton Constantine	204.46
Llanfairwaterdine	105.72
Llanyblodwel	262.07
Llanymynech & Pant	684.15
Longden	543.12
Loppington	284.61
Ludford	260.11
Ludlow Town	3,576.56
Lydbury North	226.17
Lydham & More	130.49
Mainstone & Colebatch	86.76

2022/23 Parish and Town Council Council Tax Taxbase Summary for Shropshire Council	APPENDIX A
Parish / Town Council	Council Tax Taxbase (Band D Equivalents)
Market Drayton Town	4,040.41
Melverley	52.64
Milson & Neen Sollars	121.80
Minsterley	601.10
Montford	257.47
Moreton Corbett & Lee Brockhurst	133.95
Moreton Say	208.20
Morville, Acton Round, Aston Eyre, Monkhopton & Upton Cressett	373.17
Much Wenlock Town	1,211.06
Munslow	174.57
Myddle & Broughton	634.90
Myndtown, Norbury, Ratlinghope & Wentnor	267.45
Nash	138.52
Neen Savage	157.00
Neenton	62.70
Newcastle	131.04
Norton-In-Hales	330.77
Onibury	131.27
Oswestry Rural	1,656.65
Oswestry Town	5,355.53
Pontesbury	1,353.88
Prees	1,145.81
Quatt Malvern	100.50
Richards Castle	141.70
Rushbury	271.55
Ruyton-XI-Towns	452.46
Ryton & Grindle	78.43
Selattyn & Gobowen	1,275.47
Shawbury	906.28
Sheriffhales	326.50
Shifnal Town	3,486.44
Shrewsbury Town	25,752.47
Sibdon Carwood	47.01
St. Martins	947.75
Stanton Lacy	169.89
Stanton-Upon-Hine Heath	248.92
Stockton	130.43
Stoke-Upon-Tern	488.33
Stottesdon & Sidbury	334.88
Stowe	47.32
Sutton Maddock	109.49
Sutton-Upon-Tern	395.68
Tasley	407.74
Tong	123.74
Uffington	123.95
Upton Magna	154.21
Welshampton & Lyneal	383.04
Wem Rural	687.15
Wem Town	1,993.78
West Felton	571.78

2022/23 Parish and Town Council Council Tax Taxbase Summary for Shropshire Council	APPENDIX A
Parish / Town Council	Council Tax Taxbase (Band D Equivalents)
Westbury	520.89
Weston Rhyn	902.90
Weston-Under-Redcastle	119.48
Wheathill	73.62
Whitchurch Rural	619.81
Whitchurch Town	3,381.73
Whittington	947.06
Whitton	61.97
Whixall	338.01
Wistanstow	333.45
Withington	105.79
Woore	607.95
Worfield & Rudge	927.46
Worthen with Shelve	808.15
Wroxeter & Uppington	159.74
Shropshire Council Total	115,485.33
Environment Agency - Severn Trent Region	108,461.62
Environment Agency - Welsh Region	4,449.54
Environment Agency - North West Region	2,574.17
Shropshire Council Total	115,485.33

Council Tax Support

- 1.1. The 2010 Spending Review announced the localisation of council tax support and The Welfare Reform Act 2012 abolished Council Tax Benefit from 31 March 2013 and required that Local Government created a localised Council Tax Support (CTS) scheme effective from 1 April 2013, accommodating a reduction in funding of 10%.
- 1.2. Shropshire Council's localised CTS scheme was approved in December 2018. Two small amendments have been made to the main Council Tax Support Scheme to take effect from 1st April 2022 in order to align the scheme with Housing Benefit changes and Universal Credit. These amendments are detailed in the scheme summary included in section 1.7 below.
- 1.3. From 2013, therefore, council tax support has taken the form of reductions within the council tax system, replacing national council tax benefit. Making reductions as part of the council tax system reduces a billing authority's Council Tax taxbase. Billing and major precepting authorities receive funding (Council Tax Support Grant) which reduce their council tax requirement and, depending on the design of the local council tax scheme, can help offset the council tax revenue foregone through reductions.
- 1.4. An estimate of the effect of the local Council Tax Support Scheme on the Council Tax taxbase has been determined for Shropshire. It is estimated that the Council Tax Support Scheme will reduce the Council Tax taxbase by 8,780.28 Band D equivalents.
- 1.5. As Council Tax Support entitlement will vary throughout the year and this will affect the taxbase it is more likely that the amount of Council Tax collected in 2022/23 will vary from the estimate.
- 1.6. A link to the full scheme for 2021/22 is below.

<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/media/19448/ctrs-scheme-2021-22.pdf>
- 1.7 The CTS scheme summary is provided on the following pages.

SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL – BENEFITS SERVICE

COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT (CTS)

Introduction

The current Council Tax Benefit scheme is a means tested benefit that helps people with a low income to pay their Council Tax.

From April 2013 this will be abolished and all local authorities will provide a new scheme called 'Council Tax Support'. The funding that is provided for this scheme will be reduced by 10% and therefore it is likely that some people will have to pay more towards their Council Tax bill.

The changes will not affect pensioners even though they will move into the new scheme. The Government have confirmed that all pensioners will be protected and receive the same amount of benefit they do now under the current Council Tax Benefit Scheme.

Each local authority will be able to provide Council Tax support in a different way depending on local needs, funding available and how it can be administered. Each Council is expected to devise a new scheme and then put this to public consultation by the end of 2012.

Our new scheme was devised and published on the Shropshire Council website for customers, stakeholders and other agencies to comment on. Public consultation closed on the 14th December and the new scheme was formally adopted by the Council on 16th January 2013.

Anyone of working age will now be subject to the new scheme from April 2013. The differences that you will see in the new Council Tax Support Scheme are: -

- Removal of second adult rebate
- Reduction of the capital limit from £16,000 to £10,000
- Removal of earnings disregards
- Removal of child benefit disregard
- Increase in non-dependant deductions

Please note the following amendments are for the calculation of Council Tax Support only and do not affect Housing Benefit calculations.

Removal of Second Adult Rebate

Second Adult Rebate (2AR) is awarded to a customer based on the circumstances of a second adult living in the property. Under the new scheme this has been abolished and will no longer be effective from 01.04.13.

Reduction of the capital limit

For working age people the capital limit will reduce to £10,000 from 01.04.13. This will mean that if a customer's savings amounts to more than £10,000 they will not be entitled to CTS. The lower capital limit of £6,000 remains the same.

Tariff income calculations remain as is i.e. from the total amount if capital £6,000 is deducted, the remainder is then dived by 250 if the result is not an exact multiple of £1 the result is rounded up to the next whole £1

All other capital rules including static savings, land and property, shares, etc remain the same.

Removal of Earnings disregards

All income disregards for working age people will cease from the 01.04.13.

Removal of Child Benefit disregards

Child benefit will no longer be disregarded from the calculation of CTS from the 01.04.03.

Increase in non-dependant earned income deductions (working age only)

From 01.04.13 non dep deductions will increase to the following: -

- £5 for anyone earning under £100,
- £10 for anyone earning between £100 and £150
- £20 for anyone earning over £150 per week

This deduction will only be made from their earned income. It won't affect any other income they receive.

Non-dependant earned income deductions (pension age only)

Gross income less than £186.00	=	£3.65
Gross income £186.00 to £321.99	=	£7.25
Gross income £322.00 to £400.99	=	£9.15
Gross income £401.00 or above	=	£10.95

Unearned income will attract the following disregards (working age and pension age):

Others aged 18 or over incl. JSAC & ESAC	=	£3.65
In receipt of Pension Credit, IS, JSA (IB), ESA(IR)	=	nil

(This disregard will be up-rated annually in line with figures provided annually by DCLG)

A new minimum earnings threshold will be introduced with effect from 01/04/15 to reflect the current arrangements in the Housing Benefit scheme.

This minimum earnings threshold will help to determine whether a European Economic Area (EEA) national's previous or current work can be treated as genuine and effective for the purposes of deciding whether they have a right to reside in the UK as a worker or self-employed person.

The minimum earnings threshold has been set at the level at which workers start to pay National Insurance Contributions (NICs), currently £153 a week in the 2014/15 tax year. If an EEA national can prove that they have been earning at least this amount for a period of 3 months immediately before they claim CTS their work can be treated as genuine and effective and they will have a right to reside as a worker or self-employed person.

If they do not satisfy the minimum earnings threshold criteria, a further assessment will be undertaken against a broader range of criteria (such as hours worked, pattern of work, nature of employment contract etc.) to determine whether their employment is genuine and effective.

Ultimately, if an EEA national's income does not meet the minimum earnings threshold or the additional criteria to be classified as genuine and effective employment they will not be eligible for CTS.

Special Educations Needs Allowance – to be disregarded in full with effect from 01/09/14

War Pensions / Armed Forces Compensation Scheme Guaranteed Income Payments – to be disregarded in full with effect from 01/04/13 (and to be consistent with Housing Benefit)

From 01/04/15 the CTR scheme will include changes to the habitual residency test to reflect changes to the Housing Benefit (HB) regulations.

The amendments to the CTS scheme removes access to CTS for EEA jobseekers who make a new claim for CTS on or after 1 April 2015. EEA nationals who are self-employed, are workers or who are unemployed but retain their worker status have the same rights to CTS as a UK national and their situation remains unchanged.

EEA jobseekers who are entitled to CTS and JSA(IB) on 31 March 2015 will be protected until they have a break in their claim for CTS or JSA. If their JSA ends because they have started work, then as long as we can be satisfied that their employment is genuine and effective they will be able to access in-work CTS as either a worker or a self-employed person. Claimants receiving in-work CTS beyond 1 April will continue to be able to access CTS, if they become entitled to JSA(IB) on or after that date, but only if they retain their worker status. If they are a jobseeker then their CTS entitlement ends from the Monday following the cessation of work.

Changes with effect from 1 April 2018 to bring the scheme in line with Housing Benefit changes

- **2 child cap**

The Government has announced that they will limit benefit support by only taking into account a maximum of two dependent children per family. It affects all claims where new children are born after April 2017. This will apply in Housing Benefit to families that make a new claim from April 2017

- **Loss of the family premium**

The Government removed the family premium for new claims within the assessment of Housing Benefit with effect from May 2016

- **Bereavement Support Payments to be disregarded in full**

This was introduced into Housing Benefit with effect from April 2017

- **Any payments from the 'We love Manchester Fund' and the 'London Emergency Trust' to be disregarded in full**

- **Maximum backdate period of 1 month**

- **Absence from home limited to 4 weeks when outside GB**

The temporary absence rules for Housing Benefit were amended in 2015 reducing the allowable period of temporary absence outside Great Britain from 13 weeks to 4 weeks.

The limit applies to new periods of absence only. Exceptions are when an absence is in relation to

- Death of a partner, child or close relative
- Receiving medical treatment
- A person who has fled their home due to fear of violence
- A member of Her Majesty's forces posted overseas

- **Beneficial changes in circumstances to be reported within one month of the change in order for the claim to be updated from the date of change, otherwise changes will take effect from the Monday following date notified.**

- **All working aged claimants who receive Council Tax Support (unless they are a pensioner or classed as vulnerable) will pay 20% of their council tax liability, (after appropriate discounts have been awarded)**

An example of this change is as follows:

1) Current scheme (which allows for 100% reduction)

The customer's liability is £20.00 per week. As they are in receipt of Jobseekers Allowance they are entitled to full Council tax reduction making their council tax balance for the year £0.00

2) Proposed new scheme (20% minimum payment)

The customer liability is £20.00. Before any calculation takes place 20% of this amount is reduced from the liability to be used. This

means that any calculation will be carried out on a figure of £16.00. Again the customer is on Jobseekers Allowance and so they are entitled to a full award. This will mean their council tax balance for the year will be £208.00 (£4.00 x 52).

- **De Minimis change amount of £10.00 per week for claimants in receipt of Universal Credit**
- **Apply a minimum award of £1.50**
- **Claimant or partner who meet the specific criteria of severe disablement contained within the policy will be protected from any percentage reduction in council tax support. Claimant or partner in receipt of Employment and Support Allowance will be protected from any percentage reduction in council tax support. This will also apply to customers who meet the criteria for receiving a war compensation related benefit or pension. Specifically this includes**

Criteria to be awarded for the severe disability premium:

- The customer has to be in receipt of
 - 1) Attendance allowance or
 - 2) Higher or middle rate care component of disability living allowance or
 - 3) The daily living allowance rate of personal independence payments
- They must not have a resident non-dependant
- No person is entitled to, and in receipt of, carers allowance in respect of caring for the customer and;
- If the customer has a partner they must also meet all above criteria

Criteria to be awarded the support component of employment and support allowance

It is accepted that some people's difficulties or disabilities are such that not only is the person not expected to look for work but are also not expected to undertake an work related activities or plan for starting work due to the severity of their difficulties

Criteria to qualify for the war pension's exemption

The customer and/or partner has to be in receipt of either:

- War pension
- War disablement pension
- War service attributable pension
- War widows pension
- War mobility supplement

Changes with effect from 1 April 2019

Severe Disability Premium does not exist in Universal Credit. From 1 April 2019 claimants or couples that have moved into Universal Credit but meet the above criteria for the severe disablement premium will be exempt from the percentage reduction.

Employment and support allowance does not form part of Universal Credit. Instead there is a limited capability for work and limited capability for work related activity element in Universal Credit which is similar to that used for identifying the work related activity group and support group of Employment Support Allowance. From 1 April 2019 claimants or partners in receipt of the limited capability for work related activity element in Universal Credit that is the equivalent to the support element of employment and support allowance will be exempt from the percentage reduction.

Changes with effect from 1 April 2020

- We have defined a council tax reversal as an amount of Council Tax Support to which the claimant was not entitled, and we have clarified what action the Council will take depending on whether the reversal is caused by claimant error, or official error.
- We have clarified that where a reversal is due to claimant error the total sum of the reversal shall be fully chargeable and recoverable as part of the claimant's council tax liability
- We have clarified that where the reversal arose due to official error, that where the claimant or their representative could reasonably have been expected at the time to realise that the assessment had been made in error, the total sum of the reversal shall be fully chargeable and recoverable as part of the claimant's council tax liability. Otherwise, the amount of the reversal will not be chargeable and recoverable as part of the claimant's council tax liability
- In the event of a council tax reversal, the Council will consider any underlying award that the claimant should have been entitled to provided evidence is received from the claimant within 1 month of the claimant being notified of the reversal, or where an appeal against a recoverable reversal is made
- We have clarified the definition of pensioner in accordance with new benefit rules for mixed age couples and eligibility for Local Council Tax Reduction Schemes
- Any payment made by the Home Office under the Windrush Compensation Scheme or the Windrush Exceptional Payment Scheme will be disregarded as capital

Changes with effect from 1 April 2022

CTRS scheme reg 74 (a)

Insert

(aa) who is a person on universal credit, except where the award of universal credit to that person includes an amount in respect of a liability to make payments in respect of the accommodation they occupy as their home, in accordance with section 11 of the Welfare Reform Act 2012 (housing costs);

Note: This is to align the CTRS scheme with a statutory amendment to the qualifying criteria for Housing Benefit, this amendment should prevent circumstances where an applicant is excluded from CTRS whilst being eligible for HB or UCHE

CTRS scheme part 13 (106)

Insert

(14) Where there is a change of circumstances which results in a change to the maximum council tax reduction for the purposes of calculating eligibility for a reduction under PART 7 (28), from the first day of the benefit week after the date on which the change first occurred.

Note: This will insert an 80%/100% cap on maximum council tax reduction and aligns the circumstances of claimants in receipt of UC with those in receipt of Passported Benefits to ensure that a claimant's maximum CTRS is calculated appropriate to their status and that vulnerable households are not disadvantaged.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES FROM 01.04.13

Current Council Tax Benefit Scheme (CTB)	Council Tax Support (CTS)
Second Adult Rebate - Awarded to the customer based on the circumstances of 'second adult'. Can be awarded due to a 'better buy' comparison	No award due for second person. On 'better buy' calculation customer will only be awarded any CTS due.
Reduction of the capital limit - Upper capital limit of £16,000. Above this limit the person would not qualify for CTB. Lower capital of £6,000. Below this figure amount is ignored. Amounts above £6,000 attract tariff income at £1 for every £250 or part of above the lower capital limit	Upper capital limit of £10,000. Above this limit the person would not qualify for CTB. Lower capital of £6,000. Below this figure amount is ignored. Amounts above £6,000 attract tariff income at £1 for every £250 or part of above the lower capital limit
Removal of earnings disregards - Permitted work - £97.50 Lone parents - £25.00 Disabled, carers or special occupations - £20.00 Couples - £10 Single £5	Permitted work - £0 Lone parents - £0 Disabled, carers or special occupations - £0 Couples - £0 Single £0
Removal of Child Benefit disregard - Child Benefit is fully disregarded for the calculation of CTB	Child benefit is fully included for the calculation of CTS
Increase in non-dependant deductions (using current figures) On pass ported benefit - £0.00 On JSA C/ESAC - £3.30 Works less than 16 hours on maternity, paternity, adoption or sick leave - £3.30 Income more than £394.00 per week - £9.90 £316.00 to £393.99 per week - £8.25 £238.00 to £315.99 per week - £6.55 £183.00 to £237.00 per week - £3.30 £124.00 to £182.99 per week - £3.30 Under £124.00 - £3.30	On pass ported benefit - £0.00 On JSA C/ESAC - £3.30 Works less than 16 hours on maternity, paternity, adoption or sick leave - £3.30 Earnings less than £100 - £5.00 Earnings between £100 and £150 - £10.00 Earnings above £150 - £20.00

APPEALS

There will be no joint HB/CTR appeals – they will be heard separately by different bodies. First Tier Tribunals will hear the Housing Benefit appeals (as now) and the Valuation Tribunals Service will hear Council Tax Support appeals.

The legislation is contained within the Local Government Finance Act. Appeals against the local Council Tax Support Scheme will be covered by Regulation 16(b).

Process:

- The customer firstly needs to write to the Council saying they disagree with the decision. There is no time limit to do this. They can request this at any time.
- If we do not alter our original decision the customer has the right to appeal to the Valuation Tribunal.
- To appeal to the Valuation Tribunal the customer will need to do this on line at www.valuationtribunal.gov.uk
- The customer must complete the on line appeal application within two months of the date of the decision notice sent by ourselves upholding the original decision

As local schemes are not legislation, but are locally defined schemes, the Valuation Tribunal will not consider an appeal against a billing authority's actual scheme, as that is beyond their jurisdiction. However, the Valuation Tribunal will advise dissatisfied claimants of their right to apply to the billing authority for a discretionary discount under section 13 (1) (c) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. They will also hear appeals where the authority refuses to exercise this discretion.

Discretionary Discount Policies

1. Second Homes

- 1.1. Second homes are defined as furnished properties which are not occupied as a person's main residence and include furnished properties that are unoccupied between tenancies.
- 1.2. The Local Government Act 2003 gave councils new discretionary powers to reduce the 50% Council Tax discount previously awarded in respect of second homes to between 10% and 50% with effect from 1st April 2004. Councils retain the additional income raised by reducing the second homes Council Tax discount.
- 1.3. The Local Government Act 2012 further extended billing authorities' discretion over the second homes discount to between 0% and 50%. On 17 October 2012 Cabinet approved the reduction of the second homes Council Tax discount from 10% to 0%.
- 1.4. The figures used for the 2022/23 Council Tax taxbase incorporate a 0% Council Tax discount in respect of second homes (other than those that retain a 50% discount through regulation as a result of job-related protection). Implementation of this policy results in the inclusion of 705.17 Band D equivalents in the taxbase.

2. Vacant Properties – Former Class A & Class C Exempt Properties

- 2.1. The Local Government Act 2012 abolished both Class A and Class C exemptions and gave billing authorities' discretion to give discounts of between 0% and 100%. Class A exemptions were previously available for up to 12 months in respect of a vacant property which required, was undergoing, or had recently undergone major repair work to render it habitable, or a structural alteration. Class C exemptions were previously available for up to six months after a dwelling became vacant.
- 2.2. On 14 December 2017 Council approved the removal of a 50% Council Tax discount in respect of vacant dwellings undergoing major repair, i.e. former Class A exempt properties.
- 2.3. In respect of former Class A exempt properties the figures used for the 2022/23 Council Tax taxbase allow for the continuation of the decision previously approved by Council, i.e. to award no discount.
- 2.4. On 17 October 2012 Cabinet approved the award of a 25% Council Tax discount in respect of vacant dwellings, i.e. former Class C exempt properties.
- 2.5. Implementation of this policy resulted in a large number of low value Council Tax demands being raised primarily in relation to landlords whose properties are between tenants. A significant number of landlord complaints were received in relation to these Council Tax demands and these small amounts proved to be very difficult to collect. It was,

therefore, proposed and approved that a 100% discount be awarded for one month, i.e. effectively reinstating the exemption, and then a 25% discount be awarded for the remaining five months.

- 2.6. In order to avoid fraudulent 100% claims in respect of these types of properties it was also proposed and approved that the "six week rule" be applied, i.e. if a dwelling which is unoccupied and unfurnished is either exempt or entitled to a discount, becomes occupied or substantially furnished for a period of less than six weeks, after which it falls empty again, it will only resume exemption or discount for any of the original exemption or discount period which remains.
- 2.7. On 14 December 2017 Council approved the continuation of the policy to award one month exemption when a property becomes unoccupied and substantially unfurnished (subject to the six week rule) and approved a revised policy to remove the 25% for the following five months. This means that when a property becomes unoccupied and substantially unfurnished it would attract one month exemption, then pay full charge for the following twenty three months, then attract an additional 100% council tax premium after two years.
- 2.8. In respect of former Class C exempt properties the figures used for the 2022/23 Council Tax taxbase incorporate a discount of 100% for one month. Continuation of this policy to award the one month exemption results in the exclusion of 160.66 Band D equivalents from the taxbase.

3. Vacant Properties – Empty Homes Premium

- 3.1. The Local Government Act 2012 amended the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and also gave billing authorities' discretion to levy an empty homes premium of 50% after a dwelling has been empty and substantially unfurnished for at least two years. In December 2013 Shropshire Council chose to enact this discretionary power with effect from April 2014.
- 3.2. On 1 November 2018 the Rating (Property in Common Occupation) and Council Tax (Empty Dwellings) Act 2018 was passed which further amended the Local Government Finance Act 1992. This gave billing authorities' discretion to levy an empty homes premium of 100% from 1 April 2019 after a dwelling has been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for at least two years, a 200% premium from 1 April 2020 for properties unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for at least 5 years and a 300% premium from 1 April 2021 for properties unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for at least 10 years.
- 3.3. The figures used for the 2022/23 Council Tax taxbase incorporate a 100% Council Tax premium in respect of dwellings which have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for more than two years, a 200% Council Tax premium in respect of dwellings which have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for more than five years and a 300% Council Tax premium in respect of dwellings which have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for more than ten years. Implementation of this policy results in the inclusion of 328.10 Band D equivalents in the taxbase in relation to properties unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for more than two years, 175.56 Band D equivalents in the taxbase in relation to

properties unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for more than five years and 224.67 Band D equivalents in the taxbase in relation to properties unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for more than ten years.

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<u>Committee and Date</u>	<u>Item</u>
Audit Committee 9 December 2021	
Cabinet 5 January 2022	
Council 13 January 2022	<u>Public</u>

TREASURY STRATEGY 2021/22 – MID YEAR REVIEW

Responsible Officer

James Walton

e-mail: James.Walton@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: (01743) 258915

1. Synopsis

The report provides an economic update for the first six months of 2021 and includes a review of the investment portfolio and borrowing strategy for 2021/22 and confirms compliance with Treasury and Prudential limits. The report has been prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management. As at 30 September 2021, the Council held £175m in investments and had £292m of borrowing.

2. Executive Summary

2.1. This mid-year Treasury Strategy report has been prepared in compliance with CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management 2017 and covers the following:-

- An economic update for the first six months of 2021/22
- A review of the Treasury Strategy 2021/22 and Annual Investment Strategy
- A review of the Council's investment portfolio for 2021/22
- A review of the Council's borrowing strategy for 2021/22
- A review of any debt rescheduling taken
- A review of compliance with Treasury and Prudential limits for 2021/22

2.2. The key points to note are:-

- The internal treasury team achieved a return of 0.14% on the Council's cash balances outperforming the benchmark by 0.22%. This amounts to additional income of £198,180 for the first six months of the year which is included within the Council's projected outturn position in the quarterly financial monitoring report
- In the first six months all treasury management activities have been in accordance with the approved limits and

prudential indicators set out in the Council's Treasury Strategy

- Cornovii Development Ltd (CDL) and Shropshire Council have agreed to renegotiate the existing finance and borrowing arrangements for the company, subject to the appropriate approvals. Currently CDL have loan facilities of £14m, £35m and £250k available from Shropshire Council for investment in new housing within Shropshire. To ensure CDL have the capacity to deliver a number of key developments which have been recently identified, CDL and Shropshire Council are proposing to collapse the three facilities in to a single £49.25m funding arrangement.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. Members are asked to accept the position as set out in the report.

REPORT

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1. The recommendations contained in this report are compatible with the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998.
- 4.2. There are no direct environmental, equalities or climate change consequences arising from this report.
- 4.3. Compliance with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management, the Council's Treasury Policy Statement and Treasury Management Practices and the Prudential Code for Capital Finance together with the rigorous internal controls will enable the Council to manage the risk associated with Treasury Management activities and the potential for financial loss.
- 4.4. The Council's Audit Committee is the committee responsible for ensuring effective consideration of the Council's Treasury Management Strategy and policies.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. The Council makes assumptions about the levels of borrowing and investment income over the financial year. Reduced borrowing as a result of capital receipt generation or delays in delivery of the capital programme will both have a positive impact of the council's cash position. Similarly, higher than benchmarked returns on available cash will also help the Council's financial position. For monitoring purposes, assumptions are made early in year about borrowing and returns based on the strategies agreed by Council in the preceding February. Performance outside of these assumptions results in increased or reduced income for the

Council.

- 5.2. The 2021/22 six-month performance is above benchmark and has delivered additional income of £198,180.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.1. The Council's Financial Strategy includes proposals to deliver a reduced carbon footprint for the Council therefore the Treasury Team is working with the Council in order to achieve this. There are no climate change impacts arising from this report. Shropshire Council's investment portfolio has no level 1, 2 or 3 emissions. It comprises of straightforward cash deposits with financial institutions and other Local Authorities.

