

Shropshire Council
Legal and Democratic Services
Shirehall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
SY2 6ND
Date: Wednesday, 7 December 2022

Committee: Council

Date: Thursday, 15 December 2022

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: Council Chamber, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6ND

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 meeting.

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

Please click [here](#) to view the livestream of the meeting on the date and time stated on the agenda

The recording of the event will also be made available shortly after the meeting on the Shropshire Council Youtube Channel [Here](#)

Tim Collard
Assistant Director - Legal and Governance

Vince Hunt (Chairman)
Brian Williams (Vice Chairman)
Lezley Picton (Leader)
Ian Nellins (Deputy Leader)
Roy Aldcroft
Jeff Anderson
Caroline Bagnall
Nicholas Bardsley
Joyce Barrow
Bernie Bentick
Thomas Biggins
Ed Bird
Andy Boddington
Peter Broomhall
Julia Buckley
Garry Burchett
Gwilym Butler
Dean Carroll
Steve Charmley
Ted Clarke

Rachel Connolly
Gerald Dakin
Rosemary Dartnall
Steve Davenport
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
Richard Huffer
Tracey Huffer

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
David Minnery
Dan Morris
Pamela Moseley
Alan Mosley
Cecilia Motley
Peggy Mullock
Kevin Pardy
Vivienne Parry

Tony Parsons
John Price
Ed Potter
Chris Schofield
Dan Thomas

Robert Tindall
Edward Towers
Kevin Turley
David Vasmer
Alex Wagner

Claire Wild
Mark Williams
Rob Wilson
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 - 12)

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 September 2022

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 5.00 pm on Friday 9 December 2022

6 Report of Returning Officer - Bridgnorth West & Tasley (Pages 13 - 14)

Report of Returning Officer attached

Contact: Andy Begley, 01743 258675

7 Setting the Council Tax Taxbase for 2023/24 (Pages 15 - 38)

Report of the Executive Director, Resources is attached

Contact: James Walton. Tel. 01743 258915

8 Treasury Strategy 2022/23 – Mid Year Review (Pages 39 - 64)

Report of the Executive Director, Resources is attached

Contact: James Walton. Tel. 01743 258915

9 Annual Scrutiny Report (Pages 65 - 78)

Report of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer is attached

Contact: Tom Dodds. Tel. 01743 258518

10 Broseley Neighbourhood Development Plan – Adoption (Pages 79 - 196)

Report of the Executive Director of Place is attached

Contact Mark Barrow Tel: 01743258919

11 Shropshire Economic Partnership Board (Pages 197 - 222)

Report of the Executive Director of Place is attached

Contact Mark Barrow Tel: 01743258919

12 Recruitment of Co-opted Independent Members for the Audit Committee (Pages 223 - 240)

Report of the Executive Director, Resources is attached

Contact: James Walton. Tel. 01743 258915

13 Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman report - Finding of Fault with Injustice

Report of the Head of Housing is **TO FOLLOW**

Contact: Laura Fisher Tel: 01743 258981

14 Allocation of Committee Seats and Appointments (Pages 241 - 246)

Report of the Assistant Director Legal and Governance is attached

Contact: Tim Collard, Tel 01743 252756

15 Motions

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

1. Motion from Councillor Rob Wilson supported by the Liberal Democrat Group

Vision Zero

THIS COUNCIL NOTES:

1. In 2021, 16 people were killed in road traffic collisions in the Shropshire Council area.
2. This statistic has remained virtually unchanged over the past 10 years (2012: 17, 2013: 18, 2014: 15, 2015: 13, 2016: 17, 2017: 18, 2018: 15, 2019: 14, 2020: 11, 2021: 16).
3. In 2021, 121 people were killed or seriously injured in the Shropshire Council area.
4. This statistic has remained virtually unchanged over the past 10 years (2012: 146, 2013: 119, 2014: 140, 2015: 139, 2016: 169, 2017: 174, 2018: 135, 2019: 161, 2020: 123, 2021: 121).
5. In 2004, the World Health Organisation published "World report on road traffic injury prevention". It stated: "Road traffic crashes are predictable and therefore preventable ... the time to act is now. Road users everywhere deserve better and safer road travel."
6. The effect of road traffic collisions include physical, emotional, social and economic

effects for everyone involved.

7. The financial cost per fatal casualty is approximately £2,000,000. The financial cost per severely injured casualty is approximately £220,000.
8. This means in financial terms the cost of road collisions in Shropshire was approximately £60,000,000 in 2021.
9. Every 20 minutes someone is killed or seriously injured on UK roads. Much of the reporting around these incidents portrays collisions as unavoidable, obscures the presence of certain actors or omits crucial context as to why crashes happen and what we can do to prevent them.
10. The Road Collision Reporting Guidelines (<https://www.rc-rg.com/guidelines>) were produced in consultation with road safety, legal, media and policing organisations and individuals, to supplement professional codes of conduct and support the highest standards of reporting in broadcast, print and online.
11. They encourage media, among other things, to avoid using the word “accident” – “crash” or “collision” not carrying the same association with chance – and to acknowledge the role of motorists, with many outlets for instance continuing to carry headlines such as “car crashes into tree.”
12. In September 2022 it was announced that the Department for Transport will use “collision” instead of “accident” (<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/reported-road-casualties-great-britain-annual-report-2021/changes-to-road-casualty-statistics-following-user-feedback>).
13. Detective Chief Superintendent Andy Cox is the National lead for fatal collision investigation reporting to the National Police Chiefs Council and was previously the Metropolitan Police’s lead for Vision Zero. He has been a leading voice in the need to change how we view the problems we face.
14. Vision Zero is a set of principles and policies aimed at eliminating serious injuries and fatalities involving road traffic. It shifts responsibility for crashes from road users to the designers of the road system – if one occurs, it is up to authorities to ensure that it does not happen again.
15. Traditional approaches to road safety assume that people can be taught, persuaded or compelled to behave safely. A Safe System approach is different. It accepts that while road-users should behave safely and legally, people do sometimes make mistakes, and that some mistakes lead to crashes. This premise helps us to see more clearly what needs to be done:
 - (a) prevent mistakes happening in the first place.
 - (b) ensure that any mistakes that do happen don’t end in fatal or serious injury.
16. In 1997, the Swedish Parliament adopted a new long-term goal and strategy for road safety, Vision Zero. The goal is that no one should be killed or seriously injured through a road accident. Vision Zero is an ethical stance stating that it is not acceptable for human mistakes to have fatal consequences. It can be viewed as a paradigm shift, where the ultimate responsibility for road safety is shifted from the individual road-user to those who design the transport system, for example, road management bodies, vehicle manufacturers, legislators, commercial transport operators, the police authority and others. The responsibility of the road-user is to comply with laws and regulations. (<https://www.roadsafetysweden.com/about-the-conference/vision-zero---no-fatalities-or-serious-injuries-through-road-accidents/#:~:text=In%201997%2C%20the%20Swedish%20Parliament,mistakes%20to%20have%20fatal%20consequences.>)
17. In 2015, the City of Oslo, Norway, made a commitment after years of rising transportation injuries to reduce car traffic and prioritize the safety of pedestrians, cyclists and the environment. The government of Norway has made a strong commitment to eliminate serious injuries and fatalities on their roadways nationally and has worked towards this vision for nearly two decades. From 2010-2019, Oslo had an average of five to seven traffic fatalities a year. The risk of fatal or serious road traffic injuries, on a trip-by-trip basis, has fallen 47% for cyclists, 41% for

pedestrians and 32% for drivers between 2014 and 2018. The average number per 1 million trips for cyclists was reduced from 3.2 to 1.7, pedestrians from 0.7 to 0.4, and car occupants from 1.7 to 1.1. Finally, in 2019, Oslo achieved a critical milestone: no vulnerable road users died all year, and only one car driver died. (<https://thecityfix.com/blog/how-oslo-achieved-zero-pedestrian-and-bicycle-fatalities-and-how-others-can-apply-what-worked/>)

18. The Sustainable Safety vision is an optimal approach for improving road safety, originating from the Netherlands. It is a vision that is shared by many road safety professionals. A sustainably safe road traffic system prevents road deaths, serious road injuries and permanent injury by systematically reducing the underlying risks of the entire traffic system. Human factors are the primary focus: by starting from the needs, competences, limitations and vulnerability of people, the traffic system can be realistically adapted to achieve maximum safety. (<https://sustainablesafety.nl/>)
19. Transport for London has set a Vision Zero target of 2041. (https://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/documents/s60940/CA_JUN2122R14%20Vision%20Zero.pdf)
20. Essex County Council has set a Vision Zero target of 2040. (<https://www.essexhighways.org/news/vision-zero-no-more-deaths-on-essex-roads>)
21. Kent County Council has set a Vision Zero target of 2050. (<https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/road-safety/road-casualty-reduction-strategy>)
22. In June 2022 Oxfordshire County Council voted to adopt Vision Zero. (https://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/documents/s60940/CA_JUN2122R14%20Vision%20Zero.pdf)
23. In September 2022 Leeds City Council adopted "Leeds Safe Roads: Vision Zero 2040: Strategy and Action Plan". It includes specific reference to the Road Collision Reporting Guidelines. (<https://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/documents/s237614/Vision%20Zero%20Strategy%20Report%20Appendix%202%20120922.pdf>)

THIS COUNCIL BELIEVES:

1. The only justifiable target should be that in the longer term no one is killed or seriously injured on the roads in Shropshire.
2. It should adopt a Vision Zero "Safe System" approach to road danger that incorporates four key principles:
 - (a) Safety: Road traffic systems should take account of the fact that people make mistakes and should minimise both the opportunity for error and the harm done when they do occur.
 - (b) Ethics: Human life and health have highest priority.
 - (c) Responsibility: We must all be ready to change to achieve a safe environment on our roads and there is a particular responsibility for change and reduction of danger amongst those whose modes of travel create the highest levels of risk.
 - (d) Active travel: A Vision Zero approach must enable healthy, clean forms of transport such as cycling and walking.
3. That language matters when talking about road collisions. For example we should refer to "road danger reduction" rather than "road safety".
4. Vision Zero principles will change public perception about road danger, so that death and injury is no longer an inevitable part of our lives as we move around, but something that can be avoided if a serious and sustained effort is made to tackle the causes of the problem."

THIS COUNCIL RESOLVES:

1. To adopt a Vision Zero “Safe System” approach to road danger reduction.
2. To work closely with partners and stakeholders to take a whole system approach, working together on infrastructure, behaviour, technology and legislation to achieve this change.
3. To set a target date for there to be zero fatalities and severe injuries on Shropshire’s roads and streets.
4. To embed Vision Zero in all relevant Shropshire Council policies, including, but not limited to, LTP4.
5. To adopt the Road Collision Reporting Guidelines in Shropshire Council communications and encourage West Mercia Police and media organisations in Shropshire to do the same. Including but not limited to, using “road danger reduction” instead of “road safety” and assigning agency to those involved in crashes.
6. To instruct officers to bring a paper to Cabinet within 12 months to address how these points will be achieved.

2. Motion from Councillor Richard Marshall supported by Councillors Garry Burchett, Steve Davenport, Geoff Elner, Hilary Luff and Dan Morris

JUST STOP OIL MOTION

Shropshire Council Notes

1. That the United Kingdom are leading the way on climate change, with 90% of the world’s economy covered by net zero targets, a significant increase from just one third before the UK’s COP 26 presidency.
2. As a council we are supportive of the UK Government’s ambition to make this country a clean energy superpower and is proud of the UK’s overall record on cutting greenhouse emissions.
3. We recognise and understand the need to act on the environment but believes that cooperation with the UK Government and our residents is the right way to pursue our objectives.
4. We are concerned with the impact of illegal protests on residents and threats against nationally important infrastructure.
5. We recognise the right in the United Kingdom under our democracy, for peaceful protest. However, we are vehemently against protests that include wilful vandalism, the disruption of individuals attempting to earn a lawful living, the blocking of roads that impedes parents taking their children to hospital for vital lifesaving appointments and in the utterly selfish act of depriving a son attending his own father’s funeral by stopping the flow of traffic on the nation’s highways.
6. This is an issue that has impact on Shropshire residents and businesses caught up in these protests. Local Shropshire businesses have lost many hours over the past few Months with the disruption. This is at a time when both residents and businesses across Shropshire are already being hit with higher costs and can ill afford the additional costs of unlawful protests.
7. Barclays bank in Shrewsbury were subjected to a disruptive protest in November by an Extinction Rebellion group. Again, created additional inconvenience to the residents of Shropshire.

This council Resolves to:

1. Publicly condemn all illegal protests organised by Just Stop Oil or similar groups.
2. Demand the permanent cessation of all illegal protests and request these groups work constructively with both local and national government to achieve our mutually desired Net Zero Targets.

3. Motion from Councillor David Vasmer and supported by Liberal Democrat Group

Council is extremely concerned by the recently announced cuts to BBC local radio programming.

The changes will cut local programming after 2pm – with most shows after this point being broader regional or national broadcasts.

Council notes the announcement has met fierce criticism from across the political spectrum.

BBC Radio Shropshire is a vital service. It helps residents stay connected to their local community, providing local news, culture, sport and weather updates, and gives residents an opportunity to have their say and participate in local debates through phone-ins. BBC Local Radio does this in a unique way that commercial radio cannot quite match.

In the last couple of years the station was able to help spread important information and give a voice to many people isolated by the pandemic and others traumatised by floods. During the cost of living crisis local radio will play a similarly crucial role in spreading information about support services, warm banks and a number of other important lifelines for residents. It is particularly important for people who do not have access to the internet.

BBC local radio also does a great job of holding decision makers to account – both local and national – as was demonstrated by the round of local interviews conducted with former Prime Minister Liz Truss on 29 September 2022.

Council recognises the BBC is being forced into cuts by successive Government freezes to the license fee and the withdrawal of funding for free licenses for over 75's.

Council calls on the Government to fund the BBC so it can continue to deliver a full schedule of local radio programming across the UK – in addition to its planned expansion of digital radio services.

Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport, Rt Hon Michelle Donelan MP, to express our dismay at these proposed cuts to BBC local radio and to demand that the Government find a solution to cover the BBC's predicted £295 million funding shortfall by 2027.

Council further requests that the Chief Executive write to the Director General of the BBC to celebrate the irreplaceable local service Radio Shropshire provides and stresses our desire for its local programming to be protected and retained.

4. Motion received from Councillor Julia Evans and Supported by the Green Group

Ambulance Hub Move and Road Safety

Council notes:

In Radbrook and Meole Brace, there are Road Safety Groups trying to make Active Travel safer to all

There are two Secondary Schools and one Primary School on the Ambulance main routes to the bypass and urban routes through Shrewsbury. Due to this, no speed reduction measures can be considered along these roads.

The West Midlands Ambulance Service actively looking for another site for their Shrewsbury Hub and have made it their number 1 estates priority. This needs to be a property with enough space for parking and active travel for staff.

We further note:

The last project undertaken for a new Ambulance Hub has taken 5 years, so speed is of the essence.

Council welcomes:

A dialogue between the estates Directors in WMAS with Council Officers, as announced at the last Radbrook Road Safety Meeting on 25th November.

Council urges portfolio holders to:

1. work towards a new Ambulance Hub site as quickly as possible, in order to facilitate much needed road safety improvements in residential areas.
2. investigate offering alternatives within the councils assets, in particular at Weeping Cross.
3. Assist a teaching programme between schools and the Ambulance Service.
4. Assist WMAS with public information on how to drive and pull over when blue lights are seen.
5. Negotiate with them about incorporating a local Shropshire Ambulance Control within the new Hub

16 Questions from Members (Pages 247 - 252)

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

17 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

18 Exempt Minutes (Pages 253 - 256)

To approve as a correct record the exempt minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 September 2022

19 Planning Enforcement Works in Default – The Brambles, Whitchurch – Case Number 18/06223/ENF (Pages 257 - 368)

Exempt Report of the Assistant Director Economy and Place is attached

Contact Tracy Darke Tel: 01743 254915

20 Options for Delivery of Oswestry Innovation Park and Associated Infrastructure (Pages 369 - 382)

Exempt Report of the Executive Director of Place is attached

Contact Mark Barrow Tel: 01743258919



Committee and Date

Council

15 December 2022

COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2022

In the Council Chamber, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6ND

10.00 am - 12.00 pm

Responsible Officer: Tim Ward

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

Present

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

44 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Andy Boddington, Julia Buckley, Simon Harris, Tracey Huffer, Nigel Lumby, Richard Marshall and Robert Tindall

45 Disclosable 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.

There were no declarations of interest made

46 Minutes

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2022, as circulated with the agenda papers, be approved and signed as a correct record.

Councillor Ruth Houghton commented that with reference to minute 29, she had not received the answer to the questions that she had raised.

47 **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 7 July 2022, which had been circulated by email.

The 2022 Birthday Honours recipients list had been circulated and the Chairman confirmed that he had written, on behalf of the Council, to all recipients to congratulate them and acknowledge their achievements.

48 **Public Questions**

The Chairman advised that public questions had been received from Bob Saunders and Rachel Connolly. 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, 22nd September, 2022, 10.00 am — Shropshire Council](#)

49 **Annual Treasury Report 2021/22**

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate Resources, Councillor Gwilym Butler, and seconded by Councillor Garry Burchett 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: That Members accept the position as set out in the report..

50 **Annual Assurance Report of the Audit Committee to Council 2021/22**

It was proposed by the Councillor Brian Williams, Chair – Audit Committee, and seconded by Councillor Chris Schofield 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.

In presenting the report Councillor Williams paid tribute to the work carried out by the Head of Audit and Risk, Ceri Pilawski who was retiring from the council at the end of September. This was echoed by all Members present.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the report be received and agreed.

51 **Alternative Budget Process**

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate Resources, Councillor Gwilym Butler, and seconded by Councillor Roy Aldcroft 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 generally welcomed the contents of the report.

RESOLVED:

That Members

1. Consider the information relating to the current budget processes and approve an approach for future budget consultations (Appendix 2) and an alternative budget process (Appendices 3a and 3b).
2. Authorise the Executive Director of Resources (s151 officer) to amend the Council's existing Financial Rules in accordance with Appendix 9 to this report

52 Modern Slavery Statement

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

Members welcomed the report. Councillor Parry asked that a list of officers that Members could contact with their concerns be circulated.

RESOLVED:

1. That Shropshire Council's Modern Slavery Statement 2021/22 as set out in Appendix A is approved for publication.
2. That the Statement is signed by The Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive on behalf of the Council and the statement is published as required.

53 Update on Cornovii Developments Contracting Arrangements

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Digital, Data and Insight, and Built Housing Councillor Rob Gittins and seconded by the Portfolio Holder for Physical Infrastructure, Councillor Dean Carroll, that the report of the Assistant Director Homes and Communities, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

In response to a question from Councillor R Evans, the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate Support, Councillor Butler stated that there were certain regulations that had to be adhered to when the Council was lending money to third party organisations.

RESOLVED:

That members:

1. Agree the position that Cornovii Developments Limited is subject to public procurement obligations, meaning that it must meet the requirements of Public Contract Regulations, when procuring, works, goods and services (noting the arrangements in place between the Council and the Company also gives rise to the potential for a 'Teckal' arrangement in the future).
2. Authorise, as required, the Executive Director of Place, in consultation with the Assistant Director of Legal and Governance; and Portfolio Holder for Digital, Data Insight and Built Housing, to determine and approve any appropriate amendments to the detailed governance or operation of Cornovii Developments Ltd identified as a result of Counsel's advice.

54 **Whitchurch Swimming and Fitness Centre**

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Communities, Culture, Leisure and Tourism and Transport,, Councillor Cecilia Motley, and seconded by the Councillor Peggy Mullock, that the report of the Executive Director of Place, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

Members paid tribute to the amount of work the local Members, Councillors Biggins, Dakin and Mullock and past portfolio holders had put into bringing this scheme to fruition.

RESOLVED:

That Council:

- Agree the business case for the project, as set out in this paper, with a recommendation that the development of the Whitchurch Swimming and Fitness Centre be included in the capital programme with an initial budget of £13.100m and funding source assumed to be prudential borrowing from Public Works Loan Board (PWLB).
- Acknowledge the significant average annual revenue pressure of £0.509mm arising from approval of this scheme, reaching a maximum of £0.530m in 2028-29, and recommend that Council delegate resolution of this pressure to the Executive Director of Place, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Communities, Culture, Leisure & Tourism.
- Recommend that Council delegates authority to the Executive Director of Place, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Communities, Culture, Leisure & Tourism, to procure, negotiate and agree the terms of any agreements/contracts necessary for the delivery of the project including, but not limited to:
 - Agreeing the procurement strategy
 - Design Team procurement and appointment
 - Site Surveys and Investigations and relevant reports
 - Planning permissions

- Tendering activities
- Main contractor procurement and contract sign-off
- Construction
- Hand over

55 Establishment of a Climate Change and Carbon Reduction Stakeholder Board

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, Natural Assets & Green Economy, Councillor Ian Nellins, and seconded by Councillor Hilary Luff, 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 welcomed the report and asked that as many external organisations as possible be invited to take part in the discussions.

RESOLVED:

That Members approve the establishment and Terms of Reference of a Climate Change and Carbon Reduction Advisory Board

56 West Mercia Youth Justice Plan 2022 - 2023

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Children and Education, Councillor Kirstie Hurst-Knight, and seconded by Councillor Peggy Mullock, that the report of the Executive Director of People, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

Members welcomed the report and recognised the work of all the organisations involved in the plan.

RESOLVED:

That the Youth Justice Plan as attached at Appendix A be approved

57 Interim Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations 2022

It was proposed by the Chairman, Councillor Vince Hunt, and seconded by the Vice Chairman Councillor Brian Williams that the report of the Returning Officer, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received, and agreed.

RESOLVED:

That members of Council approve the following arrangements, in order for them to be implemented on or by 1 December 2022

DIVISION	PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS

Polling District Reference: NKA Baschurch (Baschurch Ward)	Baschurch Village Hall replace Millington Close Community Rooms as the polling place for NKA Baschurch (Baschurch Ward).
Polling District Reference: SBB Shrewsbury (Bagley Ward) (part of)	Emmanuel Church replace Riversway Elim Church as the polling place for SBB Shrewsbury (Bagley Ward) (part of).
Polling District Reference: SJA Shrewsbury (Harlescott Ward) (part of)	Riversway Elim Church replace Emmanuel Church as the polling place for SJA Shrewsbury (Harlescott Ward) (part of).
Polling District Reference: SIA Shrewsbury (Cophorne Ward) (part of)	Army Reserve Centre replace Woodfield Infants School as the polling place for SIA Shrewsbury (Cophorne Ward) (part of).
Polling District Reference: SPB Shrewsbury (Porthill Ward) (part of)	Army Reserve Centre replace Woodfield Infants School as the polling place for SPB Shrewsbury (Porthill Ward) (part of).
Polling District Reference LHA Church Stretton (All Stretton Ward)	All Stretton Village Hall replace Silvester Horne Institute as the polling place for LHA Church Stretton (All Stretton Ward).

58 Appointment of Statutory Scrutiny Officer

The Chairman Councillor Vince Hunt advised the meeting that the council was required, under the Local Government Act 2000, to designate one of its officers to discharge the functions of statutory scrutiny officer and that officer may not be the head of the authority's paid service, the authority's monitoring officer or the authority's chief finance officer. He proposed that Tom Dodds, the Council's Scrutiny Manager, is appointed as the Statutory Scrutiny Officer with immediate effect. This was seconded by the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Brian Williams.

RESOLVED:

That Tom Dodds, the Council's Scrutiny Manager, is appointed as the Statutory Scrutiny Officer with immediate effect.