7. Background

- 7.1. The Council operates a balanced budget, which broadly means cash raised during the year will meet its cash expenditure. Part of the Treasury Management operations ensure this cash flow is adequately planned, with surplus monies being invested in low-risk counterparties, providing adequate liquidity initially before considering optimising investment return.
- 7.2. The second main function of the Treasury Management service is the funding of the Council's capital plans. These capital plans provide a guide to the borrowing need of the Council, essentially the longer-term cash flow planning to ensure the Council can meet its capital spending operations. This management of longer-term cash may involve arranging long or short-term loans, or using longer term cash flow surpluses, and on occasion any debt previously drawn may be restructured to meet Council risk or cost objectives.
- 7.3. The Council defines its treasury management activities as "the management of the authority's borrowing, investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions, the effective control of the risks associated with the activities, and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks". The report informs Members of the treasury activities of the Council for the first six months of the financial year.
- 7.4. In December 2017, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, (CIPFA), issued revised Prudential and Treasury Management Codes. As from 2019/20, all local authorities are required to prepare a Capital Strategy which is intended to provide the following: -
- A high-level overview of how capital expenditure, capital

financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of services

- An overview of how associated risk is managed
- The implications for future financial sustainability

A report setting out the Council’s Capital Strategy was taken to full Council in February 2021

7.5. This report has been written in accordance with the requirements of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy’s (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management 2017.

8. Economic Update and Forecast

8.1. A detailed commentary can be found in Appendix D.

8.2. The Council receives its treasury advice from Link Asset Services. Their latest interest rate forecasts were updated 8 November and are shown below:

Link Group Interest Rate View												
	Now	Dec-21	Mar-22	Jun-22	Sep-22	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24
Bank Rate	0.10%	0.25%	0.25%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.75%	0.75%	0.75%	0.75%	1.00%	1.00%
5yr PWLB Rate	1.45%	1.50%	1.50%	1.60%	1.60%	1.70%	1.70%	1.70%	1.80%	1.80%	1.80%	1.90%
10yr PWLB Rate	1.74%	1.80%	1.90%	1.90%	2.00%	2.00%	2.10%	2.10%	2.20%	2.20%	2.20%	2.30%
25yr PWLB Rate	1.96%	2.10%	2.20%	2.30%	2.40%	2.40%	2.40%	2.50%	2.50%	2.60%	2.60%	2.60%
50yr PWLB Rate	1.67%	1.90%	2.00%	2.10%	2.20%	2.20%	2.20%	2.30%	2.30%	2.40%	2.40%	2.40%

9. Treasury Strategy update

9.1. The Treasury Management Strategy (TMS) for 2021/22 was approved by Full Council on 25 February 2021. This Treasury Strategy does not require updating as there are no policy changes or any changes required to the prudential and treasury indicators previously approved. The details in this report update the position in the light of the updated economic position.

10. Annual Investment Strategy

10.1. The Council’s Annual Investment Strategy, which is incorporated in the TMS, outlines the Council’s investment priorities as the security and liquidity of its capital. As shown by forecasts in section 8.1, it is a very difficult investment market in terms of earning the level of interest rates commonly seen in previous decades as rates are very low and in line with the current 0.10% bank rate. However, with the potential increase of bank rate on

the horizon, we expect to see some improvement in interest earned going forward.

- 10.2. The Council aims to achieve the optimum return on investments commensurate with the proper levels of security and liquidity. In the current economic climate it is considered appropriate to keep investments short term (up to 1 year), and only invest with highly credit rated financial institutions using Link's suggested creditworthiness approach, including sovereign credit rating and Credit Default Swap (CDS) overlay information provided by Link. The Treasury Team continue to take a prudent approach keeping investments short term and with the most highly credit rated organisations.
- 10.3. In the first six months of 2021/22, the internal treasury team outperformed its benchmark by 0.22%. The investment return was 0.14% compared to the benchmark of -0.08%. This amounts to additional income of £198,180 during the first six months which is included within the Council's projected outturn position in the quarterly financial monitoring report.
- 10.4. A full list of investments held as at 30 September 2021, compared to Link's counterparty list, and changes to Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poor's credit ratings are shown in **Appendix A**. None of the approved limits within the Annual Investment Strategy were breached during the first six months of 2021/22 and have not been previously breached. Officers continue to monitor the credit ratings of institutions on a daily basis. Delegated authority has been put in place to make any amendments to the approved lending list.
- 10.5. As illustrated in the economic background section above, investment rates available in the market have decreased significantly due to the bank rate decrease to 0.10% in March 2020. The average level of funds available for investment purposes in the first six months of 2021/22 was £180 million.
- 10.6. The Council's interest receivable/payable budgets are currently projecting a surplus of £1.87 million as reported in the monthly revenue monitoring reports due to no long-term borrowing being undertaken, changes to the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) calculation previously approved by Council and minor changes in borrowing requirements.

11. Borrowing

- 11.1 Details of the Council's borrowing activity can be found within Appendix D.

12. Cornovii Development Ltd

- 12.1 Cornovii Development Ltd (CDL) and Shropshire Council have

agreed to renegotiate the existing finance and borrowing arrangements for the company, subject to the appropriate approvals. Currently CDL have loan facilities of £14m, £35m and £250k available from Shropshire Council for investment in new housing within Shropshire. To ensure CDL have the capacity to deliver a number of key developments which have been recently identified, CDL and Shropshire Council are proposing to collapse the three facilities in to a single £49.25m funding arrangement. A further update will be provided in the Treasury Strategy 2022/23 that goes to full Council in February 2022.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Council, 25 February 2021, Treasury Strategy 2021/22.
Council, 25 February 2021, Capital Strategy 21/22 – 25/26
Council, 20 September 2018, Revised Minimum Revenue Provision Statement 2018/19

Cabinet Member:

Gwilym Butler, Portfolio Holder for Resources

Local Member

N/A

Appendices

- A. Investment Report as at 30 September 2021
- B. Prudential Limits
- C. Prudential Borrowing Schedule
- D. Economic Update, Forecast and Borrowing



Shropshire Council

Monthly Investment Analysis Review

September 2021

Monthly Economic Summary

General Economy

The Flash (i.e. provisional) UK Manufacturing PMI dropped to 56.3 in September from 60.3 in August, somewhat lower than market forecasts of 59.0. Although it signalled the weakest pace of expansion in the sector since February, due to supply chain delays, slower new order growth and rising material and labour shortages, the survey remained at levels historically consistent with robust economic growth. Similarly, the Flash Services PMI eased to 54.6 in September from 55.0 in August, also pointing to the slowest growth in the services sector in seven months. Notably, respondents reported that input price inflation accelerated amid reports of higher wage costs, product shortages and increased transportation costs - and that companies raised their own charges at the fastest pace since the series began in 1996. As a result of the falls in both indices, the Flash Composite PMI (which incorporates both sectors), eased to 54.1 in September, from 54.8 in August. Mirroring these developments, the Construction PMI (which is released one month behind), also fell to 55.2 in August from 58.7 in July and below market expectations of 56.9 as a restricted supply of materials, labour and transport began to weigh on overall activity. Input cost inflation, meanwhile, accelerated to the second-fastest rate in the 24-year history of the survey.

The combination of supply chain delays, slower order growth and rising material and labour shortages noted in the PMI surveys may also have weighed on GDP, which expanded by just 0.1% m/m in July compared to forecasts of a 0.7% rise. However, upward revisions to previous releases meant that the economic output was now forecast to be around 1% less than prior to the pandemic compared to 2% previously. Product and labour shortages may also have contributed to the 0.1% m/m decline in exports in July, which caused the UK trade deficit to widen to £3.1 billion compared to £2.5 billion in June.

Unemployment data, meanwhile, also confirmed the tightening of the labour market reported in the PMI surveys. Employment rose by 183,000 in the three months to July, which was the largest rise since January 2020 – and occurred despite firms having to start paying 10% of the wages of their furloughed workers. A fall of 86,000 in unemployed workers, meanwhile, allowed the unemployment rate to ease to 4.6% in July from 4.7% in June. More timely data revealed that PAYE employment increased by a further 241,000 during August, suggesting that labour market strength may continue – although the end of the furlough scheme in September represents a future source of uncertainty. The rise in vacancies to a record 1,034,000, 249,000 above their pre-pandemic level, suggests that labour shortages intensified during August. Against this backdrop, average earnings growth (excluding bonuses) eased to 6.8% y/y in the three months to July compared to 7.3% y/y in the three months to June as compositional and base effects began to fade. However, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) noted this month private sector regular pay growth had been around 4%, after accounting for these factors.

UK inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index, increased to 3.2% y/y in August from 2% in July and above market forecasts of 2.9%. However, base effects – including last year's Eat Out to Help Out scheme (which artificially depressed prices) - accounted for the majority of the rise. That said, the MPC noted at this month's policy meeting that the scheduled rise in utility prices and further base effects will likely contribute to inflation rising to slightly above 4% later in the year. Against this backdrop, the Committee judged that its existing monetary policy remained appropriate. However, the MPC also noted that some developments since the August Monetary Policy Report appeared to have strengthened the case for a modest tightening of monetary policy. As a result, Gilt yields rose as month-end approached and investors increased the probability attached to Bank Rate being raised in 2022.

Judging by the 0.9% m/m fall in August retail sales, the stalling of the UK's economic recovery in July highlighted by the GDP data has likely continued. However, some of the fall may also be explained by households changing their spending patterns following the expiration of lockdown. As a result, retail sales are now unchanged compared to a year ago. The prospect of looming energy price rises, food costs and tax rises, meanwhile, saw the GfK Consumer Confidence index decline to -13 in September from -8 in August.

The UK's public sector net borrowing (excluding public sector banks) was estimated to have been £20.5 billion in August - the second-highest August borrowing since monthly records began in 1993 - but £5.5 billion less than in August 2020. Although public sector net borrowing was estimated to have been £93.8 billion in the financial year-to-August 2021, this is £88.9 billion less than in the same period last year and £31.9 billion below that forecast by the OBR.

In the US, non-farm payrolls rose 235,000 in August, the lowest in 7 months and well below forecasts of 750,000 as a surge in COVID-19 infections may have discouraged companies from hiring and workers from actively looking for a job. Nevertheless, the gain saw the unemployment rate fall to 5.2% from 5.4% in July. The US economy, meanwhile, was confirmed to have grown at a 6.7% annualised rate in Q2 compared to the first estimate of 6.3%. Against this backdrop, the Federal Reserve forecast at its September policy meeting that core inflation would remain above 2% until 2023. As a result, the central bank judged that "a moderation in the pace of asset purchases may soon be warranted" and increased their median interest rate projections to 0.3% in 2022 (from 0.1% previously) and 1% in 2023 (from 0.6%).

As in the US, Q2 growth in the Eurozone was also revised higher during the month, to 2.2% q/q from 2% previously. Inflation, meanwhile, was confirmed at 3% y/y in August compared to 2.2% in July and its highest since November 2011. However, the ECB judged at its policy meeting that most of this year's increase in inflation will prove temporary. As expected, the central bank left rates unchanged and, in light of the bloc's recovery, elected to plan PEPP purchases at a "moderately lower pace...than in the previous two quarters."

Housing

Nationwide reported that house price growth eased to 10% y/y this month compared to 11% y/y in August. On the month, prices rose 0.1%. The Halifax survey, meanwhile, confirmed that prices rose 7.1% y/y and 0.7% m/m in August. According to the Nationwide, house prices are now around 13% higher than when the pandemic began.

Currency

The prospect of above target inflation and anaemic economic growth saw Sterling fall against both the US Dollar and the Euro this month.

September	Start	End	High	Low
GBP/USD	\$1.3786	\$1.3484	\$1.3872	\$1.3425
GBP/EUR	€1.1630	€1.1635	€1.1727	€1.1558

Forecast

In light of the hawkish nature of the minutes from September's MPC meeting, Link Group has revised its forecast for Bank Rate to bring forward its first rate rise to June 2022.

Bank Rate	Now	Dec-21	Mar-22	Jun-22	Sep-22	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Mar-24
Link Group	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%	0.25%	0.25%	0.25%	0.25%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.75%
Capital Economics	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%	0.25%	0.25%	0.25%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	-

Shropshire Council

Current Investment List

Borrower	Principal (£)	Interest Rate	Start Date	Maturity Date	Lowest LT / Fund Rating	Historic Risk of Default
Handelsbanken Plc	20,000,000	0.01%		Call	AA-	0.000%
Santander UK PLC	15,000,000	0.40%		Call	A	0.000%
MMF Aberdeen Standard Investments	15,000,000	0.01%		MMF	AAAm	
Dover District Council	6,000,000	0.03%	06/07/2021	06/10/2021	AA-	0.000%
DMO	4,000,000	0.01%	30/09/2021	08/10/2021	AA-	0.001%
Highland Council	5,000,000	0.30%	11/11/2020	11/10/2021	AA-	0.001%
DMO	3,000,000	0.01%	15/09/2021	18/10/2021	AA-	0.001%
Barclays Bank Plc (NRFB)	1,000,000	0.03%	15/07/2021	22/10/2021	A	0.003%
DMO	1,500,000	0.01%	10/09/2021	22/10/2021	AA-	0.001%
Lloyds Bank Plc (RFB)	3,000,000	0.01%	15/09/2021	22/10/2021	A+	0.003%
Goldman Sachs International Bank	5,000,000	0.23%	04/05/2021	27/10/2021	A+	0.003%
Telford & Wrekin Council	3,000,000	0.33%	29/10/2020	27/10/2021	AA-	0.002%
DMO	2,000,000	0.01%	22/09/2021	29/10/2021	AA-	0.002%
Lloyds Bank Plc (RFB)	3,000,000	0.01%	15/09/2021	29/10/2021	A+	0.004%
Goldman Sachs International Bank	5,000,000	0.20%	18/05/2021	18/11/2021	A+	0.006%
Kingston Upon Hull City Council	5,000,000	0.06%	20/05/2021	22/11/2021	AA-	0.003%
Highland Council	5,000,000	0.28%	15/01/2021	23/11/2021	AA-	0.003%
Barclays Bank Plc (NRFB)	4,000,000	0.08%	30/06/2021	30/11/2021	A	0.008%
Nationwide Building Society	5,000,000	0.07%	09/06/2021	08/12/2021	A	0.009%
Nationwide Building Society	5,000,000	0.07%	15/06/2021	13/12/2021	A	0.010%
Barclays Bank Plc (NRFB)	5,000,000	0.07%	01/07/2021	20/12/2021	A	0.010%
Lloyds Bank Plc (RFB)	2,000,000	0.02%	06/07/2021	05/01/2022	A+	0.013%
Lloyds Bank Plc (RFB)	5,000,000	0.02%	15/07/2021	14/01/2022	A+	0.014%
Lloyds Bank Plc (RFB)	2,000,000	0.02%	03/08/2021	17/01/2022	A+	0.014%
Lloyds Bank Plc (RFB)	5,000,000	0.02%	23/07/2021	21/01/2022	A+	0.015%
Plymouth City Council	5,000,000	0.11%	26/02/2021	26/01/2022	AA-	0.008%
Plymouth City Council	5,000,000	0.10%	14/07/2021	29/01/2022	AA-	0.008%
National Westminster Bank Plc (RFB)	5,000,000	0.09%	05/02/2021	04/02/2022	A	0.016%
National Westminster Bank Plc (RFB)	2,000,000	0.13%	18/05/2021	18/02/2022	A	0.018%
Coventry Building Society	5,000,000	0.05%	31/08/2021	28/02/2022	A-	0.020%
Slough Borough Council	3,000,000	0.20%	12/04/2021	23/03/2022	AA-	0.011%
Cheltenham Borough Council	1,000,000	0.05%	05/08/2021	20/04/2022	AA-	0.013%
National Westminster Bank Plc (RFB)	5,000,000	0.16%	01/06/2021	31/05/2022	A	0.031%
Kingston Upon Hull City Council	2,000,000	0.08%	17/09/2021	22/08/2022	AA-	0.021%
National Westminster Bank Plc (RFB)	5,000,000	0.20%	24/08/2021	23/08/2022	A	0.042%
National Westminster Bank Plc (RFB)	2,000,000	0.22%	20/09/2021	19/09/2022	A	0.046%
Total Investments	£174,500,000	0.11%				0.008%

Note: An historic risk of default is only provided if a counterparty has a counterparty credit rating and is not provided for an MME or USDRE for which the rating agencies

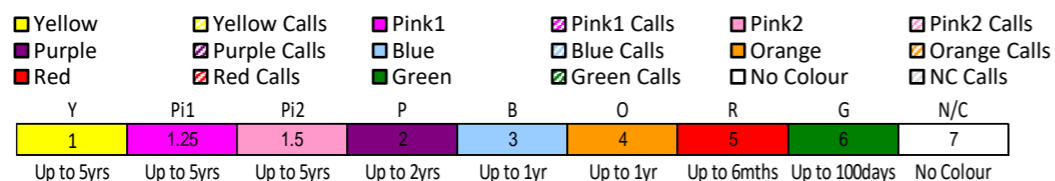
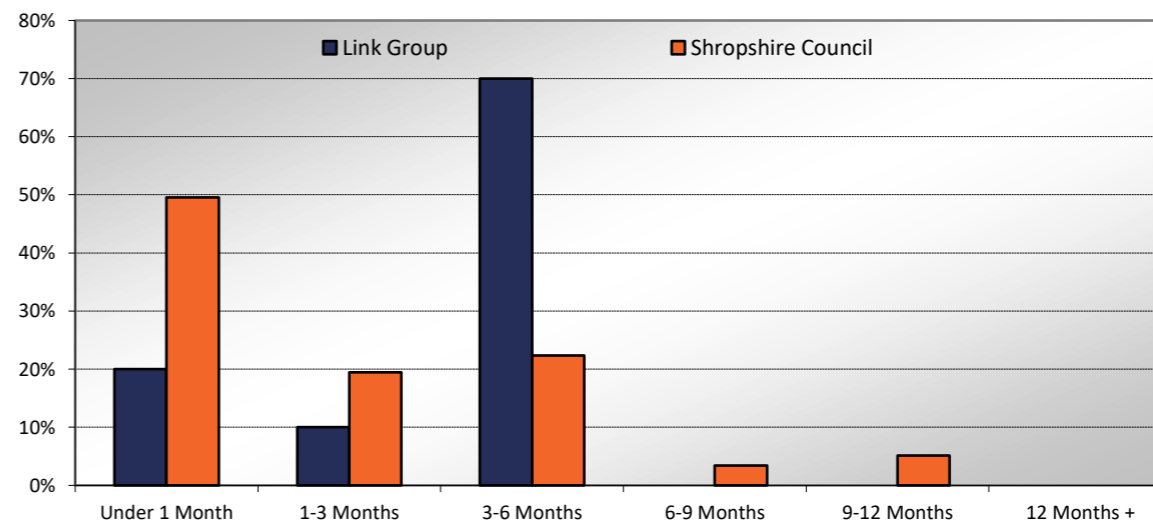
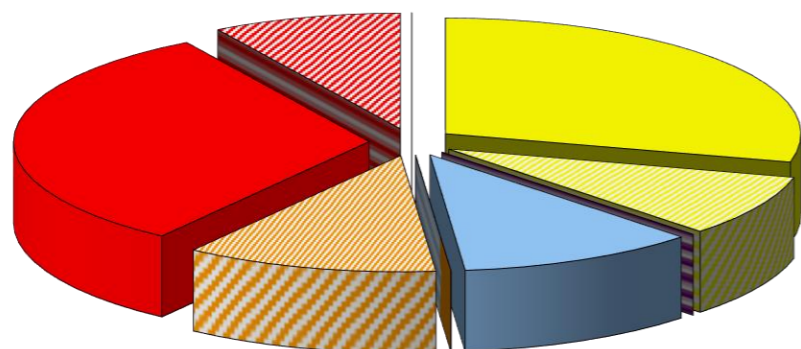
Shropshire Council

Current Investment List

Borrower	Principal (£)	Interest Rate	Start Date	Maturity Date	Lowest LT / Fund Rating	Historic Risk of Default
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Note: An historic risk of default is only provided if a counterparty has a counterparty credit rating and is not provided for an ILMIF or USDBF, for which the rating agencies provide a fund rating. The portfolio's historic risk of default therefore measures the historic risk of default attached only to those investments for which a counterparty has a counterparty credit rating and also does not include investments which are not rated.

Portfolio Composition by Link Group's Suggested Lending Criteria



Portfolios weighted average risk number = 3.17

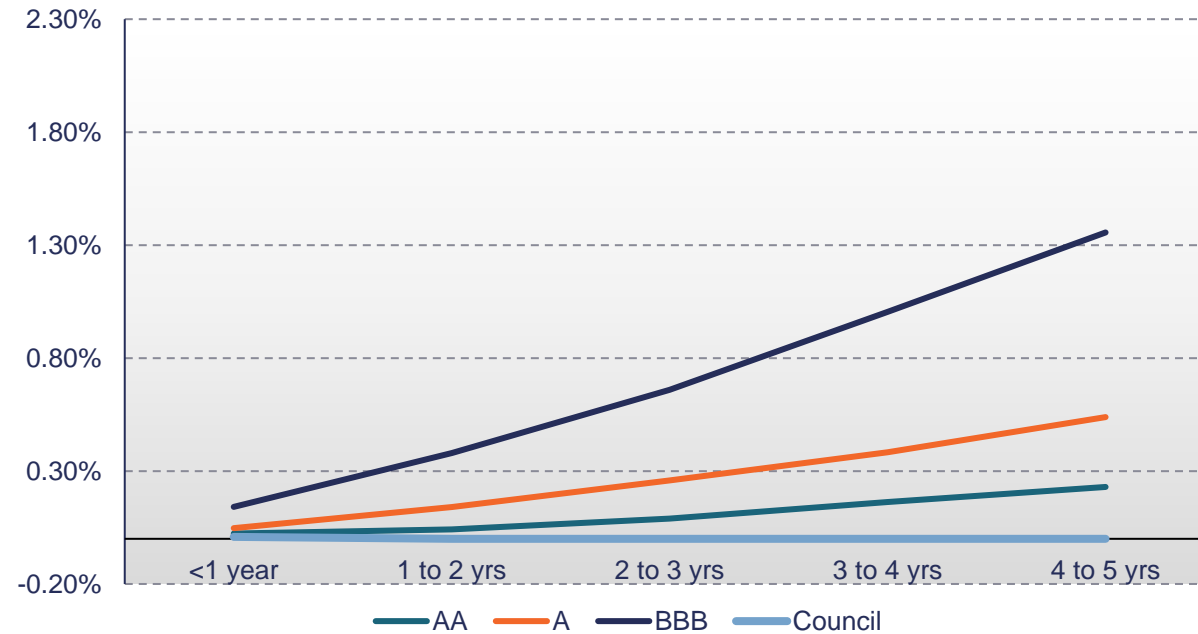
WARoR = Weighted Average Rate of Return
WAM = Weighted Average Time to Maturity

Colour	% of Portfolio	Amount	% of Colour in Calls	Amount of Colour in Calls	% of Call in Portfolio	WARoR	WAM	WAM at Execution	Excluding Calls/MMFs/USDBFs	
									WAM	WAM at Execution
Yellow	37.54%	£65,500,000	22.90%	£15,000,000	8.60%	0.10%	53	163	68	212
Pink1	0.00%	£0	0.00%	£0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0	0	0
Pink2	0.00%	£0	0.00%	£0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0	0	0
Purple	0.00%	£0	0.00%	£0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0	0	0
Blue	10.89%	£19,000,000	0.00%	£0	0.00%	0.16%	236	355	236	355
Orange	11.46%	£20,000,000	100.00%	£20,000,000	11.46%	0.01%	0	0	0	0
Red	40.11%	£70,000,000	21.43%	£15,000,000	8.60%	0.14%	60	127	76	161
Green	0.00%	£0	0.00%	£0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0	0	0
No Colour	0.00%	£0	0.00%	£0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0	0	0
Total	100.00%	£174,500,000	28.65%	£50,000,000	28.65%	0.11%	69	151	97	211

Shropshire Council

Investment Risk and Rating Exposure

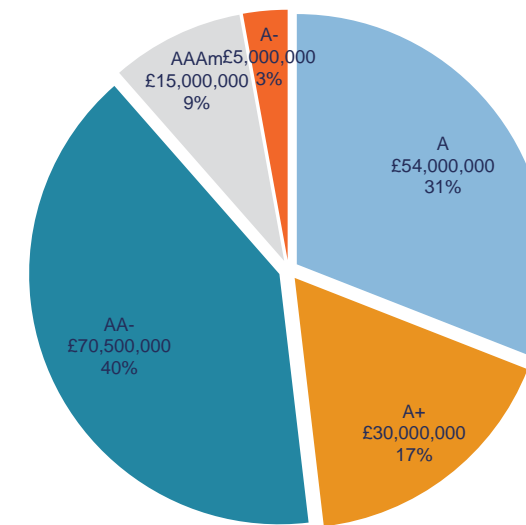
Investment Risk Vs. Rating Categories



Historic Risk of Default

Rating/Years	<1 year	1 to 2 yrs	2 to 3 yrs	3 to 4 yrs	4 to 5 yrs
AA	0.02%	0.04%	0.09%	0.16%	0.23%
A	0.05%	0.14%	0.26%	0.38%	0.54%
BBB	0.14%	0.38%	0.66%	1.01%	1.36%
Council	0.01%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Rating Exposure



Historic Risk of Default

This is a proxy for the average % risk for each investment based on over 30 years of data provided by Fitch, Moody's and S&P. It simply provides a calculation of the possibility of average default against the historical default rates, adjusted for the time period within each year according to the maturity of the investment.

Chart Relative Risk

This is the authority's risk weightings compared to the average % risk of default for "AA", "A" and "BBB" rated investments.

Rating Exposures

This pie chart provides a clear view of your investment exposures to particular ratings.

Note: An historic risk of default is only provided if a counterparty has a counterparty credit rating and is not provided for an MMF or USDBF, for which the rating agencies provide a fund rating. The portfolio's historic risk of default therefore measures the historic risk of default attached only to those investments for which a counterparty has a counterparty credit rating and also does not include investments which are not rated.