59 Appointment to Committees

It was proposed by the Chairman Councillor Vince Hunt, and seconded by the Vice Chairman Councillor Brian Williams that the following amendments to committee membership be agreed

Communities Overview Committee

Councillor Mark Williams to replace Councillor Nigel Hartin as a member of the Communities Overview Committee.

Councillor Roy Aldcroft to be appointed as a substitute member of the Communities Overview Committee

Performance Management Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Chris Schofield to be appointed as a member of the Performance Management Scrutiny Committee

Southern Planning Committee

Councillor Richard Huffer to be appointed as a member of the Southern Planning Committee

Councillor Cecilia Motley to be appointed as a substitute member of the Southern Planning Committee

Councillor Viv Parry to be appointed as a substitute member of the Southern Planning Committee

Councillor Mark Williams to be appointed as a substitute member of the Southern Planning Committee

Councillor Paul Wynn to be appointed as a substitute member of the Southern Planning Committee

RESOLVED

That:

Councillor Mark Williams replaces Councillor Nigel Hartin as a member of the Communities Overview Committee.

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

Councillor Chris Schofield be appointed as a member of the Performance Management Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Richard Huffer be appointed as a member of the Southern Planning Committee

Councillor Cecilia Motley be appointed as a substitute member of the Southern Planning Committee

Councillor Viv Parry be appointed as a substitute member of the Southern Planning Committee

Councillor Mark Williams be appointed as a substitute member of the Southern Planning Committee

Councillor Paul Wynn be appointed as a substitute member of the Southern Planning Committee

60 **Motions**

The following motion has been received from Councillor Rosemary Dartnall and is supported by Councillor Kate Halliday and members of the Labour Group

Small Lots of Public Land and the Right to Grow Food

Shropshire communities face a perfect storm of escalating prices for food, for energy just as the evidence for the climate crisis is unfolding before our eyes. This motion requests the council to make available small plots of public land for community food growing.

This initiative seeks to help Shropshire neighbourhoods become more sustainable and increase resilience by making it easier for community groups to grow more food for local people on underused, or unused, public land, on plots as small as 4 – 5 m². Even contaminated land could be used for composting or beekeeping.

Under current rules, it can be complex and costly to access such land – for example, residents can request to take on responsibility for sections of road margin but this includes provision of public liability insurance and includes the obligation for costly tree and hedge management, if any are present.

However, there are great examples of groups that have pushed on with community growing despite the challenges, such as the Street Allotment Project* in Shrewsbury, Incredible Edible groups in Ludlow and Wem and Bridgnorth Community Garden Project, and this shows what can be achieved. The Shropshire Good Food Partnership is set up to support communities across the county to access the skills and resources they need to get started and sustain community growing activities. However, more small lots are needed to take this excellent initiative forward and get more fresh food to more Shropshire people.

The Right to Grow Food will help communities help themselves in really difficult times. Successful projects have potential for even more benefits than nourishment. Through common purpose, improved mental and physical health, reduced loneliness and isolation and more connected and supportive communities can be achieved and this comes with economic benefits far beyond helping out with shopping bills. This is linked to a national initiative on the Right to Grow Food with a proposed Community Food and Land Bill at Westminster.

This council resolves to facilitate community growing in Shropshire as follows;

- Establish and maintain a list of small lots of public land suitable for cultivation or environmental enhancement by community groups, for the medium or even short term
- Community groups, locals and volunteer groups could apply for a certificate of lawful use to cultivate the land for an agreed period without rental charge or ownership change
- The certificate of use should contain a level of standards which, if found to be breached, would be removed or transferred to another community group
- Councillors would be able to seek out land in their division available for community food gardens
- Promote the initiative via the council's website and signpost residents to access advice and land plots, as well as connecting with The Shropshire Good Food Partnership and existing community growing groups

Councillor Kate Halliday seconded the motion

By way of amendment Councillor Dean Carroll proposed

This council resolves to facilitate community growing in Shropshire as follows;

- This Council will expand the group that considers Community Asset Transfer requests to receive Expressions Of Interest from town and parish councils on behalf of their residents and/or local community groups who have identified small parcels of land suitable for food cultivation.
- If identified land is deemed to be appropriate and is supported by local people within the parish/town council area for the purpose of food production, a license to operate on the land covering insurance, risk, ground investigation surveys, tree impact assessment etc will be negotiated on a case by case basis with the town or parish council.
- Councillors would be able to seek out land in their division available for community food gardens.
- Promote the initiative via the council's website.

Councillor Dartnall indicated that she was willing to accept the amendment.

RESOLVED

This council resolves to facilitate community growing in Shropshire as follows;

- This Council will expand the group that considers Community Asset Transfer requests to receive Expressions Of Interest from town and parish councils on behalf of their residents and/or local community groups who have identified small parcels of land suitable for food cultivation.
- If identified land is deemed to be appropriate and is supported by local people within the parish/town council area for the purpose of food production, a license to operate on the land covering insurance, risk, ground investigation surveys, tree impact assessment etc will be negotiated on a case by case basis with the town or parish council.

- Councillors would be able to seek out land in their division available for community food gardens.
- Promote the initiative via the council's website.

61 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 Ruth Houghton and answered by the Portfolio Holder for Digital, Data & Insight and Built Housing in relation to the disposal of housing stock by local housing associations. By way of supplementary question Councillor Houghton commented that a large number of the properties in the southwest of the county had poor heating systems and build type and asked would these properties be disposed of when they became vacant as had already happened. The Portfolio Holder for Digital, Data & Insight and Built Housing commented that this was a problem over the whole of the county and that the Council was currently exploring different solutions to the problem.

Received from Councillor Kevin Pardy and answered by the Portfolio Holder for Communities, Culture, Leisure & Tourism, Transport in relation to the contract between Shropshire Council and SCLG. By way of supplementary question Councillor Pardy commented that the reply infers that a change to a cabinet agreed recommendation can be made at any time and asked does the cabinet does the portfolio holder perceive such changes as democratic? The Portfolio Holder for Communities, Culture, Leisure & Tourism, Transport agreed to respond outside the meeting

Received from Councillor Heather Kidd and answered by the Portfolio Holder for Communities, Culture, Leisure & Tourism, Transport regarding cross border issues with concessionary bus passes. Councillor Kidd thanks the Portfolio Holder for taking this matter up and y way of supplementary question asked for a timeline for reporting back to Councillors on this matter. The Portfolio Holder for Communities, Culture, Leisure & Tourism, Transport commented that it would be difficult to give a timeline due to the amount of work that may be needed

Received from Councillor Dan Morris and answered by the Portfolio Holder for Physical Infrastructure regarding the North West Relief Road. By way of supplementary question Councillor Morris asked could the Portfolio Holder quantify the expected annual benefit of the North West Relief Road? The Portfolio Holder for Physical Infrastructure advised the meeting that the outline business case which was drawn up in 2017 projected an economic benefit to the county of approximately £266 million and that this would be updated when the full business case was drawn up.

Received from Councillor Rosemary Dartnall and answered by the Portfolio Holder for Physical Infrastructure regarding the North West Relief Road. Councillor Dartnall commented that several projects such as the rebuilding of the quarry swimming pool in Shrewsbury were on hold because of inflation in the construction field there were spiralling costs, as well as rising interest rates, both of which will impact on this

project and by way of supplementary question she asked . It is it right that the administration will continue to support this project no matter what, no matter how high the cost become and how small a proportion the 54.4 million contribution from the DfT becomes leaving the people of Shropshire to pick up the escalating bill. The Portfolio Holder commented that until a full review is carried out in line with the full business case the full costs would not be known and that a further request to central government for additional funding could be made if necessary.

62 Exclusion of Press and Public

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.

63 Exempt Minutes

RESOLVED: That the Except Minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2022, as circulated with the agenda papers, be approved and signed as a correct record.

64 Shropshire Council Smallholding Estate

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Physical infrastructure, Councillor dean Carroll, and seconded by the Councillor Garry Burchett, that the report of the Executive Director of Place, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

That with one amendment the recommendations contained in the report be approved

Signed (Chairman)

Date:

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Committee and date

Council

15 December 2022

Item

Public

RETURNING OFFICER'S REPORT

Responsible Officer Andy Begley

Email: andy.begley@shropshire.gov.uk

Telephone: (01743) 258675

I, Andy Begley, the Returning Officer for the Shropshire Council area, do hereby certify that the person named below was elected as Councillor for the Bridgnorth West and Tasley Division of the Shropshire Council area:

<u>Electoral Division</u>	<u>Name and Address</u>	<u>Description</u>
Bridgnorth West and Tasley	Rachel Elizabeth Connolly 3 Clee View Road Bridgnorth WV16 4NS	Labour Party

Dated this 6th day of October 2022

Andy Begley
Returning Officer
The Shirehall
Abbey Foregate
SHREWSBURY
SY2 6ND

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Committee and Date

Cabinet 14th December 2022
Council 15th December 2022

Item

Public

Setting the Council Tax Taxbase for 2023/24

Responsible Officer

James Walton

e-mail: james.walton@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 258915

1. Synopsis

This report presents the Council Tax Taxbase for 2023/24. The report outlines the Council Tax discount policies, Council Tax Support Scheme and the Collection Rate and the impact of these on the taxbase.

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.
- 2.2. This report sets out the Council Tax taxbase for 2023/24 and the policies used to determine the taxbase.
- 2.3. For 2023/24 the Council Tax taxbase will be 118,106.08 Band D equivalents, this is an increase of 2.27% from 2022/23.
- 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 98.5% for 2023/24

3. Recommendations

Cabinet members are asked to agree and recommend to full Council:

- 3.1. To approve, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, the amount calculated by Shropshire Council as it's Council Tax taxbase for the year 2023/24, as detailed in Appendix A, totalling 118,106.08 Band D equivalents.
- 3.2. To note the changes to the Council's localised Council Tax Support (CTS) scheme in 2023/24. 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 8,387.51 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 712.32 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 68.99 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 293.89 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 203.77 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 183.00 Band D equivalents in the taxbase.
- 3.12. To approve a collection rate for the year 2023/24 of 98.5%.

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 2023/24.
- 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 8,387.51 Band D equivalents from the taxbase.
- 5.3. The financial implications of the discounts and premiums to be applied in 2023/24 are detailed in Appendix C and are summarised below:
 - Maintaining the discount in respect of second homes at 0% results in the inclusion of 712.32 Band D equivalents in the taxbase.
 - Maintaining the discount in respect of vacant dwellings results in the exclusion of 68.99 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 293.89, 203.77 and 183.00 Band D equivalents respectively in the taxbase.

- 5.4. Proposed amendments to premiums for 2024/25 onwards are detailed in Appendix C.
- 5.5. The implications regarding the determined collection rate are detailed in Section 8.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.1. The Setting the Council Tax Taxbase 2023/24 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 2022 and 31 January 2023 in relation to 2023/24 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 2023/24.

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 (%)	% Increase / (Decrease) over 2021/22
A	Under £40,000	6/9	18.2	0.4
B	40,001 - 52,000	7/9	25.6	1.0
C	52,001 - 68,000	8/9	20.8	1.2
D	68,001 - 88,000	9/9	14.4	1.1
E	88,001 - 120,000	11/9	11.5	1.7
F	120,001 - 160,000	13/9	6.1	1.4
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 148,938 properties in the valuation list for the Shropshire Council area. This compares with a figure of 147,414 in the list at the same time last year. There has been an increase of 1,524 properties overall, which equates to 1.03%.

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 12 September 2022.
- 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 3 October 2022.
- 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 must 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 97.9% was assumed for the 2022/23 financial year and it is recommended that a collection rate of 98.5% should be assumed for the purpose of determining the Council Tax taxbase in 2023/24.

8.10. Actual in year collection rates in 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22 were 98.2%, 97.7% and 98.1% respectively. The reduction in the Collection Rate for 2020/21 was due to the impact of Covid-19. It is expected that the collection rate will continue to improve.

8.11. If the actual rate exceeds 98.5% 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: 2023/24 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

2023/24 Parish and Town Council Council Tax Taxbase Summary for Shropshire Council	APPENDIX A
Parish / Town Council	Council Tax Taxbase (Band D Equivalents)
Abdon & Heath	113.70
Acton Burnell, Frodesley, Pitchford, Ruckley & Langley	267.72
Acton Scott	43.08
Adderley	212.06
Alberbury with Cardeston	410.96
Albrighton	1,652.81
All Stretton, Smethcott & Woolstaston	177.34
Alveley & Romsley	876.95
Ashford Bowdler	38.14
Ashford Carbonel	182.84
Astley	207.89
Astley Abbots	249.48
Aston Bottrell, Burwarton & Cleobury North	114.79
Atcham	224.34
Badger	58.68
Barrow	265.12
Baschurch	1,189.60
Bayston Hill	1,820.52
Beckbury	152.96
Bedstone & Bucknell	320.34
Berrington	481.27
Bettws-Y-Crwyn	94.53
Bicton	557.00
Billingsley, Deuxhill, Glazeley & Middleton Scriven	163.70
Bishops Castle Town	668.20
Bitterley	357.64
Bomere Heath & District	896.78
Boningale	142.60
Boraston	77.99
Bridgnorth Town	4,648.91
Bromfield	122.92
Broseley Town	1,590.93
Buildwas	107.21
Burford	457.65
Cardington	209.56
Caynham	533.75
Chelmarsh	238.22
Cheswardine	403.94
Chetton	163.08
Childs Ercall	307.34
Chirbury with Brompton	341.17
Church Preen, Hughley & Kenley	127.90
Church Pulverbatch	166.74
Church Stretton & Little Stretton Town	2,190.09
Claverley	936.15
Clee St. Margaret	70.25
Cleobury Mortimer	1,224.85
Clive	252.03
Clun Town with Chapel Lawn	514.05
Clunbury	253.52

2023/24 Parish and Town Council Council Tax Taxbase Summary for Shropshire Council	APPENDIX A
Parish / Town Council	Council Tax Taxbase (Band D Equivalents)
Clungunford	156.93
Cockshutt-cum-Petton	326.59
Condover	931.37
Coreley	140.72
Cound	211.36
Craven Arms Town	822.38
Cressage, Harley & Sheinton	420.84
Culmington	172.34
Diddlebury	288.11
Ditton Priors	363.40
Donington & Boscobel	609.84
Eardington	246.11
Easthope, Shipton & Stanton Long	205.31
Eaton-Under-Heywood & Hope Bowdler	180.99
Edgton	48.93
Ellesmere Rural	992.64
Ellesmere Town	1,524.77
Farlow	188.14
Ford	331.12
Great Hanwood	430.74
Great Ness & Little Ness	565.24
Greete	48.74
Grinshill	114.57
Hadnall	378.90
Highley	1,126.95
Hinstock	554.79
Hodnet	596.56
Hope Bagot	29.82
Hopesay	244.87
Hopton Cangeford & Stoke St. Milborough	165.95
Hopton Castle	39.85
Hopton Wafers	303.68
Hordley	107.75
Ightfield	214.12
Kemberton	116.88
Kinlet	420.00
Kinnerley	523.50
Knockin	144.45
Leebotwood & Longnor	205.39
Leighton & Eaton Constantine	208.53
Llanfairwaterdine	108.51
Llanyblodwel	268.70
Llanymynech & Pant	690.74
Longden	544.61
Loppington	285.22
Ludford	409.88
Ludlow Town	3,532.64
Lydbury North	230.24
Lydham & More	134.32
Mainstone & Colebatch	89.18

2023/24 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	4,138.99
Molverley	52.96
Milson & Neen Sollars	120.71
Minsterley	602.94
Montford	257.62
Moreton Corbet & Lee Brockhurst	142.06
Moreton Say	211.91
Morville, Acton Round, Aston Eyre, Monkhopton & Upton Cressett	380.49
Much Wenlock Town	1,239.16
Munslow	178.44
Myddle & Broughton	634.68
Myndtown, Norbury, Ratlinghope & Wentnor	272.71
Nash	139.44
Neen Savage	157.57
Neenton	64.91
Newcastle	134.16
Norton-In-Hales	348.20
Onibury	132.77
Oswestry Rural	1,691.22
Oswestry Town	5,429.41
Pontesbury	1,391.54
Prees	1,176.75
Quatt Malvern	102.26
Richards Castle	142.71
Rushbury	274.01
Ruyton-Xi-Towns	460.30
Ryton & Grindle	77.37
Selattyn & Gobowen	1,360.84
Shawbury	911.68
Sheriffhales	324.24
Shifnal Town	3,619.48
Shrewsbury Town	26,402.73
Sibdon Carwood	48.69
St. Martins	993.37
Stanton Lacy	169.38
Stanton-Upon-Hine Heath	250.53
Stockton	130.91
Stoke-Upon-Tern	508.57
Stottesdon & Sidbury	342.75
Stowe	48.21
Sutton Maddock	109.64
Sutton-Upon-Tern	423.53
Tasley	419.00
Tong	127.31
Uffington	125.87
Upton Magna	152.86
Welshampton & Lyneal	387.89
Wem Rural	702.05
Wem Town	2,027.65
West Felton	587.64

2023/24 Parish and Town Council Council Tax Taxbase Summary for Shropshire Council	APPENDIX A
Parish / Town Council	Council Tax Taxbase (Band D Equivalents)
Westbury	525.10
Weston Rhyn	882.68
Weston-Under-Redcastle	122.04
Wheathill	80.70
Whitchurch Rural	669.47
Whitchurch Town	3,454.03
Whittington	987.29
Whitton	63.56
Whixall	339.40
Wistanstow	335.07
Withington	106.28
Woore	613.55
Worfield & Rudge	930.26
Worthen with Shelve	825.21
Wroxeter & Uppington	164.83
Shropshire Council Total	118,106.08
Environment Agency - Severn Trent Region	110,915.17
Environment Agency - Welsh Region	4,556.61
Environment Agency - North West Region	2,634.30
Shropshire Council Total	118,106.08

APPENDIX B

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 2023. 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 8,387.51 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 2023/24 will vary from the estimate.
- 1.6. A link to the full scheme for 2022/23 is below.

<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/media/24713/ctrs-scheme-2022-2023.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 divided 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. Job Seekers Allowance (Contributions) & Employment and Support Allowance (Contributions)	=	£3.65
In receipt of Pension Credit, Income Support, Job Seekers Allowance (Income Based), Employment and Support Allowance (Income based), Employment and Support Allowance (Income Related)	=	nil

(This disregard will be up-rated annually in line with figures provided annually by Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities)

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 Education 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.

Changes with effect from 1 April 2023

Added to schedules 9 and 10 capital to be disregarded, both pens and WA (and also income other than earnings for good measure)

(7) any payment made under or by the approved blood scheme, or the Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme as established or approved by the Secretary of State, or trust established with funds provided by the Secretary of State

(8) any payment made under or by a trust, established for the purpose of giving relief and assistance to disabled persons whose disabilities were caused by the fact that during their mother's pregnancy she had taken a preparation containing the drug known as Thalidomide, and which is approved by the Secretary of State.

Add to interpretation

“approved blood scheme” means a scheme established or approved by the Secretary of State, or trust established with funds provided by the Secretary of State, for the purpose of providing compensation in respect of a person having been infected from contaminated blood products;”;

Amended

105 6

From

Where the change of circumstances is the death of an applicant's partner or their separation, it takes effect on the day the death or separation occurs.

To

Where the change of circumstances is the death of an applicant's partner or their separation, it takes effect on the day the death or separation occurs.

(a) Where the applicant was included as “the partner” of the deceased (or ex-partners) Council Tax Support entitlement at date of death or separation, The Council Tax Liability created following the death of an applicant's partner or their separation falls to be treated as “first liable” within Reg 105 (2) of this scheme

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.

APPENDIX C

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 2023/24 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 712.32 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 2023/24 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 2023/24 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 68.99 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 2023/24 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 293.89 Band D equivalents in the taxbase in relation to properties unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for more than two years, 203.77 Band D equivalents in the taxbase in relation to properties unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for more than five years and 183.00 Band D equivalents in the taxbase in relation to properties unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for more than ten years.

4.0 Changes to premiums 2024/25 onwards

4.1 The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill will further enhance charging options with effect from 1 April 2024. Through the Bill it is the Government's intention to enable billing authorities to:

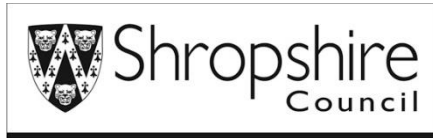
- reduce the minimum period for the implementation of the council tax premium for long term empty premises from two years to one year; and
- allow billing authorities to introduce a council tax premium of up to 100% in respect of second homes

4.2 In its current form the Bill requires billing authorities to make a resolution confirming their intentions on the application of the premiums at least twelve months prior to the start of the financial year in which the changes would come into effect, meaning that the Bill will require Royal Assent to be obtained prior to 31 March 2023 in order for billing authorities to be given the powers to make a resolution and adopt the changes for the year commencing 1 April 2024.

4.3 Assuming the Bill receives Royal Assent, the Council will be required to make a resolution confirming the intention on the application of the premiums at least 12 months prior to the financial year in which the changes would come into effect, so prior to 31 March 2023 in order for the changes to be implemented for the 2024/25 financial year.

4.4 If the Bill receives Royal Assent a recommendation will be made to Council to pass a resolution to:

- reduce the minimum period for the implementation of the council tax premium for long term empty premises from two years to one year; and
- to introduce a council tax premium of up to 100% in respect of second homes



<u>Committee and Date</u>	<u>Item</u>
Audit Committee 24 November 2022	
Cabinet 14 December 2022	
Council 15 December 2022	<u>Public</u>

TREASURY STRATEGY 2022/23 – MID YEAR REVIEW

**Responsible
Officer**

James Walton

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1. Synopsis

In-year benefits of £3.9m have been realised through active management of Council treasury activity. No new external borrowing has been entered into and so as at 30 September 2022, the Council held £143m in investments and had £292m of borrowing. The report confirms compliance with Treasury and Prudential limits agreed by Full Council.

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 2022/23
- A review of the Treasury Strategy 2022/23 and Annual Investment Strategy
- A review of the Council's investment portfolio for 2022/23
- A review of the Council's borrowing strategy for 2022/23
- A review of any debt rescheduling taken
- A review of compliance with Treasury and Prudential limits for 2022/23

3. Recommendations

3.1. Members are asked to agree the Treasury Strategy updates as set out in the 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 2022/23 six-month performance is above benchmark and has delivered additional income of £52,270.
- 5.3. In-year (2022/23) benefits have been realised of £3.9m, made up of £1.0m (MRP), £0.3m (borrowing costs), and £0.5m (interest payable), and £2.1m interest receivable. Further details are set out from para 10.7 (below).

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 direct 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 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”. Broadly, cash received by the Council raised during the year will meet its cash expenditure. Treasury Management operations ensure this cash flow is planned and managed. Temporary surplus balances are invested in low-risk counterparties (providing security), ensuring cash availability (liquidity), and only considering investment return (yield) last.
- 7.2. Cash flow management covers in-year (revenue) costs as well as the funding of the Council’s long term (capital) plans. Capital plans provide a guide to the future borrowing need of the Council and may involve arranging long or short-term borrowing. Occasionally existing debt may be restructured as opportunities allow.
- 7.3. 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
- 7.4. A report setting out the Council’s Capital Strategy was taken to full Council in February 2022. The report informs Members of the treasury activities of the Council for the first six months of the financial year.
- 7.5. To secure specialist advice on long term borrowing and investment, the Council works with Link Asset Services, who provide the detailed analysis set out in this report.

8. Economic Update and Forecast

- 8.1. Since the Council’s Treasury and Capital strategies were agreed in February 2022, there has been considerable change in terms of the economic environment. Inflation rates have increased further than

previously anticipated, and bank base rates have also increased.