Shropshire Council

Monthly Credit Rating Changes FITCH

Date	Update Number	Institution	Country	Rating Action
24/09/2021	1844	Deutsche Bank AG	Germany	The Long Term Rating was upgraded to 'BBB+' from 'BBB'. At the same time, the Viabiity Rating was upgraded to 'bbb+' from 'bbb'
24/09/2021	1845	BNP Paribas	France	The Outlook on the Long Term Rating was changed to Stable from Negative.
24/09/2021	1846	Belgium Sovereign Rating	Belgium	The Outlook on the Sovereign Rating was changed to Stable from Negative.

Shropshire Council

Monthly Credit Rating Changes
MOODY'S

Date	Update Number	Institution	Country	Rating Action
				There were no rating changes to report.

Shropshire Council

Monthly Credit Rating Changes S&P

Date	Update Number	Institution	Country	Rating Action
				There were no rating changes to report.

Whilst Link Group makes every effort to ensure that all the information it provides is accurate and complete, it does not guarantee the correctness or the due receipt of such information and will not be held responsible for any errors therein or omissions arising there from. All information supplied by Link Group should only be used as a factor to assist in the making of a business decision and should not be used as a sole basis for any decision. The Client should not regard the advice or information as a substitute for the exercise by the Client of its own judgement.

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Appendix B

Prudential Indicators – Quarter 2 2021/22

Prudential Indicator	2021/22 Indicator £m	Quarter 1 – Actual £m	Quarter 2 – Actual £m	Quarter 3 – Actual £m	Quarter 4 – Actual £m
Non HRA Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)	419*	402	402		
HRA CFR	95	95	95		
Gross borrowing	366	304	292		
Investments	150	170	175		
Net borrowing	216	134	117		
Authorised limit for external debt	615	304	292		
Operational boundary for external debt	500	304	292		
Limit of fixed interest rates (borrowing)	615	304	292		
Limit of variable interest rates (borrowing)	308	0	0		
Internal Team Principal sums invested > 364 days	70	0	0		
Maturity structure of borrowing limits	%	%	%	%	%
Under 12 months	15	4	0		
12 months to 2 years	15	0	2		
2 years to 5 years	45	2	1		
5 years to 10 years	75	10	10		
10 years to 20 years	100	33	34		
20 years to 30 years	100	22	23		
30 years to 40 years	100	18	19		
40 years to 50 years	100	2	2		
50 years and above	100	9	9		

* Based on period 6 Capital Monitoring report including Shrewsbury Shopping Centres.

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Capital Financing Summary

Prudential Borrowing Approvals	Date Approved	Amount Approved	Applied (Spent) 2006/07	Applied (Spent) 2007/08	Applied Outturn 08/09 2008/09	Applied Outturn 09/10 2009/10	Applied Outturn 10/11 2010/11	Applied Outturn 11/12 2011/12	Applied Outturn 12/13 2012/13	Applied Outturn 13/14 2013/14	Applied Outturn 14/15 2014/15	Applied Outturn 15/16 2015/16	Applied Outturn 16/17 2016/17	Applied Outturn 17/18 2017/18	Applied Outturn 18/19 2018/19	Applied Outturn 19/20 2019/20	Applied Outturn 20/21 2020/21	Budgeted 2021/22	Budgeted 2022/23	Budgeted 2023/24	First year MRP Charged	Asset Life	Final year MRP Charged
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£			
Monkmoor Campus	24/02/06	3,580,000																					
Capital Receipts Shortfall - Cashflow	24/02/06	5,000,000																					
Applied:																							
Monkmoor Campus			3,000,000		0																		
William Brooks					0					3,580,000													
Tem Values					2,000,000																		
		8,580,000	3,000,000	0	2,000,000	0	3,580,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0			
Hsthwys	24/02/06	2,000,000	2,000,000																				
Accommodation Changes	24/02/06	650,000	410,200	39,800																			
Accommodation Changes - Saving	31/03/07	450,000	410,200	39,800	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0			
The Ptarmigan Building	05/11/09	3,744,000				3,744,000																	
The Mount McKinley Building	05/11/09	2,782,000				2,782,000																	
The Mount McKinley Building	05/11/09	0																					
Capital Strategy Schemes - Potential Capital Receipts shortfall - Desktop Virtualisation	25/02/10	187,600				187,600																	
Carbon Efficiency Schemes/Self Financing	25/02/10	1,512,442					115,656	1,312,810	83,976														
Transformation schemes		92,635						92,635															
Renewables - Biomass - Self Financing	14/09/11	92,996						82,408	98,258	(87,670)													
Solar PV Council Buildings - Self Financing	11/05/11	56,342						1,283,959	124,584	(1,352,202)													
Depot Redevelopment - Self Financing	23/02/12	0																					
Oswestry Leisure Centre Equipment - Self Financing	04/04/12	124,521						124,521															
Leisure Services - Self Financing	01/08/12	711,197							711,197														
Mardol House Acquisition	26/02/15	4,160,000																					
Mardol House Adaptation and Refit	26/02/15	3,340,000																					
Oswestry Leisure Centre Equipment - Self Financing	01/08/12	290,274																					
Car Parking Strategy Implementation		590,021																					
JIPUT - Investment in Units re Shrewsbury Shopping Centres		55,108,080																					
JIPUT - SSC No 1 Ltd		527,319																					
CDL Shareholding																							
Children's Residential Care		2,000,000																					
Pride Hill Shopping Centre Reconfiguration		10,860,807																					
Greenacres Super-Living Development		3,125,000																					
Bishops Castle Sports Park	19/09/19	3,108,999																					
Whitchurch Medical Practice (Pauls Moss Development)	26/07/18	3,778,000																					
Oswestry Castleview - Site Acquisition	19/12/19	3,256,241																					
DVSA Site Acquisition		1,200,000																					
NCP Car Park, Walsley Shrewsbury		3,983,620																					
Former Morisons Site, Oswestry	19/09/19	3,390,145																					
Commercial Investment Fund	Fin Strat 19/20	21,946,806																					
The Tannery Development - Student Block		7,445,188																					
Previous NSDC Borrowing		955,595			821,138	134,457																	
		149,399,827	5,410,200	39,800	2,821,138	6,845,057	3,695,656	2,896,333	1,018,015	(1,439,872)	4,327,641	3,172,359	0	53,006,161	4,057,772	10,903,325	4,689,242.81	22,690,734	19,464,816	5,798,452			
								0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	(1)							

2007/08	25	2031/32
2011/12	25	2035/36
2010/11	35	2044/45

2007/08	20	2028/27
2007/08	6	2012/13

2010/11	25	2034/35
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2011/12	25	2035/36
2011/12	5	2015/16

2010/11	5	2014/15
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2011/12	5	2017/18
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2012/13	3	2014/15
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2014/15	25	2038/39
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2013/14	25	2038/39
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2014/15	10	2023/24
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2012/13	5	2016/17
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2013/14	5	2016/17
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2015/16	25	2039/40
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2016/17	25	2041/42
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2018/19	5	2022/23
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2020/21	5	2024/25
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2018/19	45	2042/43
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2020/21	25	2044/45
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AUC	25	
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AUC	25	
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2023/24	25	2044/45
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2023/24	25	2047/48
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2020/21	25	2044/45
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2022/23	25	2045/46
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2022/23	25	2045/46
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2021/22	25	2045/46
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2019/20	25	2045/46
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2008/10	5/25	2065/66
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£80m investment fund - reduced to £45m 2021/22 budget setting

45,000,000

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Appendix D

Economic Update

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voted unanimously to leave Bank Rate unchanged at 0.10% and made no changes to its programme of quantitative easing purchases due to finish by the end of this year at a total of £895bn; two MPC members voted to stop the last £35bn of purchases as they were concerned that this would add to inflationary pressures.

There was a major shift in the tone of the MPC's minutes at the September meeting from the previous meeting in August which had indicated that some tightening in monetary policy was now on the horizon, however, they did not want to stifle economic recovery by increasing the Bank Rate too soon. In his press conference after the August MPC meeting, Governor Andrew Bailey said, the challenge of avoiding a steep rise in unemployment has been replaced by that of ensuring a flow of labour into jobs and that the Committee will be monitoring closely the incoming evidence regarding developments in the labour market, and particularly unemployment. In other words, it was flagging up a potential danger that labour shortages could push up wage growth by more than it expects and that, as a result, CPI inflation would stay above the 2% target for longer. It also discounted sharp increases in monthly inflation figures which were largely propelled by events a year ago e.g., the cut in VAT in August 2020 for the hospitality industry, in other words, the MPC had been prepared to look through a temporary spike in inflation.

The MPC's words indicated there had been a marked increase in concern that more recent increases in prices, particularly the increases in gas and electricity prices in October and due again next April, are, indeed, likely to lead to faster and higher inflation expectations and underlying wage growth, which would in turn increase the risk that price pressures would prove more persistent next year than previously expected. To emphasise its concern about inflationary pressures, the MPC pointedly chose to reaffirm its commitment to the 2% inflation target in its statement; this suggested that it was now willing to look through the flagging economic recovery during the summer to prioritise bringing inflation down next year. This is a reversal of its priorities in August and a long way from words at earlier MPC meetings which indicated a willingness to look through inflation overshooting the target for limited periods to ensure that inflation was 'sustainably over 2%'. In August, the MPC's focus was on getting through a winter of temporarily high energy prices and supply shortages, believing that inflation would return to just under the 2% target after reaching a high around 4% in late 2021, now its primary concern is that underlying price pressures in the economy are likely to get embedded over the next year and elevate future inflation to stay significantly above its 2% target and for longer.

Financial markets are now pricing in a first increase in Bank Rate from 0.10% to 0.25% in December 2021. At the MPC's meeting in February it will only have available the employment figures for November: to get a clearer picture of employment trends, it would need to wait until the May meeting when it would have data up until February. At its May meeting, it will also have a clearer understanding of the likely peak of inflation.

The MPC's forward guidance on its intended monetary policy on raising Bank Rate versus selling (quantitative easing) holdings of bonds is as follows: -

1. Placing the focus on raising Bank Rate as "the active instrument in most circumstances".
2. Raising Bank Rate to 0.50% before starting on reducing its holdings.
3. Once Bank Rate is at 0.50% it would stop reinvesting maturing gilts.
4. Once Bank Rate had risen to at least 1%, it would start selling its holdings.

COVID-19 vaccines have been the game changer which have enormously boosted confidence that life in the UK could largely return to normal during the summer after a third wave of the virus threatened to overwhelm hospitals. With the household saving rate having been exceptionally high since the first lockdown in March 2020, there is plenty of demand and purchasing power stored up for services in hard hit sectors like restaurants, travel and hotels. The big question is whether mutations of the virus could develop which render current vaccines ineffective, as opposed to how quickly vaccines can be modified to deal with them and enhanced testing programmes be implemented to contain their spread.

In the US, during the first part of the year, US President Biden's, and the Democratic party's, determination to push through a \$1.9trn (equivalent to 8.8% of GDP) fiscal boost for the US economy as a recovery package from the Covid pandemic was what unsettled financial markets. However, this was in addition to the \$900bn support package already passed in December 2020. Financial markets were alarmed that all this stimulus was happening at a time when: -

1. A fast vaccination programme has enabled a rapid opening up of the economy.
2. The economy has been growing strongly during 2021.
3. It started from a position of little spare capacity due to less severe lockdown measures than in many other countries.
4. And the Fed was still providing stimulus through monthly QE purchases.

These factors could cause an excess of demand in the economy which could then unleash strong inflationary pressures. This could then force the Federal Reserve Bank (Fed) to take much earlier action to start increasing the Fed rate from near zero, despite their stated policy being to target average inflation. It is notable that in the September Fed meeting, Fed members again moved forward their expectation of when the first increases in the Fed rate will occur. In addition, shortages of workers appear to be stoking underlying wage inflationary pressures which are likely to feed through into CPI inflation. A run of stronger jobs growth figures could be enough to meet the threshold set by the Fed of substantial further progress towards maximum employment for a first increase in the Fed rate.

A further concern in financial markets is when will the Fed end QE purchases of treasuries and how will they gradually wind them down. These purchases are currently acting as a downward pressure on treasury yields. In his late August speech at the Jackson Hole conference, Fed Chair Powell implied that the central bank plans to start tapering its asset purchases before the end of this year. But the plan is conditional on continued improvement in the labour market, which the August employment report suggests is proceeding more slowly than the Fed anticipated. That may mean that any announcement of tapering is pushed back, possibly even into early 2022.

As the US financial markets are, by far, the biggest financial markets in the world, any upward trend in treasury yields will invariably impact and influence financial markets in other countries. Inflationary pressures and erosion of surplus economic capacity look much stronger in the US compared to those in the UK, which would suggest that Fed rate increases are likely to be faster and stronger than Bank Rate increases in the UK. Nonetheless, any upward pressure on treasury yields could put upward pressure on UK gilt yields too.

In the Eurozone, the slow roll out of vaccines initially delayed economic recovery in early 2021 but the vaccination rate has picked up sharply since then. After a contraction in GDP of -0.3% in Q1, Q2 came in with strong growth of 2%, which is likely to continue into Q3, though some countries more dependent on tourism may struggle. Recent sharp increases in gas and electricity prices have increased overall inflationary pressures but the ECB is likely to see these as being only transitory after an initial burst through to around 4%, so is unlikely to be raising rates for a considerable time.

In China, after a concerted effort to get on top of the virus outbreak in Q1 of 2020, economic recovery was strong in the rest of the year; this enabled China to recover all the contraction. Policy makers have both quashed the virus and implemented a programme of monetary and fiscal support that has been particularly effective at stimulating short-term growth. At the same time, China's economy benefited from the shift towards online spending by consumers in developed

markets. These factors helped to explain its comparative outperformance compared to western economies during 2020 and earlier in 2021. However, the pace of economic growth has now fallen back after this initial surge of recovery from the pandemic and China is now struggling to contain the spread of the Delta variant through sharp local lockdowns - which will also depress economic growth. There are also questions as to how effective Chinese vaccines are proving. In addition, recent regulatory actions motivated by a political agenda to channel activities into officially approved directions, are also likely to reduce the dynamism and long-term growth of the Chinese economy.

Economic Forecast

The Council receives its treasury advice from Link Asset Services. Their latest interest rate forecasts are shown below:

Link Group Interest Rate View												
	Now	Dec-21	Mar-22	Jun-22	Sep-22	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24
Bank Rate	0.10%	0.25%	0.25%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.75%	0.75%	0.75%	0.75%	1.00%	1.00%
5yr PWLB Rate	1.45%	1.50%	1.50%	1.60%	1.60%	1.70%	1.70%	1.70%	1.80%	1.80%	1.80%	1.90%
10yr PWLB Rate	1.74%	1.80%	1.90%	1.90%	2.00%	2.00%	2.10%	2.10%	2.20%	2.20%	2.20%	2.30%
25yr PWLB Rate	1.96%	2.10%	2.20%	2.30%	2.40%	2.40%	2.40%	2.50%	2.50%	2.60%	2.60%	2.60%
50yr PWLB Rate	1.67%	1.90%	2.00%	2.10%	2.20%	2.20%	2.20%	2.30%	2.30%	2.40%	2.40%	2.40%

Bank coronavirus outbreak has done huge economic damage to the UK and to economies around the world. After the Bank of England took emergency action in March 2020 to cut Bank Rate to 0.10%, it left Bank Rate unchanged at its subsequent meetings.

As shown in the forecast table above, one increase in Bank Rate from 0.10% to 0.25% has now been included in quarter 4 of 2021/22, a second increase to 0.50% in quarter 2 of 22/23 and a third one to 0.75% in quarter 4 of 22/23.

Significant risks to the forecasts

- COVID vaccines do not work to combat new mutations and/or new vaccines take longer than anticipated to be developed for successful implementation.
- The pandemic causes major long-term scarring of the economy.
- The Government implements an austerity programme that suppresses GDP growth.
- The MPC tightens monetary policy too early – by raising Bank Rate or unwinding QE.
- The MPC tightens monetary policy too late to ward off building inflationary pressures.

- Major stock markets e.g. in the US, become increasingly judged as being over-valued and susceptible to major price corrections. Central banks become increasingly exposed to the “moral hazard” risks of having to buy shares and corporate bonds to reduce the impact of major financial market sell-offs on the general economy.
- Geo-political risks are widespread e.g. German general election in September 2021 produces an unstable coalition or minority government and a void in high-profile leadership in the EU when Angela Merkel steps down as Chancellor of Germany; on-going global power influence struggles between Russia/China/US.

The overall balance of risks to economic growth in the UK is now to the downside, including residual risks from Covid and its variants - both domestically and their potential effects worldwide.

Borrowing

It is a statutory duty for the Council to determine and keep under review the “Affordable Borrowing Limits”. The Council’s approved Treasury and Prudential Indicators (affordability limits) are included in the approved Treasury Management Strategy. A list of the approved limits is shown in Appendix B. The Prudential Indicators were not breached during the second quarter of 2021/22 and have not been previously breached. The schedule at Appendix C details the Prudential Borrowing approved and utilised to date.

No new external borrowing has currently been undertaken to date in 2021/22, although discussions are currently being held at the Capital Investment Board where outline business cases are being considered. The schemes being considered are already within the current authorised borrowing limits in place. In the event the authorised borrowing limits need to be amended, this will be reported to Council for approval. The table below illustrates the low and high points across different maturity bands for borrowing rates for the first six months of the financial year

	1 Year	5 Year	10 Year	25 Year	50 Year
Low	0.78%	1.05%	1.39%	1.75%	1.49%
Date	08/04/2021	08/07/2021	05/08/2021	17/08/2021	10/08/2021
High	0.98%	1.42%	1.81%	2.27%	2.06%
Date	24/09/2021	28/09/2021	28/09/2021	13/05/2021	13/05/2021
Average	0.84%	1.16%	1.60%	2.02%	1.81%
Spread	0.20%	0.37%	0.42%	0.52%	0.57%

Debt Rescheduling

Debt rescheduling opportunities have been limited in the current economic climate and consequent structure of interest rates. During the first six months of the year no debt rescheduling was undertaken.



<u>Committee and Date</u>
Council 13 th January 2022

<u>Item</u>

PROVISION OF WHEELED BINS FOR KERBSIDE COLLECTION OF PLASTIC, METAL, AND GLASS RECYCLING

Responsible Officer: Steve Brown

email: steven.brown@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 257809

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 Members are being asked to approve the recommendation to provide householders with bins for recycling and approve the capital investment required to achieve this.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This paper requests Council to approve the provision of wheeled bins for kerbside collection of plastic metal and glass and approve the financial provision required. Council will be aware Cabinet approved its recommendation in July 2021 for this initiative.
- 2.2 Veolia operate the kerbside recycling collections on behalf of Shropshire Council. The waste is collected fortnightly in two waste streams, a paper and card mixture using a blue bag, and a plastic, glass, and metal mixture using 55 litre boxes. Generally, there are two boxes per household, but more are provided if required, at no extra cost to the resident. In 2019/20 Veolia collected 14,250 tonnes of plastics, glass, and metals from the kerbside.
- 2.3 This report sets out a programme for the provision of a 240-litre wheeled bin for recycling to all Shropshire households that request one. The bins will be an alternative to the boxes currently used to present recyclable glass bottles and jars, metal containers, and plastic containers. Feedback from Shropshire residents indicates that this will make recycling more convenient and will also increase the basic capacity available for these waste streams. As a result, there will be a reduction in the amount of Shropshire waste sent for disposal and an increase in the amount recycled.

- 2.4 In addition, and in response to public comments, the switch to bins from boxes will reduce the amount of waste lost to the recycling process after being blown out of the boxes on windy days. This will improve the cleanliness of the local environment by removing that source of litter and further increase the tonnage of waste recycled by keeping it within the recycling collection system.
- 2.5 The provision of a 240-litre wheeled bin to replace the recycling boxes would:
- increase the total basic container capacity for plastic, glass, and metal from 110 litres to 240 litres
 - make the separation and storage of that waste stream more convenient for residents
 - reduce the amount of windblown litter from the boxes.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 **Council is requested to approve the rollout of bins for recycling described in this report.**
- 3.2 **Council is requested to approve the capital investment estimated to be £2.932 million required to deliver this scheme, as an addition to the current Capital programme.**

REPORT

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1 The key risk associated with the use of bins is the potential for higher contamination levels, where non-recyclable material such as general refuse is mixed with recyclable waste. This can hinder the recycling process and on a large scale can result in whole loads of material being sent for disposal. The use of bins means that there is less opportunity for collection crews to detect contaminants and either remove them or reject the specific container.
- 4.2 This risk is reduced in Shropshire as the current system has been in place for several years and residents are familiar with the accepted material streams. Further mitigation will be provided as loaders will be able to identify some contaminants as they are tipped and then use an established system of bin-hangers to advise householders of which material streams are accepted in the bin and a warning that if misuse persists the bin will be removed or not emptied.

- 4.3 The use of bins will not be compulsory. Some residents may not be able to use a bin due to housing layout or the lack of storage space for the bin. These residents will be able to continue to use their existing waste containers as will those residents who simply prefer to use boxes.
- 4.4 The use of bins rather than boxes will reduce the bending and lifting involved in presenting waste for recycling and benefit residents who have difficulty with this activity, further they will assist the operational staff regarding manual handling and improve health and safety for operational crews.
- 4.5 An Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impacts Assessment (ESHIA) had been completed for this project. The assessment identified no negative impacts on the Protected Characteristic groupings. Low positive impacts were identified due to the health benefits noted in 4.4 above.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 Based on an estimate of 80% of Shropshire households (116,762 properties) requesting a bin, the estimate for a mass rollout is:

	Unit Cost	Quantity	Total
Bin Supply	£ 17.65	116,762	£ 2,060,849
Delivery Cost	£ 2.48	116,762	£ 289,570
Supervision	£ 0.25	116,762	£ 29,191
		Grand Total	£ 2,379,610

- 5.2 This price includes the economies of scale associated with bulk purchase and delivery. Contractors for manufacture and delivery of the bins will be selected via a competitive public sector procurement framework. The price for delivery of smaller quantities for later requests would be higher, with costs subject to further negotiation. It is suggested that requests made after a fixed cut-off date would be grouped and delivered when an economic quantity is reached. This may cause delays to delivery but would minimise costs. This is included in the total estimated cost given above. Also, the estimate above is based on current prices and it should be noted that a projected shortage of suitable pelletised plastic in the coming months may increase the cost of bin supply by up to 50p per unit.
- 5.3 To be prudent, the Council will work on the basis of 140,444 households (96.7%) taking up the offer of the new bin from the outset, which is estimated to cost a total of £2.932m including the 50p contingency for related to plastic prices.

	Unit Cost	Quantity	Total
Bin Supply	17.65	140,444	2,478,837
Delivery Cost	2.48	140,444	348,301
Supervision	0.25	140,444	35,111
Contingency for related to plastic prices.	0.5	140,444	70,222
		Grand Total	2,932,471

The proposal to finance this investment is through Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) funding which will result in an additional annual revenue liability of £0.335m over a ten-year period required to pay back the debt including interest.

- 5.4 It has been agreed with Veolia that the replacement of lost or damaged bins will be included as part of the existing Unitary Charge for the service and involve no extra cost to the Council. The delivery of bins to new build properties will also be included.
- 5.5 Should the new recycling bins result in a change in residents' behaviour, there would be a financial benefit to the Council of approximately £84,000 for every 1,000 tonnes of waste diverted from the residual bin to the recycling bin. This is primarily through the sale of the capacity at the Energy Recovery Facility which would be freed up by reducing the amount of residual waste collected from the kerbside.
- 5.6 It is not possible to be definitive in calculating the weight of waste diverted as a result of switching containers due to the difficulty in predicting the impact on residents' behaviour. If there were a 5% increase in the recycling stream that would equate to a financial benefit of £60,000 per annum, a 10% increase in the recycling stream would equate to a financial benefit of £120,000 per annum, and a 15% increase in the recycling stream would equate to a financial benefit of £180,000 per annum. The scheme would therefore require an increase in recycling of 28% to be cost neutral over the 10-year planning period. An improvement of this scale is unlikely and therefore there will be additional annual pressure of up to £335,000 on revenue budgets.
- 5.7 **Veolia Contract Implications** - Discussions with Veolia on this issue have identified that there are no requirements for a change or amendment to the existing contract. The consequences of this

report remain within the scope of the existing contract and as stated any additional replacement, lost or stolen bins will be replaced by Veolia. The procurement process for the bulk purchase and delivery of the bins described in this report will take place via a separate procurement framework.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.1 The key climate change benefit of this proposal is the opportunity to divert more waste from disposal to recycling. This move will reduce the carbon impacts of the manufacturing process for packaging by replacing the resource intensive extraction and processing of virgin raw materials with containers made entirely or in part with recycled material.
- 6.2 Recycling makes a very significant contribution to the Council's overall carbon performance, and this is recorded each year as part of Veolia's annual report. The measurement is made using the industry standard WRATE monitoring tool which evaluates the positive and negative carbon impacts for all aspects of the waste management process. In 2020 this calculation identified a total carbon saving of -30,184,043 kg CO₂ equivalent. This was a further improvement on the figure for 2019 (-27,059,495 kg CO₂ equivalent), largely due to an increase in the plastics, glass, and cans collected from the kerbside.
- 6.3 As stated previously, the provision of a bin will increase the collection capacity for this waste stream, and make the service more convenient for residents, both of which are likely to improve the carbon performance of the waste contract and of the Council as a whole. However, as described in 5.6 above, we cannot at this stage be definitive on the expected increase in recycling tonnage, but we can estimate the improved carbon performance in a similar scenario of a 5% increase in plastic, cans, and glass, recycling which would equate to a reduced carbon impact of -241,000 CO₂ equivalent.
- 6.4 This project will have no significant impact on renewable energy generation although the diversion of more waste from the residual bin to recycling will free up more capacity in the Battlefield Energy Recovery Facility which has the potential to allow some waste to be disposed of via recovery rather than landfill.
- 6.5 This project will not offer opportunities for carbon off-setting or mitigation. The provision of recycling bins will have no significant contribution to the Councils resilience to climate change impacts such as bad weather.