- 8.2. At the time of writing, the Chancellor is preparing the Autumn Statement, which is expected to bring further details of tax increases and spending cuts. These will continue to inform treasury and capital strategy decisions for some time to come. A detailed commentary can be found in Appendix D.
- 8.3. Link Asset Services forecast interest rates over the next 36 months. Their latest interest rate forecasts were updated 8 November and are shown below.

Link Group Interest Rate View	08.11.22												
	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25	Dec-25
BANK RATE	3.50	4.25	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.00	3.75	3.50	3.25	3.00	2.75	2.50	2.50
3 month ave earnings	3.60	4.30	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.00	3.80	3.30	3.00	3.00	2.80	2.50	2.50
6 month ave earnings	4.20	4.50	4.60	4.50	4.20	4.10	3.90	3.40	3.10	3.00	2.90	2.60	2.60
12 month ave earnings	4.70	4.70	4.50	4.50	4.30	4.20	4.00	3.50	3.20	3.10	3.00	2.70	2.70
5 yr PWLB	4.30	4.30	4.20	4.10	4.00	3.90	3.80	3.60	3.50	3.40	3.30	3.20	3.10
10 yr PWLB	4.50	4.50	4.40	4.30	4.20	4.00	3.90	3.70	3.60	3.50	3.40	3.30	3.20
25 yr PWLB	4.70	4.70	4.60	4.50	4.40	4.30	4.10	4.00	3.90	3.70	3.60	3.50	3.50
50 yr PWLB	4.30	4.40	4.30	4.20	4.10	4.00	3.80	3.70	3.60	3.40	3.30	3.20	3.20

9. Treasury Strategy update

- 9.1. The Treasury Management Strategy (TMS) for 2022/23 was approved by Full Council on 24 February 2022. 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 interest rate forecasts (above), we are seeing interest rates rise to levels not seen in for several years. As a result, see some increase in interest earned is anticipated. It is also expected that previous investments placed when rates were at low will now mature and be replaced with higher interest deposits.
- 10.2. In the current economic climate, it is considered appropriate to keep investments short term (up to 1 year), and only invest with highly rated financial institutions using Link's suggested creditworthiness approach. This includes sovereign credit rating and Credit Default Swap (CDS) overlay information provided by Link. The Treasury Team continue to take this prudent approach.
- 10.3. In the first six months of 2022/23, the internal treasury team outperformed its benchmark by 0.07% (return of 0.98% compared to the benchmark of 0.91%). This generated additional income of £52,270 during the first six months (included in the quarterly

financial report).

- 10.4. A full list of investments held as at 30 September 2022, compared to Link's counterparty list, and changes to Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poor's credit ratings are shown in **Appendix A**.
- 10.5. None of the approved limits within the Annual Investment Strategy were breached during the first six months of 2022/23 or previously. Officers monitor the credit ratings of investment counterparties daily.
- 10.6. Recent investment rates available in the market have increased due to the central bank rate increasing to 3.00% in November 2022. The average level of funds available for investment in the first six months of 2022/23 was £149 million.
- 10.7. The MRP budget is expected to deliver one-off in year savings of (£1.3m). Of this, (£1.000m) is the result of releasing budget held for potential additional MRP costs from new projects. (£0.3m) is as a result of changes in actual borrowing requirements identified during the 2021-22 closedown.
- 10.8. Savings of (£0.513m) are also expected against interest payable budgets, however recent Bank of England base rate increases will have an impact on borrowing rates going forward; i.e. it will be more expensive to borrow for capital purposes. These rates and resulting costs will be monitored on a monthly basis. Discussions will be ongoing around the delivery of the capital programme in terms of the funding requirement, and how it will be financed. The interest payable budget does not include any new external borrowing. The interest payable budget includes the current fixed term debt charges only
- 10.9. The interest receivable budget is expected to deliver, as a minimum, additional income of (£2.138m) due to recent changes in the Bank of England base rate, which has increased from 2.25% to 3.00% in November 2022. Further rate rises are expected later in this financial year, and projections on income will be reviewed on a monthly basis. The current estimates are based on assumptions of the value of investment balances. Financial markets are extremely volatile at the moment due to global inflation, the cost of living crisis, the likelihood of a recession and the ongoing war in Ukraine. Due to all these factors, rate forecasts will be constantly reviewed, due to the continued uncertainty.

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.
- 12.2 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 £49m funding arrangement.
- 12.3 A further update will be provided in the Treasury Strategy 2022/23 that goes to full Council in February 2023. Delegated authority has been given to the Executive Director of Resources to finalise the agreement.

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

Council, 24 February 2022, Treasury Strategy 2022/23.
Council, 24 February 2022, Capital Strategy 22/23 – 26/27
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 2022
- B. Prudential Limits
- C. Prudential Borrowing Schedule
- D. Economic Update, Forecast and Borrowing



Shropshire Council

Monthly Investment Analysis Review

September 2022

Monthly Economic Summary

General Economy

The UK Manufacturing PMI rose to 48.5 in September from 47.3 in the previous month and above market expectations of 47.5. Still, the latest reading pointed to a second consecutive month of contraction in the sector as production continued to fall amid weaker intakes of new business. The UK Services PMI fell to 49.2 in September from 50.9 in August, missing market expectations of 50, flash estimates showed. This marked the first drop in services' activity since February 2021, though the rate of decline was only marginal. This was largely due to the slowdown in sales amid the cost of living crisis and rising economic uncertainty weighing in on activity levels. The UK Composite PMI slipped to 48.4 in September 2022 from 49.6 in August, below expectations of 49. The biggest concern with businesses often included the negative impact of high costs and a weaker economic outlook on client spending and output. The UK Construction PMI edged higher to 49.2 in August of 2022 from 48.9 in July, compared to market forecasts of 48. Although stronger than expected, the reading was a second consecutive month of falling construction output, as customer demand moved closer to stagnation amid cost pressures and economic uncertainty.

The British economy unexpectedly expanded 0.2% on quarter in the Q2 2022, better than initial estimates of a 0.1% contraction. Services rose 0.2%, revised from initial estimates of a 0.4% drop with the largest contributors coming from human health and social work. Meanwhile, production contracted 0.2%, with manufacturing falling 1.1% and mining 1% while electricity and gas, went up 3.9%. The UK trade deficit narrowed to £7.8 billion in July from £11.4 billion in the previous month. It was the smallest trade shortfall since last December, as exports rose by 4.2% (goods sales advanced by 7.2% and exports of services were up 0.6%). Meanwhile, imports fell by 1.6%, as goods purchases declined by 2.3%, mostly from non-EU countries (-4.1%). Conversely, imports of services rose by 0.7%. The Chancellor Kwasi Kwarteng has announced his "Growth Plan" in a Mini-Budget. The Growth Plan sets an ambitious target for annual economic growth of 2.5% and is supported by a range of cuts to both direct and indirect taxes, support for individuals and businesses to tackle increasing energy costs, and measures to encourage and reward investment. The proposed fiscal package and its unfunded nature, which seemed somewhat at odds to the Bank of England's focus on dampening inflation, caused a sharp market reaction in the immediate aftermath of the announcement. This saw Bank Rate expectations through the final two meetings of the year and 2023 ratchet higher, while gilt yields rose significantly.

UK employment went up by 40,000 in the three months to July, the smallest increase in five months, and less than a third of market forecasts of 128,000. Full-time employees and self-employed workers increased while part-time employees decreased. The unemployment rate in the UK fell to 3.6% in the three months to July, the lowest since 1974, from 3.8% in the previous period as the number of people who are no longer looking for work increased. Average weekly earnings including bonuses in the UK increased by 5.5% y/y in the three months to July, above an upwardly revised 5.2% in the three months to June. In addition, regular pay which excludes bonus payment went up 5.2%, after 4.7% rise in the previous period. However, adjusted for inflation, total pay fell 2.6% while regular pay dropped 2.8%, amid a squeeze in UK living standards. UK inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index edged lower to 9.9% in August from 10.1% in July, below market forecasts of 10.2%. It is the first time in 11 months inflation eased, with motor fuels prices making the largest downward contribution. The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee raised its key interest rate by 50bps to 2.25% during its September 2022 meeting, the 7th consecutive rate hike, and pushing borrowing costs to the highest since 2008. The GfK Consumer Confidence indicator fell to -49 in September from -44 in August, hitting a new record low as British households continued to grapple with the cost of living crisis and wider economic uncertainties. This is evidently shown a fall in retail sales by 1.6% m/m in August, the biggest decline so far this year and following a 0.4% rise in July. In August 2022, initial estimates show that the public sector

spent more than it received in taxes and other income. This required it to borrow £11.8 billion, which was £5.8 billion more than the £6.0 billion forecast by the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR).

The US unemployment rate rose to 3.7% in August, the highest since February and above market expectations of 3.5%. The number of unemployed people increased by 344,000 to 6.01 million, while employment levels went up by 442,000 to 158.73 million. The US economy contracted by an annualised 0.6% on quarter in Q2 2022, matching the second estimate, and confirming the economy technically entered a recession, following a 1.6% drop in Q1. The Federal Reserve raised the Federal Funds Rate by 75 bps to the 3%-3.25% range at its September meeting, the third straight three-quarter point increase and pushing borrowing costs to the highest since 2008. Policymakers also anticipate that ongoing increases in the target range will be appropriate, which was reinforced by Chair Powell at the post-meeting press conference. The Fed’s “dot plot”, which outlines individual member forecasts, showed interest rates will likely reach 4.4% by December, above 3.4% projected in June, and rise to 4.6% next year.

The Euro Area economy expanded 0.8% on quarter in Q2 2022, higher than a 0.6% rise indicated in the second estimate, and the strongest growth rate in three quarters. Household spending was the main driver of the expansion, prompted by the easing of covid restrictions and the summer tourism season. The annual inflation rate in the Euro Area jumped to 10% in September of 2022 from 9.1% in August. It marks the fifth consecutive month of rising inflation, with prices showing no signs of peaking. In a similar vein, core inflation, which excludes prices of energy, food, alcohol and tobacco, increased to a record high of 4.8% in September from 4.3% in August.

Housing

The Nationwide House Price Index in the UK increased 9.5% y/y in September, slightly less than 10% in August and below market forecasts of 10%. The growth rate came back to single digits for the first time since October last year. The South West region was the strongest performer region once again, while London remained the weakest. Moreover, The Halifax house price index in the United Kingdom rose 11.5% y/y in August of 2022, the lowest level in three months.

Currency

Sterling depreciated against both the US dollar and Euro across August amid the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and surging commodity prices, which raised the prospect of stagflation.

September	Start	End	High	Low
GBP/USD	\$1.1601	\$1.1395	\$1.1640	\$1.1159
GBP/EUR	€1.1527	€1.1163	€1.1706	€1.0747

Forecast

The Bank Rate was raised to 2.25% at the Monetary Policy Committee’s meeting in September, with both Link Group and Capital Economics now expecting rates to peak at 5.00% by Q1 2023.

Bank Rate													
	Now	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25
Link Group	2.25%	4.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	4.50%	4.00%	3.75%	3.25%	3.00%	2.75%	2.75%	2.50%
Capital Economics	2.25%	4.25%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	4.75%	4.25%	3.75%	3.25%			

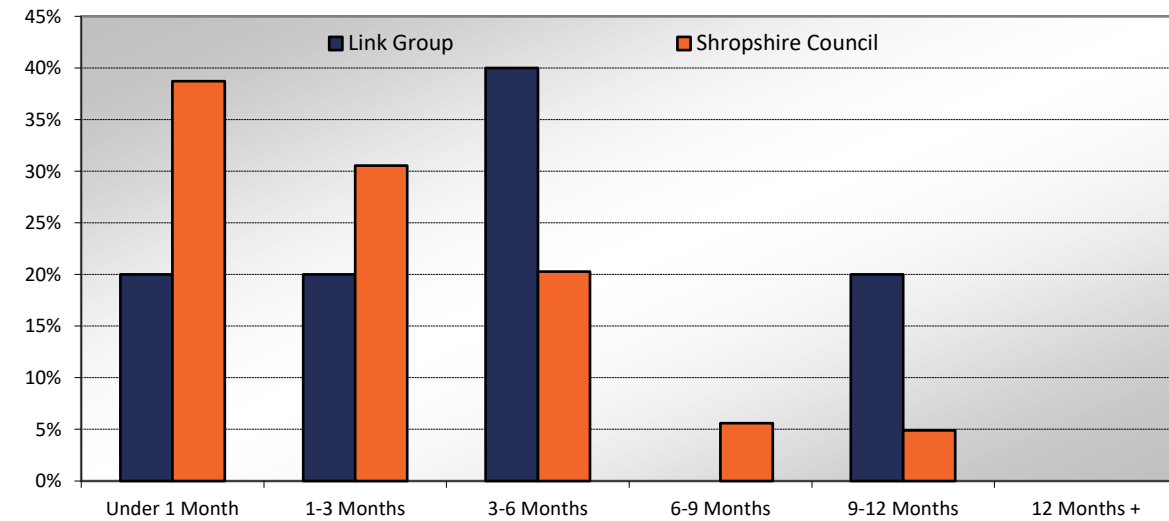
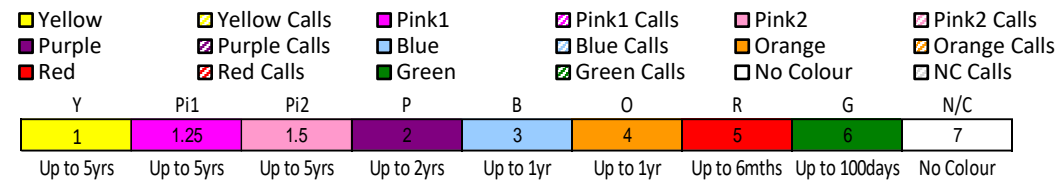
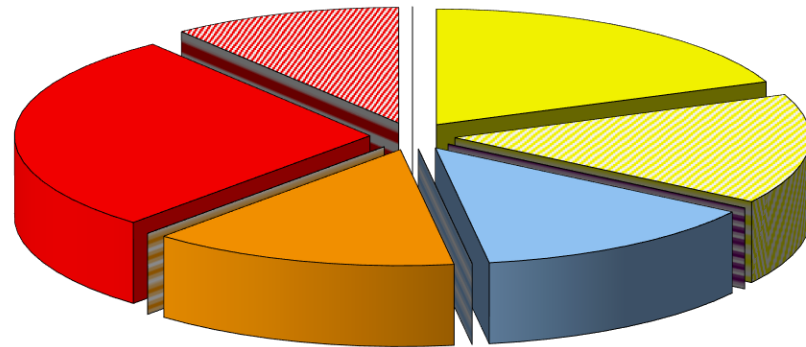
Shropshire Council

Current Investment List

	Borrower	Principal (£)	Interest Rate	Start Date	Maturity Date	Lowest LT / Fund Rating	Historic Risk of Default
	Santander UK PLC	15,000,000	1.69%		Call	A	0.000%
	MMF Aberdeen Standard Investments	7,000,000	1.54%		MMF	AAAm	
	MMF Insight	15,000,000	1.69%		MMF	AAAm	
	Highland Council	5,000,000	0.10%	11/10/2021	04/10/2022	AA-	0.000%
	DMO	5,000,000	1.87%	15/09/2022	10/10/2022	AA-	0.001%
	Barclays Bank UK PLC (RFB)	5,000,000	1.75%	12/08/2022	20/10/2022	A	0.003%
	DMO	3,400,000	1.94%	07/09/2022	31/10/2022	AA-	0.002%
	Barclays Bank UK PLC (RFB)	1,000,000	1.35%	03/05/2022	03/11/2022	A	0.004%
	Highland Council	5,000,000	1.15%	08/03/2022	08/11/2022	AA-	0.002%
	DMO	5,000,000	2.15%	15/09/2022	18/11/2022	AA-	0.003%
	Barclays Bank UK PLC (RFB)	4,000,000	1.46%	27/05/2022	25/11/2022	A	0.007%
	DMO	3,700,000	2.55%	29/09/2022	30/11/2022	AA-	0.004%
	Nationwide Building Society	5,000,000	1.35%	07/06/2022	07/12/2022	A	0.009%
	HSBC UK Bank Plc (RFB)	5,000,000	0.32%	09/12/2021	08/12/2022	A+	0.009%
	Nationwide Building Society	5,000,000	1.48%	10/06/2022	09/12/2022	A	0.009%
	Goldman Sachs International Bank	5,000,000	2.10%	11/07/2022	12/12/2022	A+	0.009%
	Barclays Bank UK PLC (RFB)	5,000,000	1.83%	15/06/2022	15/12/2022	A	0.010%
	HSBC UK Bank Plc (RFB)	5,000,000	0.51%	04/01/2022	03/01/2023	A+	0.012%
	Goldman Sachs International Bank	5,000,000	2.80%	18/08/2022	17/01/2023	A+	0.014%
	HSBC UK Bank Plc (RFB)	3,000,000	0.66%	26/01/2022	25/01/2023	A+	0.015%
	National Westminster Bank Plc (RFB)	5,000,000	0.94%	04/02/2022	25/01/2023	A	0.015%
	National Westminster Bank Plc (RFB)	2,000,000	1.00%	18/02/2022	01/02/2023	A	0.016%
	HSBC UK Bank Plc (RFB)	4,000,000	1.01%	08/02/2022	07/02/2023	A+	0.016%
	Coventry Building Society	2,000,000	2.99%	23/09/2022	23/03/2023	A-	0.022%
	Coventry Building Society	3,000,000	3.78%	30/09/2022	30/03/2023	A-	0.023%
	HSBC UK Bank Plc (RFB)	1,500,000	1.61%	24/05/2022	23/05/2023	A+	0.030%
	National Westminster Bank Plc (RFB)	5,000,000	2.00%	31/05/2022	31/05/2023	A	0.031%
	HSBC UK Bank Plc (RFB)	1,500,000	2.18%	14/06/2022	14/06/2023	A+	0.032%
	National Westminster Bank Plc (RFB)	5,000,000	3.05%	23/08/2022	18/08/2023	A	0.041%
	National Westminster Bank Plc (RFB)	2,000,000	3.80%	20/09/2022	15/09/2023	A	0.044%
	Total Investments	£143,100,000	1.68%				0.011%

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.

Portfolio Composition by Link Group's Suggested Lending Criteria



Portfolios weighted average risk number = 3.22

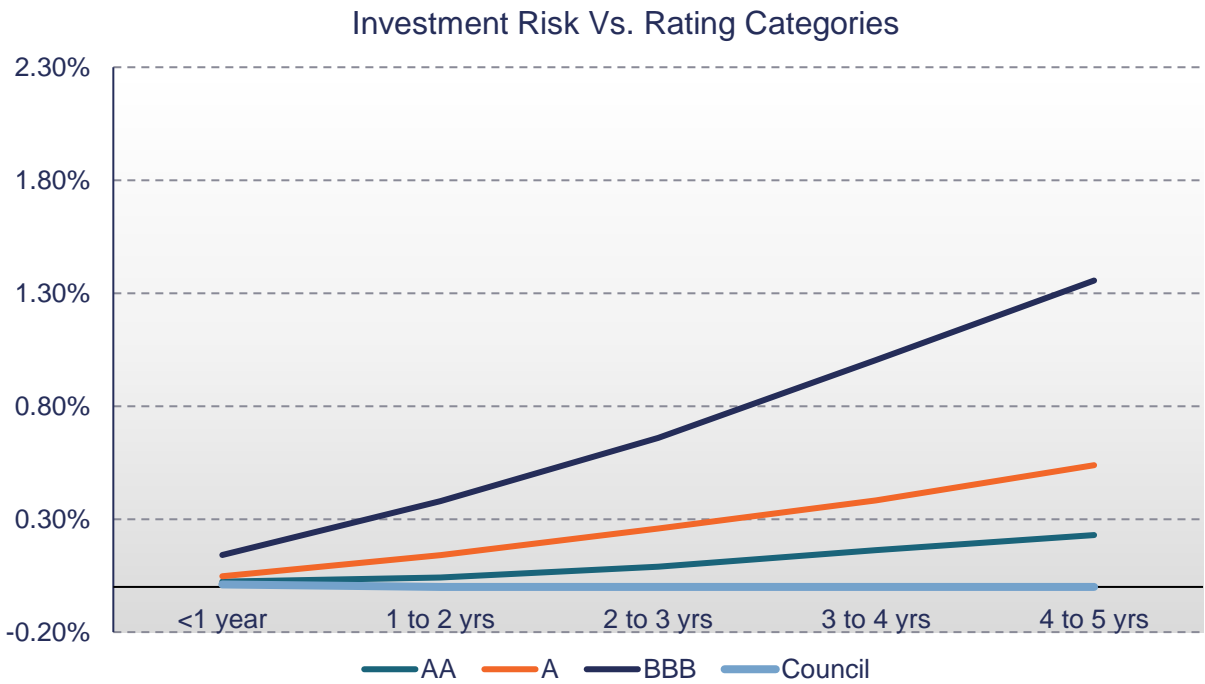
WARoR = Weighted Average Rate of Return

WAM = Weighted Average Time to Maturity

	% 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	34.31%	£49,100,000	44.81%	£22,000,000	15.37%	1.60%	17	79	31	143
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	13.28%	£19,000,000	0.00%	£0	0.00%	2.08%	229	359	229	359
Orange	13.98%	£20,000,000	0.00%	£0	0.00%	0.79%	121	364	121	364
Red	38.43%	£55,000,000	27.27%	£15,000,000	10.48%	1.93%	59	117	81	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
	100.00%	£143,100,000	25.86%	£37,000,000	25.86%	1.68%	76	171	102	230

Shropshire Council

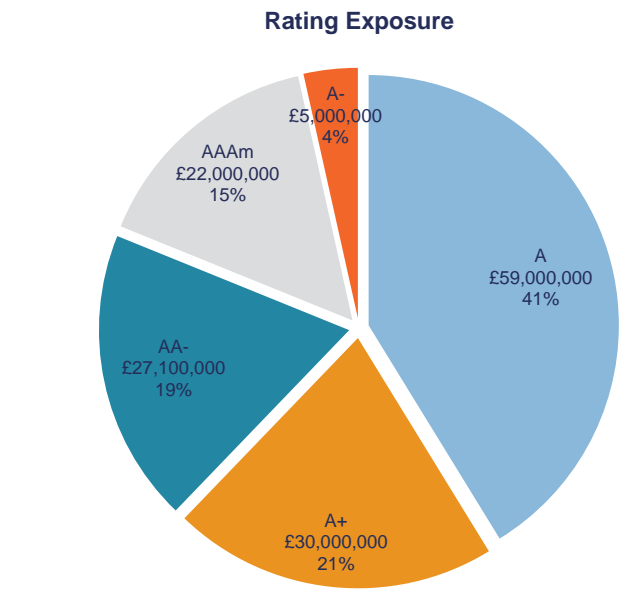
Investment Risk and Rating Exposure



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%

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.



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.

Shropshire Council

Monthly Credit Rating Changes MOODY'S

Date	Update Number	Institution	Country	Rating Action
23/09/2022	1927	NatWest Markets Plc (NRFB)	United Kingdom	The Long Term Rating was upgraded to 'A1' from 'A2'. At the same time the Outlook on the Long Term rating was changed to Stable from Positive.