7. Background

- 7.1 A customer satisfaction survey for the waste service conducted in 2018 included the question "What would make it easier to recycle at home?" 45% of the responses stated that this would be achieved using a wheeled bin for recycling.
- 7.2 For several years there has been consistent feedback on the Council's social media channels from residents suggesting a bin for plastics, glass, and cans would reduce wind-blown litter from the open boxes currently used to collect these waste streams from the kerbside.
- 7.3 Further to this local interest, the latest government recycling tables for English Local Authorities covering 2019/20, show that all of the top five performing Councils (Three Rivers, Vale of White Horse, South Oxfordshire, East Riding of Yorkshire, and St. Albans) use a bin for collecting dry recycling.
- 7.4 It is apparent that the bin provides both increased convenience and greater capacity to divert more target material from the residual waste stream to recycling.
- 7.5 Around 2,500 tonnes of metal are recovered from the incineration process Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) bottom ash after processing. This indicates that recyclable material is still being put in the residual bin and although the metals can be recovered post-incineration the glass and plastics cannot. Diverting the metals mentioned would not impact on the Council's recycling rate but it would free up more capacity for third party waste to generate income.
- 7.6 Cabinet at its July 2021 meeting approved a report (please refer to link <https://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/documents/b15197/To%20Follow%20report%20-%20Proposed%20Improvements%20to%20Recycling%20Containers%2021st-Jul-2021%2010.00%20Cabinet.pdf?T=9>), the report presented options for Cabinet to approve: -
- a) *The Council bearing the cost of the initiative, which has been estimated at £2.932m. This option would require material changes to be made to the Financial and Capital Strategies to take account of the cost. An additional capital cost of £2.932m would be likely to result in an additional revenue cost of £0.335m*

per annum for ten years. Revised Financial and Capital Strategies will require full Council approval.

OR:

b) Full cost recovery, whereby a charge is made to residents which covers the full cost of the bin. A charge per bin, once finalised, would be agreed by the Director of Place in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, Natural Assets & The Green Economy, should the rollout of the initiative take place within the 2021/22 financial year.

7.7 Cabinet chose and recommended to Full Council that the council bears the cost of this initiative, and due to the cost being more than £1 million, then Full Council are required consider and approve.

Rollout

7.8 It is estimated that with an 80% take up by residents (c. 117,000 properties) a rollout of the scheme would be completed in around 6 months from an order being placed with the manufacturer and delivery company by Shropshire Council following a procurement framework process. This would include 2 months for preparation and 4 months for deliveries.

7.9 Residents will be asked to request a bin via an online form developed by the Councils in-house IT Team. This timescale does not include the design and build of the form. The timescales and costs of this are being discussed with the Digital Transformation Team.

7.10 However, the CSC would still be available to receive requests for residents who are unable to access the Council's website or portal. These requests would be added to those coming directly to the portal.

7.11 In order to facilitate an effective delivery mechanism there would be a fixed time frame for requests to be made. This time frame would be publicised to residents via a communications plan to ensure that most orders could be received and actioned within the six-month timescale mentioned above.

7.12 Orders received after the deadline will be held and fulfilled after the initial rollout is complete. These bins would be delivered in batches to minimise cost and environmental impact.

7.13 The bin will be 240 litres, the same as those in standard use for residual and garden waste. They will have a grey body with a purple lid, to differentiate them from the other bins in use. The lid colour has been chosen so as not to conflict with the Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP) national colour schemes for recycling and anticipating more moves towards standardisation as part of the collection consistency model.

7.14 Residents would be encouraged to retain and re-use the existing collection boxes for different purposes. In the event of significant demand for residents to dispose of boxes they could be delivered to any of the county's five Household Recycling Centres and then recycled at Veolia's plastics reprocessing facility.

8. Conclusions

8.1 The provision of bins for recycling responds directly to comments by residents. The bins also offer the opportunity to divert waste from the residual waste stream to recycling and to reduce the amount of recyclable material blown out of the collection boxes.

8.2 The rollout plan described in this report provides the basis for development into an operationally achievable programme.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Cabinet report – July 21st, 2021 <https://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/documents/b15197/To%20Follow%20report%20-%20Proposed%20Improvements%20to%20Recycling%20Containers%2021st-Jul-2021%2010.00%20Cabinet.pdf?T=9>

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder) - Councillor Ian Nellins

Local Member – All Councillors

Appendices

App 1 Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA)

Shropshire Council
Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA)
Initial Screening Record 2021-2022

A. Summary Sheet on Accountability and Actions

Name of proposed service change
PROVISION OF WHEELED BINS FOR KERBSIDE COLLECTION OF PLASTIC, METAL, AND GLASS RECYCLING

Name of lead officer carrying out the screening
Paul Beard

Decision, review, and monitoring

Decision	Yes	No
Initial (part one) ESHIA Only?	Yes	
Proceed to Full ESHIA or HIA (part two) Report?		No

If completion of an initial or Part One assessment is an appropriate and proportionate action at this stage, please use the boxes above. If a Full or Part Two report is required, please move on to full report stage once you have completed this initial screening assessment as a record of the considerations which you have given to this matter.

Actions to mitigate negative impact or enhance positive impact of the service change in terms of equality, social inclusion, and health considerations
<p>As the use of bins rather than boxes will reduce the bending and lifting involved in presenting waste for recycling, this will benefit residents who have difficulty with this activity. There are therefore predicted positive impacts for the Protected Characteristic groupings of Age, Disability, and Pregnancy and Maternity. This is also the case for the collection crew, presenting positive health and well being impacts.</p> <p>There will not be a charge to be made for the move to bins from boxes, and as such there is no potential negative impact for low income households, who are a grouping considered in our additional category in Shropshire, of Social Inclusion.</p> <p>The move to bins is across the entire rural county, including households in areas where there are narrow rural roads and access without pavements. The use of bins rather than boxes will have a potential positive rather than negative impact here, as the bins will be more easy to manoeuvre.</p>

Actions to review and monitor the impact of the service change in terms of equality, social inclusion, and health considerations

The positive impacts of the service change will be explained by a communications plan to encourage residents to request a bin for recycling and maximise take-up of the containers.

Residents will be asked to request a bin via an online form but the Customer Service Centre (CSC) will also be available to receive requests by or on behalf of those residents who do not have access to the internet or who have difficulty in using it. The CSC telephone number will be included on leaflets promoting the service that will be delivered to households via the residual bin lid, just as with collection calendars. The number will also be on any material including the web address/link.

The Waste Management Unit will continue to invite customer feedback on the service change directly and from the CSC and Complaints sections. Support from the Portfolio Holder and from local Shropshire Council councillors as community leaders will also aid in emphasising the positive impacts of this service change and picking up on any concerns or issues arising, as part of ongoing engagement with communities.

The Council will continue to seek out and share practice on this service change with other local authorities, particularly those which are large and sparsely populated rural unitary authorities such as ourselves.

Associated ESHIAs

Bring Banks ESIIA (2018)

Climate Change Strategy ESIIA (2020)

Actions to mitigate negative impact, enhance positive impact, and review and monitor overall impacts in terms of any other considerations. This includes climate change considerations

Climate change

The key climate change benefit of this proposal is the opportunity to divert more waste from disposal to recycling. This move will reduce the carbon impacts of the manufacturing process for packaging by replacing the resource intensive extraction and processing of virgin raw materials with containers made entirely or in part with recycled material.

Recycling makes a very significant contribution to the Council's overall carbon performance, and this is recorded each year as part of Veolia's annual report. The measurement is made using the industry standard WRATE

monitoring tool which evaluates the positive and negative carbon impacts for all aspects of the waste management process. In 2020 this calculation identified a total carbon saving of -30,184,043 kg CO2 equivalent. This was a further improvement on the figure for 2019 (-27,059,495 kg CO2 equivalent), largely due to an increase in the plastics, glass, and cans collected from the kerbside.

As stated previously, the provision of a bin will increase the collection capacity for this waste stream, and make the service more convenient for residents, both of which are likely to improve the carbon performance of the waste contract and of the Council as a whole. However, we cannot at this stage be definitive on the expected increase in recycling tonnage, but we can estimate the improved carbon performance in a similar scenario of a 5% increase in plastic, cans, and glass, recycling which would equate to a reduced carbon impact of -241,000 CO2 equivalent.


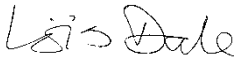
This project will have no significant impact on renewable energy generation although the diversion of more waste from the residual bin to recycling will free up more capacity in the Battlefield Energy Recovery Facility which has the potential to allow some waste to be disposed of via recovery rather than landfill.

This project will not offer opportunities for carbon off-setting or mitigation. The provision of recycling bins will have no significant contribution to the Councils resilience to climate change impacts such as bad weather.

Health and well being

The use of bins rather than boxes will reduce the bending and lifting involved in presenting waste for recycling and benefit residents who have difficulty with this activity, further they will assist the operational staff regarding manual handling and improve health and safety for operational crews.



Scrutiny at Part One screening stage

People involved	Signatures	Date
<i>Lead officer carrying out the screening</i>		14 th December 2021
<i>Any internal service area support*</i>		
<i>Any external support**</i> Mrs Lois Dale, Rurality and Equalities Specialist		14 th December 2021

**This refers to other officers within the service area*

****This refers to support external to the service but within the Council, e.g., the Rurality and Equalities Specialist, the Feedback and Insight Team, performance data specialists, Climate Change specialists, and Public Health colleagues**

Sign off at Part One screening stage

Name	Signatures	Date
<i>Lead officer's name</i>		14 th December 2021
<i>Accountable officer's name</i>		17 th December 2021

****This may either be the Head of Service or the lead officer***

B. Detailed Screening Assessment

Aims of the service change and description
<p>The aim of this service change is to provide a 240-litre wheeled bin for recycling to all Shropshire households that request one. The bins will be an alternative to the boxes currently used to present recyclable glass bottles and jars, metal containers, and plastic containers. Feedback from Shropshire residents indicates that this will make recycling more convenient and will also increase the basic capacity available for these waste streams. As a result, there will be a reduction in the amount of Shropshire waste sent for disposal and an increase in the amount recycled.</p> <p>Veolia operate the kerbside recycling collections on behalf of Shropshire Council. The waste is collected fortnightly in two waste streams, a paper and card mixture using a blue bag, and a plastic, glass, and metal mixture using 55 litre boxes.</p> <p>The provision of a 240-litre wheeled bin to replace the recycling boxes would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increase the total basic container capacity for plastic, glass, and metal from 110 litres to 240 litres • make the separation and storage of that waste stream more convenient for residents • reduce the amount of windblown litter from the boxes. • Improve manual handling for residents and waste and recycling crews.

Intended audiences and target groups for the service change

The service change will be targeted at every Shropshire household where it is practical to exchange a bin for kerbside boxes to present waste for recycling. For households for whom the design or position of their property makes it impractical to use a bin for recycling, sacks will continue to be used for residual/recycling and garden waste collections.

Evidence used for screening of the service change

A customer satisfaction survey for the waste service conducted in 2018 included the question “What would make it easier to recycle at home?” 45% of the responses stated that this would be achieved using a wheeled bin for recycling.

For several years there has been consistent feedback on the Council’s social media channels from residents suggesting a bin for plastics, glass, and cans would reduce wind-blown litter from the open boxes currently used to collect these waste streams from the kerbside.

Further to this local interest, the latest government recycling tables for English Local Authorities covering 2019/20, show that all of the top five performing Councils (Three Rivers, Vale of White Horse, South Oxfordshire, East Riding of Yorkshire, and St. Albans) use a bin for collecting dry recycling. This group of authorities are predominantly rural in nature, particularly the East Riding of Yorkshire which is a large and sparsely populated Unitary Authority similar to Shropshire, indicating that a move to bins can be successfully executed.

Specific consultation and engagement with intended audiences and target groups for the service change

Whilst there has not been specific consultation with households on this matter since 2018, the consistent feedback referred to above indicates that there would be support from households for this move to bins.

Engagement at senior level with Veolia with regard to workforce health and well being indicates that the use of bins would be popular with the crews and safer due to the reduction in bending and lifting. In terms of consultation, Veolia report that two thirds of the workforce already successfully use bins to collect refuse and organic waste and that it does not therefore present any challenges due to changes in practice. An action to assess positive health and well-being impacts of the change would be to invite feedback from the workforce through established staff communication channels e.g. team meetings and report this back to the Council accordingly.

Initial equality impact assessment by grouping (Initial health impact assessment is included below)

Please rate the impact that you perceive the service change is likely to have on a group, through stating this in the relevant column.

Please state if it is anticipated to be neutral (no impact) and add any extra notes that you think might be helpful for readers.

Protected Characteristic groupings and other groupings in Shropshire	High negative impact <i>Part Two ESIIA required</i>	High positive impact <i>Part One ESIIA required</i>	Medium positive or negative impact <i>Part One ESIIA required</i>	Low positive, negative, or neutral impact (please specify) <i>Part One ESIIA required</i>
<u>Age</u> (please include children, young people, young people leaving care, people of working age, older people. Some people may belong to more than one group e.g., a child or young person for whom there are safeguarding concerns e.g., an older person with disability)			Y Making service easier to use by reduced bending and lifting associated with kerbside boxes	
<u>Disability</u> (please include mental health conditions and syndromes; hidden disabilities including autism and Crohn's disease; physical and sensory disabilities or impairments; learning disabilities; Multiple Sclerosis; cancer; and HIV)			Y Making service easier to use by reduced bending and lifting associated with kerbside boxes	
<u>Gender re-assignment</u> (please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				Y This service change is not anticipated to impact specifically on this group
<u>Marriage and Civil Partnership</u> (please include associated aspects: caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				Y This service change is not anticipated to impact specifically on this group
<u>Pregnancy and Maternity</u> (please include associated aspects: safety, caring			Y	

responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)			Making service easier to use by reduced bending and lifting associated with kerbside boxes	
Race (please include ethnicity, nationality, culture, language, Gypsy, Traveller)				Y This service change is not anticipated to impact specifically on this group
Religion and belief (please include Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism, Nonconformists; Rastafarianism; Shinto, Sikhism, Taoism, Zoroastrianism, and any others)				Y This service change is not anticipated to impact specifically on this group
Sex (this can also be viewed as relating to gender. Please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				Y This service change is not anticipated to impact specifically on this group
Sexual Orientation (please include associated aspects: safety; caring responsibility; potential for bullying and harassment)				Y This service change is not anticipated to impact specifically on this group
Other: Social Inclusion (please include families and friends with caring responsibilities; households in poverty; people for whom there are safeguarding concerns; people you consider to be vulnerable; people with health inequalities; refugees and asylum seekers; rural communities; veterans and serving members of the armed forces and their families)				Y This service change is not anticipated to impact specifically on this group

Initial health and wellbeing impact assessment by category

Please rate the impact that you perceive the service change is likely to have with regard to health and wellbeing, through stating this in the relevant column. Please state if it is anticipated to be neutral (no impact) and add any extra notes that you think might be helpful for readers.

Health and wellbeing: individuals and communities in Shropshire	High negative impact <i>Part Two HIA required</i>	High positive impact	Medium positive or negative impact	Low positive negative or neutral impact (please specify)
<p>Will the proposal have a <i>direct impact</i> on an individual's health, mental health and wellbeing?</p> <p>For example, would it cause ill health, affecting social inclusion, independence and participation?</p> <p>.</p>				<p>Low positive impact on individual independence as bins are easier to move than boxes.</p>
<p>Will the proposal <i>indirectly impact</i> an individual's ability to improve their own health and wellbeing?</p> <p>For example, will it affect their ability to be physically active, choose healthy food, reduce drinking and smoking?</p> <p>.</p>				<p>Neutral impact</p>
<p>Will the policy have a <i>direct impact</i> on the community - social, economic and environmental living conditions that would impact health?</p> <p>For example, would it affect housing, transport, child development, education, employment opportunities, availability of green space or climate change mitigation?</p> <p>.</p>				<p>Low positive impact to climate change mitigation due to diversion of waste from disposal to recycling.</p>
<p>Will there be a likely change in <i>demand</i> for or access to health and social care services?</p> <p>For example: Primary Care, Hospital Care, Community</p>				<p>Neutral Impact</p>

Services, Mental Health, Local Authority services including Social Services?				
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Identification of likely impact of the service change in terms of other considerations including climate change and economic or societal impacts

The key climate change benefit of this proposal is the opportunity to divert more waste from disposal to recycling. This move will reduce the carbon impacts of the manufacturing process for packaging by replacing the resource intensive extraction and processing of virgin raw materials with containers made entirely or in part with recycled material.

Recycling makes a very significant contribution to the Council's overall carbon performance, and this is recorded each year as part of Veolia's annual report. The measurement is made using the industry standard WRATE monitoring tool which evaluates the positive and negative carbon impacts for all aspects of the waste management process. In 2020 this calculation identified a total carbon saving of -30,184,043 kg CO2 equivalent. This was a further improvement on the figure for 2019 (-27,059,495 kg CO2 equivalent), largely due to an increase in the plastics, glass, and cans collected from the kerbside.

As stated previously, the provision of a bin will increase the collection capacity for this waste stream, and make the service more convenient for residents, both of which are likely to improve the carbon performance of the waste contract and of the Council as a whole. However, we cannot at this stage be definitive on the expected increase in recycling tonnage, but we can estimate the improved carbon performance in a similar scenario of a 5% increase in plastic, cans, and glass, recycling which would equate to a reduced carbon impact of -241,000 CO2 equivalent.

Guidance Notes

1. Legal Context

It is a legal requirement for local authorities to assess the equality and human rights impact of changes proposed or made to services. It is up to us as an authority to decide what form our equality impact assessment may take. By way of illustration, some local authorities focus more overtly upon human rights; some include safeguarding. It is about what is considered to be needed in a local authority's area, in line with local factors such as demography and strategic objectives as well as with the national legislative imperatives.

Carrying out these impact assessments helps us as a public authority to ensure that, as far as possible, we are taking actions to meet the general equality duty placed on us by the Equality Act 2010, and to thus demonstrate that the three equality aims are integral to our decision making processes.

These are: eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advancing equality of opportunity; and fostering good relations.

These screening assessments for any proposed service change go to Cabinet as part of the committee report, or occasionally direct to Full Council, unless they are ones to do with Licensing, in which case they go to Strategic Licensing Committee.

Service areas would ordinarily carry out a screening assessment, or Part One equality impact assessment. This enables energies to be focussed on review and monitoring and ongoing evidence collection about the positive or negative impacts of a service change upon groupings in the community, and for any adjustments to be considered and made accordingly.

These screening assessments are recommended to be undertaken at timely points in the development and implementation of the proposed service change.

For example, an ESHIA would be a recommended course of action before a consultation. This would draw upon the evidence available at that time, and identify the target audiences, and assess at that initial stage what the likely impact of the service change could be across the Protected Characteristic groupings and our tenth category of Social Inclusion. This ESHIA would set out intended actions to engage with the groupings, particularly those who are historically less likely to engage in public consultation eg young people, as otherwise we would not know their specific needs.

A second ESHIA would then be carried out after the consultation, to say what the feedback was, to set out changes proposed as a result of the feedback, and to say where responses were low and what the plans are to engage with groupings who did not really respond. This ESHIA would also draw more upon actions to review impacts in order to mitigate the negative and accentuate the positive. Examples of this approach include the Great Outdoors Strategy, and the Economic Growth Strategy 2017-2021

Meeting our Public Sector Equality Duty through carrying out these ESHIAs is very much about using them as an opportunity to demonstrate ongoing engagement across groupings and to thus visibly show we are taking what is called due regard of the needs of people in protected characteristic groupings

If the screening indicates that there are likely to be significant negative impacts for groupings within the community, the service area would need to carry out a full report, or Part Two assessment. This will enable more evidence to be collected that will help the service area to reach an informed opinion.

In practice, Part Two or Full Screening Assessments have only been recommended twice since 2014, as the ongoing mitigation of negative equality impacts should serve to keep them below the threshold for triggering a Full Screening Assessment.

The expectation is that Full Screening Assessments in regard to Health Impacts may occasionally need to be undertaken, but this would be very much the exception rather than the rule.

2. Council Wide and Service Area Policy and Practice on Equality, Social Inclusion and Health

This involves taking an equality and social inclusion approach in planning changes to services, policies, or procedures, including those that may be required by Government.

The decisions that you make when you are planning a service change need to be recorded, to demonstrate that you have thought about the possible equality impacts on communities and to show openness and transparency in your decision-making processes.

This is where Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessments (ESHIA) come in. Where you carry out an ESHIA in your service area, this provides an opportunity to show:

- What evidence you have drawn upon to help you to recommend a strategy or policy or a course of action to Cabinet.
- What target groups and audiences you have worked with to date.
- What actions you will take in order to mitigate any likely negative impact upon a group or groupings, and enhance any positive effects for a group or groupings; and
- What actions you are planning to review the impact of your planned service change.

The formal template is there not only to help the service area but also to act as a stand-alone for a member of the public to read. The approach helps to identify whether or not any new or significant changes to services, including policies, procedures, functions, or projects, may have an adverse impact on a particular group of people, and whether the human rights of individuals may be affected.

This assessment encompasses consideration of social inclusion. This is so that we are thinking as carefully and completely as possible about all Shropshire groups and communities, including people in rural areas and people or households that we may describe as vulnerable.

Examples could be households on low incomes or people for whom there are safeguarding concerns, as well as people in what are described as the nine 'protected characteristics' of groups of people in our population, e.g., Age. Another specific vulnerable grouping is veterans and serving members of the Armed Forces, who face particular challenges with regard to access to Health, to Education, and to Housing.

We demonstrate equal treatment to people who are in these groups and to people who are not, through having what is termed 'due regard' to their needs and views

when developing and implementing policy and strategy and when commissioning, procuring, arranging, or delivering services.

When you are not carrying out an ESHIA, you still need to demonstrate and record that you have considered equality in your decision-making processes. It is up to you what format you choose.-You could use a checklist, an explanatory note, or a document setting out our expectations of standards of behaviour, for contractors to read and sign. It may well not be something that is in the public domain like an ESHIA, but you should still be ready for it to be made available.

Both the approaches sit with a manager, and the manager has to make the call, and record the decision made on behalf of the Council. Help and guidance is also available via the Commissioning Support Team, either for data, or for policy advice from the Rurality and Equalities Specialist. Here are some examples to get you thinking.

Carry out an ESHIA:

- If you are building or reconfiguring a building.
- If you are planning to reduce or remove a service.
- If you are consulting on a policy or a strategy.
- If you are bringing in a change to a process or procedure that involves other stakeholders and the wider community as well as particular groupings

For example, there may be a planned change to a leisure facility. This gives you the chance to look at things like flexible changing room provision, which will maximise positive impacts for everyone. A specific grouping that would benefit would be people undergoing gender reassignment

Carry out an equality and social inclusion approach:

- If you are setting out how you expect a contractor to behave with regard to equality, where you are commissioning a service or product from them.
- If you are setting out the standards of behaviour that we expect from people who work with vulnerable groupings, such as taxi drivers that we license.
- If you are planning consultation and engagement activity, where we need to collect equality data in ways that will be proportionate and non-intrusive as well as meaningful for the purposes of the consultation itself.
- If you are looking at services provided by others that help the community, where we need to demonstrate a community leadership approach

For example, you may be involved in commissioning a production to tour schools or appear at a local venue, whether a community hall or somewhere like Theatre Severn. The production company should be made aware of our equality policies and our expectation that they will seek to avoid promotion of potentially negative stereotypes. Specific groupings that could be affected include: Disability, Race, Religion and Belief, and Sexual Orientation. There is positive impact to be gained from positive portrayals and use of appropriate and respectful language in regard to these groupings in particular.

3. Council wide and service area policy and practice on health and wellbeing

This is a relatively new area to record within our overall assessments of impacts, for individual and for communities, and as such we are asking service area leads to consider health and wellbeing impacts, much as they have been doing during 2020-2021, and to look at these in the context of direct and indirect impacts for individuals and for communities. A better understanding across the Council of these impacts will also better enable the Public Health colleagues to prioritise activities to reduce health inequalities in ways that are evidence based and that link effectively with equality impact considerations and climate change mitigation.

Health in All Policies – Health Impact Assessment

Health in All Policies is an upstream approach for health and wellbeing promotion and prevention, and to reduce health inequalities. The Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is the supporting mechanism

- Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is the technical name for a common-sense idea. It is a process that considers the wider effects of local policies, strategies and initiatives and how they, in turn, may affect people's health and wellbeing.
- Health Impact Assessment is a means of assessing both the positive and negative health impacts of a policy. It is also a means of developing good evidence-based policy and strategy using a structured process to review the impact.
- A Health Impact Assessment seeks to determine how to maximise health benefits and reduce health inequalities. It identifies any unintended health consequences. These consequences may support policy and strategy or may lead to suggestions for improvements.
- An agreed framework will set out a clear pathway through which a policy or strategy can be assessed and impacts with outcomes identified. It also sets out the support mechanisms for maximising health benefits.

The embedding of a Health in All Policies approach will support Shropshire Council through evidence-based practice and a whole systems approach, in achieving our corporate and partnership strategic priorities. This will assist the Council and partners in promoting, enabling and sustaining the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities whilst reducing health inequalities.

Individuals

Will the proposal have a *direct impact* on health, mental health and wellbeing?

For example, would it cause ill health, affecting social inclusion, independence and participation?

Will the proposal directly affect an individual's ability to improve their own health and wellbeing?

This could include the following: their ability to be physically active e.g., being able to use a cycle route; to access food more easily; to change lifestyle in ways that are of positive impact for their health.

An example of this could be that you may be involved in proposals for the establishment of safer walking and cycling routes (e.g., green highways), and changes to public transport that could encourage people away from car usage. and increase the number of journeys that they make on public transport, by foot or on bicycle or scooter. This could improve lives.

Will the proposal *indirectly impact* an individual's ability to improve their own health and wellbeing?

This could include the following: their ability to access local facilities e.g., to access food more easily, or to access a means of mobility to local services and amenities? (e.g. change to bus route)

Similarly to the above, an example of this could be that you may be involved in proposals for the establishment of safer walking and cycling routes (e.g. pedestrianisation of town centres), and changes to public transport that could encourage people away from car usage, and increase the number of journeys that they make on public transport, by foot or on bicycle or scooter. This could improve their health and well being.

Communities

Will the proposal directly or indirectly affect the physical health, mental health, and wellbeing of the wider community?

A *direct impact* could include either the causing of ill health, affecting social inclusion, independence and participation, or the promotion of better health.

An example of this could be that safer walking and cycling routes could help the wider community, as more people across groupings may be encouraged to walk more, and as there will be reductions in emission leading to better air quality.

An *indirect impact* could mean that a service change could indirectly affect living and working conditions and therefore the health and well being of the wider community.