Shropshire Council

Monthly Credit Rating Changes FITCH

Date	Update Number	Institution	Country	Rating Action
13/09/2022	1918	UBS AG	Switzerland	The Support Rating was withdrawn
13/09/2022	1921	Societe Generale	Fance	The Support Rating was withdrawn
13/09/2022	1919	Deutsche Bank AG	Germany	The Support Rating was withdrawn
13/09/2022	1922	Barclays Bank UK PLC (RFB)	United Kingdom	The Support Rating was withdrawn
13/09/2022	1920	BNP Paribas	France	The Support Rating was withdrawn
20/09/2022	1925	Citibank N.A.	United States	The Support Rating was withdrawn
20/09/2022	1923	Bank of America N.A.	United States	The Support Rating was withdrawn
20/09/2022	1924	JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.	United States	The Support Rating was withdrawn
20/09/2022	1926	Goldman Sachs International Bank	United Kingdom	The Support Rating was withdrawn
23/09/2022	1929	HSBC UK Bank Plc (RFB)	United Kingdom	The Outlook on the Long Term Rating was changed to Stable from Negative. At the same time the Support Rating was withdrawn
23/09/2022	1928	HSBC Bank PLC (NRFB)	United Kingdom	The Outlook on the Long Term Rating was changed to Stable from Negative. At the same time the Support Rating was withdrawn

Shropshire Council

Monthly Credit Rating Changes
S&P

Date	Update Number	Institution	Country	Rating Action

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 2022/23

Prudential Indicator	2022/23 Indicator £m	Quarter 1 – Actual £m	Quarter 2 – Actual £m	Quarter 3 – Actual £m	Quarter 4 – Actual £m
Non HRA Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)	431*	366	392		
HRA CFR	95	95	95		
Gross borrowing	348	292	292		
Investments	150	129	143		
Net borrowing	198	163	149		
Authorised limit for external debt	528	292	292		
Operational boundary for external debt	460	292	292		
Limit of fixed interest rates (borrowing)	528	292	292		
Limit of variable interest rates (borrowing)	264	0	0		
Internal Team Principal sums invested > 364 days	70	0	0		
Maturity structure of borrowing limits	%	%	%	%	%
Under 12 months	15	2	2		
12 months to 2 years	15	0	0		
2 years to 5 years	45	1	1		
5 years to 10 years	75	16	16		
10 years to 20 years	100	31	31		
20 years to 30 years	100	22	22		
30 years to 40 years	100	17	17		
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 Finance Summary

Prudential Borrowing Approvals	Date Approved	Amount Approved £	Applied (Soent) 2006/07 £	Applied (Soent) 2007/08 £	Applied Outturn 08/09 2009/10 £	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 £	Applied Outturn 21/22 2021/22 £	Budgeted 2022/23 £	Budgeted 2023/24 £	Budgeted 2024/25 £	Budgeted 2025/26 £	Budgeted 2026/27 £	First year MRP Channelled	Asset Life	Final year MRP Channelled		
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	0	0	0	0				
Highways	24/02/06	2,000,000	2,000,000																									
Accommodation Changes	24/02/06	650,000		410,200	39,800																							
Accommodation Changes - Savings	31/03/07	(200,000)																										
		450,000	410,200	39,800	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
The Plannium Building	06/11/09	3,744,000				3,744,000																						
The Mount McKinley Building	06/11/09	2,782,000				2,782,000																						
The Mount McKinley Building	06/11/09	0																										
Capital Strategy Scheme - Potential Capital Receipts shortfall - Desktop Virtualisation	25/02/10	187,600								0					0.00													
						187,600																						
Carbon Efficiency Schemes/Self Financing	25/02/10	1,512,442					115,686	1,312,810	83,976	-	-		-	-	0.00	-												
Transformation schemes		96,636						92,636																				
Renewables - Biomass - Self Financing	14/09/11	92,596						82,498	98,298	(87,870)	-																	
Solar PV Council Buildings - Self Financing	11/05/11	56,342						1,283,958	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									4,160,000	-																
Mardol House Adaptation and Refit	26/02/15	3,340,000									167,640.84	3,172,358.86	-			0.00	-											
Oswestry Leisure Centre Equipment - Self Financing	01/08/12	290,274													274,230	16,035												
Car Parking Strategy Implementation	17/01/18	590,024													589,497.06	1,024												
JPAT - Investment in Units re Shrewsbury Shopping Centres	13/12/17	55,215,173													55,204,603	(100,569.18)	2,791,067	300,079.38	107,095									
JPAT - SSC No 1 Ltd	13/12/17	527,319													527,319													
COL Shareholding	28/02/19	-1															1											
Children's Residential Care	28/02/19	2,000,001															1,381,539	230,765	38,486.70	349,210								
Pride Hill Shopping Centre Reconfiguration	18/12/19	1,276,320																434,027	842,293									
Greenacres Supported Living Development	24/09/20	3,125,000																34,317	90,683	2,000,000	1,000,000							
Bishops Castle Business Park	18/09/19	3,111,690																2,000	1,545,647	1,563,352								
Whitchurch Medical Park (Pauls Moss Development)	26/07/18	3,778,228																	800,000	2,978,228								
Oswestry Castle Property Acquisition	18/12/19	3,256,241														3,256,241												
DVSA Site Acquisition		0																										
NCP Car Park, W. Shrewsbury		0																			0							
Former Merions Road, Oswestry	19/09/19	3,390,145														3,390,145												
Maele Brace Pitch & Putt		5,400,000																11,927	620,360	4,284,298	503,415							
Shrewsbury Solar Farm		2,041,173																		2,041,173								
Commercial Investment - Fm Strat 19/20		5,479,704																				5,479,704						
The Tannery Development Block A - Land Acquisition		680,263																		62,000	597,783							
The Tannery Development Block A		6,353,695																			1,353,695	5,000,000						
The Tannery Development - Block B & C		7,487,802																										
Oswestry Property Acquisition	12/05/22	3,328,850																		3,328,850								
Shrewsbury Property Acquisition		3,846,000																		3,846,000								
Revolving Bin Roll Out Programme		2,932,471																		4,395	2,928,076							
Highways Investment Programme	1st Strategy Fe	31,665,001																		3,983,412	14,011,589	3,445,000	3,695,000	6,330,000				
Whitchurch Swimming & Leisure Facility	22/09/22	13,100,282																			621,624	4,420,687	5,357,237	2,067,303	633,261			
Previous NSDC Borrowing		665,593				821,136	134,497																					
		187,623,090	5,410,200	39,800	2,821,138	6,848,057	3,695,656	2,896,333	1,018,015	(1,439,872)	4,327,641	3,172,359	0	53,096,161	4,057,772	10,903,325	4,689,242.81	6,646,685.95	26,761,697	20,602,961	21,635,356	8,397,393	633,261					

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Appendix D

Economic Update

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has recently increased Bank Rate to 3.00% from 2.25%. The increase was made on the 4 November 2022 and reflected a split vote – seven members voting for a 0.75% increase, one for 0.5% and one for a 0.25% increase. The MPC continues to grapple with getting inflation back on track over a three-year horizon.

The MPC has now increased interest rates eight times in as many meetings in 2022 and has raised rates to their highest level since the Global Financial Crisis. Even so, coming after the Fed and ECB raised rates by 0.75% in their most recent meetings, the Bank of England's latest 0.75% hike looks relatively dovish. However, the UK's status as a large importer of commodities, which have jumped in price, means that households in the UK are now facing a much larger squeeze on their real incomes.

The UK has a new Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, a new Chancellor, Jeremy Hunt, and new fiscal policies – to be firmed up on the 17th of November Autumn Statement - that seek to ensure that the public finances are kept on a sound footing and that any projected gaps (possibly £50bn to £60bn) are fully funded from services efficiencies and/or net tax increases.

In the interim period, since the end of September, the Government scrapped the reduction in the basic rate of income tax by 1p in the £; maintained the higher band 45p in the £ income tax rate; did not reduce Corporation Tax to 19% from 25%; only put in place support for businesses and households for 6 months (October to March) regarding caps on the unit costs of gas and electricity. In addition, the Bank of England has had to intervene in the longer part of the gilt market to ensure that pension funds did not have to undertake a "fire sale" of assets to raise cash to pay for margin calls, arising from the sell-off of long-dated gilts (yields rising) in the wake of the former Chancellor's policy to seek to boost growth with unfunded tax cuts.

In recent days, calm has returned to the markets, the £ has risen from a historic low of \$1.03 to \$1.14, and the cumulative movement in gilt yields since the turn of the year is now broadly in line with that seen in the US and Euro-zone bond markets.

The Bank of England's Quarterly Monetary Policy Report detailed that the UK economy is headed for eight quarters of negative growth based on the market's expectation for Bank Rate to increase to 5.25%. Since then, market expectations have been recalibrated, and now view a peak in Bank Rate of between 4.5% and 4.75%. These views are similar to those held by Link Group's Interest Rate Strategy Group (IRSG). IRSG has reduced its view on the peak of Bank Rate

from 5% to 4.5%. However, although we see rates peaking in May of 2023, we now also believe there are several challenges to the Bank that could see them leave rates at this level until early 2024.

The first of those challenges is the tight labour market (unemployment is at a 48 year low 3.5%), which shows no signs of dissipating, and that could mean wage increases continue to be 5% well into 2023 (the Bank would broadly want wages to be in the range of 3% - 3.5%). There is also the prospect that unless the workforce participation rate increases and/or immigration policies are relaxed, there is no clear route that would give rise to sustainable increases in economic growth. And, of course, inflation could be somewhat "sticky" if the Russian invasion of Ukraine remains unresolved and puts continued pressure on global energy prices and staple foods (e.g., wheat), among the many areas negatively impacted.

The impact of the Truss/Kwarteng fiscal experiment has faded in the past month but investors will still remain a little nervous over the UK's future fiscal policy and therefore we have reduced our forecast for near-term PWLB rates across the curve, compared to September's forecast, but have left the longer end of the curve slightly higher to reflect the potential demand by foreign investors for a "confidence premium" in the light of recent market volatility.

The most recent survey by Nationwide Building Society showed house prices starting to fall and the MPC will be very cognisant that affordability could be stretched now that fixed rate mortgages are somewhat higher than they were a few weeks ago. Historically, the MPC has appeared reluctant to tighten monetary policy in a falling housing market, but it may be willing to leave rates less high than the market had been pricing in prior to the 3rd of November Quarterly Monetary Policy Report but keep them there for longer as a compromise of sorts.

A SUMMARY OVERVIEW OF THE FUTURE PATH OF BANK RATE

- Link's central forecast for interest rates was previously updated on 28th September and reflected a view that the MPC would be keen to further demonstrate its anti-inflation credentials by delivering a succession of rate increases. This has happened but the new Government's policy of emphasising fiscal rectitude will probably mean Bank Rate does not now need to increase to further than 4.5%.
- Further down the road, Link anticipate the Bank of England will be keen to loosen monetary policy when the worst of the inflationary pressures are behind us – but that timing will be one of fine judgment: cut too soon, and inflationary pressures may well build up further; cut too late and any downturn or recession may be prolonged.
- The CPI measure of inflation will peak at close to 11% in Q4 2022. Despite the cost-of-living squeeze that is still taking shape, the Bank will want to see evidence that wages are not spiralling upwards in what is evidently a very tight labour market.
- Regarding the plan to sell £10bn of gilts back into the market each quarter (Quantitative Tightening), this has started but will focus on the short to medium end of the curve for the present so as to prevent any further disruption to the longer end of the curve following on from the short-lived effects of the previous Chancellor's unfunded dash for growth policy.
- In the upcoming months, Links forecasts will be guided not only by economic data releases and clarifications from the MPC over its monetary policies and the Government over its fiscal policies, but the on-going conflict between Russia and Ukraine. (More recently, the heightened tensions between China/Taiwan/US also have the potential to have a wider and negative economic impact.)
- On the positive side, consumers are still estimated to be sitting on over £160bn of excess savings left over from the pandemic so that will cushion some of the impact of the above challenges. However, most of those are held by more affluent people whereas lower income families already spend nearly all their income on essentials such as food, energy and rent/mortgage payments.

What happens outside of the UK is also critical to movement in gilt yields. The US FOMC has led with increases of 3.75% in the year to date and is expected to increase rates further before the end of the year, and possibly into 2023. Similarly, the ECB has also started to tighten monetary policy, albeit from an ultra-low starting point, as have all the major central banks apart from Japan. Arguably, though, it is US monetary policies that will have the greatest impact on global bond markets. Geo-political events continue to lead to frequent volatility in equity, bond, commodity and currency markets. And the weather will also play a large part in how high energy prices stay and for how long. Not forgetting developments in Iran, North Korea, Taiwan and China.

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	08.11.22												
	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25	Dec-25
BANK RATE	3.50	4.25	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.00	3.75	3.50	3.25	3.00	2.75	2.50	2.50
3 month ave earnings	3.60	4.30	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.00	3.80	3.30	3.00	3.00	2.80	2.50	2.50
6 month ave earnings	4.20	4.50	4.60	4.50	4.20	4.10	3.90	3.40	3.10	3.00	2.90	2.60	2.60
12 month ave earnings	4.70	4.70	4.70	4.50	4.30	4.20	4.00	3.50	3.20	3.10	3.00	2.70	2.70
5 yr PWLB	4.30	4.30	4.20	4.10	4.00	3.90	3.80	3.60	3.50	3.40	3.30	3.20	3.10
10 yr PWLB	4.50	4.50	4.40	4.30	4.20	4.00	3.90	3.70	3.60	3.50	3.40	3.30	3.20
25 yr PWLB	4.70	4.70	4.60	4.50	4.40	4.30	4.10	4.00	3.90	3.70	3.60	3.50	3.50
50 yr PWLB	4.30	4.40	4.30	4.20	4.10	4.00	3.80	3.70	3.60	3.40	3.30	3.20	3.20

As shown in the forecast table above, Bank Rate is projected to peak at 4.50% by June 2023, following an aggressive series of rate increases over the last calendar year. Link forecast a further 0.50% at the December MPC meeting followed by a further 1.00% increase over the first few months in 2023.

Significant risks to the forecasts

- Labour and supply shortages prove more enduring and disruptive and depress economic activity (accepting that in the near-term this is also an upside risk to inflation and, thus, rising gilt yields).
- The Bank of England acts too quickly, or too far, over the next two years to raise Bank Rate and causes UK economic growth, and increases in inflation, to be weaker than we currently anticipate.
- UK / EU trade arrangements – if there was a major impact on trade flows and financial services due to complications or lack of co-operation in sorting out significant remaining issues.
- Geopolitical risks, for example in Ukraine/Russia, China/Taiwan/US, Iran, North Korea and Middle Eastern countries, which could lead to increasing safe-haven flows.

The overall balance of risks to economic growth in the UK is now to the downside, including inflationary and stagnation risks to the U.K. economy.

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 2022/23 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 2022/23, 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	1.95%	2.18%	2.36%	2.52%	2.25%
Date	01/04/2022	13/05/2022	04/04/2022	04/04/2022	04/04/2022
High	5.11%	5.44%	5.35%	5.80%	5.51%
Date	28/09/2022	28/09/2022	28/09/2022	28/09/2022	28/09/2022
Average	2.81%	2.92%	3.13%	3.44%	3.17%
Spread	3.16%	3.26%	2.99%	3.28%	3.26%

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.

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Committee and Date

Council
15th December 2022

Item

Public

Annual Scrutiny Report 2021/22

Responsible Officer

James Walton

e-mail: james.walton@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 258915

1. Synopsis

The Council's five Overview and Scrutiny committees looked at a wide range of key topics between them in 2021/22 which are summarised in this paper.

2. Executive Summary

2.1 The Shropshire Plan includes 'Healthy Organisation' as a priority outcome and the Strategic Objective that "We will ensure councillors are supported to advocate for their constituents but to also be ambassadors for the council". This report shares the annual statements for 2021/22 for the Performance Management Scrutiny Committee, the People Overview Committee, the Place Overview Committee, the Communities Overview Committee and the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2.2 During 2022/23 the Council invited the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny to carry out a Peer Review of Overview and Scrutiny. This took place in September and October 2022. The report is expected late November and December 2022 and will be used to inform the development of Overview and Scrutiny at the council, including the delivery of action plans that respond to the recommendations that are accepted.

2.3 The annual statements for each overview and scrutiny committee for 2022/23 will be reported to Council during 2023/24

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. Members are asked to consider and comment on the 2021/22 annual statements for each overview and scrutiny committee.

REPORT

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1. Effective Overview and Scrutiny is a feature of the Council's governance arrangements, particularly where the Council is operating executive arrangements. There are a range of factors that could result in risks to Council of not doing O&S effectively.
- Failure to challenge and hold decision makers to account.
 - Failure to link O&S work to the delivery of the council's priorities and risk management – failure to demonstrate added value
 - Failure to carry out thorough and appropriate research to make evidence-based recommendations.
 - Failure to engage partners and providers.
 - Failure to ensure that structures and models of operation are fit for purpose and match ambition and available resources.
 - Failure to ensure that O&S can operate as the voice of communities.
 - Failure to draw on member knowledge and experience to inform policy development.
- 4.2. To mitigate, tolerate or eradicate these risks, enablers for effective scrutiny include:
- Operating in an apolitical manner.
 - Clarity of vision and purpose
 - Overview and Scrutiny support availability, capability and capacity
 - Effective engagement and commitment by Members and officers at all levels, including Cabinet, Opposition Leaders, Scrutiny Chairs and Senior Officers who play a central role in setting the tone and direction
 - Robust Work programming and prioritisation of topics with clear objectives and expected impacts
 - Access to and availability of robust data and intelligence
 - Good relationship with partners and providers
- 4.3. Overview and Scrutiny Committees have remits that cover the breadth of the work of the Council, as well as looking externally including Health Services and provision through Health Overview and Scrutiny requirements.

- 4.4. Topics for Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programmes are identified based on a number of different considerations which including an understanding of risks to the Council, employees, people who use services, to service themselves, and to communities. These may be identified through reviewing performance information and comparing with others, changes to national and local policies, budget information, feedback from customers/service users, feedback from partners/providers, and reports from regulators.
- 4.5. During overview and scrutiny work evidence will be gathered that builds on this understanding to inform the development of conclusions and evidence-based recommendations.
- 4.6. The use of external peer challenge such as that offered by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny provides objective review and feedback about opportunities to develop the effectiveness and impact of overview and scrutiny.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. There are no direct financial implications associated with the annual statements of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees that are set out in this report.
- 5.2. Effective overview and scrutiny produces evidence-based recommendations. These can be informed by learning from best practice and an understanding of "what works" at other similar local authorities, as well as developing a robust picture of what the situation locally based on data, intelligence and insights. Where adopted recommendations can help with the efficiency and effectiveness of services that can be delivered differently, as well as informing the development of current and new policies.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.1. All reports to Overview and Scrutiny committees, as with all council committees, include appraisals of the impact of the report content on climate change.
- 6.2. Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programmes directly link to the Shropshire Plan priorities, including Healthy Environment which is built around climate change and carbon reduction, and the natural and historic environment.

- 6.3. Climate change and carbon reduction related issues are directly identified in the remit and therefore focus of the Place Overview Committee i.e.
- delivery of the agreed lower carbon footprint and emissions targets, including air quality, by the Council and its partners;
 - actions to protect, enhance and value Shropshire's our natural resources and respect the historic environment;
 - arrangements to safeguard and promote a clean and green environment;
 - the delivery of work to reduce landfill and waste;
 - management and development of the physical and digital infrastructure

7. Background

- 7.1. Overview and Scrutiny Committees report to Council annually as part of the organisation's governance arrangements. This includes the work that they have completed in the previous 12 months and the impact they have had through their evidence-based recommendations.
- 7.2. This report sets out the annual statements for 2021/22 for:
- Performance Management Scrutiny Committee
 - Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee
 - People Overview Committee
 - Place Overview Committee
 - Communities Overview Committee
- 7.3. The Council also invited the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) to carry out a Peer Review of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny arrangements. This was carried out in the early Autumn 2022. The outputs of this peer review will be used to help inform the opportunities and options to develop the council's Overview and Scrutiny function moving forwards.
- 7.4. The full CfGS report will be made available to all Members, and they will inform the response to the accepted recommendations and the development of how the council carries out overview and scrutiny.

8. Annual Scrutiny statements

8.1 Performance Management Scrutiny Committee

- **Financial Strategy task and finish group**

The committee formed a task and finish group to explore in greater depth how services were adapting to rapid changes in service demand and tighter financial constraints. It recognised how the council had responded creatively to deliver better services for less, focussing on these projects and initiatives

that would redesign services and meeting. The committee agreed to forward these priorities schemes for scrutiny by the respective thematic scrutiny committees.

- **Financial monitoring**

As well as scrutiny of the financial strategy through its task and finish group, the committee had regular oversight of quarterly financial monitoring, allowing it to monitor adherence to plan and to hold directors and portfolio holders to account for outcomes. The committee members tracked and monitored the impact of the Covid19 pandemic on budgets, and in doing so considered distortions in service demand and the high levels of emergency funding. It scrutinised the dispersal of emergency funding and highlighted the difficulty in setting budgets in the light of continued uncertainty about future funding or service demand.

- **Performance monitoring**

Throughout the year the committee received the regular quarterly performance monitoring report. Although this presented a useful snapshot of performance, the committee increasingly asked for more comprehensive performance information. Officers presented proposals for such information to be available online, updated in as the data became available, to allow all elected members to appraise performance and raise issues of concern. The committee continues to press the move at pace to deliver tools and access to the data vital to their delivering good oversight and scrutiny in holding decision makers to account.

- **Shropshire's Economic Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Framework**

The committee looked at the work of the Economic Task Force, and its twin role of supporting businesses during the pandemic and the orientation of its strategy to adapt to changes arising from the pandemic. The committee were appreciative of the work of the economic growth team in disbursing grant relief to businesses during the pandemic.

The committee recognised the framework identified both positive and negative impact of the pandemic, using these to inform and adapt its economic strategy.

It noted the interdependence of key infrastructure projects around Shropshire, and their salience in generating prosperity throughout the area. The committee looked forward to seeing this work informing the development of the next version of the Economic Growth Strategy.

- **New Civic Centre**

The committee chose to look at this topic in the context of how a new civic centre would support future workforce planning and operations. In creating a new civic centre, the council wished to reinforce and further evolve new ways of working including the continued use of technology to allow people to work from home. Relocating into Shrewsbury town centre was also expected to bring footfall to the retail centre and the redevelopment of the Riverside area provided such an opportunity. Members were critical of a perceived lack of civic space in the proposals and questioned the extent to which access for

those of limited mobility would be considered. These, alongside other considerations, were included in the report to Council that informed the debate and decision to proceed with the development.

- **Complaints, compliments and comments**

The committee received the annual Customer Feedback report 2020/21 which sets out resident feedback to the council through complaints, compliments and comments. The committee noted the high number of complaints concerning highways matters and referred the matter to the Place Overview Committee. The Improvements to highways operations and performance, including better communications with residents became key themes for the Place Overview Committee in its work programme.

- **Climate and Ecology Bill**

In response to a request from Council, the committee convened a task and finish group to agree a response to the Climate and Ecology Bill on behalf of Shropshire Council. It agreed to endorse most of the Bill but could not support the proposal for a citizens' assembly.

- **The Shropshire Plan**

The committee endorsed the publication of The Shropshire Plan, the council's corporate plan. It approved of its thematic approach the underlying policy and service plan framework, and the ambition to track and monitor progress against the plan through rigorous, widely available performance management information. The committee stressed the vital importance of timely and comprehensive performance management information relevant to the priorities and the services and developments taking place to deliver them. They highlighted that it would be challenging to monitor and evidence progress and impact with the plan without them.

8.2 Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- **Delivering Public Health Outcomes**

The committee continued to monitor closely the change in strategy in how public health funding is spent. The council had moved to tackle the wider determinants of health, in particular housing, allowing it to focus on providing more comprehensive services for its most vulnerable residents. The committee challenged the council's approach and scrutinised its performance monitoring and project spend. The committee recognised that this constituted a long-term strategy whose benefits would become apparent many years later and agreed to focus future scrutiny onto the projects and services directly.

- **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment**

The committee was critical of the failure of the council, through the Health and Wellbeing Board, to commission and complete the local authority's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), a key statutory document on which partnership health planning should be

based. The committee continued to monitor progress as the council completed its Special Educational Needs JSNA and developed its proposals for place-based assessments to mirror the council's place-based planning.

- **Adult Mental Health Services**

The committee received a programme of briefing on the range of support services for mental health across adult services. These included housing for adults with significant and enduring mental health problems, and adults with learning difficulties with individual capacities for independent living. The committee heard how mental health teams were working more closely with drug and alcohol teams to provide holistic care and agreed to focus a future work programme item on this vital component of service support.

- **111 Services**

Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) provided the committee with the results of their review of the triage of 111 non-emergency services. A programme to offer GP appointments directly had not achieved its intended level of uptake. Members sought assurance that the CCG considered the demographic profile and associated age-related changes in demand when assessing service capacity. The committee learned that a review of high-intensity service users had provided an opportunity to identify and provide more appropriate care to these users, reducing the burden on the service in turn. Member referred this matter to the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, asking that it also scrutinise ambulance response times.

- **Independent Living**

Members took part in two online briefings on how the council promoted independent living through assistive technology and new housing developments that catered for the needs of adults with additional support needs. The committee supported the focus on promoting independent living and using technology to achieve that.

- **Health in All policies**

Following its decision to focus on the delivery of projects and services to realise the public health outcomes framework, the committee placed its focus on emerging Health in All Policies approach, embedding the council's public health duty into all of its policy and priorities. Public Health were working closely with the development of Local Transport Plan 4, the first major council policy to embed this approach. The committee endorsed this approach to setting policy.

- **Winter Plan**

The committee scrutinised the learning at the end of the operation of the council's winter plan, seeking to identify areas of focus as the

local authority prepared for the coming year's winter pressures. The committee received reassurance around effective and close working with the voluntary and community sector. And heard that the additional winter bed capacity worked very well in increasing transfers of care from hospitals.

Members felt that the public perception of the discharging process was that it was slow, and it would be appropriate for this to be scrutinised. Members were advised that the team would be looking at the journey to discharge, which was complex, and that there was a lot of work taking place surrounding this which could be presented in the future to give the committee and communities more assurance.

- **Joint commissioning**

The committee looked at the emerging integrated approach to commissioning with health partners. Members raised concern that partnerships cannot be successfully formed when data is not being shared. Members were advised that joint dashboards had been set up and data sharing protocols were being developed. This would enable scrutiny of progress and impact and the holding of decision makers to account. It was noted that local decisions would be considered by a local board before being implemented and that the council had a strong voice when it came to decision making.

8.3 People Overview Committee

- **Young People's Substance Misuse Services**

Following the committee's scrutiny of criminal exploitation, it scrutinised more closely services supporting vulnerable children and young adults. The committee were assured that the service worked closely with other agencies, highlighting the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

- **School Places**

Members of the committee raised concerns that future housing growth in areas of the county could result in a lack of school places for those communities. Following their work over several meetings they were reassured and concluded that school place planning processes were robust and embedded into strategic planning for housing growth.

- **Covid19**

During the year the committee explored the short and longer-term impact of the Covid19 pandemic on the lives of children and young people. The members supported the council's work to commission out of term support to vulnerable families. The committee tracked the increase in children becoming looked after, as well as the drop

in attainment in some children who had attended school remotely during the pandemic. These concerns informed the committee's work programme.

- **School exclusions**

This topic was a priority identified from the committee's earlier work into criminal exploitation. The committee members were concerned by the rising number of children being expelled from school and that their increased vulnerability to exploitation. Members focussed on the high prevalence of children with a special education need and recognised the benefits of keeping these children in mainstream education where possible. The committee recognised the central role that Early Help service played in supporting children who were at risk of being expelled from school, and in doing so welcomed the increased budget allocated to the service.

- **Stepping Stones**

Shropshire Council's Financial Strategy task and finish group asked the committee to scrutinise the implementation and performance of Stepping Stones, the council's holistic, psychologically informed service, providing wrap around, customised support for looked after children, young people and adults. The committee welcomed a project that had demonstrated creativity and focus to deliver better care for children by moving them from residential care, often some distance from Shropshire, into home environments.

- **Recruitment**

A recurring theme throughout the year, and a focus of the Financial Strategy task and finish group, was how Shropshire Council responded to the national shortages in critical staff such as social workers and youth workers. The committee endorsed both services commitment to their workforce by developing apprenticeships and graduate training development programmes. As a result of this the youth service had been able to be fully staffed.

- **Youth Work**

The committee praised the service on its commitment to developing its work force, filling all the posts despite a shortage of qualified workers. It pressed the service to seek clarity on funding through town and parish council services, who were central to services throughout Shropshire.

8.4 Place Overview Committee

- **Highways Improvement Plan**

The committee were broadly supportive of the plan but raised numerous

concerns about its implementation. They expressed dissatisfaction with the MyShropshire portal for reporting highways repairs and repeated their earlier concerns about gulley cleansing. Since the committee considered this topic Shropshire Council has adopted a new portal for repairs, FixMyStreet and has increased the amount of gulley cleansing that it carries out.

- **Winter Maintenance**

The committee formed a working group to look in detail at the council's current winter maintenance service. The group made numerous recommendations, particularly around better communication with town and parish councils and empowering local communities to manage their own gritting outside of the council's strategic gritting routes. As a result of this work, the council has improved the availability and replenishment of gritting bins and has improved its communication with town and parish councils through the Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC).

- **Road Traffic Collisions**

At the request of the Head of Transport and Environment the committee scrutinised an analysis of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions. It recommended that the Public Health team be involved from the outset in developing the Local Transport Plan. Since then, Public Health have been pivotal in developing the health impact assessment informing development of the plan.

- **Fireworks**

The committee considered in depth the role the local authority could take in restricting the sale and discharge of fireworks. It instructed officers to write to Government to urge further restrictions on the sale of fireworks, and to reduce the maximum permitted noise level of fireworks intended for public displays.

- **Kier and WSP contracts**

The committee continued to monitor the council's contracts with Kier and WSP to provide highways professional and operational services. The committee was positive about the evolution of the contract with Kier, in particular the adoption of a hybrid contracted/in-house services. The committee believed that this would deliver a more responsive service while reducing costs.

- **Highways diversions**

Following concerns from councillors, the committee scrutinised current arrangements for putting into place highways diversions. Following their concerns, Kier recruited a communications officer to work with local communities when a diversion needed to be put into place. The committee also supported a move to longer-term certainty of funding for highways, which would allow the service to plan work better and therefore have more time to support works with effective communications.

- **Signs and banners task and finish group**

On behalf of a previous task and finish group, the committee continued to press Cabinet for a response to some of the group's recommendations around on-street advertising. The committee also asked the council to review

its charges for housing development signs.

- **Planning Committee Structures**

Council asked the committee to carry out a review of the impact of the reduction in number of planning committees from three to two. It carried out a survey of unitary and town and parish councils, as well as a desktop review of structures in other local authorities. The committee rejected the assertion that the reduction has degraded the quality of planning decisions, but made recommendations about ensuring regular training for Members about how to respond to planning applications.

- **Planning enforcement**

Members of the committee wished to scrutinise the impact of changes to the planning enforcement service. The committee made recommendations that it believed would improve communication of successful planning enforcement activity to the public and to elected members.

- **Local Transport Plan 4**

Scrutiny of the development of the plan resulted in members recommending that continued LTP development ensures that council decisions in February including the sustainable transport hierarchy principles, the involvement of public health and pathways to net zero including interim targets, are fully embedded.

- **Post Covid-19 Economic Renewal**

The committee focussed on the impact of the pandemic on retail centres in Shropshire, noting that Shrewsbury in particular had experienced a strong recovery in footfall and spending following the easing of pandemic regulations. Members agreed that future scrutiny of the Economic Growth Plan should focus on supporting those sectors that had been most severely impacted by the pandemic.

8.5 Communities Overview Committee

- **Burial Capacity**

The committee received two updates on work to ensure sufficient cemetery capacity in Shropshire. It agreed that this was an ongoing issue that needed to be kept under review and asked that regular updates be provided to the committee in future.

- **Public Rights of Way**

Committee members expressed concern at the reduction in accessibility of public rights of way caused by the pandemic and the inability of volunteer groups to operate and maintain the paths. The committee also noted that the service was hampered in its ability to do more work to maintain paths by an inability to keep and use income it had generated. It called on the council to explore how the service could retain this money for this purpose in future.

In a further meeting the committee also raised concern at the staff shortages in the service, as well as ongoing requirements to bridge repairs to keep rights

of way open. It sought assurance that the council would recruit to fill these posts, and that funding would be made available to effect repairs to address compromised safety.

- **Rural transport**

The committee heard how the council was seeking new ways to deliver public transport in rural areas. It aimed to move from limited scheduled services to a demand-responsive service that would serve more destinations more frequently and could link better to scheduled rail services. The committee supported the proposals and asked that any changes to services and plans be brought to the committee in due course.

- **Libraries Strategy**

The libraries service provided the committee with initial thoughts that it proposed to develop into a formal strategy in due course. The committee members recommended that any future strategy recognised the pivotal role libraries played in communities, particularly in rural communities. They also recommended that the strategy made full use of commercial opportunities to ensure the long-term sustainability of facilities.

- **Community and Rural Strategy**

The committee received a draft of the strategy. Members suggested that the strategy needed to be brought to grass roots level and recognise the huge resources available in rural parishes and towns. It advised that ongoing development of the strategy should be undertaken with parishes as they had a good understanding of their own needs. It recommended that low level financial input may be needed in order to enable them to provide support in their own locality.

- **Armed Forces Covenant**

The committee endorsed the covenant and agreed that it would recommend that ex-service staff should receive greater priority for consideration in the housing allocation policy. It agreed to make this recommendation when it considered a revised Housing Allocations Policy later in the year.

- **Domestic Abuse**

Following the publication of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, the committee was keen to learn how the council intended to put its new legal duties into place. It asked that a draft strategy for the council was produced and published for agreement in due course, and recommended that the council seek White Ribbon Campaign accreditation.

- **Flooding**

The committee asked for an update on previous recommendations and other learning resulting from flooding throughout Shropshire in late 2019 and early 2020. It was assured that much of the learning from that flooding had been put into place, in particular a new Severe Weather Plan and Flood Action plan. It noted that considerable volunteer effort that had been deployed to mitigate the impact of flooding and recommended that Shropshire Council

create a reserve of volunteers, from inside and outside of the council, who could be deployed to respond to other incidents or emergencies.

- **Strategic Housing Review**

The committee scrutinised a review of the housing revenue account management function. It agreed with the review that STAR Housing be retained and not merged with the council's Cornovii Developments.

- **Blue Badge Scheme**

Committee members raised concerns that efforts to digitalise council functions had made it considerably more difficult to apply for a Blue Badge for some people, particularly older residents. The committee recommended that the service work with AgeUK locally to identify ways to support applicants who were unable to use digital services.

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

Overview and Scrutiny Committee agendas, papers and minutes for May 2021 to March 2022.

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

All

Local Member

All

Appendices

None

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<u>Committee and Date</u>	<u>Item</u>
FULL COUNCIL 15 th December	
	<u>Public</u>

Adoption of the Broseley Neighbourhood Development Plan

**Responsible
Officer**

Mark Barrow, Executive Director Place

e-mail: Mark.barrow@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 258 916

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 This report informs Council of the results of the referendum on the Broseley Neighbourhood Plan and allows Council to bring the Plan into force by approving and 'making' it as part of the statutory development plan.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Broseley Neighbourhood Development Plan has been produced by the Broseley Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, with Broseley Town Council acting as the 'Qualifying Body'. Work on the Plan began in 2018, and was submitted to an independent Examiner in January 2022, which led to it being brought to local referendum in September 2022 where 89.22% of those that voted wanted the plan to be used by Shropshire Council to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That Shropshire Council, as the Local Planning Authority 'makes' (i.e. adopts) the Broseley Neighbourhood Development Plan (as set out in Appendix 1) and brings it into force with immediate effect as part of the Development Plan under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

REPORT

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1 The Localism Act and Regulations covering the production of Neighbourhood Development Plans provides the Framework for their production and adoption. Whilst the preparation of Neighbourhood Development Plans (referred to in this report as Neighbourhood Plans) are led locally by a qualifying body, usually the relevant town or parish council, Shropshire Council has key involvement at various stages of the process. Most notably this includes: formally agreeing the Neighbourhood Area to be covered by the plan; administering public consultation on a submission version of the Plan; appointing an independent assessor to examine the submission version of the Plan; agreeing any changes required to ensure the Plan meets a set of basic conditions; administering and reporting back of the referendum; and 'making' (adopting) the Plan.
- 4.2 Both Broseley Town Council and Shropshire Council have followed a set of clearly defined national regulations set out in the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) in the preparation and consultation of the Neighbourhood Plan. This regulatory process is covered in more detail in Section 7 of the Report. The risk of a legal challenge to the 'making' of the Neighbourhood Plan has been significantly reduced by both Broseley Town Council and Shropshire Council following these regulations closely.
- 4.3 The Plan was prepared by a steering group which included representatives from the Town Council along with other local volunteers, with support from a planning consultant commissioned by the Town Council. Shropshire Council acted as a statutory consultee during the preparation phase of the Plan, which allowed input at key stages. It is considered this collaborative process has helped to ensure the final version of the Neighbourhood Plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies of Shropshire's adopted Development Plan and the emerging Local Plan Review.
- 4.4 The steering group undertook community consultation which culminated in a consultation of a draft version of the Plan during the summer of 2020. The Plan was then subject to some changes ahead of it being submitted to Shropshire Council in May 2021 following agreement by Broseley Town Council. Shropshire Council then undertook the statutory consultation into the submission version of the Plan and appointed an independent assessor to examine the Plan.
- 4.5 The Independent Examination into the submission version of the Neighbourhood Plan was carried out by an approved assessor between January and March 2022. The Examiner recommended a number of changes to the Plan in order for it to meet the following nationally prescribed basic conditions:
- Be appropriate to make the plan, having regard to national policies and advice;

- Contribute to the achievement of sustainable development;
 - Be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan; and
 - Not breach, and be otherwise compatible with, European Union and European Convention on Human Rights obligations.
- 4.6 The Examiner reported back in March 2022 concluding the Plan could proceed to referendum if a number of proposed recommended changes were made to the Plan. The Examiner's Report is included as Appendix 2 to this report.
- 4.7 Whilst the Examiner's conclusions are not binding on the authority, all but one of his recommendations were agreed by Cabinet on 20th July 2022. The referendum into the Broseley Neighbourhood Development Plan took place on 15th September 2022 within the area defined as the Neighbourhood Area (Broseley parish), where the following question was asked "do you want Shropshire Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Broseley to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?" Appendix 3 to this report provides the referendum's Declaration of Result.
- 4.8 In summary, out of 761 people who voted 89.22% were in support of the Neighbourhood Plan. The turnout was 18.84%. Paragraph 38A (4)(a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 as amended requires that the Council must adopt, or 'make' the Neighbourhood Plan if more than half of those voting have voted in favour of the plan. In the case of Broseley, the referendum results indicated that, of the 761 votes cast, 679 votes (89.22%) were in favour of using the Neighbourhood Plan for Broseley to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area.
- 4.9 All necessary requirements relating to the administration of the referendum were carried out. Given this robust process it is considered there is minimal risk to the Council.
- 4.10 Subject to Council's decision, the Broseley Neighbourhood Development Plan will become part of the statutory planning framework applied in Shropshire. The Neighbourhood Plan contains a range of locally produced policies which the community have expressly asked to be brought into play to help guide the decision-making process. Statute provides that planning applications should be determined in accordance with the provisions of the Neighbourhood Plan policies unless material considerations indicate otherwise.
- 4.11 The Plan has been prepared positively by the steering group and, in its final format is considered to meet the required basic conditions. Following the successful referendum result it is considered there is also clear and overwhelming public support for the Neighbourhood

Plan. It is therefore considered there would be a very significant risk of challenge if the Plan were not to be 'made' by Council.

- 4.12 Shropshire Council has assessed that the plan, including its preparation, does not breach, and would not otherwise be incompatible with, any EU obligation or any of the Convention rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998).

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 The Act and Regulations provide that the costs of appointing an Assessor conducting an Examination and holding a Referendum fall to initially Shropshire Council but are reimbursed by national Government. The robustness of the Neighbourhood Plan Policies will be tested over time by independent Planning Inspectors on appeal. Members are advised that the liability for future appeal costs rests with Shropshire Council as Local Planning Authority and as such the usability of the plan and its impact on local decision making will need to be carefully monitored.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.1 The Broseley Neighbourhood Plan includes positively prepared policies seeking to achieve sustainable development and responding to the challenge of climate change. Specifically Policy SD1 of the Plan seeks new development in Broseley to be designed to a high standard of energy efficiency and to achieve high and sustainable levels of design and construction. Policy SD3 seeks the retro-fitting of heritage properties to reduce energy demand and to generate renewable energy where appropriate.
- 6.2 Overall the Plan is considered to represent a positive step in supporting suitable adaptations and mitigating the impacts of climate change, within the remit it has defined for itself.

7. Background

- 7.1 Shropshire Council supports Neighbourhood Plans being brought forward under the Localism Act and the 2012 Neighbourhood Planning Regulations, indeed the Council is legally obliged to do so. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) also explicitly supports the principle of Neighbourhood Plans and their status as part of the Development Plan, stating "Neighbourhood plans should support the delivery of strategic policies contained in local plans or spatial development strategies; and should shape and direct development that is outside of these strategic policies". It is also made clear that Neighbourhood Plans should not promote less development than set out in the strategic policies for the area, or undermine those strategic policies.

- 7.2 Neighbourhood Plans must follow a defined regulatory process in both their preparation and adoption. The Broseley Neighbourhood Development Plan has completed the following regulatory stages of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended): the formal designation of the Neighbourhood Area (Regulation 6 Stage), consultation on a draft version of the Plan (Regulation 14 Stage), submission of the draft Neighbourhood Plan by the relevant Qualifying Body to the Local Planning Authority (Regulation 15 stage), consultation and examination on the Final Draft version of the Plan (Regulations 16 and 17 stage), and the publication of the Examiner's Report and decision to progress to referendum (Regulation 18). Following the successful referendum in September 2022, the Council is now being asked to 'make' (adopt) the Neighbourhood Plan to form part of the Development Plan for the area.
- 7.3 Broseley Town Council requested that the parish of Broseley be designated as a Neighbourhood Area in April 2018 and following a period of consultation this was formally agreed by Shropshire Council in September 2018. Following the establishment of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and local consultation and evidence collection, a pre-submission draft version of the Plan was subject to consultation by the Parish Council. In May 2021 Broseley Town Council submitted the Neighbourhood Plan to Shropshire Council, along with the required Consultation Statement and Basic Conditions Statements. In meeting statutory requirement, Shropshire Council proceeded to carry out the Regulation 16 stage consultation between July and September 2021 with statutory consultees and other locally interested individuals and organisations. The Council appointed independent assessor Tony Burton to examine the Plan and following a period of examination Mr Burton provided his report in March 2022.
- 7.4 In accordance with the Regulations, once adopted, planning applications in the area covered by the plan must be considered against the Neighbourhood Plan, as well as existing Local Plan policies in the adopted Core Strategy and SAMDev plans as well as other material planning considerations, such as the National Planning Policy Framework.
- 7.5 It is considered the final version of the Broseley Neighbourhood Development Plan, which covers the whole Parish of Broseley, provides an effective and positive planning framework for taking decisions on planning applications.
- 7.6 The Plan provides a range of local objectives and policies to supplement the strategic policies of Shropshire's Local Plan, which largely reflect the priorities of the area and the outcomes of the plan preparation process, which included local community consultation. Of particular note, the Plan includes:

- policies relating to supporting the application of design principles to new development (DS1 – DS10);
- the allocation of land off Avenue Road for 20 dwellings (Policy H02 and Appendix 5);
- the revision to the development boundary and allocation of land at Cockshutt Lane to support the delivery of employment land (Policy EJ3 and Appendix 6); and,
- the identification of a number of ‘Valued Green Spaces’ and policies for their protection (Policies GR1-GR2)

8. Additional Information

- 8.1 Whilst Shropshire Council has helped to support the Neighbourhood Plan through its statutory role as consultee and administrator, the Plan’s inception and preparation has been led by Broseley Town Council with support of their Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. These bodies are to be commended for their dedication and skill in bringing this Plan through to fruition. The Neighbourhood Plan will be a positive addition to the Development Plan for the local area and will help to ensure that decisions are made that reflect local nature and characteristics.

9. Conclusions

- 9.1 This report seeks to adopt (‘make’ the Broseley Neighbourhood Development Plan, following a successful referendum

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

Cabinet Paper 20th July 2022: Recommendation for Broseley Neighbourhood Development Plan to Proceed to Referendum.

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Councillor Richard Marshall

Local Member

Councillor Caroline Bagley.

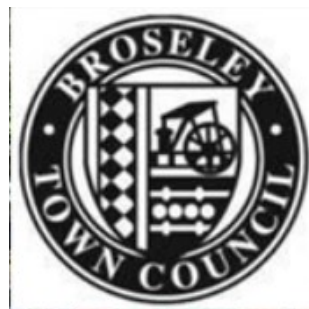
Appendices

Appendix 1 – Broseley Neighbourhood Development Plan

Appendix 2 – Examiners Report

Appendix 3 – Declaration of Referendum Results

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BROSELEY TOWN COUNCIL NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2020 – 2038

POST EXAMINATION VERSION FOR REFERENDUM



BROSELEY TOWN COUNCIL NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2020 – 2038

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1. Foreword

Broseley Town Council took the decision to create a Neighbourhood Plan in April 2018. The Council considers that this plan is vital to ensure that future development in the town meets the needs of the community and preserves Broseley's unique identity.

During the production this Plan, which took longer than envisaged as a result of the Covid pandemic in 2020-21, contributions have been sought from numerous organisations and individuals, within the town and beyond, through focus and working groups, and two major public consultation exercises took place to seek the views of all residents. We therefore believe that this plan encapsulates the aspirations of the community as a whole for the future of our town.

On behalf of Broseley Town Council, I pay tribute to all the people who have worked so hard to create this Plan. In particular, sincere thanks are due to Phil Revell, who chaired the Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group and has steered this Plan from birth to completion. We also wish to thank Shropshire Council's planning officers, who have provided invaluable expert guidance, and to our Planning Consultant, Michael Barker.