An example of this could be: an increase in the availability of warm homes would improve the quality of the housing offer in Shropshire and reduce the costs for households of having a warm home in Shropshire. Often a health promoting approach also supports our agenda to reduce the level of Carbon Dioxide emissions and to reduce the impact of climate change.

Please record whether at this stage you consider the proposed service change to have a direct or an indirect impact upon communities.

Demand

Will there be a change in demand for or access to health, local authority and social care services?

For example: Primary Care, Hospital Care, Community Services, Mental Health and Social Services?

An example of this could be: a new housing development in an area would affect demand for primary care and local authority facilities and services in that location and surrounding areas. If the housing development does not factor in consideration of availability of green space and safety within the public realm, further down the line there could be an increased demand upon health and social care services as a result of the lack of opportunities for physical recreation, and reluctance of some groupings to venture outside if they do not perceive it to be safe.

For further information on the use of ESHIAs: please contact your head of service or contact Mrs Lois Dale, Rurality and Equalities Specialist and Council policy support on equality, via telephone 01743 258528, or email lois.dale@shropshire.gov.uk.

For further guidance on public health policy considerations: please contact Amanda Cheeseman Development Officer in Public Health, via telephone 01743 253164 or email amanda.cheeseman@shropshire.gov.uk

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<u>Committee and Date</u>
Council
13 January 2022

<u>Item</u>
Public

WEST MERCIA YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2021/22

Responsible Officer

e-mail: tanya.miles@shropshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01743
255811

Fax

1.0 Synopsis

- 1.1 The Youth Justice Plan sets out how youth justice services across West Mercia are structured and resourced and outlines key actions to address risks to service delivery and improvement.
- 1.2 The Youth Justice Plan is endorsed by the Council annually.

2.0 Executive Summary

- 2.1 Under section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 each Local Authority has a duty to produce a Youth Justice Plan outlining how youth justice services in their area are provided and funded.
- 2.2 The West Mercia Youth Justice Plan is prepared on behalf of Herefordshire Council, Shropshire Council, Telford and Wrekin Council and Worcestershire County Council, and sets out how the West Mercia Youth Justice Service is structured and resourced
- 2.3 The plan contains a short review of 2020/21, commentary on the service's performance and sets out the priorities and an improvement plan for 2021/22.
- 2.4 The plan has been approved by the West Mercia Youth Justice Service Management Board and was submitted to the Youth Justice Board (YJB) in June 2021.

3.0 Recommendations

- 3.1 That the Youth Justice Plan as attached at Appendix A be recommended for approval by Council

REPORT

4.0 Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

4.1 The principal aim of the Youth Justice System is the prevention of offending and re-offending by children and young people. The Youth Justice Plan sets out an action plan to address the significant risks identified to future service delivery and improvement.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 These are covered by the existing budgetary contribution

6.0 Climate Change Appraisal

6.1 Although this report does not have any direct impact on the Council's climate change agenda, it is recognised that the operation of the youth justice service does have an environmental impact and consideration is made to reducing waste and resources where possible. The Shropshire Team is moving to new premises early in 2022, which will allow contact with children on site, reducing the number of car journeys undertaken by staff.

7.0 Background

7.1 Under section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 each Local Authority has a duty to produce a Youth Justice Plan setting out how youth justice services in their area are provided and funded and how the Youth Justice Service for the area is resourced and composed, the plan is submitted to the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB).

7.2 The Youth justice Plan is prepared on an annual basis on behalf of Herefordshire Council, Shropshire Council, Telford and Wrekin Council and Worcestershire County Council. The basic plan preparation is undertaken by West Mercia Youth Justice Service according to the deadlines and guidance from the YJB.

7.3 The annual Youth Justice Plan sets out how the service is structured and resourced and outlines the 2021/22 improvement action plan for the service addressing the priorities agreed by the management board. A short review of 2020/21 and commentary on the service's performance against the national youth justice indicators is also

provided along with some specific data on Shropshire at appendix A.
The key priorities are:

OUR PEOPLE

- 1.1 Rebuilding Teams and Increasing Staff Morale following Covid-19 working arrangements
- 1.2 Promoting staff engagement in service development and improvement

OUR PARTNERSHIPS

- 2.1 Strengthening opportunities for emotional and mental health support for our service users
- 2.2 Improving joint and integrated work with partner agencies

OUR PRACTICE AND PERFORMANCE

- 3.1 Strengthening our Pathways, Intervention and Risk Planning
- 3.2 Strengthening and increasing restorative approaches
- 3.3 Promoting and understanding the child first approach in our practice
- 3.4 Improving our resettlement offer

OUR GOVERNANCE

- 4.1 How we hear and respond to the voice of the child, our stakeholders and staff
- 4.2 Understanding and Communicating Our Vision, principles and priorities
- 4.3 Responding to national and local standards, guidance and learning

COVID-19 SERVICE RECOVERY AND TRANSFORMATION

- 7.4 Actions addressing each of the priorities are also included in the delivery plan in section 4.10 of the plan.
- 7.5 The West Mercia Youth Justice Plan was agreed at the West Mercia Youth Justice Service Management Board on 12th May 2021 and was submitted to the YJB on 30th June 2021.

8.0 Additional Information

- 8.1 The youth justice service is subject to three national indicators. Performance against the indicators is outlined in the plan. The Shropshire specific information is set out on pages 23 to 25 of the plan.

- 8.2 The first indicator is the number of first time entrants to the youth justice system (FTE) indicator which is expressed as the number of first time entrants to the youth justice per 100,000 youth population. The FTE rate was 171 for Shropshire in 2019. The Shropshire rate for the year is lower than for West Mercia, 187, and for England, 211.
- 8.3 The second indicator is about the use of custody, which is measured as the number of custodial sentences per 1,000 youth population. The use of custody performance for Shropshire in 2020 was 0.07, which is the same as for West Mercia, and lower than for England at 0.17.
- 8.4 The third indicator is re-offending. There are two measures which both measure re-offending in the same cohort of offenders over a 12 month period following the youth justice sanction that placed that young person in the cohort. The first, the frequency rate, is the average number of re-offences per offender who re-offends. The second measure is the proportion (%) of the cohort who re-offended. Due to the way the Ministry of Justice measure this indicator there is a delay in the results being published. The most recent data available for the preparation of the plan was for the cohort identified in 2018, whose re-offending was tracked for 12 month period until December 2019.
- 8.5 The frequency measure for Shropshire for this period was 3.00 offences per re-offender which is less than the England rate of 3.93, and similar to the West Mercia rate of 2.91. The proportion of the cohort re-offending was 21.1%, which is lower than West Mercia, 23.7% and significantly better than the England performance of 38.9%.

9.0 **Conclusions**

- 9.1 A youth justice plan is prepared annually, approved by West Mercia Youth Justice Service management board and submitted to the YJB. The plan requires approval from Shropshire Council.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Section 40

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Cllr Kirstie Hurst-Knight

Local Member

All Members

Appendices

Appendix A – West Mercia Youth Justice Plan 2021/22

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WEST MERCIA YOUTH JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP



YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN



2021/22



Preface

Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (the Act) youth offending partnerships have a statutory duty to produce an annual youth justice plan which is submitted to the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales in accordance with the directions of the Secretary of State. The purpose of the plan is to outline how statutory youth justice services, as defined in the Act, are structured, funded and delivered in the area. All statutory youth justice services within West Mercia are delivered directly or commissioned by West Mercia Youth Justice Service.

This plan outlines the vision and priorities for West Mercia Youth Justice Service and outlines key actions to be undertaken during 2021/22.

The content and format of the plan has been informed by and prepared in accordance with “Youth Justice Plans: YJB Practice Guidance March 2021” issued on behalf of the Secretary of State by the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales on 30th March 2021.

Contents

1.0	INTRODUCTION	2
1.1	Approval of the Plan	2
2.0	YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 21/22 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
2.1	Context	3
2.2	Priorities and Key Actions	3
3.0	REVIEW OF 2020/21	5
3.1	Youth Justice Outcome 2020	5
3.2	Performance	7
3.3	Views of Service Users	8
3.4	Implementation of Revised Joint Decision Arrangements for OoCD	8
3.5	National Standards Self-Assessment	9
3.6	Covid-19	9
4.0	YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2021/22	11
4.1	Vision and underlying principles	11
4.2	Risks and Challenges to Service Delivery	11
4.3	Child First Approach	12
4.4	Work with Parents/Carers	12
4.5	Safeguarding	12
4.6	Exploitation, Peer on Peer Abuse and Serious Violence	12
4.7	Ethnic Disproportionality	13
4.8	Links to the YJB Strategic Plan	13
4.9	Priorities 2021/22	13
4.10	Delivery Plan 2021/22	16
APPENDICES		
	Appendix 1 – Resources	17
	Appendix 2 – Governance, Leadership, Partnerships and Structure	18
	Appendix 3 – Area information – Herefordshire	20
	Appendix 4 – Area information – Shropshire	23
	Appendix 5 – Area information – Telford and Wrekin	26
	Appendix 6 – Area information – Worcestershire	29

1.0 Introduction

Introduction from Karen Bradshaw, Chair of West Mercia Youth Justice Service Management Board



West Mercia Youth Justice Service (WMYJS) is partnership between the Local Authorities, National Probation Service, West Mercia Police, NHS organisations across West Mercia and the Office for the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner. The service is accountable to the WMYJS Management Board, comprised of senior officers from each partner agency. The service is hosted, on behalf of the Local Authorities and the partnership by the Office of the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC).

The previous year has been difficult due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the restrictions placed on the service as a result and the service was one of seven selected by HMI Probation for a thematic inspection on how YOTs had responded to Covid-19. The thematic inspection was positive about the ways in which services had adapted their delivery models and ensured meaningful engagement with children. From our local monitoring the board have been pleased to note that there has been no deterioration of performance in terms of frequency of contact with children and timeliness of key processes. Service development has also continued during this period, with the full implementation of the revised joint decision arrangements for out of court disposals during 2020, the development of a service website and piloting an approach for parent support in partnership with a third sector agency.

Service performance against the three national outcome indicators has improved on previous years. The performance in relation to the rate of young people receiving a custodial sentence has improved between 2019 and 2020 from 0.13 to 0.07 custodial sentences per 1,000 youth population, and this rate is significantly below the national rate of 0.14. The proportion of young people re-offending (cohort identified in 2018) is 23.7% which is significantly lower than the national rate at 38.4%, and an improvement on the previous year when it was at 25.3%.

The first time entrant (FTE) rate for the period 2019 is at 187 FTE per 100,000 youth population and represents a major improvement on the previous year when it was at 297, and for the first time West Mercia rate is lower than the national rate which is 211 for the same period.

For 21/22 the partnership has continued to identify priorities based on the four themes of;

Our People
Our Partnerships
Our Performance, Quality and Practice; and
Our Governance

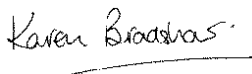
With an additional priority of Covid-19 recovery and transformation.

The youth justice partnership recognise that we do not work in isolation in reducing offending by children and improving the outcomes for children who have entered or at risk of entering the youth justice system. The board are committed to promoting better joint work between the service and other agencies at a local level, and this will particularly be the case in tackling growing issue of criminal exploitation and county lines type activity.

1.1 Approval of the Plan

This plan was approved at the West Mercia Youth Justice Service Management Board meeting held on 12th May 2021.

Signed:



Date: 12th May 2021

2.0 Youth Justice Plan 21/22 Executive Summary

2.1 Context

The previous year has been challenging due to delivering the services throughout the Covid-19 lock down periods and associated restrictions. This has resulted in three continuing risks to service delivery; increased caseloads, additional demands on operational managers and continuing Covid-19 secure working arrangements effect on staff and potential negative effect on effective case management. There are mitigations in place as part of the service's recovery plan.

The YJB vision is of a child first youth justice system, and during 21/22 the service will be working to further understand and embed a child first approach in practice. A particular model of support for parents provided by a third sector organisation to parents will be piloted.

The service will continue to contribute to partnership work in order to address exploitation and peer on peer abuse. Although serious youth violence is currently not a significant issue, the service will monitor data in relation to serious violence and will respond accordingly if this becomes a more prevalent or a serious issue in West Mercia.

Although there is not a significant over representation of BAME children in the overall offending population in West Mercia, we recognise that there needs to be a more granular level of analysis, and there are actions to address this in the National Standards improvement plan.

2.2 Priorities and Key Actions 21/22

The youth justice partnership has identified the following priorities and key actions for 2021/22.

1 OUR PEOPLE

1.1 Rebuilding Teams and Increasing Staff Morale following Covid-19 working arrangements

- *Team development training*
- *Staff conference*
- *Staff recognition*

1.2 Promoting staff engagement in service development and improvement

- *Staff involvement in Covid-19 recovery*
- *Process for staff contribution to leadership team decision making*
- *Internal communication strategy*

2 OUR PARTNERSHIPS

2.1 Strengthening opportunities for emotional and mental health support for our service users

- *Review of health contribution to the service*
- *Implementation of the emotional and mental health improvement plan*
- *Strengthening service links with the Liaison and Diversion Schemes*

2.2 Improving joint and integrated work with partner agencies

- *Providing social care access to youth justice service information systems*
- *Strengthening transition to adult services arrangements with the Probation Service*
- *Reviewing and agreeing the remand strategy with the local authorities*

3 OUR PRACTICE AND PERFORMANCE

3.1 Strengthening our Pathways, Intervention and Risk Planning

- *Staff training*
- *Developing programmes*

3.2 Strengthening and increasing restorative approaches

- *Review how we deliver victim liaison and restorative processes*
- *Revise policy and guidance*

3.3 Promoting and understanding the child first approach in our practice

- *Training and awareness*
- *Developing a service child first policy*

3.4 Improving our resettlement offer

- *Resettlement deep dive report*
- *Resettlement policy*

4 OUR GOVERNANCE

4.1 How we hear and respond to the voice of the child, our stakeholders and staff

- *Review how the management board hear the voice of the service users*
- *Relaunch the staff survey*

4.2 Understanding and Communicating Our Vision, principles and priorities

- *Promoting the vision, principles and priorities in the service*
- *Linking appraisals to the priorities and principles*

4.3 Responding to national and local standards, guidance and learning

- *Implement the National Standards improvement plan*
- *Develop process to measure impact of learning from reviews and audits*

5 COVID-19 SERVICE RECOVERY AND TRANSFORMATION

- *Continued implementation of the recovery and transformation plan*

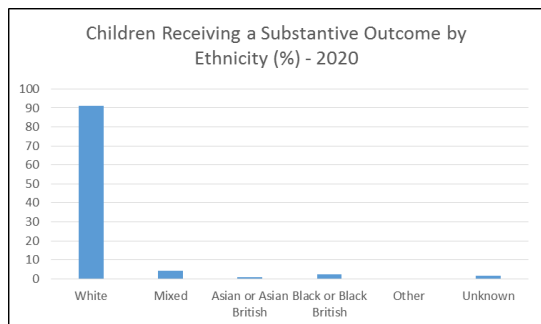
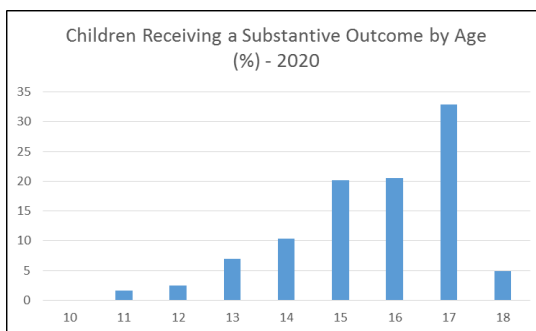
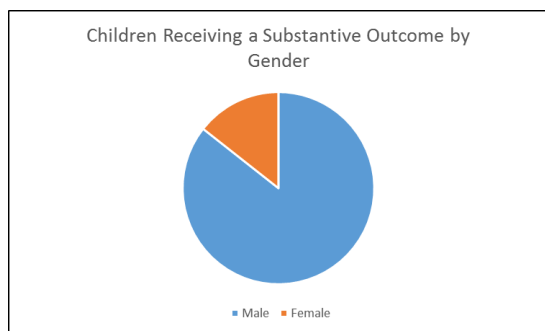
3.0 Review of 2020/21

3.1 Children Receiving Youth Justice Outcomes 2020

3.1.1 Substantive Youth Justice System Disposals 2020

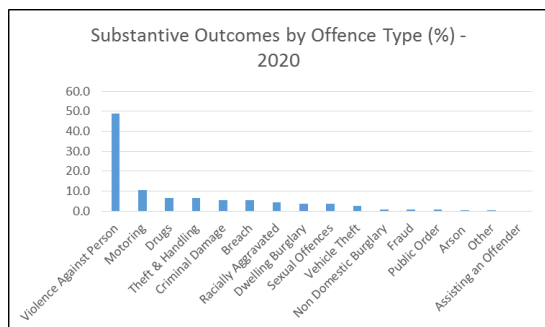
A total of 243 West Mercia children, were made subject to 277 substantive youth justice system disposals (cautions or convictions) during 2020. Of the children receiving substantive youth justice outcomes 14% were female and 86% male.

The majority, 79%, of children receiving substantive outcomes were aged 15 years or older. No 10 year olds were made subject to substantive outcome, and 11 and 12 year olds accounted for 4% of outcomes.

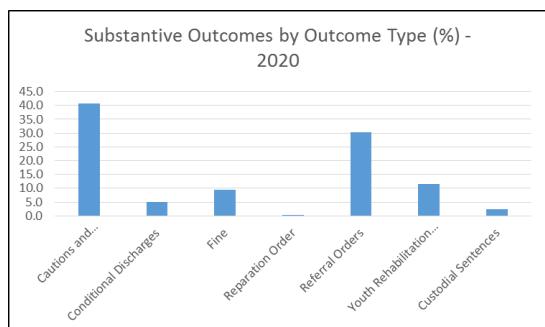


The proportion of children who received a substantive outcome who were white was 91%, with children from BAME groups accounting for 7% of outcomes. According to the mid 2011 population data (the latest available) BAME children accounted for 6% of the youth population in West Mercia.

Looked after children accounted for 19% of children receiving substantive outcomes.



Offences from the offence group of violence against the person accounted for the primary offence for 49% of the outcomes, motoring offences for 10%, drug related offences 7%, theft and handling 7%. These four offence group types accounting for 73% of all outcomes.

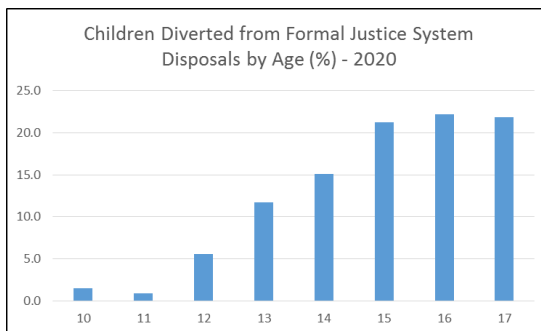
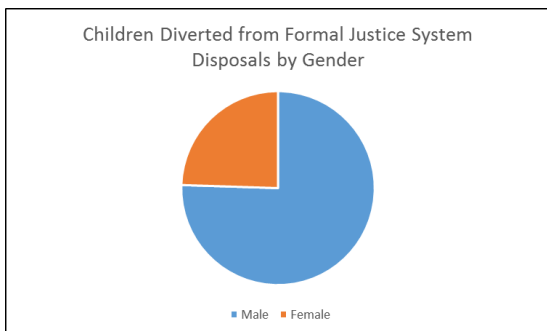


Youth cautions of all types (caution, caution supported by a voluntary intervention and conditional cautions) accounted for 41% of outcomes, Referral Orders 30% of outcomes and Youth Rehabilitation Orders 12% of outcomes. Custodial sentences formed 2.5% of outcomes.

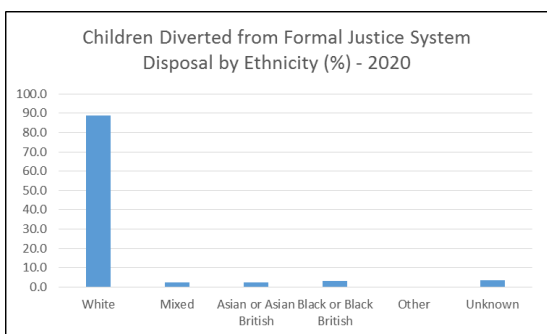
3.1.2 Children Diverted from Formal Youth Justice System Disposals

Children who have admitted an offence and who might be suitable for an out of court disposal are referred to a joint agency decision panel, included in the range of options available to the joint agency panels are informal disposals, which allow for the matter to be dealt with without the child receiving a criminal record for that offence.

In 2020, 325 children were diverted from formal justice system disposals through the issuing of 338 informal disposals. Of the children receiving informal disposals 76% were male and 24% were female.

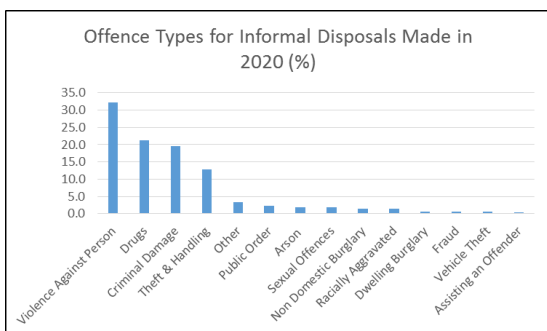


The majority, 65%, of children receiving informal disposals were aged 15 years or older. Children aged 12 and under accounted for 8% of the informal disposals including 10 year olds who accounted for 1%.



The proportion of children who received an informal disposal who were white was 89%, with children from BAME groups accounting for 7% of informal disposals. According to the mid 2011 population data (the latest available) BAME children accounted for 6% of the youth population in West Mercia.

Looked after children accounted for 4% of children diverted from formal justice system disposals.

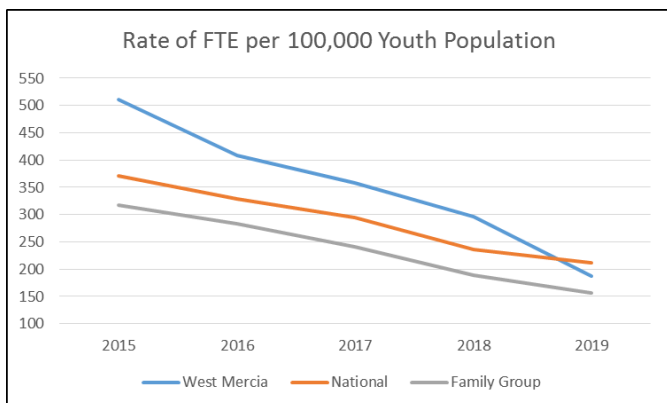


Offences from the offence group of violence against the person accounted for the primary offence for 32% of informal disposals, drug related offences for 21%, criminal damage 20% and theft and handling 13%. These four offence group types accounting for 86% of all informal disposals.

3.2 Performance

The Youth Justice Service is subject to three national outcome indicators:

(i) First Time Entrants



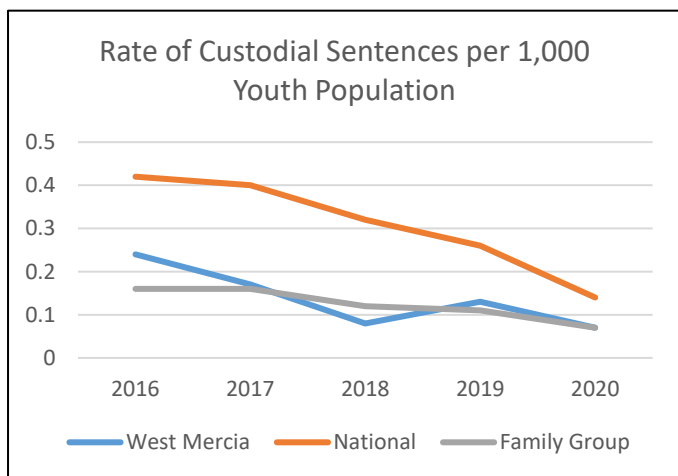
This measure is expressed as the number of first time entrants (young people receiving their first formal youth justice sanction, either a caution or conviction) per 100,000 youth population within a 12 month period. The lower the number the better the performance.

The most recent published data is for the year 2019, where the West Mercia performance was 187, compared to a national performance of 211 and statistical neighbour performance of 157. The rate of 187 is lower than the national performance for the first time and represents a significant improvement on the performance in the

previous year when the rate was 297. The gap between both the West Mercia rate and the other two rates has been reducing since 2017. The range of rates nationally is from 62 to 645, placing the West Mercia performance in the top quartile of the performance range.

A revised joint decision arrangement for out of court disposals was implemented in phases across the four local authority area in West Mercia between June 2019 and March 2020, this will have contributed to reduction during 2019, but is expected to have a more significant effect in the year 2020/21 following the full implementation.

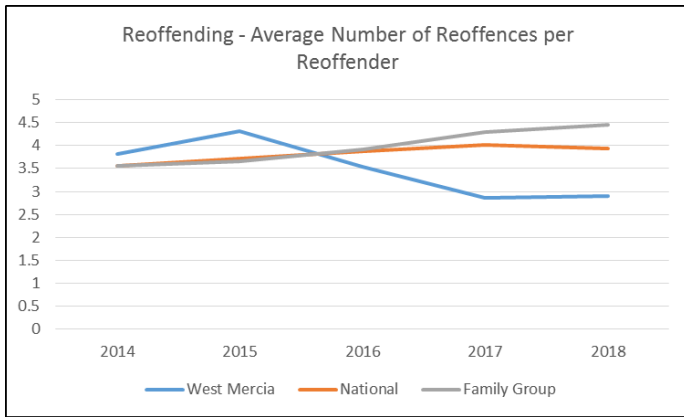
(i) Use of Custody



The use of custody indicator is expressed as the number of custodial sentences per 1,000 youth population within a 12 month period. The lower the rate the better the performance.

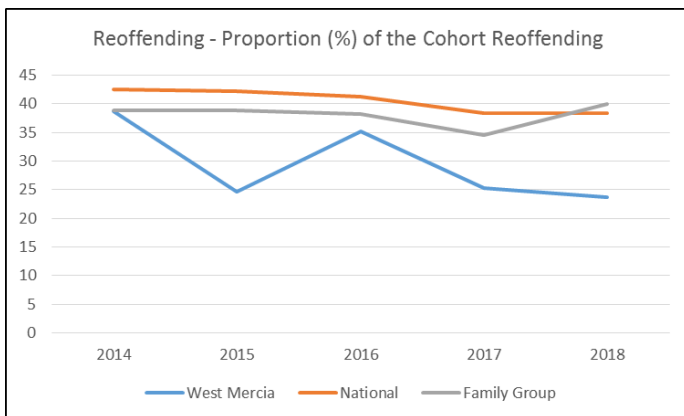
The most recently published data for this indicator is for 2020, where the West Mercia rate was 0.07, which compares favourably against the national rate, 0.17 and is the same as the statistical neighbour rate of 0.07. The range of rates nationally is between 0.00 and 0.55 placing the West Mercia performance in the top quartile of the performance range.