Cllr Ian West
Broseley Town Mayor 2022-2023

2. Introduction

- 2.1. A Neighbourhood Plan is a way of helping local communities to influence the planning of the area in which they live and work. A Neighbourhood Plan is an important and powerful planning document that has statutory weight and must be taken into account as a material consideration in planning decision making.
- 2.2. It can be used to:
- a) Develop a shared vision for a neighbourhood;
 - b) Guide where new homes, shops, offices and other development should be built;
 - c) Identify and protect important local green spaces;
 - d) Influence what new buildings should look like.
- 2.3. Neighbourhood Plans arose out of The Localism Act of 2011, which gave new rights and powers to communities. This Neighbourhood Plan is a community led framework for guiding the future development of Broseley. The Plan contains policies for development and addresses a range of social, economic and environmental matters that were brought to the attention of Broseley Town Council through the surveys and consultation that were an essential part of the preparation for the Plan.
- 2.4. The Broseley Neighbourhood Plan covers the whole of the administrative area of Broseley Town Council, which includes Broseley, Broseley Wood, Jackfield and the surrounding countryside (see Figure 2). The Plan has been prepared to make sure that Broseley has an established long-term view for the local community's aspirations for development through to 2038.
- 2.5. When the Broseley Neighbourhood Plan is 'made' it will become part of the Shropshire Local Development Framework. The Neighbourhood Plan will be used to help determine planning applications within the Broseley designated Neighbourhood Area.
- 2.6. The Broseley Neighbourhood Plan has been produced following a resolution by the Town Council at a meeting on 10th. April 2018. On 19th. April 2018 the Town Council submitted an application to Shropshire Council to designate the Neighbourhood Plan Area. On 17th. September 2018 Shropshire Council approved the application to designate the Neighbourhood Plan Area and approve the Town Council as the qualifying body to prepare the Plan.
- 2.7. This Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared following extensive consultation (see the Consultation Statement) with the residents of Broseley, interested parties, businesses and landowners. Shropshire Planning Department has been consulted throughout the process and has provided essential information and advice. Neighbouring Councils and Statutory Bodies have also been consulted. The Plan is comprised of several sections: the main Plan and policies, a Basic Conditions Statement, and a Consultation Statement. The latter two statements are produced as separate documents.

The National Planning Policy Framework and Shropshire Context

- 2.8. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these should be applied. It provides a framework within which locally-prepared plans for housing and other development can be produced. Within that national framework local authorities like Shropshire prepare development plans for their area.
- 2.9. At the time of preparing this Neighbourhood Plan the relevant Shropshire development plan is the Shropshire Core Strategy alongside the Site Allocations and Development Policies

BROSELEY TOWN COUNCIL NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2020 – 2038

Development Plan (SAMDev). Taken together these two documents make up the Shropshire Local Plan.

- 2.10. The Core Strategy sets out Shropshire Council's vision, strategic objectives and the broad strategy to guide future development and growth in Shropshire during the period up to 2026. The Core Strategy was adopted in February 2011.
- 2.11. Shropshire's Site Allocations and Development Policies Development Plan (SAMDev) was adopted in December 2015 and sets out proposals for the use of land and policies to guide future development in order to help deliver the vision and objectives of the Shropshire Core Strategy for the period up to 2026.
- 2.12. A partial review of the Shropshire Local Plan (2016 – 2038) is currently underway. The purpose of this review is to update elements of the Plan and to make sure that Shropshire can respond flexibly to changing circumstances in line with the NPPF. The Review will include the consideration of housing numbers (including objectively assessed need), employment land requirements, the distribution of development and a review of Green Belt boundaries as part of the consideration of strategic options to deliver new development.
- 2.13. Any relevant changes necessitated by an updated Shropshire Local Plan will be considered by Broseley Town Council when the Neighbourhood Plan is reviewed.

Broseley – an early industrial town



- 2.14. Broseley is a small town in Shropshire. Broseley has a town council and is part of the area controlled by the Shropshire unitary authority. The River Severn flows to the north and east of the town. Jackfield lies on the southern bank of the River Severn, and is a split community, with part of the settlement controlled by Telford and Wrekin Council.
- 2.15. Broseley is a semi-rural settlement. It is bounded by open fields to the east and south. The western boundary is marked by the Benthall Valley that leads down to Ironbridge. A north/south ridge to the west of the town encompasses the Broseley Wood area, whilst the rest of the town lies on slopes that run eastwards from the ridge. The town centre appears to be densely built up but there are important and valued views between buildings out into the surrounding countryside. There are open fields to the north east of High Street and Church Street and the churchyard provides an important green space with views of the countryside beyond.
- 2.16. The town is of special historic interest, not least because of its strong association with the development of the Industrial Revolution, when Broseley was a centre for the manufacture of bricks, tiles, iron goods, pottery and clay pipes. The first iron bridge in the world was built in

BROSELEY TOWN COUNCIL NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2020 – 2038

1779 to link Broseley with Coalbrookdale and Madeley and John Wilkinson constructed the world's first iron boat whilst living in the town. Abraham Darby I, who developed the process of smelting iron using coking coal, is buried in the Quaker graveyard here; the earliest recorded pipe-maker was working in the town in 1590. On the southern edge of the town, from around 1775 to 1799, Ambrose Gallimore and Thomas Turner produced at the Caughley works some of the finest soft-paste porcelain made in England in the 18th century.

- 2.17. The history of Broseley extends back to the Saxon period. The town originated in a Saxon clearance within the royal forest that covered the Ironbridge Gorge. Broseley was recorded in the Domesday Book as 'Bosle' and appears to have been a hamlet or small village.
- 2.18. In 1600, the town of Broseley consisted of 27 houses and was part of the Shirlett Royal Forest. The area was known for mining and mineworkers were permitted to build cottages on the unenclosed commons of the village. Lime quarrying and brick making were also important activities within the town and some of the stone used to build Buildwas Abbey was taken from Broseley.
- 2.19. Lawsuit records provide evidence that wooden wagon-ways existed in Broseley in 1605, giving the town a claim to the oldest railways in Britain. The wagon ways were almost certainly constructed for the transport of coal and clay and it was these resources that led to the expansion of the town during the Industrial Revolution.
- 2.20. Broseley's more rapid industrial growth began in the first quarter of the 17th. century and the settlement grew quickly with cottages in irregular plots. This can be seen in the Broseley Wood area, which became a squatter settlement. This unplanned development continued throughout the 17th. century and resulted in the maze of streets, lanes and narrow paths known as 'jitties'.
- 2.21. During the 18th. century Broseley's population of around 2000 more than doubled. Coal mining remained the most important industry which, together with local ironstone, supplied raw materials to local furnaces and those further afield. High quality local clay was also exploited for the manufacture of pottery and clay tobacco pipes. Broseley pipes were famous nationally and internationally. Southorn's pipe works survives in King Street and Legges Hill was the site of another pipe works. The local brick and tile industry expanded to meet the increasing demand for housing and commercial buildings. 18th century buildings constructed from these local materials can be seen throughout the town.
- 2.22. By the end of the 18th century some of the larger employers were building housing for their workers. This established an irregular and haphazard form of development with large houses, commercial buildings and small cottages mixed together. This is characteristic of a large part of Broseley. During the 18th century the commercial centre of the town shifted away from the church northwards towards the High Street.
- 2.23. In the latter half of the nineteenth century the area suffered a decline, as industries moved elsewhere and, at the beginning of the 20th century, the street pattern was little different from that at the end of the 18th. After the First World War some of the worst slums were cleared and a small amount of new housing was built.
- 2.24. In the last decades of the twentieth century Broseley experienced a development revival alongside the development of Telford New Town across the River Severn. Twenty first century Broseley has a number of distinct settlements including Jackfield, Broseley Wood and the Tileries. Modern development has focused on the area east of the High Street with the



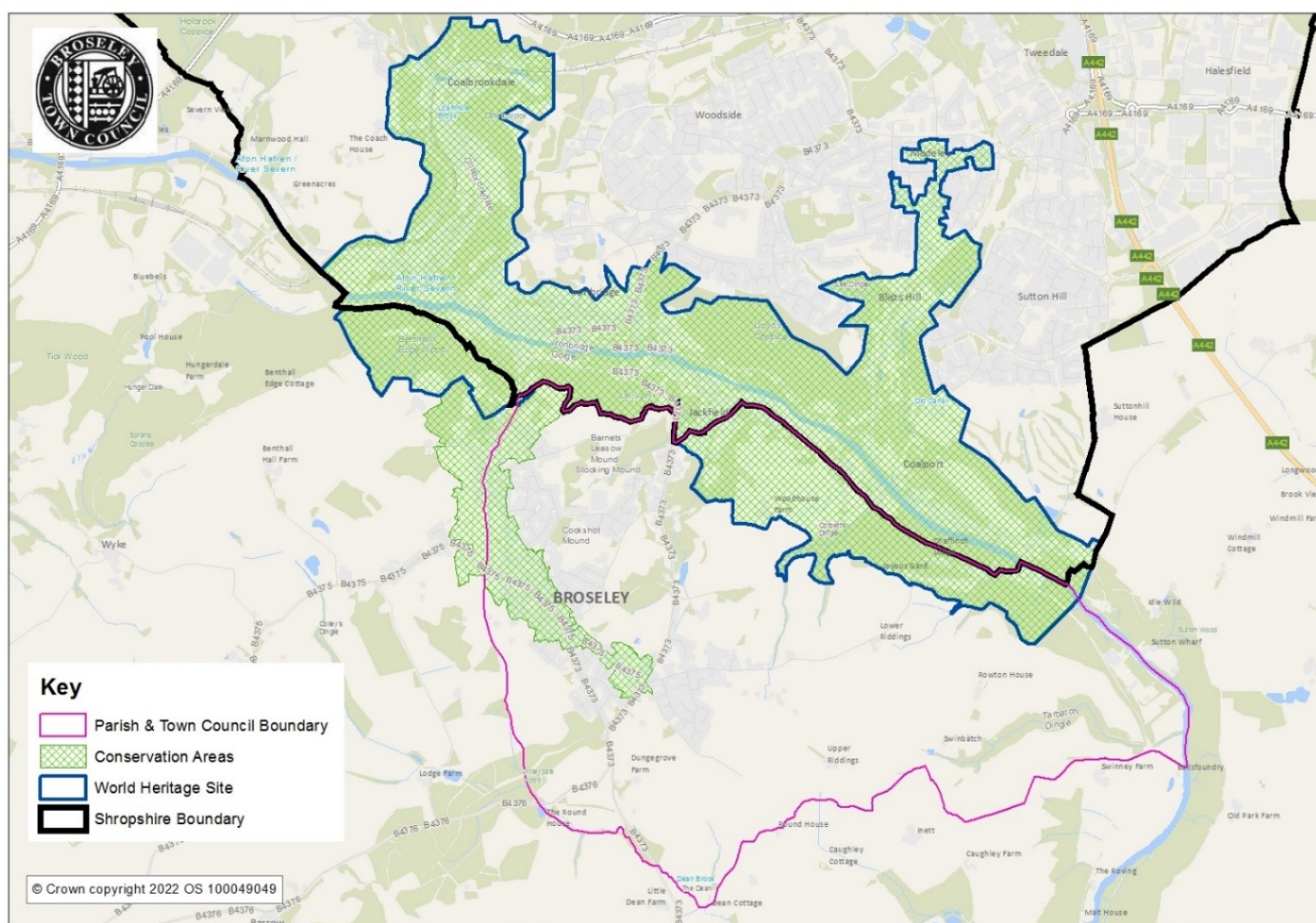
Broseley's Clay Pipes

BROSELEY TOWN COUNCIL NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2020 – 2038

Tileries and Bridgnorth Road housing being the two main developments. The density, pattern, scale and type of development vary with in the Town and this variety is an important feature of Broseley's character. However, the historic core of Broseley remains largely unchanged with many of its older buildings surviving.

- 2.25. As a direct consequence of this significant and valuable heritage Broseley has two Conservation areas.
- a) The main Broseley Conservation Area is focused on the central part of the Town including the High Street and Broseley Wood. It includes part of the neighbouring Barrow PC area.
 - b) The World Heritage site in the Ironbridge Gorge, part of which falls within the Broseley boundary, is also a Conservation Area.

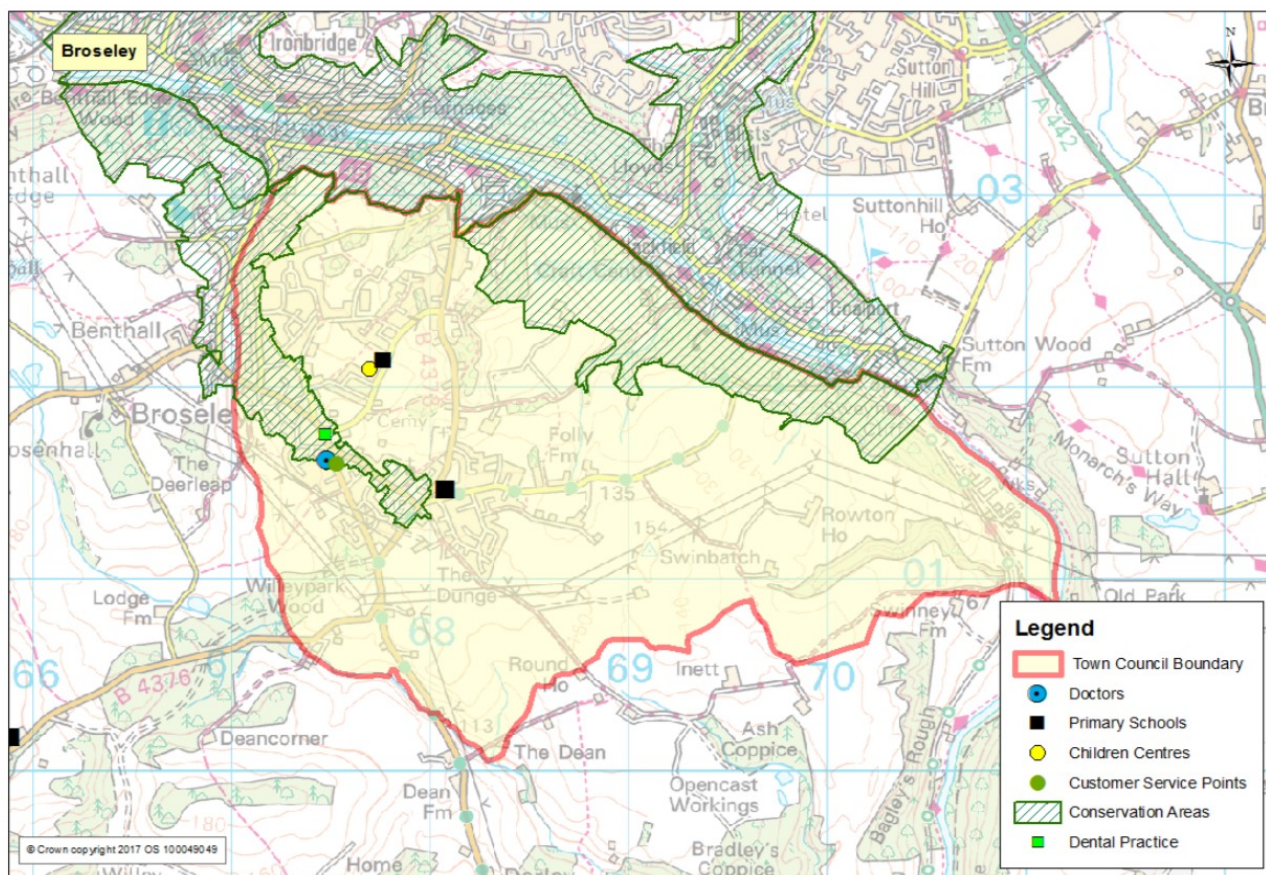
Figure 1: Components of Conservation Areas and the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site within the Broseley Town Council Boundary



Broseley - key information

(from Broseley Market Town Profile produced by Shropshire Council in 2017)

Figure 2: Broseley – Key Assets



Demographics

Shropshire Town and Parish Council	1981 Census	1991 Census	2001 Census	2011 Census
Broseley	4,693	4,858	4,912	4,929

Source: Census data

- 2.26. Broseley is the ninth largest town in Shropshire by population. The latest estimate for population in Broseley is 5,600 (Mid Year Population Estimates, ONS, 2015) covering 3,272 hectares.
- 2.27. Broseley's population density was 1.7 people per hectare, making it the twelfth most densely populated of all Shropshire Market Towns. Broseley's population consists of 49% male and 51 % female. The population of the Broseley area is forecast to rise to 5,700 in 2026. The largest part of this increase is expected between 2016 and 2026, when the population is forecast to rise by around 300 people or 7%.
- 2.28. The Broseley Neighbourhood Plan relates to the development and use of land within the Broseley Neighbourhood Plan Area, which was designated by Shropshire Council on the 17th September 2018.
- 2.29. The extent of this Neighbourhood Plan Area is the same as Broseley Town Council's administrative area, as illustrated on Figure 2. A large-scale map illustrating the extent and boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan Area is available via: <https://shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/neighbourhood-and-community-led-plans/emerging-neighbourhood-plans/broseley-neighbourhood-plan/>

Preparing the Plan

- 2.30. Broseley has a vibrant community spirit as evidenced by the multitude of clubs and societies in the Town. Arising out of this community focus came the first Town Plan, produced by the community group 'The Broseley Partnership' in 2008. This aspirational document was the basis for a more ambitious Town Plan.
- 2.31. Prepared after widespread consultation between 2011 and 2012 the Town Plan was passed by Broseley Town Council on 10th September 2013 and **its main development policies were formally endorsed and adopted as material considerations for development management purposes by resolution of Shropshire Council on 26th September 2013.**
- 2.32. In 2017, following a review of the Town Plan, Broseley Town Council resolved to explore the idea of drawing up a Neighbourhood Plan. A steering group was set up, later to be called the 'Broseley Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group' (NPAG), with town councillors and interested members of the public (see Appendix 1 for NPAG terms of reference and membership).
- 2.33. The Town Council applied for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area in April 2018. After a four week consultation period that started on 1st. May 2018 it was approved by Shropshire Council on 17th. September 2018 together with recognition of the Town Council as the qualifying body to produce the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 2.34. Over the spring and summer of 2018 the Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group carried out a series of wide ranging public engagements, including public meetings, online questionnaires and an opinion survey. The details of this survey work and evidence gathering are available online on the Town Council's website and are summarised in the Consultation Statement.
- 2.35. In early 2019 Shropshire produced a 'preferred options' document as part of its Local Plan review (see para 2.5 above). This offered two preferred development options for Broseley. After further public consultation NPAG rejected both options, and subsequently agreed with the senior authority that it would allocate development sites via the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 2.36. In the summer of 2019 the Advisory Group produced a 'Strategy Paper' setting out policy proposals for the Neighbourhood Plan, copies of which were delivered to every household in the Town. A detailed consultation question paper was also distributed and the results gave direction to the final form of the Plan.
- 2.37. Following its public consultation and survey evidence the Town Council established a community vision for Broseley.

Meeting the Basic Conditions

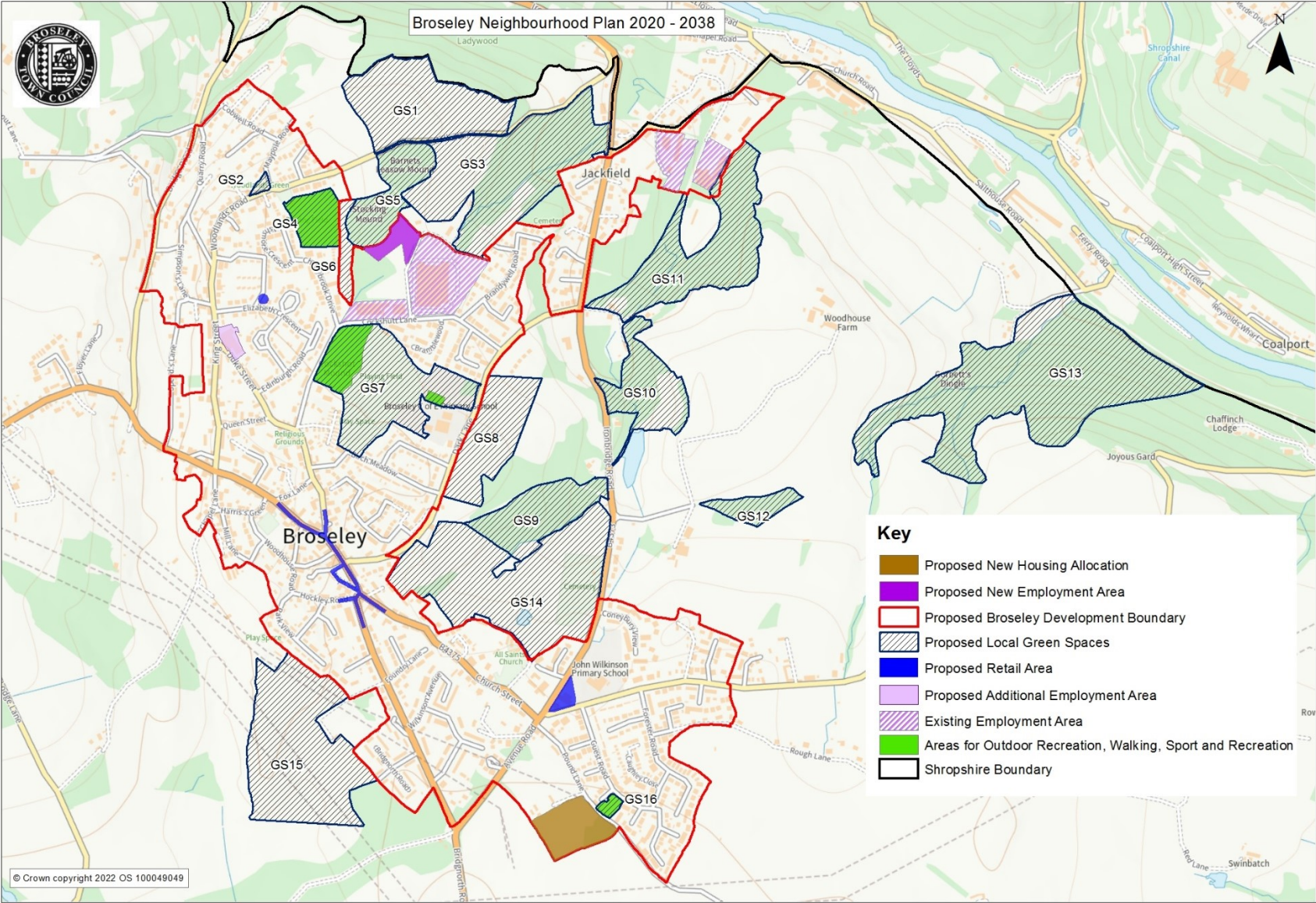
- 2.38. The Policies set out in this Neighbourhood Plan meet the 'Basic Conditions' requirement as set out in the Town and Country Planning Act to make a contribution to the achievement of sustainable development during the lifetime of the Plan. The detailed Basic Conditions Statement for the Plan is available as a separate document.

Policies and Proposals Map

- 2.39. Figure 3 is the Policies and Proposals Map associated with the Broseley Neighbourhood Plan. It supplements the Policies Map which accompanies the Local Plan.

BROSELEY TOWN COUNCIL NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2020 – 2038

Figure 3: Policies and Proposals Map



3. Plan Vision and Objectives

Community Vision

“Our vision is for a Broseley that is economically viable, a safe place to live and one that supports a vibrant community in which every resident plays a part. We want to work with residents to preserve the Town’s existing historical and semi-rural character while embracing the opportunities of the 21st. Century.”

Plan Objectives

- 3.1. The detailed consultation that preceded the Plan produced a clear set of objectives covering the following policy areas: Housing, Employment, Green Space and Green Infrastructure, Traffic and Accessibility, Conservation and Heritage, Community Resources, Sport, Leisure and Recreation, the Visitor Economy and Sustainable Development.

Housing

- a) The provision of additional low cost housing is a high priority for the Plan and it will address the scale and location of any new development, in particular reasonably sized schemes for 100% affordable housing as exception sites.
- b) Shropshire Council’s Development Plan has set a target for the Neighbourhood of 50 new dwellings. The Plan will make sure that this target will be met by a mixture of market and social housing.
- c) New developments of market housing will normally be guided to sites within the development boundary of Broseley. Where necessary the development boundary will be changed to encompass existing or approved development outside the current boundary.

Employment and Jobs

- a) To create a prosperous and sustainable local economy with jobs for local people.
- b) To retain existing employment sites where possible and support the development aspirations of existing businesses
- c) To promote employment growth arising from small-scale start-up businesses, retail and uses supporting the visitor economy.

Green Spaces and Green Infrastructure

- a) The Plan will seek to support a valued green environment with accessible and protected green spaces
- b) To protect and where possible enhance the landscape, natural environment and wildlife within and around Broseley in association with new development.
- c) To develop the Town’s green infrastructure (footpaths, bridleways, green spaces) and consider infrastructure improvements that would benefit both the green environment and the tourist economy.

Traffic and Accessibility

- a) To examine infrastructure requirements that follow from new development outlined in the Plan.
- b) To promote road safety, the tourist economy and healthier lifestyles through improvements to walking and cycling routes.
- c) To reduce the impact of HGV vehicles passing through the Town.

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Conservation and Heritage

- a) To protect and promote the Conservation Areas whilst allowing a vibrant community to flourish.
- b) To protect the historic street layout of Broseley by ensuring that development is sensitive to the Town's heritage and character.

Community Resources

Strong community resources are an invaluable part of Broseley's character and a key factor in the quality of life for residents. The Plan will identify these resources and consider working with partner agencies and developers to secure and retain community facilities for the future.

Sport, Leisure and Recreation

- a) To protect and enhance existing provision
- b) To seek to develop sport and recreation facilities where there is a current shortfall.
- c) To consider the provision of allotments.

Supporting the Visitor Economy

- a) Broseley is adjacent to one of the UK's most important tourist attractions, the Ironbridge Gorge and its associated museum sites. The Plan will consider how Broseley can be promoted as a base for tourists wishing to explore the surrounding area.
- b) To consider proposals to support tourist related development and support tourist related business.
- c) To consider measures to protect and develop the High Street and secure investment in improving the street scene.
- d) To consider how the Plan might resist developments that could detract from the quality of Broseley's rural setting.

Achieving Sustainable Development and Responding to Climate Change

- a) The Plan will work to secure sustainable communities within the designated Neighbourhood Area.
- b) The Plan will contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.

4. Policies

Preparing the Policies

- 4.1. The Neighbourhood Plan must meet certain Basic Conditions set out in the Town and Country Planning Act; the Plan must:
 - a) Have regard to National Planning Policy and Guidance
 - b) Contribute to the achievement of sustainable development
 - c) Be in general conformity with the strategic policies in the Development Plan for the local area
 - d) Be compatible with the requirements of Human Rights legislation
 - e) Be compatible with EU Regulations
- 4.2. This means that the Broseley Neighbourhood Plan does not just restate the Shropshire Council Development Plan policies in the Core Strategy and SAMDev Documents. On the contrary, the Neighbourhood Plan sets out the views of the Broseley community on development and the use of land within the designated Neighbourhood Area. The Basic Conditions (see separate Basic Conditions Statement) are to make sure that there is an

BROSELEY TOWN COUNCIL NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2020 – 2038

acceptable balance between community control of our neighbourhood and the delivery of important national and local policies for development.

- 4.3. The policies that have been set out in this Neighbourhood Plan have been prepared taking into account the policy requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the Shropshire Plans 2011 to 2026. The Neighbourhood Plan policies are based on the objectives derived from the evidence and representations received during community consultation. The choice of policies is justified through consideration of this evidence and taking into account national and local strategic policies that have undergone Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).
- 4.4. It is important that the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan can be achieved during the lifetime of the Plan and that measures are in place to make sure this happens. The Town Council will monitor progress in liaison with Shropshire Council.
- 4.5. It is recognised that opportunities, challenges, pressures and Shropshire Council's development policies may change during the lifetime of the Plan and in order to keep the Plan up to date the Town Council will periodically review the plan throughout the Plan lifetime.

Plan Policies

Design

Introduction

- 4.6. The Policy is concerned with how a planned development should be carried out, so that it is in harmony with its setting, and contributes to the conservation, and, where possible, to the enhancement of the local environment.
- 4.7. The starting point for this Policy was the Conservation Area Statement for Broseley, and the 2013 Town Plan, but the various Neighbourhood Plan consultations also had an input into the process.
- 4.8. Extracts from the Broseley Conservation Area Statement:
"Broseley is predominantly a brick and tile town."
"The local tradition of brick building is highly developed and distinctive."
"The dominance of the local tile industry was almost total."
"The simplest 18th century cottages often have decorative touches."
"Boundary and retaining walls and railings are both complementary to the buildings and form important features in their own right."
"Original 19th and early 20th century shop fronts make a valuable contribution to the character and appearance of High Street."
- 4.9. Supporting evidence for the design principles can be found on the following links:
Broseley Town Plan - <https://www.broseley-tc.gov.uk/town-plan/>
Broseley Conservation Area Documentation - <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/media/23075/1-broseley-conservation-area-appraisal.pdf>
Severn Gorge Conservation Area Documentation - https://www.telford.gov.uk/downloads/file/5698/severn_gorge_conservation_area_management_plan_2016

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Objectives

4.10. The objectives of the Policy are:

- a) to set out design principles based on local character;
- b) to work in partnership with the local planning authority within the context of existing local planning policy;
- c) to influence future policies.

POLICY D1

Development proposals that demonstrate due regard to the following design principles will be supported:

- a) Be in keeping with the form and materials that define the town's heritage
- b) Be of a design and use material that respects local character with regard to:
 - a. Floor area, roof pitch and roof height;
 - b. Size of windows and facades; and
 - c. Style and colour of brickwork and roof tiles as appropriate
- c) Where possible retain existing walls and hedges and provide boundary walls on street frontages and hedges elsewhere
- d) Incorporate the use of locally distinctive brick and/or stone headers and decorative corbels, cornices and patterned/alternating brickwork on frontages
- e) Minimise light pollution and have regard to appropriate Institution of Lighting Engineers' guidance
- f) Provide innovative high quality approaches to meeting the design principles on individual plots
- g) Incorporate the use of street furniture using materials, colour and designs that respect local character, including existing street furniture that is retained.

Housing

Strategic Policies

- 4.11. The current Local Plan comprises the Core Strategy (2011) and the SAMDev (2015). The SAMDev Plan is accompanied by a Policies Map which defined a Development Boundary for Broseley Town. The Local Plan is currently under review but the emerging Plan has not yet confirmed the future development targets. The overall strategic approach for new housing is to focus development on Shrewsbury and Principal and Key Centres. Development is proposed to be managed through criteria based policies with the delivery of local housing appropriate to the role, size and function of each settlement.
- 4.12. The adopted Shropshire Plan identifies a growth target for Broseley. Taking into account recent planning permissions, dwellings completed and under construction the target for Broseley is for 50 new homes over the Plan period up to 2038.
- 4.13. The Neighbourhood Plan will make sure that this target will be met by a mixture of market and social housing, as set out below. Together this should provide just above the 50 homes

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required. This would provide a measure of flexibility to make sure that the target set out in the Shropshire Plan is achieved.

- a) We are including the current (as of February 2020) application regarding an exception site off Dark Lane - 24 dwellings
- b) We are allocating a new development site off Avenue Road, with a total of 20 dwellings (see Appendix 4).
- c) We are assuming a reduced rate of windfall developments. Even so, given the windfall development in Broseley over the period 2014-2019, we are confident that there will be a windfall of at least 12 dwellings during the Plan period.

POLICY HO1

New housing development in Broseley will be supported on windfall sites within the Broseley Development Boundary (as illustrated on Figure 3: Policies and Proposals Map). Development should:

- a) promote local landscape character and visual amenity;
- b) promote the heritage assets of Broseley or their setting;
- c) maintain Broseley's Local Green Spaces (as illustrated on Figure 3: Policies and Proposals Map); and
- d) support the provision of evidence based affordable housing.

Development should meet at least one of the following criteria:

- a) Are located on previously used land;
- b) Fill small restricted gaps in the continuity of existing frontage buildings;
- c) Replace existing buildings; or
- d) Are suitable conversions of existing buildings.

POLICY HO2

Land off Avenue Road is allocated for housing development with an indicative capacity for 20 dwellings (see Figure 3: Policies and Proposals Map). Development proposals for this site should have regard to the criteria in Appendix 4.

POLICY HO3

New housing development within the Broseley Conservation Area will be supported if:

- a) the development preserves or enhances to the Conservation Area in respect of visual appearance and scale and is in keeping with the form and materials that define the Town's character and heritage;
- b) the development is designed to provide a sympathetic restoration of a heritage feature or property or provides a development that complements the surrounding townscape;
- c) the proposed development does not create an unacceptable load on the narrow streets of the town and, where appropriate, is able to provide adequate off-street parking and road access; and
- d) the development can be provided without a significant negative impact on the sight-lines of adjoining properties.

Evidence and Justification

BROSELEY TOWN COUNCIL NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2020 – 2038

- 4.14. The indicative capacity of Land off Avenue Road has been informed by consideration of the various planning considerations identified for the site. This includes:
- a) Ensuring that the proposed access through the adjoining site allocation does not result in excessive vehicle movements.
 - b) Local character, design and layout and other local circumstances.
 - c) There are two routes for electricity cables (pylons located to north and south of the site) running through the north-eastern element of the site which will require appropriate buffering.
 - d) Land to the north of the site has Planning Permission for a mixed-use development. It is considered appropriate to allow for a buffer between the employment units on this site and the housing on Land off Avenue Road.
 - e) The site includes areas of scrub/woodland, mature trees and hedgerows which are of ecological value and should be retained, whilst this can be incorporated into open space provision it is likely that it would reduce the site's capacity.
 - f) The site may have archaeological interest, which means a heritage assessment will be required to support any Planning Application.
- 4.15 The Neighbourhood Plan recognises that new housing is required to meet local needs in order to maintain a sustainable and prosperous community. Broseley has a shortage of suitable low cost and social housing as evidenced by figures collated by the unitary authority. The draft Shropshire Development plan identifies a target of 50 new homes up to 2038. These policies conform to that Shropshire Plan requirement. These Policies will also help to deliver the Neighbourhood Plan Objectives for housing, design and development within the Conservation Area.

Economy & Jobs

- 4.16 Most working residents of Broseley work outside the town, commuting to Telford, Shrewsbury and Wolverhampton. Broseley has three main employment sites at Cockshutt Lane, Coalport Road and Calcutts Road/Fusion in Jackfield, with a small group of workshop units at the junction of King Street and Duke Street. Another source of employment is the High Street with a wide range of shops and businesses.
- 4.17 Consultation respondents generally supported the provision of jobs to meet the needs of local people and indicated a preference for the use of previously used land or existing buildings for employment uses.

Strategic Policies

- 4.18 The adopted Shropshire Core Strategy and SAMDev Development Plan Documents set out the Shropshire-wide policies for strategic employment and Economy up to 2026. The SAMDev Plan states that development will be delivered by permitting proposals that are sustainable development and are:
- a) On committed or allocated sites;
 - b) Are otherwise suitable for development;
 - c) Comprise Class B or Sui Generis use with industrial or commercial opportunities;
 - d) Operations compatible with adjoining uses;
 - e) Satisfy the relevant settlement policy and accompanying guidelines.
- 4.19 Broseley has a number of employment premises and these will be supported to grow. Others

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that are ready for re-use will be assessed on an individual basis.

- 4.20 This Plan will move the development boundary off Cockshutt Lane to encompass a new development that will re-use an existing site together with some additional land. This adjustment will allow Broseley's largest employer to expand their site and also allow for future growth. The new boundary is indicated on the Policies map (see Policies and Proposals Map – Figure 3 page 11) and in Appendix 5.
- 4.21 In order to protect Broseley town centre for A1, A2, A3, and A5 Class uses the Primary Shopping Area is indicated on the Policies Map.
- 4.22 All development will need to take account of known critical infrastructure constraints as identified in the Broseley Town plan and Local Development Framework Implementation Plan. Development should be phased appropriately to take account of critical infrastructure delivery and seek to positively contribute towards local infrastructure improvements, including the provision of community benefits in accordance with Policies CS8 and CS9 in the Town Plan.
- 4.23 Consultation responses supported the view that new development for non-residential purposes would best be situated to the south east of the Town, accessed from the main road, and close to the current HGV route. This Plan will therefore support windfall development in this area for employment, that meets the relevant policy criteria, including proposals that fall outside the development boundary.

POLICY EJ1

Proposals for new B2, B8, E, F1 and F2 Class industrial, business and commercial development in Broseley will be supported subject to the following criteria:

- a) The scale and nature of the proposed development would not have a significant adverse effect on the amenity of neighbouring residential areas;
- b) The proposal would not have a significant adverse unacceptable impacts on the local road network;
- c) The proposal provides adequate access, including walking, cycling, public transport and parking;
- d) The proposal has access to appropriate infrastructure;
- e) The proposal does not have a significant adverse impact on adjacent land uses; and
- f) The proposal promotes the character of the area.

Proposals to change existing employment land to alternative uses will be supported where it can be demonstrated that the site is no longer viable through an active marketing exercise in which the property has been offered for sale or rent on the open market at a reasonable price for a reasonable period of time and no reasonable offers have been refused.

POLICY EJ2

Existing employment land shown in Figure 3: Policies and Proposals Map will be retained in employment use where possible and development proposals which maintain or enhance existing employment use will be supported.

POLICY EJ3

Land off Cockshutt Lane is allocated for employment use (see Figure 3: Policies and Proposals Map). Development proposals for this site should have regard to the criteria in Appendix 5.

POLICY EJ4

Proposals for new retail floor space within a Retail Area (see Figure 3: Policies and Proposals Map) will be supported if the development complements and/or diversifies local retail provision and is compatible with the scale and form of the existing retail sites.

POLICY EJ5

Proposals that promote or provide facilities for home working and businesses operating from home in Broseley will be supported where the proposal does not have a significant harmful effect on the amenity of neighbouring residential areas.

POLICY EJ6

The sympathetic conversion of existing buildings for business and enterprise will be supported where the proposal does not have a significant impact on adjacent buildings, adjacent land uses or the character of the area.

Evidence and Justification

- 4.24 These policies will help to deliver the Neighbourhood Plan Objectives in respect of retaining and enhancing existing businesses, creating new economic opportunities and jobs, protecting the High Street and supporting the visitor economy.

Green spaces and infrastructure

- 4.25 Early consultation emphasized the importance of the environment, green spaces and open space to local people. In particular 'Valued Green Spaces' that help to create the character of Broseley and provide strong visual features that define the surrounding area and provide important views into the open countryside were recognised and strongly supported. The Broseley Town Plan identified a number of these 'Valued Green Spaces' and they were endorsed and adopted by Shropshire Council. The 'Valued Green Spaces' are particularly important in shaping the character and environmental qualities of Broseley.
- 4.26 The Valued Green Spaces have been carefully chosen because of their importance in the locality and their significant contribution to the appearance of Broseley. The Valued Green Spaces have been selected using the following criteria*:
- a) They have an existing designation – as part of the World Heritage Site, as a 'Field in Trust' or Wildlife Site;
 - b) They have public access;
 - c) They provide heritage value;
 - d) They have environmental value;
 - e) They provide visual amenity, with views from within the urban parts of Broseley out into the open countryside that are characteristic of the Town;
 - f) They create open green areas that help to frame the physical form of Broseley, with its unique combination of built areas and open green space;
- * A full assessment of each Valued Green Space against these criteria can be found at Appendix 3.

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- 4.27 Consultation representations indicated that residents want the Neighbourhood Plan to protect and where possible enhance Broseley's open spaces. Respondents expect new green spaces to be provided with new housing development and the links between them to be improved.
- 4.28 The location of the town centre, as designated within the adopted Local Plan (which is comprised of the Core Strategy (2011) and the SAMDev (2015)), is identified on the Local Plan Policies Map which accompanied the SAMDev Plan. The designated town centre focuses on the High Street and is similar to the proposed retail area illustrated on Figure 3: Policies and Proposals Map.

Strategic Policies

- 4.29 National Planning Policy seeks to promote healthy communities and provide residents with a high quality of life. Green spaces play an important role in providing play areas, recreation grounds and sports facilities. Within Broseley the open spaces are an important part of its character and enhance the quality of life for local people. Policy CS8 of the Shropshire Core Strategy highlights the need to protect and enhance existing facilities for residents and visitors.

POLICY GR1

The following areas are designated as Local Green Space (see Appendix 3):

Map Code	Description
GS1	Balls Lane Fields
GS2	Woodlands Green
GS3	Fish House Woods
GS4	Cricket Club Fields
GS5	Stocking Mound & Barnett's Leasowe Mound
GS6	Cherrybrook Passage
GS7	Birchmeadow Fields
GS8	Dark Lane Fields
GS9	The Haycop
GS10	Monewood South
GS11	Monewood North
GS12	Corbett's Bridleway & Coppice
GS13	Corbett's Dingle
GS14	Church Fields
GS15	Fiery Fields
GS16	Guest Road Play Space

POLICY GR2

New development will be supported where it does not have a significant adverse impact on formal and informal open spaces, including gardens, which are important to the community for their beauty, amenity, wildlife and/or recreational value.

POLICY GR3

New developments will be encouraged to create accessible links from development sites to the wider rights of way network to address gaps in the network and to improve existing provision.

POLICY GR4

Public rights of way through green spaces in Broseley will be protected and, where possible enhanced. Development proposals will be supported which improve the network, including through the provision of permissive paths and the delivery of green routes in the following locations (see Figure 5: Map of the Green Routes in Broseley Parish):

- a) A route into the Gorge through the Haycop and the Monewood Valley;
- b) A route into the Gorge down Corbetts Dingle to the Jackfield Free Bridge;
- c) A route following Pound Lane into the Gorge and to the Severn Valley Way;
- d) A short route from Maypole Road, crossing Balls Lane then alongside the Stocking Mound to Cherrybrook.
- e) A route from Cobwell Road to Ironbridge Road, via Balls Lane and Brandywell Road and the Red Church

POLICY GR5

Development proposals should retain important hedgerows, mature trees and existing areas of woodland where possible and to improve the connectivity between green spaces to enhance the green infrastructure of the Town.

POLICY GR6

Proposals for allotments close to the town centre will be supported.

POLICY GR7

New development will be supported where there is a positive impact on the quality and visual appearance of the open countryside around Broseley.

Evidence and Justification

- 4.30 These Policies help to deliver the Neighbourhood Plan Objectives for protecting 'Valued Green Spaces', protecting green routes, footpaths and bridleways and the overall green environment within and around Broseley. These Policies conform to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2018 and the Shropshire strategic development policies as set out in the Core Strategy and the SAMDev Plan.

BROSELEY TOWN COUNCIL NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2020 – 2038

Figure 4: Map of the Public Right of Way Network in and around Broseley Parish

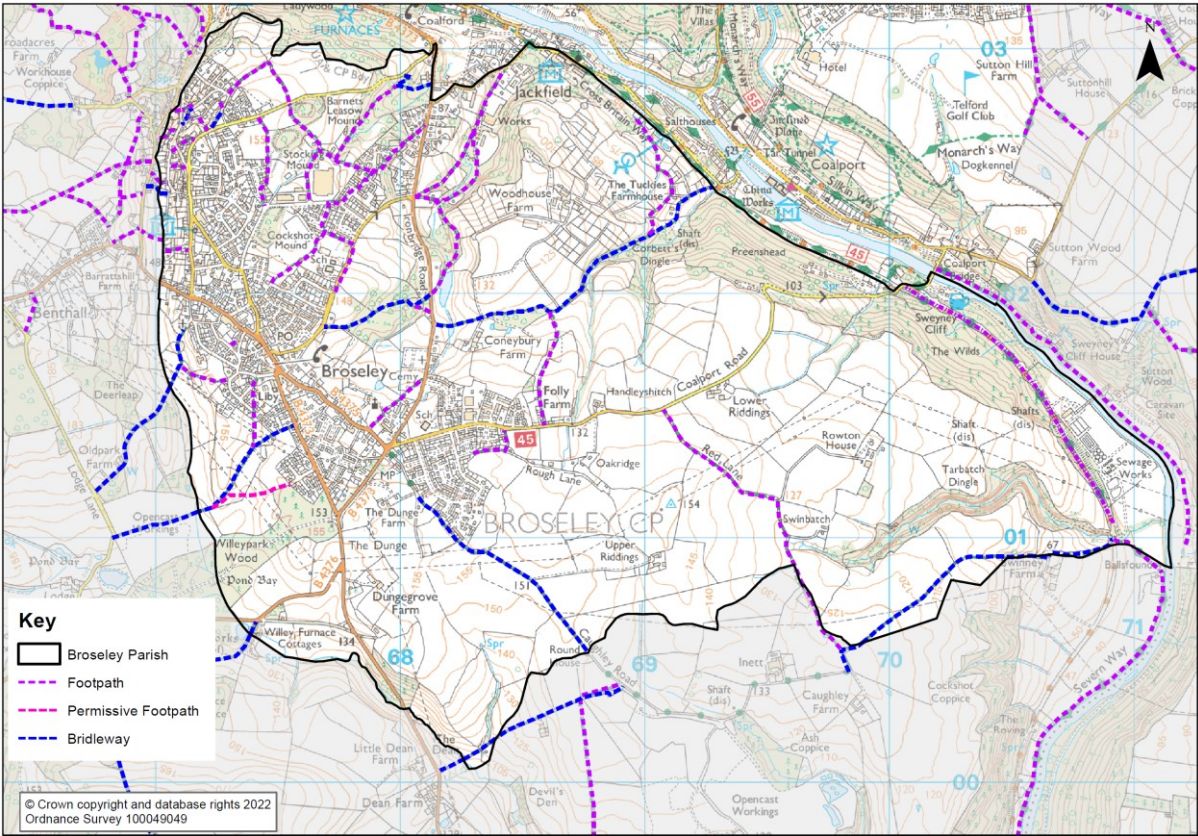
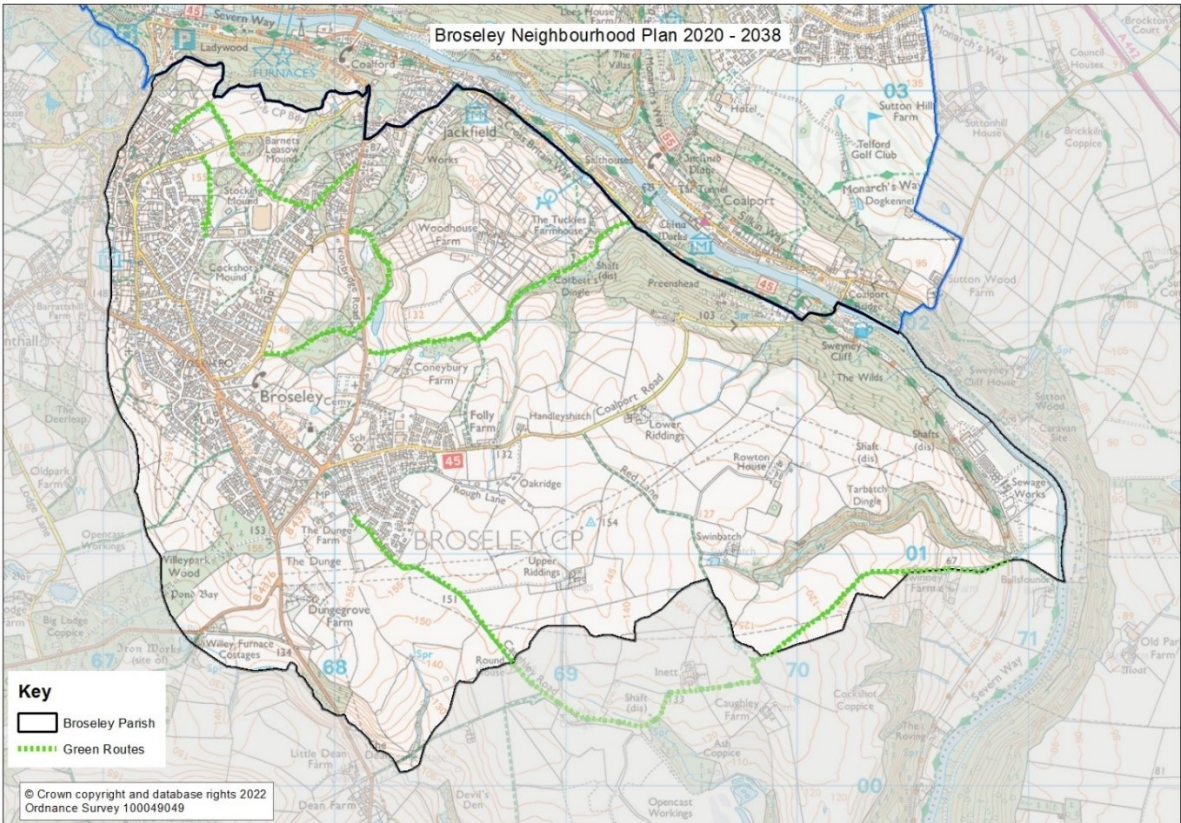


Figure 5: Map of the Green Routes in Broseley Parish



Community Resources

- 4.31 Broseley is fortunate in having a rich variety of community groups and organisations working in and for the town. A significant number of respondents to the early consultation referred to the importance of community facilities to serve local people. The Town Council supports working with local groups as a vital element of Broseley's community resources.
- 4.32 The Town Council supports community resources such as the Birchmeadow Centre, Birchmeadow Park, Multi Use Games Area, Victoria Hall and others. The Town Council will work with partner agencies and developers to help to provide new community facilities. The Town Council will also work with school governing bodies and the Health Centre Management Team to protect and promote safe and broad access to these facilities as part of Broseley's community infrastructure.