(ii) Reoffending



There are two measures for the re-offending indicator, both for the same cohort of offenders (all young people receiving a formal justice system disposal (caution or conviction) within a specified period of time). The cohort is then tracked for any re-offending within 12 months, the first measure (frequency measure) is the average number of re-offences per re-offender, and the second measure (binary measure) is the proportion of the cohort re-offending. For both measures a lower figure denotes better performance.

The most recently published data for this indicator is for the cohort identified in 2018.



The frequency measure for West Mercia is 2.91, which compares favourably against the national rate of 3.93 and statistical neighbour rate of 4.46. The range of rates nationally is from 2.00 to 8.97, placing the West Mercia in the top quartile of the performance range.

The binary measure for West Mercia is 23.7%, which compares favourably against the national rate of 38.4% and the statistical neighbour rate of 39.9%. The range of rates nationally is from 14.6% to 59.3% placing West Mercia in the top quartile of the performance range.

3.3 Service User Feedback

During 2020 the service has used an internet based survey, Viewpoint, to capture service user feedback. Responses to some key questions from the 70 surveys completed during 2020 are outlined below:-

- 85% of children said that the YOT took their views seriously
- 70% rated the service provided to them as very good
- 72% felt that they had enough say in what went into their intervention plan
- 97% said they got the help they needed to stop offending.
- 92% said they got the help they needed to feel happier about what they thought of themselves or what others thought of them
- 67% reported being a lot less likely to offend and 12% said they were a bit less likely

3.4 Implementation of Revised Joint Decision Arrangements for Out of Court Disposals

The revised joint decision arrangements for out of court disposals were fully implemented across the service during 2020. Now all decision making for children who have admitted committing an offence, unless excluded due seriousness of the offending, is through a joint agency panel led by the youth justice service and police, following an assessment by the youth justice service.

This revised process has brought into scope more children for joint decision making, and the panel has a range of informal disposals available to them allowing, where it is appropriate to do so, the panel to divert a child from formal justice system disposals. This will contribute to reducing the number of first time entrants to the youth justice system and contributes to the fourth tenet of the child first approach (see section 3.3).

3.5 National Standards Self-Assessment

The partnership submission on the readiness self-assessment in respect of the 2019 National Standards for Youth Justice was completed and submitted to the YJB in May 2020, along with the improvement plan.

We reached the following assessments for each standard:

NS 1: Out of Court Disposals	Strategic Standards: Requires Improvement
	Operational Standards: Requires Improvement
NS2: At Court	Strategic Standards: Requires Improvement
	Operational Standards: Requires Improvement
NS3: In the Community	Strategic Standards: Requires Improvement
	Operational Standards: Good
NS4: Secure Settings	Strategic Standards: Requires Improvement
	Operational Standards: Good
NS5: Transitions and Resettlement	Strategic Standards: Requires Improvement
	Operational Standards: Good

The assessment and evidence supporting the self-assessed results has subsequently been moderated by the YJB who found that the self-assessment offered an evidence based reflection of judgements against service standards.

Progress against the improvement plan is being monitored quarterly by the partnership management board and the continued implementation, review and revision of the National Standards action plan is included in the delivery plan for 21/22. Additional actions under other priority areas in the delivery plan will also contribute to meeting National Standards, in particular actions associated with improving resettlement practice and transitions from youth to adult services.

3.6 Covid-19

In March 2020 the service put in place a Covid-19 business continuity plan to ensure that the service could continue to offer a service to the children in the youth justice system, their families and victims. The plan centred on developing a range of methods to meaningfully engage with children remotely, although certain activities were suspended completely, in the main those which brought children together in groups or in contact with community groups. Partnership staff were not generally redeployed and remained within the youth justice service. The service put in place a Covid-19 operating plan for staff which has been regularly updated since.

West Mercia was one of seven YOTs select by HMI Probation for the thematic review of the work of youth offending services during the COVID-19 pandemic which took place in June and July 2020. The inspection was positive about the ways in which YOTs had adapted their service delivery models and methods of engaging children, with some children preferring or becoming better engaged through remote methods. The partnership took the learning from the inspection into account during the most recent lockdown, in particular ensuring the inclusion of youth justice service open cases in the vulnerable groups to be targeted for the offer of onsite schooling.

The partnership put in place a Covid-19 recovery plan which has led to the partial reopening of offices, increasing the number of face to contacts with children, assessments informed by home visits and reintroducing the activities that were initially suspended under the initial contingency plan. According to assessed needs and the child's ability to engage remotely, including having the equipment to do so, some remote engagement continues on a case by case basis, and as part of blended delivery model. The recovery plan has only been implemented to the point that Government restrictions have allowed.

The leadership team and management board have monitored key processes during the Covid-19 period, including frequency of contact with children and timeliness of panel meetings, high risk case planning meetings and assessments and performance against these measures has been good.

West Mercia Youth Justice Plan 21/22

The contingency plan has been kept under review and revised following changes in Government advice and restrictions, but the partnership is keen to look at service transformation based on the learning from the Covid-19 period, including those in terms of remote working for staff, the blended approach to service delivery to children and fostering and maintaining the spirit of creativity and innovation that was apparent in the early months of the lockdown. Covid-19 recovery and service transformation is one of our key priorities for 21/22, and will involve a full review and revision of the recovery and transformation plan.

4.0 Youth Justice Plan 2021/22

4.1 Vision and Underlying Principles

The West Mercia Youth Justice Partnership have agreed a vision statement and underpinning principles for the service following a joint workshop with the service's management team and a staff consultation.

Vision:

Together, preventing offending and improving lives

Underlying Principles:

- *Ensure that we secure best practice, innovation and outstanding quality in all we do*
- *Reducing demand by preventing offending and effectively managing the risks posed by those who have offended*
- *Offer the best value for money by combining resources*
- *Work with victims and communities to repair harm from offending*
- *Recognising the capacity of young people to grow and develop with the right support*
- *Listen to children's and victim's opinions and use them to shape what we do*
- *Building resilience within families and local communities*
- *Recognise the important role families play in preventing children from getting involved in crime*
- *Grow and sustain a positive and stable workforce*

One of our key priorities for 2021/22 is understanding and communicating our vision, principles and priorities.

4.2 Risks and Challenges to Service Delivery

The following risks to service delivery and development have been identified for 2021/22:-

1. Effective case management is compromised due to increased caseloads.
Some teams have experienced an increase in open cases, partly due to the full implementation of the revised joint decision making model for Out of Court Disposals during 2020 and due to the backlog of Court cases caused by first lockdown, now coming through the system in parallel with new cases.

The short term mitigation has been to increase capacity in those teams affected through the use temporary increases in hours for staff on less than full time contracts. This may be a temporary issue, but will need to be monitored, and if the changes in the balance of cases between the service teams is sustained, a reconfiguration of the distribution of resources between the teams will be required in the longer term.
2. Additional demands on operational managers leading to burn out or negatively impacting on their well-being; and
3. Additional demands on operational managers negatively impacting on timely service improvement activity.
It was a finding in the thematic inspection of YOTs response to Covid-19, that whilst caseloads for staff were manageable team managers have been stretched. Although travel time has been reduced, management supervision of staff and cases has taken much more time. This continues to be the case, with managers trying to balance these increased demands alongside their partnership and service development responsibilities.

Mitigations in place for risk 2, include the access to welfare support and occupational health services, agreement to defer non-priority service development work and the short term reduction of report requirements from the management board. Mitigations for risk 3 include a temporary increase in capacity in 21/22 to work on identified service development actions.

4. Effective case management compromised due to the effect of Covid-19 restrictions and working arrangements on service staff

The past year has affected staff differently, but the inability to bring teams together, other than by phone conferences has had a negative effect on staff morale and effective team working. As such the partnership had identified rebuilding teams and increasing staff morale as a key priority for 21/22 and actions are included in the delivery plan.

4.3 Child First Approach in Practice

The YJB's vision of a child first youth justice system is one where services:

- Prioritise the best interests of children and recognising their particular needs, capacities, rights and potential. All work is child-focused, developmentally informed, acknowledges structural barriers and meets responsibilities towards children
- Promote children's individual strengths and capacities to develop their pro-social identity for sustainable desistance, leading to safer communities and fewer victims. All work is constructive and future-focused, built on supportive relationships that empower children to fulfil their potential and make positive contributions to society
- Encourage children's active participation, engagement and wider social inclusion. All work is a meaningful collaboration with children and their carers
- Promote a childhood removed from the justice system, using pre-emptive prevention, diversion and minimal intervention. All work minimises criminogenic stigma from contact with the system

Even though activities can be identified which would demonstrate the service has begun to adopt a Child First approach, for example the implementation of the joint decision arrangements for Out of Court Disposals and where appropriate the diversion of children from formal justice system disposals, there is still much to do to before we could claim that a child first approach has been embedded in practice.

Promoting and understanding child first approach in our work has, therefore, been adopted as one of the 12 main priorities for the service for 2021/22.

4.4 Work with Parents and Carers

The service piloted an approach for support for parents of service users during the last quarter of 20/21, called Kitchen Table Talks, provided by a third sector organisation. The service is extending this pilot into the first six months of the 21/22.

4.5 Safeguarding

Safeguarding remains a key area of focus for the service. WMYJS has a key role in safeguarding young people, in terms of assessing and reducing the risk of harm to young people either from their own behaviour or the actions of others and reducing the risk of harm they may pose to others. The service continues to be active members of the children safeguarding partnership arrangements in each of the local authorities and there is a S11 action plan in place.

4.6 Exploitation, Peer on Peer Abuse and Serious Violence

County line type activity and child criminal exploitation has been identified as a growing issue across West Mercia. In 2020 the service identified 101 children at risk of county lines or criminal exploitation out of the 275 that had an assessment completed. The service will, through the pre-court joint decision making arrangements, seek to avoid the criminalisation of young people on the edges of this activity.

The service works as part of the child exploitation strategy and operation groups and the Serious Organised Crime Joint Agency Groups (SOCJAG) to address the issues of county lines type activity, organised crime group and gang
West Mercia Youth Justice Plan 21/22

activities. Exploitation is a priority across all four local authority areas and the service contributes to the partnership work in each of local authority areas, including Get Safe Strategic and Operational Groups in Worcestershire, the Child Exploitation Strategy and Operational Groups in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin and Herefordshire, and is a contributing partner in the work on Harmful Sexual Behaviour and peer on peer abuse in Herefordshire.

Serious violent crime is not a significant issue in West Mercia currently, however we recognise that this may become an emerging issue associated with serious organised crime and the service will, as a result, be developing weapon crime programmes. The service is a contributing partner in West Mercia Police's knife crime prevention programme, Steer Clear. The service will continue to monitor data in relation to serious violent crime and will respond accordingly if this becomes a more serious issue.

4.7 Ethnic Disproportionality

In West Mercia there is a small disproportion in the number of BAME children in the youth offending population over the percentage of BAME children within the youth population. BAME children make up 7% of the offending population but only 6% of the 10-17 year old population. Analysis of the BAME group shows that black children are over represented in the BAME offending population compared to the general population and Asian children are under-represented (2019 data).

Local analysis of cases dealt with through the joint decision making panels show that BAME children were diverted from formal justice system disposals in 57% of cases compared to white children, 40%. In terms of custodial remands in the period November 2019 to October 2020 there were 9 children made subject to 10 remands to YDA and one child was Black and 9 were White. In the same period there were 6 custodial sentences all were for White children. Given the low numbers of children made subject to custodial remands and sentences it is difficult to draw any firm conclusions in relation to any ethnic over representation at this stage in the system in West Mercia.

We recognise there needs to more granular level of analysis before we are able to identify any actions required to address any identified disproportionality within West Mercia and there are actions in the National Standards improvement plan to address this.

4.8 Links to the YJB Strategic Plan 2021-24

The vision identified in the YJB strategic plan for 2021 – 24 is for a child first youth justice system which sees children as children, treats them fairly and helps them to build on their strengths so they can make a constructive contribution to society. We will work during 21/22 to ensure we understand the child first approach and ensure that is translated into practice.

4.9 Priorities for 2021/22

Priorities

The youth justice partnership has identified the following priorities for 2021/22.

- 1 OUR PEOPLE
 - 1.1 Rebuilding Teams and Increasing Staff Morale following Covid-19 working arrangements
 - 1.2 Promoting staff engagement in service development and improvement
- 2 OUR PARTNERSHIPS
 - 2.1 Strengthening opportunities for emotional and mental health support for our service users
 - 2.2 Improving joint and integrated work with partner agencies
- 3 OUR PRACTICE AND PERFORMANCE
 - 3.1 Strengthening our Pathways, Intervention and Risk Planning
 - 3.2 Strengthening and increasing restorative approaches
 - 3.3 Promoting and understanding the child first approach in our practice

3.4 Improving our resettlement offer

4 OUR GOVERNANCE

4.1 How we hear and respond to the voice of the child, our stakeholders and staff

4.2 Understanding and Communicating Our Vision, principles and priorities

4.3 Responding to national and local standards, guidance and learning

5 COVID-19 SERVICE RECOVERY AND TRANSFORMATION

The Priorities in detail

OUR PEOPLE

1.1 Rebuilding Teams and Increasing Staff Morale following Covid-19 working arrangements

The contingencies put in place to deliver the service since March 2020 have had a detrimental effect on staff morale and the service teams. Working from home and remote working and management has affected staff in different ways and there has been no opportunity to bring whole teams together, other than through telephone conferencing. Since offices have been open to staff again the Covid-19 secure arrangements have meant that only small exclusive bubble groups have been able to go in at any one time. During 21/22 we will address this issue through team development training, staff recognition and a service conference.

1.2 Promoting staff engagement in service development and improvement

Staff surveys have identified that staff would like greater opportunity to contribute to decision making in the service and be better informed of decisions regarding service development. In 21/22 we will seek to involve staff in the Covid-19 recovery and transformation planning and investigate how staff are better able to contribute to leadership team discussions and decision making. We will put in place an internal communications plan.

OUR PARTNERSHIPS

2.1 Strengthening opportunities for emotional and mental health support for our service user

In 2020 57% of assessments on children in the service identified the child's emotional development and mental health as a factor against desistance. Following an emotional and mental health practice deep dive commissioned by the management board, and reported in July 2020, there is already an EMH action plan in place. In 21/22 we will continue to progress the action plan, review the health contribution in some of teams with the relevant clinical commissioning groups, provide staff training and develop our relationships with the Liaison and Diversion services across West Mercia.

2.2 Improving joint and integrated work with partner agencies

The service is always seeking to improve joint and integrated work with partner agencies. In particular in 21/22 we would seek to improve and agree a joint approach to remands with the local authorities and improve our transitions to adult services work with the Probation Service. The latter work will additionally contribute to the improvement plan for National Standard 5, Transitions.

OUR PRACTICE AND PERFORMANCE

3.1 Strengthening our Pathways, Intervention and Risk Planning

Scrutiny of practice has identified our intervention planning and risk planning to be an area for improvement. Through training we will identify a consistent view of what a good plan is, and through revised quality assurance processes drive and maintain improvements in planning. In addition to improving intervention planning we will seek to enhance the programmes available for staff to use and promote innovation and creativity.

3.2 Strengthening and increasing restorative approaches

We intend to review our arrangements for victim contact and delivery of restorative processes during 21/22, following the annual needs assessment identifying recording issues in respect of this work and a low use of direct restorative processes. Additionally in the staff survey undertaken to assist in informing the youth justice plan for 21/22, victim work and restorative approaches had the highest number of responses for an area of practice requiring development.

3.3 Promoting and understanding child first approach in our practice

The reasons for identifying this as one of our priorities for 2021/22 are well rehearsed in sections 3.3 and 3.6 of this plan.

3.4 Improving our resettlement offer

The service has recognised that resettlement is an area of practice that requires improvement and needs to be developed to make the service's resettlement offer more constructive. Work will include undertaking an audit and deep dive and the development of a policy and practice guidance. This will also contribute to our improvement plans for National Standard 5, Transitions.

OUR GOVERNANCE

4.1 How we hear and respond to the voice of the child, our stakeholders and staff

Although there is an end of order feedback process in place for children, we need to expand the feedback process for other service user groups. Some recent work piloted in West Mercia by a third sector organisation commissioned by the service has demonstrated the importance of seeking the views of parents and carers. In 21/22 we will identify, in particular, how the management board hears and takes account of the voice of the child, including their lived experience. We will also relaunch the staff survey and develop a process for the management board to receive feedback from the magistrates.

4.2 Understanding and Communicating Our Vision, principles and priorities

We need to ensure that the service staff and partners know what our vision, principles and priorities are, and how in particular the vision and underlying principles are translated into practice and impact on outcomes for children. This will be achieved through promoting these within the service and reinforcing through linking into appraisal objectives.

4.3 Responding to national and local standards, guidance and learning

Under this priority we will continue to implement and revise our national standards action plan, and develop a process of measuring the impact of learning from learning reviews and case audits on practice.

4.10 Delivery Plan 2021/22

Priority Area	OUR PEOPLE			
Sub Priority	Rebuilding Teams and Increasing Staff Morale following Covid-19 working arrangements		Promoting staff engagement in service development and improvement	
Planned Actions	Team development training Service Conference Developing a staff recognition scheme		Staff involvement in shaping post covid-19 service transformation Process for staff contribution to leadership team discussion/decisions Internal communication strategy	
Priority Area	OUR PARTNERSHIPS			
Sub Priority	Strengthening opportunities for emotional and mental health support for our service users		Improving joint and integrated work with partner agencies	
Planned Actions	Review of health needs and health provision to YJS with CCGs Implementation of EMH deep dive action plan Strengthen links/work with liaison and diversion		ChSC access to ChildView Developing and strengthening transition arrangements with NPS Joint YJS/Local Authority remand strategy	
Priority Area	OUR PRACTICE AND PERFORMANCE			
Sub Priority	Strengthening our Pathways, Intervention and Risk Planning	Strengthening and increasing restorative approaches	Promoting and understanding the child first approach in our practice	Improving our resettlement offer
Planned Actions	Training and development Revised QA approach Developing programmes and innovative approaches	Review the structure and approaches to deliver victim work and restorative approaches within the service to include, recording, QA and training. Promote policy and guidance	Staff briefings and communications Training Child First Policy/Guidance	Resettlement deep dive Resettlement policy and guidance
Priority Area	OUR GOVERNANCE			
Sub Priority	How we hear and respond to the voice of the child, our stakeholders and staff	Understanding and Communicating Our Vision, Principles and Priorities		Responding to national and local standards, guidance and learning
Planned Actions	Review the process of how the management board hear and respond to the voice of the child Re-launch the staff survey Process to gain feedback from the courts/magistrates into the management board and team	Promoting the vision, principles and priorities within the service Reinforce through linking vision, principles and priorities to appraisals		Implement, review and revise our national standards action plan, with a focus on NS 4 and 5 Develop a process to measure impact from learning reviews and case audits on practice
Priority Area	COVID-19 SERVICE RECOVERY AND TRANSFORMATION			
Planned Actions	Review, revise and implement the covid-19 recovery and transformation plan			

Resources

Income and Partnership Resources

The Youth Offending Service has a complex budget structure comprising of partner agency cash, seconded staff and in kind contributions and the Youth Justice (YOT) Grant from the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales. The table below outlines the agreed contributions for 2021/22.

Agency	Staffing Costs – Secondees (£) ¹	Payments in kind (£)	Other Delegated Funds (3)	Total
Local Authorities ²			1,179,999	1,179,999
Police Service	242,650		63,000	305,650
National Probation Service	64,294		5,000	69,294
Health	132,457		36,894	169,351
Police and Crime Commissioner			110,293	110,293
YJB – Youth Justice Grant			1,314,743	1,314,743
Other (movement from reserves)				
Total	439,401		2,779,929	3,219,330

The YJB Youth Justice (YOT) Grant

The YJB Youth Justice (YOT) Grant is provided for the provision of youth justice services with an aim of achieving the following outcomes; reducing re-offending, reducing first time entrants, reducing the use of custody, effective public protection and effective safeguarding. The grant will form part of the overall pooled partnership budget for WMYJS.

The grant, partner contributions and available resources will be used to deliver youth justice services across West Mercia, to implement our improvement plan against the priorities identified for 21/22, to improve or sustain the current performance against the three national outcome measures, improve compliance with National Standards and aid the services recovery and transformation from Covid-19.

The outline draft budget for 2021/22 is provided below; the expenditure against the Youth Justice Grant is included in this budget.

Category	Budget (£)
Employee Costs	2,135,062
Other Employee Costs	31,668
Premises	165,500
Supplies and Services	39,198
ICT	97,458
Third Party Payments	238,925
Transport	72,118
TOTAL	2,779,929

Commissioned Services

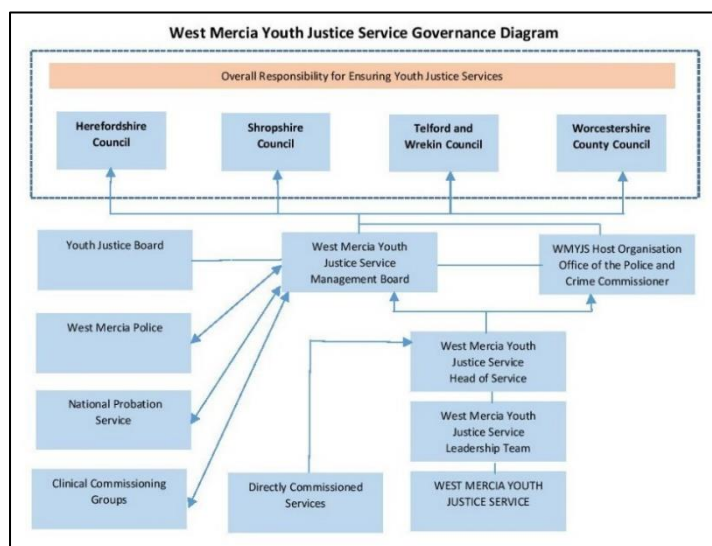
The Youth Justice Service only has one outsourced service, the provision of Appropriate Adults for young people in Police custody. The service is provided by a local voluntary sector organisation YSS. Quarterly contract monitoring and compliance meetings are held with YSS.

¹ Seconded staff figures are draft and based on 20/21, confirmation had not been received at the time the plan was prepared

² Where YOTs cover more than one local authority area YJB Youth Justice Plan guidance requires the totality of local authority contributions to be described as a single figure.

Governance, Leadership, Partnership Arrangements and Structure

WMYJS is managed on behalf of the Local Authorities and the WMYJS partnership by the Office of the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC). The Youth Justice Service is accountable to the WMYJS Management Board and the Management Board is accountable to each of the Local Authorities for the commissioning and delivery of youth justice services. The partnership Youth Justice Plan is approved by the Management Board and by each of the four top tier Councils. The diagram below outlines the governance arrangements of West Mercia Youth Justice Service.



The Management Board meets every two months and monitors the performance and quality of the service through regular reporting. Where necessary the Management Board will monitor compliance with the YJB Grant conditions through exception reports.

The Management Board has considered a number of thematic deep dives and practice presentations, the purpose of which is to identify any issues, in particular with regards to provision of services and multi-agency working, and agree actions for the Management Board or individual board members in order to improve services for young people in the youth justice system.

The Management Board has a process in place to provide oversight to safeguarding or public protection case learning reviews.

Management Board members ensure that, where relevant, commissioning across partner agencies takes account of the needs of young people in or at risk of entering the youth justice system, and where appropriate explore joint commissioning arrangements.

The Youth Justice Service Management Board is currently chaired by the Director of Children Services for Shropshire Council. The Membership of the Board at 1st April 2021 is outlined in the table below:

Agency	Representative	Role
Worcestershire County Council and Worcestershire Children First	Tina Russell	Interim Director of Children Services
Shropshire Council	Karen Bradshaw	Director of Children Services
Telford and Wrekin Council	Jo Britton	Director of Children Services
Herefordshire Council	Catherine Knowles	Director of Children and Families
National Probation Service	Jackie Stevenson	Head of West Mercia Delivery Unit
West Mercia Police	Supt Mo Lansdale	Head of Criminal Justice
Herefordshire and Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group	Jade Brooks	Director of Operations
Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group and Telford and Wrekin Commissioning Group	Zena Young	Executive Director of Quality
Office for the West Mercia PCC	Andy Champness	Chief Executive
Member providing Children Social Care Advice	Tina Knight	Service Delivery Manager, Telford and Wrekin Council

Partnerships

Management Board representative understanding their dual role when sitting on other partnership and governance boards, and where appropriate will advocate on behalf of children in the youth justice or the work of the youth justice service on those boards.

WMYJS is a member of relevant groups under the Safeguarding Children Partnerships in each of four local authority areas and children and young peoples’ strategic partnerships or equivalent partnerships where these exist and early help partnerships. The service is also represented on West Mercia Police’s children and young people strategic board.

WMYJS is represented on the Crime and Disorder reduction partnerships at the unitary or top tier authority level. WMYJS is an active member of the West Mercia Criminal Justice Board, the West Mercia Crime Reduction Board, the PCCs Victim and Witness Board and the MAPPA Strategic Management Board.

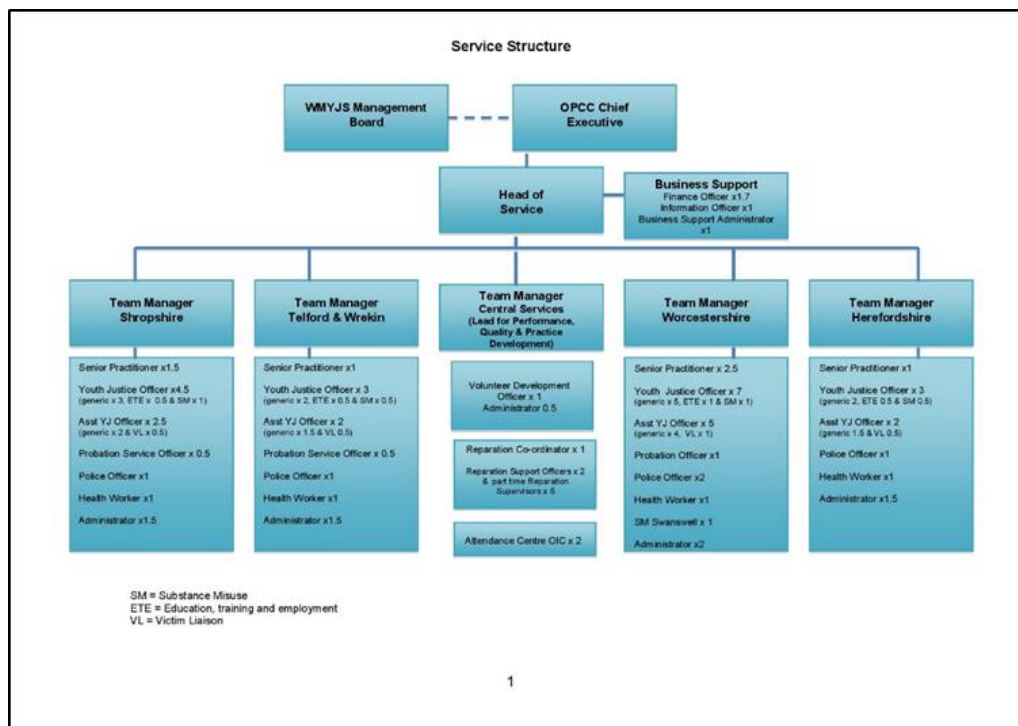
At an operational level the service is represented on the Channel Panels established as part of the Prevent Strategy, the Serious and Organised Crime Joint Agency Groups, the Child Exploitation Operational Groups. Depending on the local area the service team managers attend other multi-agency meetings according to the needs of the local area, for example Corporate Parenting Boards, SEND meetings, MASH partnership groups, Liaison and Diversion Scheme meetings and reducing re-offending groups.

Structure and Staffing of the Youth Justice Service

The West Mercia Youth Justice Service comprises four multi-agency service delivery teams, aligned to the Local Authority areas to deliver the majority of services. The reparation service and volunteer services are co-ordinated centrally across the whole service, as are the finance and data and information functions.

Each area team comprises senior practitioners, youth justice and assistant youth justice officer posts, education, training and employment officers, victim & liaison officers, seconded probation staff, seconded police officers and seconded health staff.

WMYJS is compliant with the minimum staffing requirements outlined in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, as can be seen from the structural diagram below. There are five registered Social Workers within the staffing group.



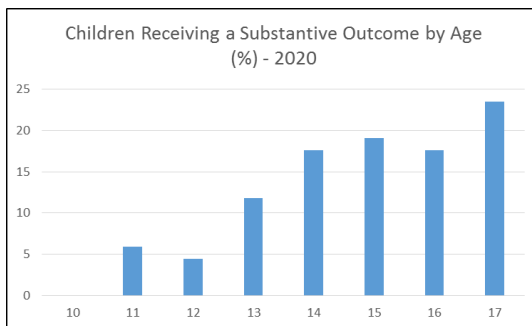
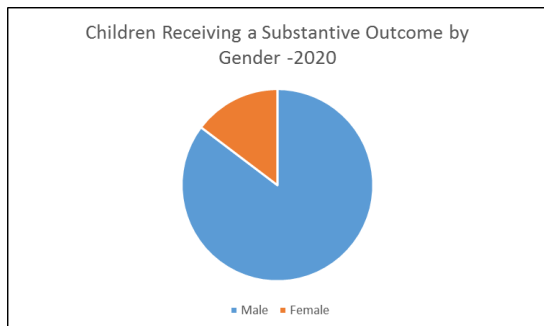
Herefordshire Local Information

2.1 Children Receiving Youth Justice Outcomes 2020

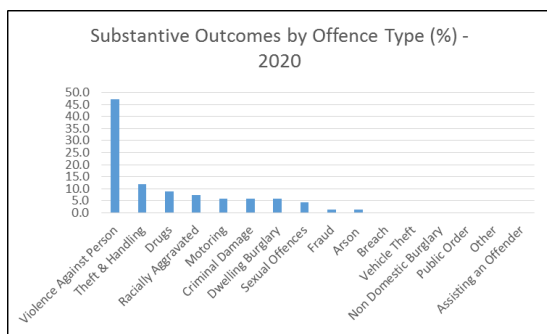
2.1.1 Substantive Youth Justice System Disposals 2020

A total of 68 Herefordshire children, were made subject to 68 substantive youth justice system disposals (cautions or convictions) during 2020. Of the children receiving substantive youth justice outcomes 15% were female and 85% male.

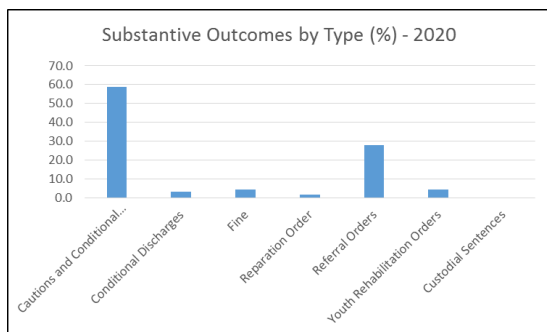
The majority, 60%, of children receiving substantive outcomes were aged 15 years or older. No 10 year olds were made subject to substantive outcomes, and 11 and 12 year olds accounted for 10% of outcomes.



Looked after children accounted for 18% of children receiving substantive outcomes.



Offences from the offence group of violence against the person accounted for the primary offence for 47% of the outcomes, theft and handling 12% and drug related offences 9%. These three offence group types accounting for 68% of all outcomes.

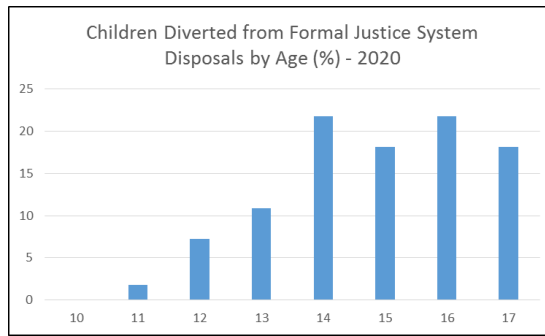
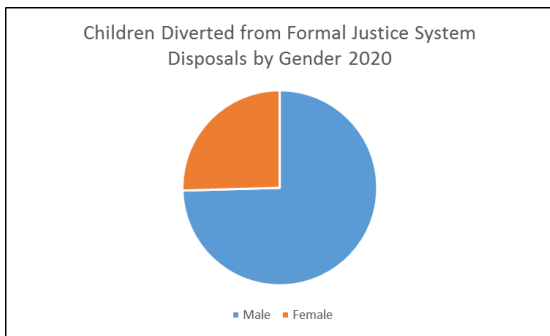


Youth cautions of all types (caution, caution supported by a voluntary intervention and conditional cautions) accounted for 59% of outcomes, Referral Orders 28% of outcomes and Youth Rehabilitation Orders 4% of outcomes. There were no custodial sentences.

2.1.2 Children Diverted from Formal Youth Justice System Disposals

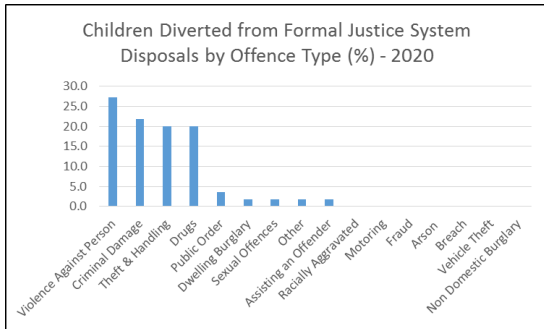
Children who have admitted an offence and who might be suitable for an out of court disposal are referred to a joint agency decision panel, included in the range of options available to the joint agency panels are informal disposals, which allow for the matter to be dealt with without the child receiving a criminal record for that offence.

In 2020, 55 children were diverted from formal justice system disposals through the issuing of 55 informal disposals. Of the children receiving informal disposals 75% were male and 25% were female.



The majority, 58%, of children receiving informal disposals were aged 15 years or older. Children aged 12 and under accounted for 9% of the informal disposals. There were no children aged 10 receiving an informal disposal.

Looked after children accounted for 6% of children diverted from formal justice system disposals.

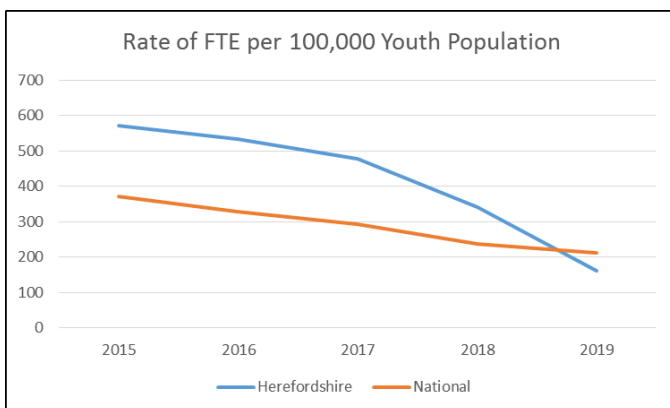


Offences from the offence group of violence against the person accounted for the primary offence for 27% of informal disposals, criminal damage for 22%, theft and handling 20% and drug related offences 20%. These four offence group types accounting for 89% of all informal disposals.

2.2 Performance

The Youth Justice Service is subject to three national outcome indicators

(ii) First Time Entrants



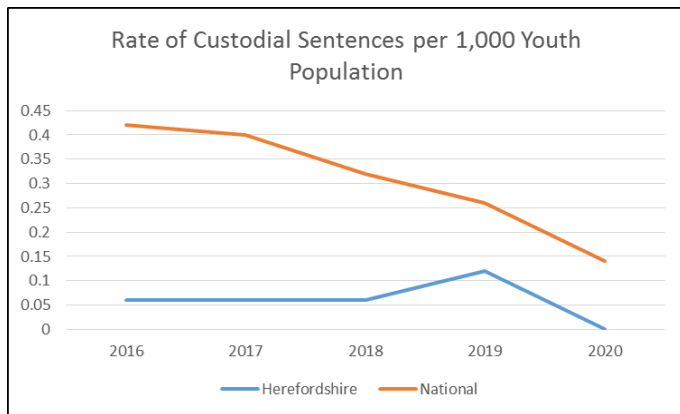
This measure is expressed as the number of first time entrants (young people receiving their first formal youth justice sanction, either a caution or conviction) per 100,000 youth population within a 12 month period. The lower the number the better the performance.

The most recent published data is for the year 2019, where the Herefordshire performance was 162, compared to a national performance of 211. The rate of 162 is lower than the national performance for the first time and represents a significant improvement on the performance in the previous year when the rate was 341. The gap

between the Herefordshire rate and national rate has been reducing since 2017. The range of rates nationally is from 62 to 645, placing the Herefordshire performance in the top quartile of the performance range.

A revised joint decision arrangement for out of court disposals was implemented in Herefordshire in June 2019, this will have contributed to reduction during 2019, but is expected to have a more significant effect in the year 2020/21 following the full implementation.

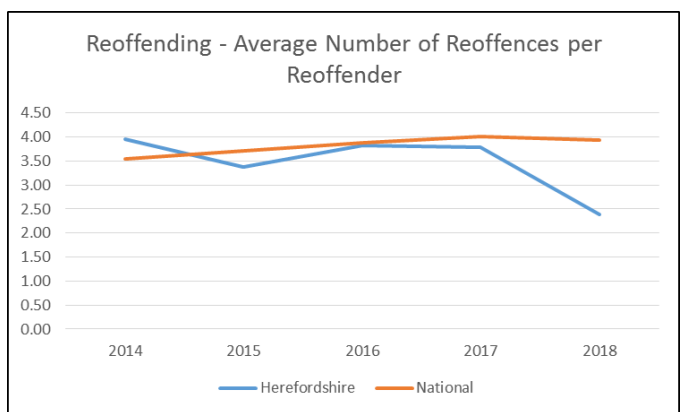
(iii) Use of Custody



The use of custody indicator is expressed as the number of custodial sentences per 1,000 youth population within a 12 month period. The lower the rate the better the performance.

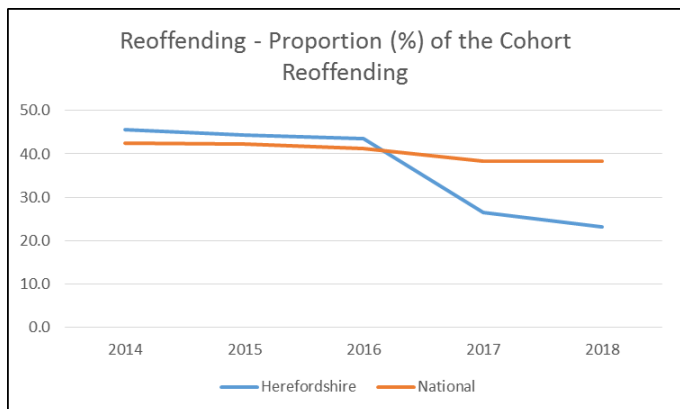
The most recently published data for this indicator is for 2020, where the Herefordshire rate was 0.00, as there were no custodial sentences made during 2020. The range of rates nationally is between 0.00 and 0.55 placing the Herefordshire performance in the top quartile of the performance range.

(iv) Reoffending



There are two measures for the re-offending indicator, both for the same cohort of offenders (all young people receiving a formal justice system disposal (caution or conviction) within a specified period of time). The cohort is then tracked for any re-offending within 12 months, the first measure (frequency measure) is the average number of re-offences per re-offender, and the second measure (binary measure) is the proportion of the cohort re-offending. For both measures a lower figure denotes better performance.

The most recently published data for this indicator is for the cohort identified in 2018.



The frequency measure for Herefordshire is 2.39, which compares favourably against the national rate of 3.93. The range of rates nationally is from 2.00 to 8.97, placing Herefordshire in the top quartile of the performance range.

The binary measure for Herefordshire is 23.2%, which compares favourably against the national rate of 38.4%. The range of rates nationally is from 14.6% to 59.3% placing Herefordshire in the top quartile of the performance range.

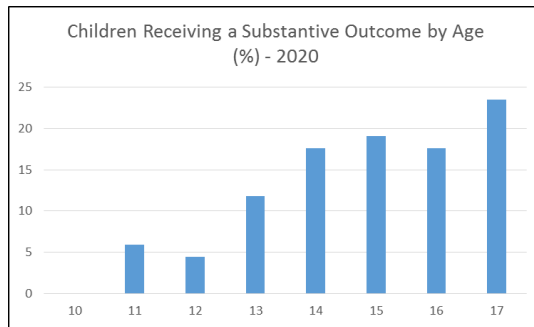
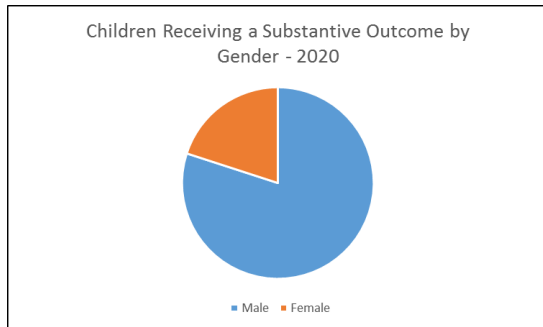
Shropshire Local Information

2.1 Children Receiving Youth Justice Outcomes 2020

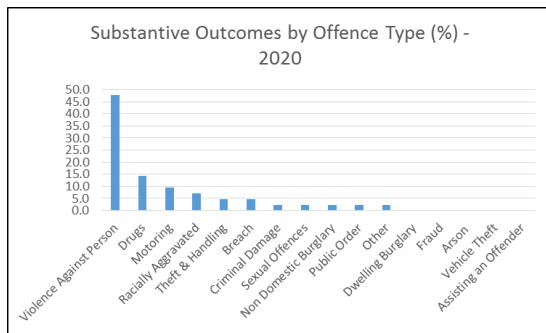
2.1.1 Substantive Youth Justice System Disposals 2020

A total of 40 Shropshire children, were made subject to 42 substantive youth justice system disposals (cautions or convictions) during 2020. Of the children receiving substantive youth justice outcomes 20% were female and 80% male.

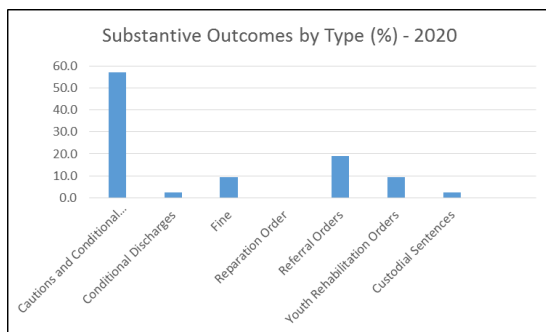
The majority, 60%, of children receiving substantive outcomes were aged 15 years or older. No 10 year olds were made subject to substantive outcomes, and 11 and 12 year olds accounted for 10% of outcomes.



Looked after children accounted for 18% of children receiving substantive outcomes.



Offences from the offence group of violence against the person accounted for the primary offence for 48% of the outcomes, drug related offences 14% and motoring offences 10%. These three offence group types accounting for 72% of all outcomes.

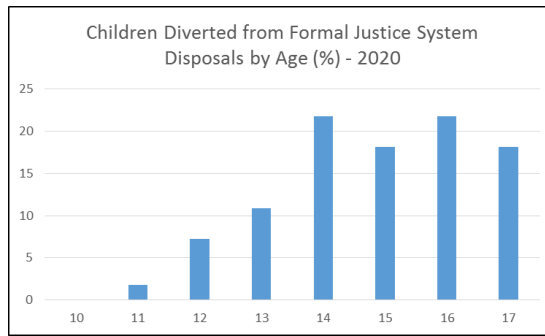
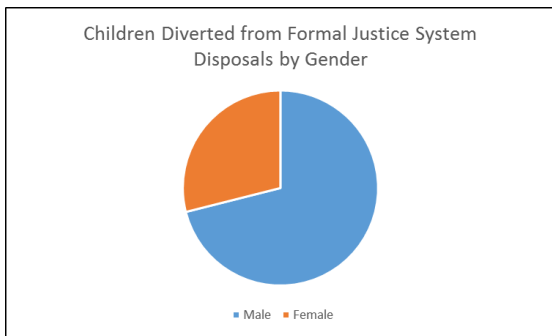


Youth cautions of all types (caution, caution supported by a voluntary intervention and conditional cautions) accounted for 57% of outcomes, Referral Orders 19% of outcomes and Youth Rehabilitation Orders 10% of outcomes. There was one custodial sentence.

2.1.2 Children Diverted from Formal Youth Justice System Disposals

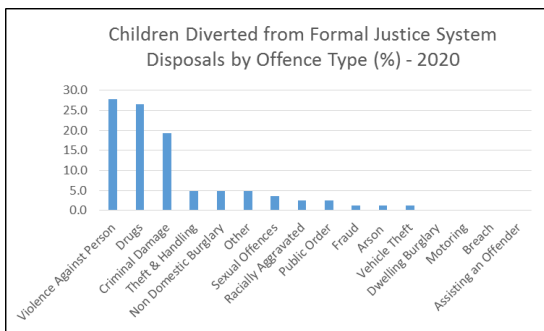
Children who have admitted an offence and who might be suitable for an out of court disposal are referred to a joint agency decision panel, included in the range of options available to the joint agency panels are informal disposals, which allow for the matter to be dealt with without the child receiving a criminal record for that offence.

In 2020, 77 children were diverted from formal justice system disposals through the issuing of 83 informal disposals. Of the children receiving informal disposals 71% were male and 29% were female.



The majority, 69%, of children receiving informal disposals were aged 15 years or older. Children aged 12 accounted for 3% of the informal disposals. There were no children under the age of 12 receiving an informal disposals.

Looked after children accounted for 3% of children diverted from formal justice system disposals.

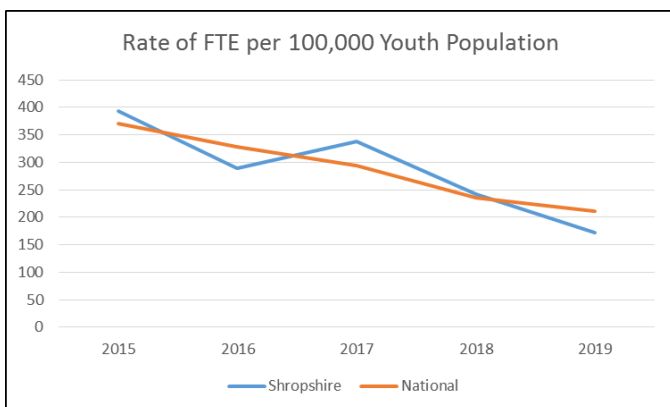


Offences from the offence group of violence against the person accounted for the primary offence for 28% of informal disposals, drug related offences 26% and criminal damage for 19%. These three offence group types accounting for 73% of all informal disposals.

2.2 Performance

The Youth Justice Service is subject to three national outcome indicators

(iii) First Time Entrants



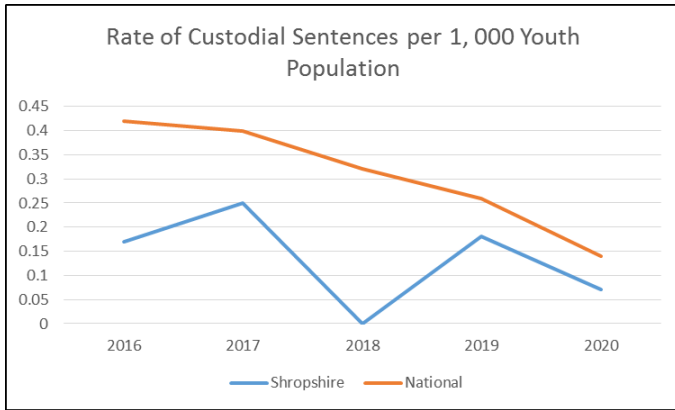
This measure is expressed as the number of first time entrants (young people receiving their first formal youth justice sanction, either a caution or conviction) per 100,000 youth population within a 12 month period. The lower the number the better the performance.

The most recent published data is for the year 2019, where the Shropshire performance was 171, compared to a national performance of 211. The rate of 171 is lower than the national performance and represents an improvement on the performance in the previous year when the rate was 242. The range of rates nationally is

from 62 to 645, placing the Shropshire performance in the top quartile of the performance range.

A revised joint decision arrangement for out of court disposals was implemented in Shropshire in January 2020, this is expected to contribute to a further reduction in the number of first time entrants.

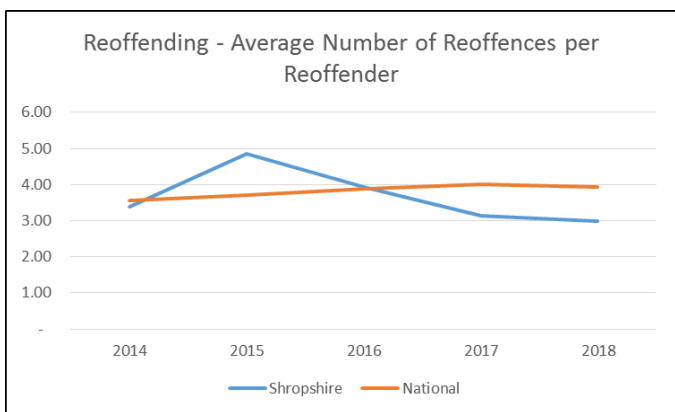
(v) Use of Custody



The use of custody indicator is expressed as the number of custodial sentences per 1,000 youth population within a 12 month period. The lower the rate the better the performance.

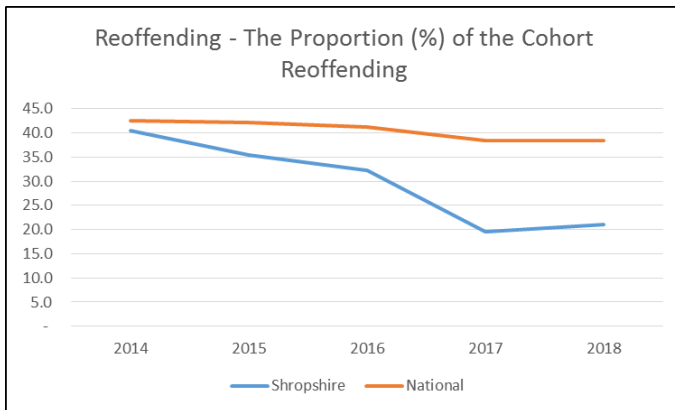
The most recently published data for this indicator is for 2020, where the Shropshire rate was 0.07, which is lower than the national rate of 0.14. The range of rates nationally is between 0.00 and 0.55 placing the Shropshire performance in the top quartile of the performance range.

(vi) Reoffending



There are two measures for the re-offending indicator, both for the same cohort of offenders (all young people receiving a formal justice system disposal (caution or conviction) within a specified period of time). The cohort is then tracked for any re-offending within 12 months, the first measure (frequency measure) is the average number of re-offences per re-offender, and the second measure (binary measure) is the proportion of the cohort re-offending. For both measures a lower figure denotes better performance.

The most recently published data for this indicator is for the cohort identified in 2018.



The frequency measure for Shropshire is 3.00, which compares favourably against the national rate of 3.93. The range of rates nationally is from 2.00 to 8.97, placing Shropshire in the top quartile of the performance range.

The binary measure for Shropshire is 21.1%, which compares favourably against the national rate of 38.4%. The range of rates nationally is from 14.6% to 59.3% placing Shropshire in the top quartile of the performance range.

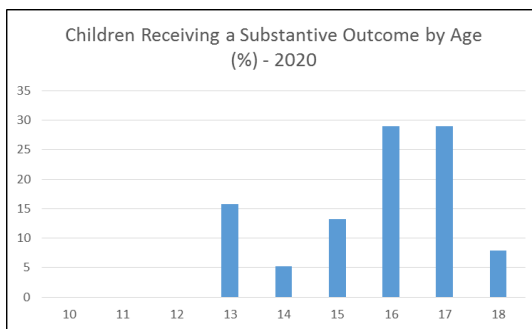
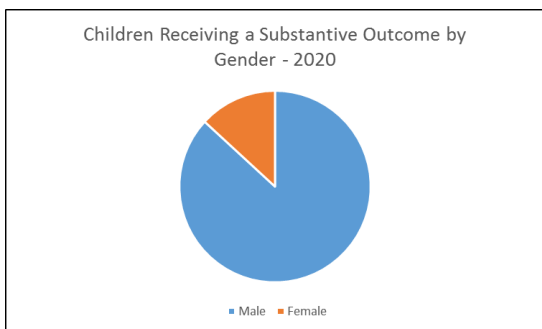
Telford and Wrekin Local Information

2.1 Children Receiving Youth Justice Outcomes 2020

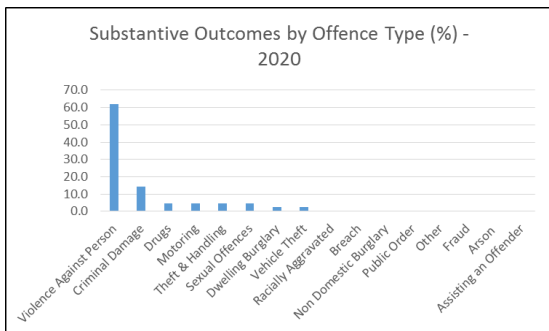
2.1.1 Substantive Youth Justice System Disposals 2020

A total of 38 Telford and Wrekin children, were made subject to 42 substantive youth justice system disposals (cautions or convictions) during 2020. Of the children receiving substantive youth justice outcomes 13% were female and 87% male.

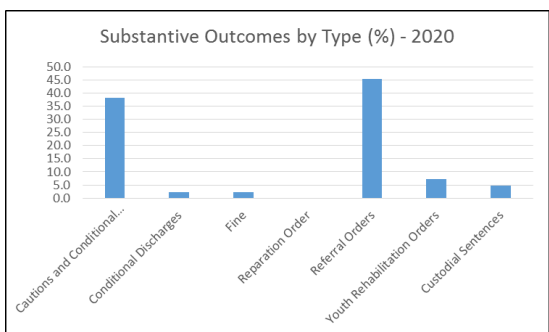
The majority, 79%, of children receiving substantive outcomes were aged 15 years or older. Children aged 13 accounted for 15% of substantive outcomes. No children aged 12 or under were made subject to substantive justice system outcomes in 2020.



Looked after children accounted for 11% of children receiving substantive outcomes.



Offences from the offence group of violence against the person accounted for the primary offence for 62% and criminal damage for 14%. Drug related offences, motoring offences, theft and handling and sexual offences each accounted for 5% of substantive outcomes.

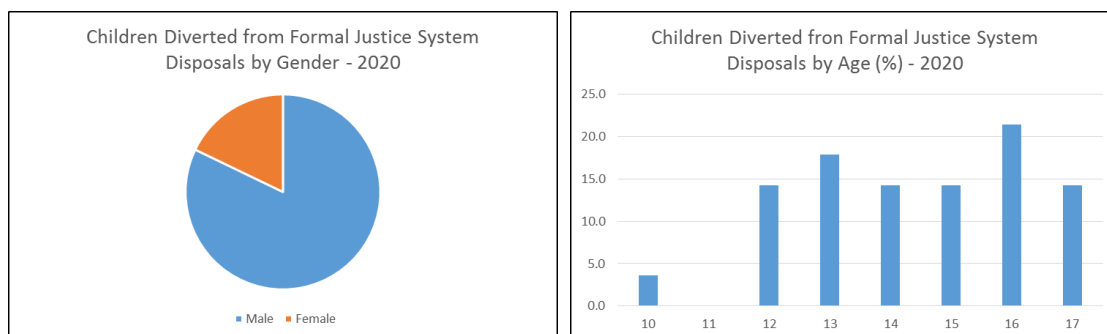


Youth cautions of all types (caution, caution supported by a voluntary intervention and conditional cautions) accounted for 38% of outcomes, Referral Orders 45% of outcomes and Youth Rehabilitation Orders 7% of outcomes. There were two custodial sentences accounting for 5% of outcomes.

2.1.2 Children Diverted from Formal Youth Justice System Disposals

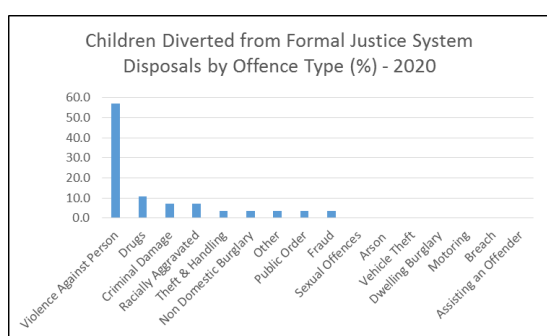
Children who have admitted an offence and who might be suitable for an out of court disposal are referred to a joint agency decision panel, included in the range of options available to the joint agency panels are informal disposals, which allow for the matter to be dealt with without the child receiving a criminal record for that offence.

In 2020, 28 children were diverted from formal justice system disposals through the issuing of 28 informal disposals. Of the children receiving informal disposals 61% were male and 39% were female.



Half of the children receiving informal disposals were aged 15 years or older. Children aged 12 and under accounted for 18% of the informal disposals.

Looked after children accounted for 7% of children diverted from formal justice system disposals.

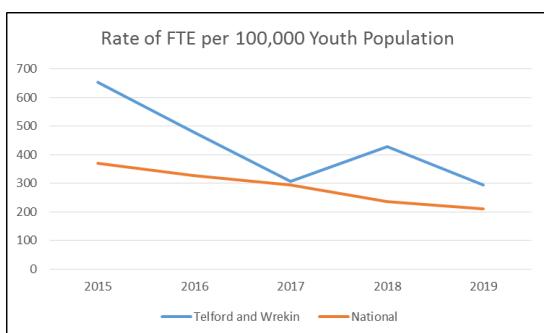


Offences from the offence group of violence against the person accounted for the primary offence for 57% of informal disposals, drug related offences for 11%, and criminal damage and racially aggravated offences for 7% each. These four offence group types accounting for 82% of all informal disposals.

2.2 Performance

The Youth Justice Service is subject to three national outcome indicators

(iv) First Time Entrants



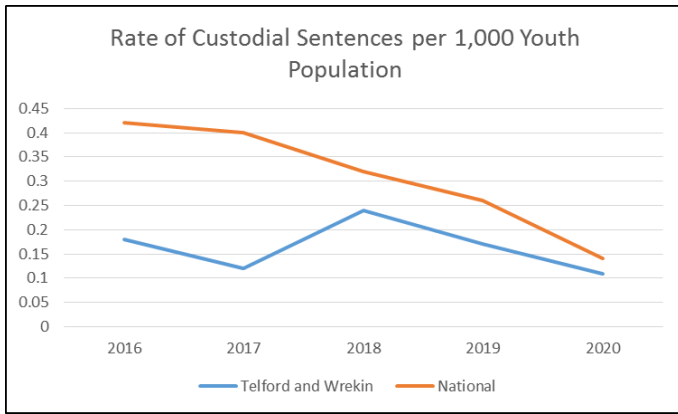
This measure is expressed as the number of first time entrants (young people receiving their first formal youth justice sanction, either a caution or conviction) per 100,000 youth population within a 12 month period. The lower the number the better the performance.

The most recent published data is for the year 2019, where the Telford and Wrekin performance was 294, compared to a national performance of 211. Although the rate of 294 is higher than the national performance it does represent a significant improvement on the performance in the previous year when the rate was 429. The

range of rates nationally is from 62 to 645, placing the Telford and Wrekin performance in the second to top quartile of the performance range.

A revised joint decision arrangement for out of court disposals was implemented in Telford and Wrekin in March 2020, and this is expected to further reduce the numbers of first time entrants to the youth justice system.

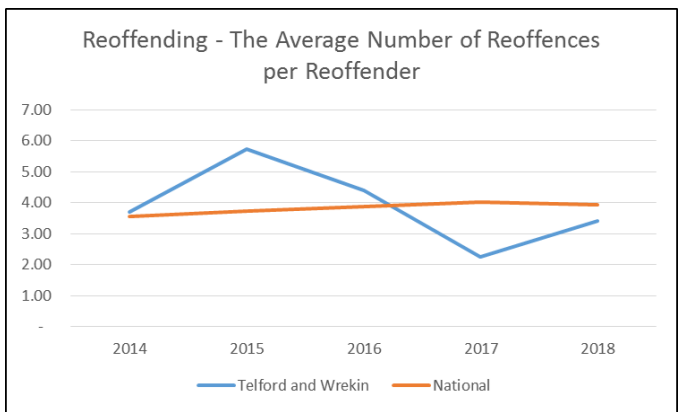
(vii) Use of Custody



The use of custody indicator is expressed as the number of custodial sentences per 1,000 youth population within a 12 month period. The lower the rate the better the performance.

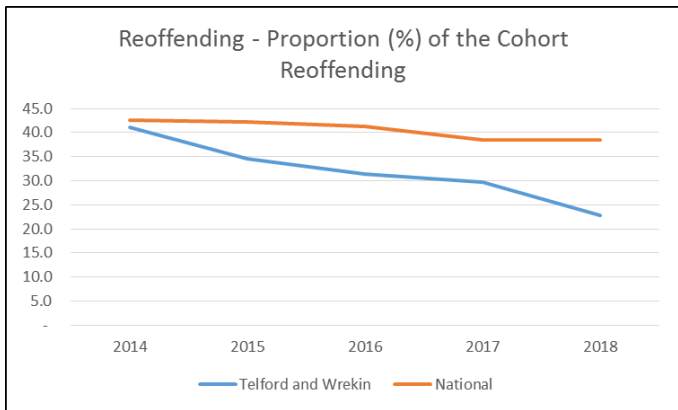
The most recently published data for this indicator is for 2020, where the Telford and Wrekin rate was 0.11, compared to a national rate of 0.14. The range of rates nationally is between 0.00 and 0.55 placing the Telford and Wrekin performance in the top quartile of the performance range.

(viii) Reoffending



There are two measures for the re-offending indicator, both for the same cohort of offenders (all young people receiving a formal justice system disposal (caution or conviction) within a specified period of time). The cohort is then tracked for any re-offending within 12 months, the first measure (frequency measure) is the average number of re-offences per re-offender, and the second measure (binary measure) is the proportion of the cohort re-offending. For both measures a lower figure denotes better performance.

The most recently published data for this indicator is for the cohort identified in 2018.



The frequency measure for Telford and Wrekin is 3.40, which compares favourably against the national rate of 3.93. The range of rates nationally is from 2.00 to 8.97, placing Telford and Wrekin in the top quartile of the performance range.

The binary measure for Telford and Wrekin is 22.7%, which compares favourably against the national rate of 38.4%. The range of rates nationally is from 14.6% to 59.3% placing Telford and Wrekin in the top quartile of the performance range.

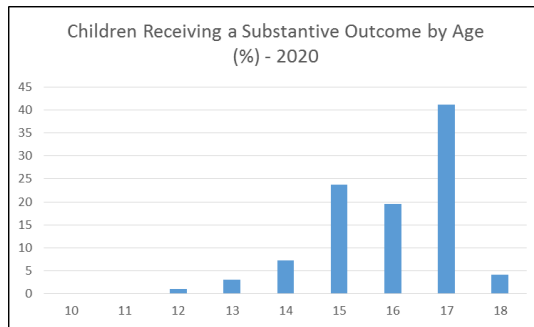
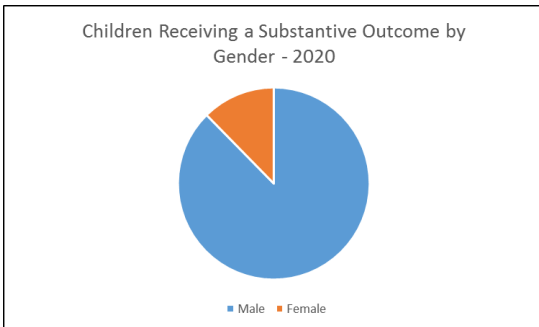
Worcestershire Local Information

2.1 Children Receiving Youth Justice Outcomes 2020

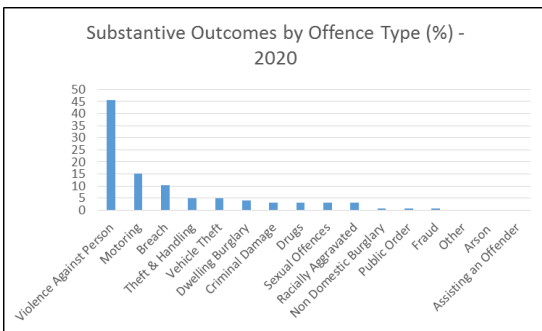
2.1.1 Substantive Youth Justice System Disposals 2020

A total of 97 Worcestershire children, were made subject to 125 substantive youth justice system disposals (cautions or convictions) during 2020. Of the children receiving substantive youth justice outcomes 12% were female and 89% male.

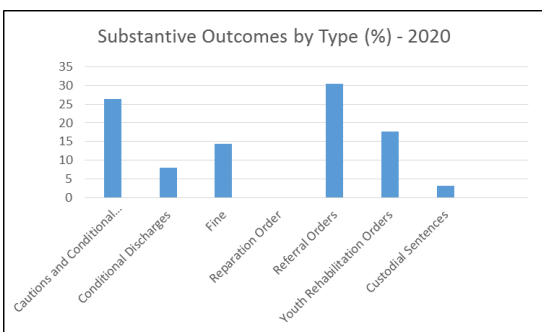
The majority, 89%, of children receiving substantive outcomes were aged 15 years or older. No children under the age of 12 were made subject to substantive outcomes, and 12 year olds accounted for 1% of outcomes.



Looked after children accounted for 21% of children receiving substantive outcomes.



Offences from the offence group of violence against the person accounted for the primary offence for 46% of the outcomes, motoring offences for 15% and breaches of orders 10%. These three offence group types accounting for 71% of all outcomes.

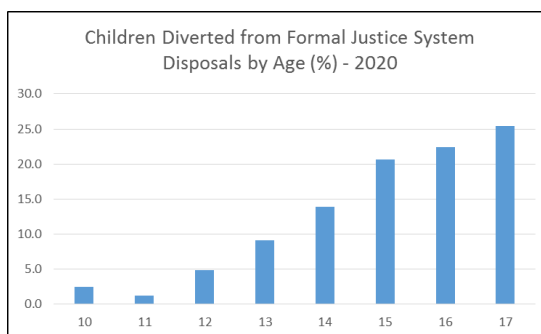
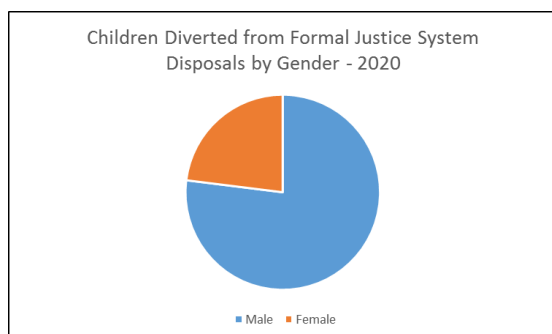


Youth cautions of all types (caution, caution supported by a voluntary intervention and conditional cautions) accounted for 26% of outcomes, Referral Orders 30% of outcomes, Youth Rehabilitation Orders 17% of outcomes and custodial sentences 3% of outcomes.

2.1.2 Children Diverted from Formal Youth Justice System Disposals

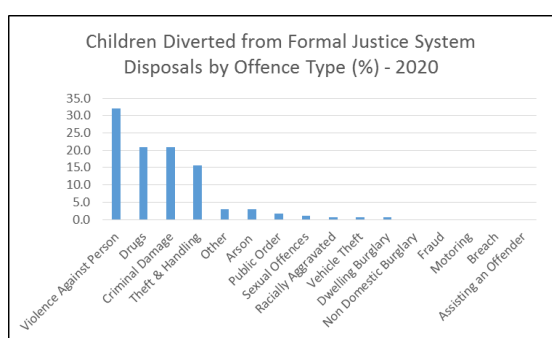
Children who have admitted an offence and who might be suitable for an out of court disposal are referred to a joint agency decision panel, included in the range of options available to the joint agency panels are informal disposals, which allow for the matter to be dealt with without the child receiving a criminal record for that offence.

In 2020, 165 children were diverted from formal justice system disposals through the issuing of 172 informal disposals. Of the children receiving informal disposals 77% were male and 23% were female.



The majority, 69%, of children receiving informal disposals were aged 15 years or older. Children aged 12 and under accounted for 9% of the informal disposals.

Looked after children accounted for 3% of children diverted from formal justice system disposals.

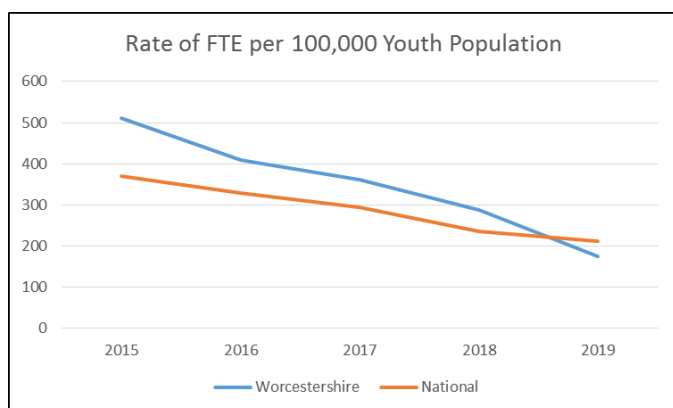


Offences from the offence group of violence against the person accounted for the primary offence for 32% of informal disposals, drug related offences 21%, criminal damage for 21% and theft and handling 16%. These four offence group types accounting for 90% of all informal disposals.

2.2 Performance

The Youth Justice Service is subject to three national outcome indicators

(v) First Time Entrants



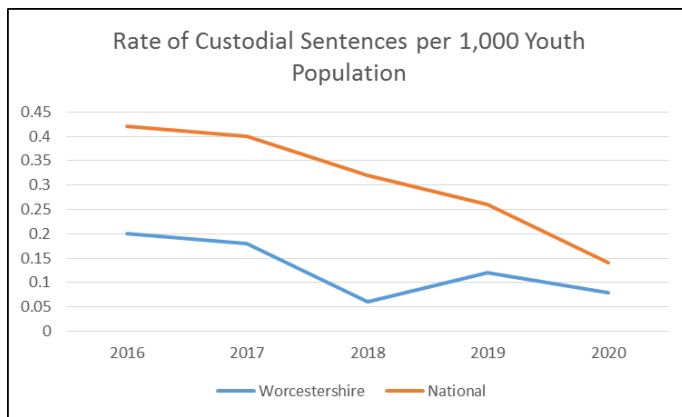
This measure is expressed as the number of first time entrants (young people receiving their first formal youth justice sanction, either a caution or conviction) per 100,000 youth population within a 12 month period. The lower the number the better the performance.

The most recent published data is for the year 2019, where the Worcesterstershire performance was 175, compared to a national performance of 211. The rate of 175 is lower than the national performance for the first time and represents a significant improvement on the performance in the previous year when the rate was 287.

The gap between the Worcesterstershire rate and national rate has been reducing since 2015. The range of rates nationally is from 62 to 645, placing the Worcesterstershire performance in the top quartile of the performance range.

A revised joint decision arrangement for out of court disposals was implemented in Worcesterstershire in November 2019 and this is expected to contribute to a further reduction during 2020.

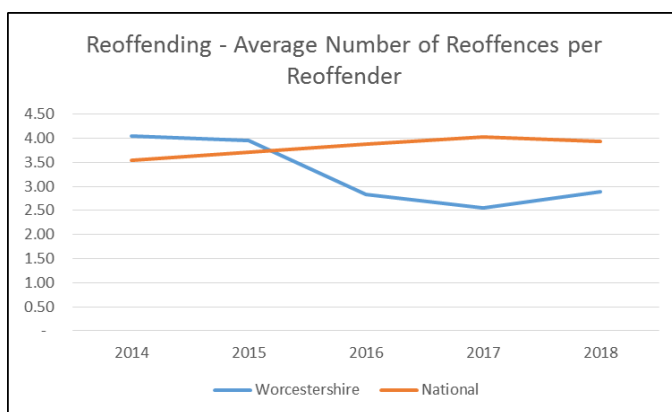
(ix) Use of Custody



The use of custody indicator is expressed as the number of custodial sentences per 1,000 youth population within a 12 month period. The lower the rate the better the performance.

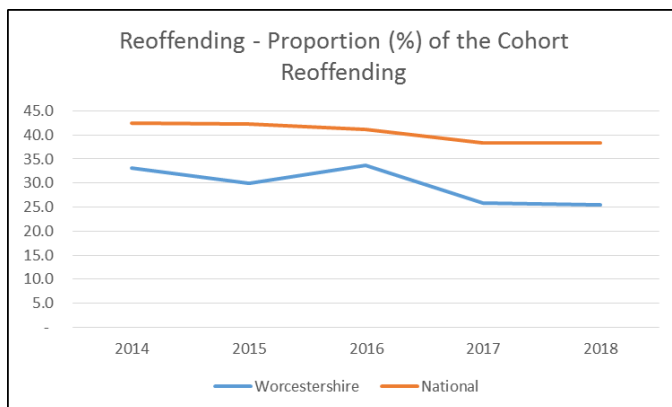
The most recently published data for this indicator is for 2020, where the Worcesterstershire rate was 0.08, which compares favourably against the national rate of 0.14. The range of rates nationally is between 0.00 and 0.55 placing the Worcesterstershire performance in the top quartile of the performance range.

(x) Reoffending



There are two measures for the re-offending indicator, both for the same cohort of offenders (all young people receiving a formal justice system disposal (caution or conviction) within a specified period of time). The cohort is then tracked for any re-offending within 12 months, the first measure (frequency measure) is the average number of re-offences per re-offender, and the second measure (binary measure) is the proportion of the cohort re-offending. For both measures a lower figure denotes better performance.

The most recently published data for this indicator is for the cohort identified in 2018.



The frequency measure for Worcesterstershire is 2.88, which compares favourably against the national rate of 3.93. The range of rates nationally is from 2.00 to 8.97, placing Worcesterstershire in the top quartile of the performance range.

The binary measure for Worcesterstershire is 25.5%, which compares favourably against the national rate of 38.4%. The range of rates nationally is from 14.6% to 59.3% placing Worcesterstershire in the top quartile of the performance range.



**Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority
Chair's Report of Meetings held on
13 October 2021 and 15 December 2021**

Fire Authority Meeting – 13 October 2021

Review of Standing Orders relating to Contracts

The Fire Authority has reviewed and agreed its Standing Orders relating to Contracts. There are two main areas of amendments:

1. The removal of references to European Union (EU) requirements – these being replaced with references to statutory requirements; and
2. The removal of references to the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) – this being replaced with the “Find a Tender” service. “Find a Tender” is the United Kingdom’s service for publishing contract notices which was launched on 1 January 2021

The current public procurement regime is under review with the consultation for this ending on 10 March 2021. The new regime is expected to come into force from late 2021 / early 2022 and this will mean that further changes may be needed to the Standing Orders. If this is the case, officers will bring a further report to the Fire Authority to seek agreement to those changes.

Model Code of Conduct

The Fire Authority has considered and agreed the Local Government Association’s model Code of Conduct, which was published in December 2020, following the Committee for Standards in Public Life report on Local Government Ethical Standards. The Fire Authority adopted the model Code with immediate effect. This adoption will give consistency across the Authority’s two constituent authorities.

Process for Dealing with Brigade Managers’ Pay

The Fire Authority has undertaken a full review of the Brigade Managers’ Pay Process and agreed some limited amendments to the policy including a change to the officer responsible for reviewing the process and updates to the Pay Research Organisations which are suitable to undertake pay reviews for the Authority.

Following the agreement of this review, the Fire Authority has commenced the formal Brigade Managers’ Pay Process and has tasked its Brigade Managers’ Employment Panel with meeting to commission a pay review.

Firefighters' Pension Scheme Delegations

A routine review of the discretionary powers of the Fire Authority under the Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2015 has been carried out. The review has shown that the delegation of powers remains unchanged.

Alerters and Station End Equipment

The Fire Authority has approved funding to enable the implementation of new mobilising equipment for On Call stations and staff. This new equipment will replace current aged alerting and station end equipment to ensure mobilising systems continue to operate effectively into the future.

Fire Authority Meeting – 15 December 2021

Meeting Schedule 2022

The Fire Authority has approved the 2022 schedule of Authority and Committee meetings.

2022/23 and Later Years Budget Summary

The Fire Authority received a report summarising the initial budget assumptions agreed by the Strategy and Resources Committee at its November 2021 meeting as the first stage of the budget planning process.

The report set out changes in those budget assumptions which have arisen since that Committee meeting and the Fire Authority agreed that the updated planning assumptions be used as the basis for budget consultation; allowing officers to work on a range of planning scenarios for later years of the planning period.

The Strategy and Resources Committee has been tasked with preparing a final budget package in January 2022, with the final decision on the 2022/23 budget being made by the Fire Authority at its February 2022 meeting.

Fire Alliance Board Update

The Fire Authority received an update on the Fire Alliance and the progress that has been made on the four key areas identified as foundation activities of the Alliance that would support wider future working. The key areas as approved by both Shropshire and Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Authorities are as follows:

1. Fire Control
2. Integrated Risk Management Plan
3. Information and Communications Technology (ICT)
4. Procurement

Progress has been made in all four key areas which are now embedded and are yielding new projects that are leading to an increasingly operational and / or tactical alliance.

Progress is reported regularly to the Fire Alliance Board and Programme Delivery Board and this report is provided to Members with an overview of each work programme and the next steps for each project over the coming months. Members will receive further updates as the projects develop.



Eric Carter
Chair
Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority
December 2021

Background Papers

Agenda and Papers for the meetings of Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority held on 13 October and 15 December 2021

The agendas and reports (apart from exempt or confidential items) for all Fire Authority and Committee meetings are on the Service's website:

<http://www.shropshirefire.gov.uk>

To access reports go to the Fire Service's website and follow the steps below.

- Click on 'About Us' in the red bar at the top of the page
- Click on 'Fire and Rescue Authority'
- Click on 'Meetings' in the list on the right hand side of the screen
- Click on the relevant date' and the various reports and appendices will be listed

If you have any difficulty with the website, please contact Lynn Ince, Executive Support Officer, on 01743 260225.

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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