Strategic Policies

- 4.33 The Shropshire Core Strategy sets out the importance of market towns and other key centres and proposes appropriate targets for growth and development. Shropshire Policy CS 15 states that rural settlements (such as Broseley) will be supported by the protection and improvement of existing day-to-day services and facilities. Proposals that make a positive contribution to settlements will be encouraged.
- 4.34 The NPPF (2018) supports planning policies and decisions that promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.

Policy Objectives

- 4.35 Strong community resources are a vital part of Broseley and the quality of life for its residents. Early consultation indicated that residents want existing community resources to be protected in order to contribute to community wellbeing and provide benefit for local people.

POLICY CR1

Development proposals that would result in the loss of community resources and facilities in Broseley should demonstrate that:

- a) The community resources and facilities are no longer required; or either
- b) That alternative appropriate provision exists or will be provided elsewhere in the community to serve local people; or
- c) Suitable alternative resources and facilities are included in the proposal.

POLICY CR2

Proposals for new and/or improved community facilities in Broseley will be supported subject to:

- a) The proposal would not have a significant and harmful impact on the amenity of surrounding residential areas;
- b) The proposal would not have a significant and harmful impact on the local

Evidence and Justification

- 4.36 To make sure that Broseley remains a vibrant place to live it is essential that community resources and facilities are retained and the loss of such facilities is resisted and their improvement supported.

Supporting the visitor economy

- 4.37 Broseley is within half a mile of the Ironbridge Gorge, one of the UK's most important visitor attractions; two of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum sites are located in Broseley. Yet the town has a lower profile than its neighbours Ironbridge and Much Wenlock. Consultation responses with local business suggest that visitors tend to book overnight stays in Broseley when the higher profile locations are fully booked.
- 4.38 Given the consultation results set out above the Town Council takes the view that the best tourist strategy for Broseley is to focus on day visitors and short stay visits by people who want a base from which to explore the area. Such visits are important in helping to support town centre employment. The key to this approach is the appeal of a lively and historic small town with a range of hospitality services set in unspoilt countryside.
- 4.39 Accordingly the Town Council believes that more should be done to promote and market the town as a regional base for visitors to explore Broseley and the surrounding area.

Strategic Policies

- 4.40 Shropshire Core Strategy Policy CS 16 – Tourism, Culture and Leisure seeks to deliver high quality, sustainable tourism, cultural and leisure development that enhances the vital role that these sectors play in the local economy, bringing benefits for local communities and visitors. Shropshire's strategy recognises the intrinsic qualities of the natural and built environment and places emphasis on:
- a) Supporting the development of new or extended tourism, cultural and leisure facilities;
 - b) Promoting connections between visitor attractions, including the natural, cultural and historic environment, active recreation venues, heritage trails, parkland, local food and drink and craft sales outlets;
 - c) Supporting development that promotes opportunities for visitors to access, interpret and enjoy the local landscape, historic and cultural assets;
 - d) Supporting appropriate regeneration schemes and tourist development proposals that seek to provide local economic, social and cultural benefits;
 - e) Encouraging the development of facilities that support tourism in appropriate and accessible locations.

Strategic Objectives

- 4.41 The Town Council aims to protect existing tourist related employment. It will work to promote Broseley as a tourist destination, with support for businesses in the town that serve the tourist trade. This includes opportunities for self-employment and start-up businesses.
- 4.42 Protecting and improving the High Street by seeking investment to provide improvements to the street scene was an important objective for respondents to the early consultation. Respondents also recognised that the protection of green space, recreation, play and outdoor facilities is important for visitors as well as residents.

POLICY VE1

Proposals for tourist related development, including outside the development boundary, will be supported when:

- a) The proposal will enhance an existing business on the same site;
- b) The proposal provides a conservation gain by restoring or improving the sustainable use of an historic feature or property; or
- c) The proposal will create a new tourist related business on a suitable site that does not have a significant adverse and harmful impact on neighbouring residential areas or the quality and visual appearance of the countryside around Broseley.

POLICY VE2

Development proposals should avoid any significant adverse impact on the character of the countryside between the Broseley Development Boundary and the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site.

POLICY VE3

The following areas used for outdoor recreation, walking, sport and recreation identified on the Policies Map will be protected and where possible enhanced:

- Birchmeadow Fields;
- Cricket Club site;
- Multi-use Games Area; and
- Guest Road play-space.

Evidence and Justification

- 4.43 Sustainable tourism and high quality cultural and leisure development can deliver wide ranging benefits for the local community by contributing to a successful visitor economy and supporting the quality of life for local people. Tourism plays a significant role in the economic prosperity of Shropshire and appropriate tourist development in particular, can potentially help to sustain rural services and facilities that provide local community benefit.

Achieving sustainable development and responding to the challenge of climate change (including water infrastructure)

- 4.44 Respondents to the early consultation highlighted the importance of renewable energy and responding to climate change. They would support appropriate development in Broseley that incorporates renewable energy technologies into new development that is well adapted to climate change and where energy conservation is considered at the earliest stage.
- 4.45 Following the Deregulation Act 2015 the Building Regulations provide the minimum standards for energy efficiency in new buildings.

Strategic Policies

- 4.46 The National Planning Policy Framework 2018 requires planning authorities to help shape places to secure radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimizing vulnerability and providing resilience to the impacts of climate change and supporting the delivery of renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure.

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- 4.47 Local planning authorities are required to plan for new development in locations and ways that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Where setting any local requirements for a building's sustainability planning authorities should do so in a way consistent with the government's zero carbon building policy and adopt nationally prescribed standards. To help increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy local planning authorities should recognize the responsibilities on all communities to contribute to energy generation from renewable or low carbon sources. They should have a positive strategy to promote the use of energy from renewable and low carbon sources.
- 4.48 The NPPF 2018 sets out a number of policies to guide local authorities in design, the location of renewable energy infrastructure and support community led initiatives for renewable and low carbon energy including through Neighbourhood Planning and identify opportunities where development can draw its energy supply from decentralized energy sources. Planning authorities should also take account of: landform, layout, building orientation, massing and land supply to minimize energy consumption.
- 4.49 The Shropshire Core Strategy promotes low carbon development that mitigates and adapts to the effects of climate change, including flood risk, by promoting more responsible transport and travel choices, more efficient energy and resources, the generation of energy from renewable sources and effective and sustainable waste management.
- 4.50 The phasing of new sewerage and waste-water treatment infrastructure, which may be required to serve new development, needs to avoid overburdening water resources. The Shropshire Water Cycle Study (2020) assesses the impact of new development on the county's water infrastructure and shows where development may be dependent upon upgrading and enlarging the existing network. Policy SD4 recognises this and responds to the need identified in the Appropriate Assessment for mitigation against unacceptable impacts on the Severn Estuary European Marine Site. This Policy arose out of consultation with Shropshire Council and is in general conformity with the Shropshire strategic development policies.

POLICY SD1

Development proposals should be designed to be energy efficient and sustainable. Relevant planning applications should include a statement setting out how the development will achieve this, including as appropriate:

- a) Siting and orientation to optimise passive solar gain;
- b) The use of energy efficient measures such as loft and wall insulation and double glazing; and
- c) The installation of energy efficiency measures such as loft and wall insulation and double glazing;
- d) The incorporation of on-site energy generation from renewable sources.

POLICY SD2

The retro-fitting of heritage assets is encouraged to reduce energy demand and to generate renewable energy where appropriate, providing it safeguards the historic characteristics of the asset.

POLICY SD3

Non-residential development meeting the Building Research Establishment (BREEAM) “excellent” standard will be supported.

POLICY SD4

Development proposals are required to demonstrate that they will be served by adequate water supply, foul drainage, wastewater and sewage treatment infrastructure. In particular, proposals should show how development will be phased to allow the relevant water company sufficient time to undertake any necessary capacity improvement works to the existing water supply, wastewater and foul drainage networks and waste-water treatment works prior to construction and occupation of the development. Where development is bought forward in advance of planned capacity improvements by the relevant water company through their Asset Management Process, any required capacity improvements should be delivered via agreement between the developer and the water company.

Evidence and Justification

- 4.51 These Policies conform to the NPPF and are in general conformity with the Shropshire strategic development policies set out in the Core Strategy and SAMDev Plan.

Development Boundary

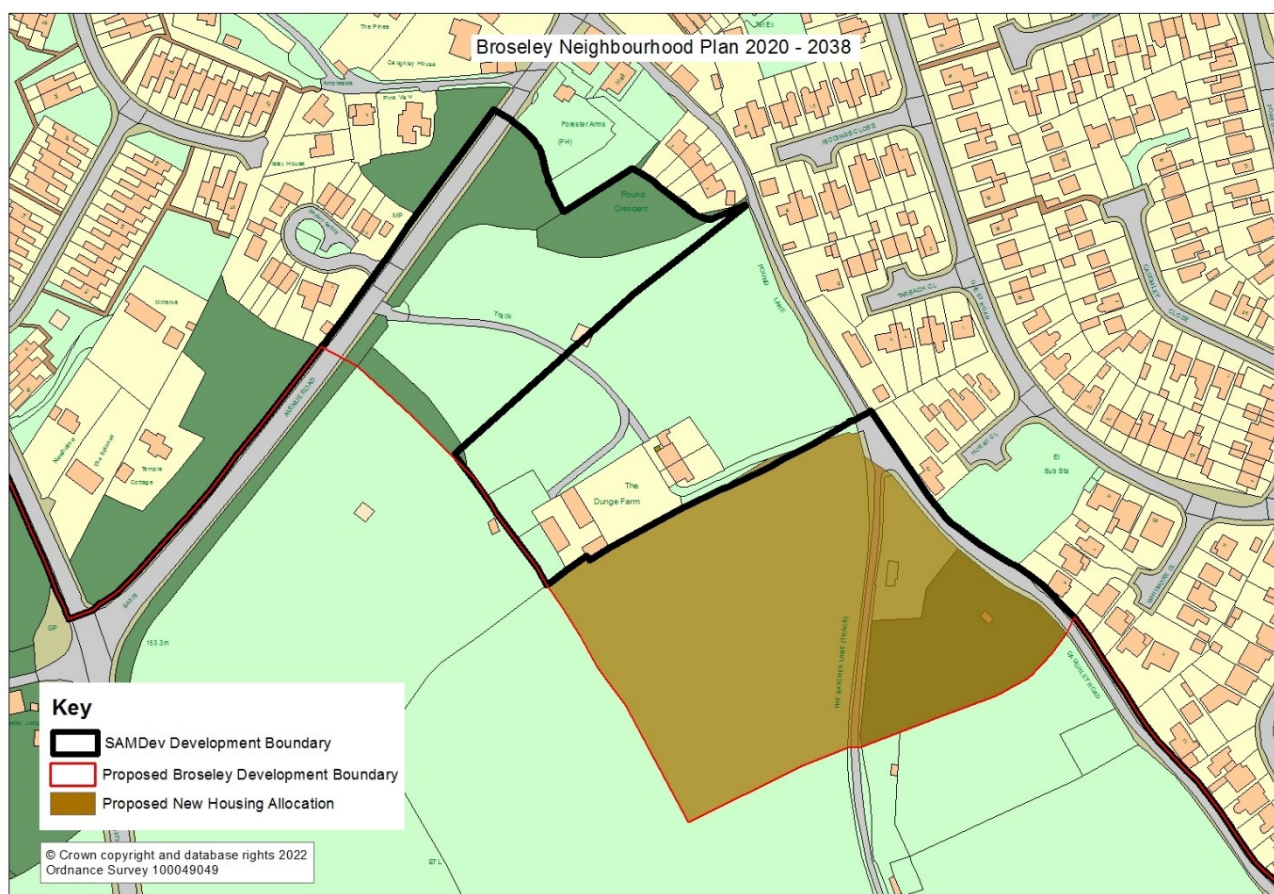
- 4.52 The adopted Local Plan for Shropshire (which is comprised of the Core Strategy (2011) and the SAMDev (2015)) is accompanied by a Policies Map which illustrates geographically the application of policies in the adopted Local Plan. This Policies Map includes the identification of settlement development boundaries, including for the settlement of Broseley (this is shown in Appendix 6).
- 4.53 To contribute to the achievement of sustainable development in Broseley, the Neighbourhood Plan sought to meet the proposed development guidelines for Broseley within the emerging Shropshire Local Plan, both for employment land and housing.
- 4.54 With regard to housing, detailed and exhaustive consultation identified a suitable site for allocation to provide housing located outside but adjoining the development boundary on the Policies Map which accompanies the adopted Local Plan.
- 4.55 With regard to employment, in addition to consideration of the proposed development guidelines for Broseley within the emerging Shropshire Local Plan, consultation on this Neighbourhood Plan identified a need for an expanded site for Broseley's largest manufacturing employer. The Neighbourhood Plan subsequently identified an appropriate site for this expansion to occur upon, this site is located outside but adjoining the development boundary on the Policies Map which accompanies the adopted Local Plan.

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4.56 This Neighbourhood Plan therefore makes two changes to the development boundary for Broseley shown on the Policies Map which accompanies the adopted Local Plan. These are:

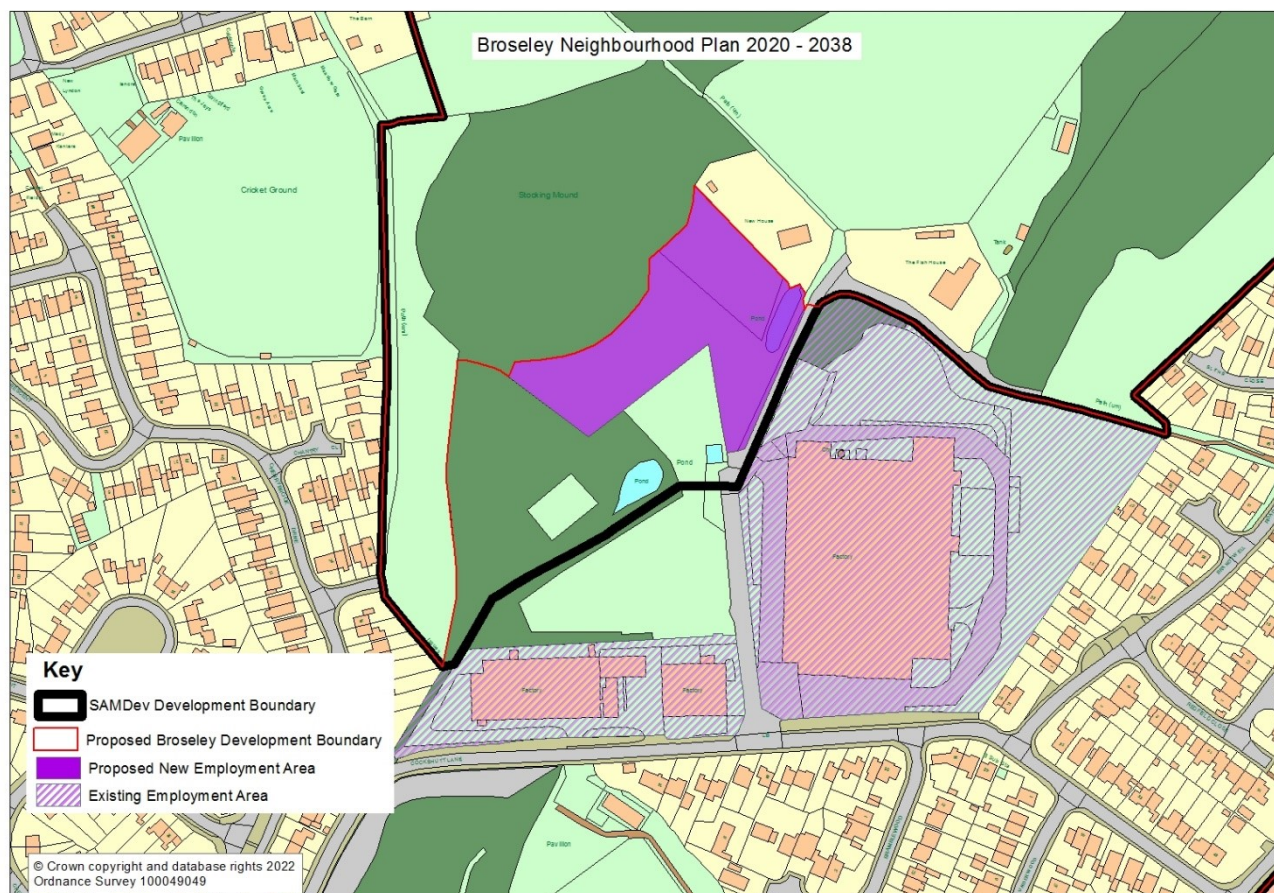
- a) The boundary is being changed to accommodate a new housing allocation off Avenue Road as set out in Policy HO2 and in Appendix 4. This boundary change is illustrated on Figure 6 below:

Figure 6: Change to the Development Boundary to Accommodate the Housing Allocation off Avenue Road Identified in Policy HO2



- b) The boundary is being changed to accommodate an enlarged employment site off Cockshutt Lane as set out in Policy EJ3 and in Appendix 5. This boundary change is illustrated on Figure 7 below:

Figure 7: Change to the Development Boundary to Accommodate the Enlarged Employment Site off Cockshutt Lane Identified in Policy EJ3



POLICY DB1

The Development Boundary for Broseley is as provided in Figure 3: Policies and Proposals Map.

5 Monitoring and Review

- 5.1 Shropshire Council as the Local Planning Authority will monitor progress in relation to the implementation of the Core Strategy and SAMDev Plan. This will include housing and employment and the other components of development as part of their Annual Monitoring Report (AMR).
- 5.2 Broseley Town Council will work in liaison with Shropshire Council to assist in this process and contribute to the AMR in respect of development in Broseley.
- 5.3 The Town Council will prepare regular monitoring reports to assess the impact of the Plan.
- 5.4 The Town Council will review the Plan on an annual basis and undertake a full review in 2024.

6 Appendices

Appendix 1

Broseley Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group Membership and Terms of Reference

Membership

Michael Burton*
Sharon Clayton #
Ryan Garbett #
Simon Harris * **
Ann Maltby *
Colette McCabe *
Phil Revell *** *
Dave Ricketts
Ian West *#

* BTC Councillors
** County Councillor
*** Chair
left the group before the Plan was finalised

Phil Revell and Colette McCabe were elected as Town Councillors in December 2019 and January 2020 respectively. Phil Revell chaired the group throughout.

NPAG received specialist advice from Michael Barker BA (Hons). MSc. Dip TP. DMS. DipM. MRTPI. FRGS. Michael Barker is an independent planning consultant, previously Assistant Director and member of the Senior Management Team at Telford & Wrekin Council.

Terms of Reference

Purpose

- a. The purpose of the Broseley Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group (NPAG) is to carry through the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) for the Broseley area in order that this will then progress to Independent Examination and a successful community referendum and ultimately be adopted by Shropshire Council to become planning policy.
- b. The NPAG will engage with the local community to ensure that the NP is truly representative, maximising support for the approach taken by ensuring high levels of community engagement throughout the plan-making process.

Principles

- a. The Advisory Group will undertake the process in a democratic, transparent and fair fashion, encouraging widespread participation and giving equal consideration to opinions and ideas from all members of the community
- b. All decisions made shall be fully evidenced and supported through consultation with the local community.

In order to achieve this, the Advisory Group will:

- i. Produce, monitor and update a project timetable;
- ii. Produce a consultation and engagement strategy, showing how the public will be involved throughout the process;

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- iii. Carry through the strategy, ensuring as far as possible that the final NP is representative of the views of residents;
- iv. Regularly report back to Broseley Town Council;
- v. Identify and secure funding;
- vi. Liaise with relevant authorities and organisations to make the plan as effective as possible.
- vii. Produce a draft version of the Neighbourhood Development Plan for ratification by the Town Council.

Membership

- a. The NPAG will be made up of a cross-section of volunteers from the Broseley communities, including Town Councillors.
- b. There will be at least six members of the NPAG, with a maximum of twelve and a minimum of three Broseley Town Councillors.
- c. The NPAG may co-opt additional members to the group at any time, subject to a recorded vote at a NPAG meeting.

Decision Making

- a. Broseley Town Council delegates full authority to the Advisory Group to work on the Neighbourhood Plan up to and including publication of the Consultation Draft Plan.
- b. The plan-making process remains the responsibility of Broseley Town Council as the qualifying body.
- c. All publications, consultation and community engagement exercises will be undertaken by or on behalf of the Town Council with appropriate recognition of the Town Council's position given in all communications associated with the project.

Meetings

- a. Advisory Group meetings will take place as and when required but not less than once every two months.
- b. The dates of future meetings will be made publicly available.
- c. The Advisory Group will elect a Chair and Secretary from its membership to remain in those positions until the project is completed. If these positions become vacant, the Advisory Group will elect an alternate.
- d. The Secretary shall keep a record of meetings and circulate notes to Advisory Group members and the Town Council in a timely fashion. Minutes shall be made publicly available.
- e. Minutes of the Advisory Group, along with correspondence and other formal documentation will be held by the Town Clerk.
- f. At least 5 clear days' notice of meetings shall be sent to members.
- g. Decisions made by the Advisory Group should normally be by consensus at Advisory Group meetings. Where a vote is required each member shall have one vote. A minimum of three members shall be present where matters are presented for decisions to be taken. A simple majority vote will be required to support any motion. The Chairman shall have one casting vote.

Working Groups

- a. The Advisory Group may establish working groups, made up of volunteers from the community to aid them in any Neighbourhood Plan related work.

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- b. Each working group should have a representative from the Advisory Group who will report back to the NPAG.

Finance

- a. All grants and funding will be applied for and held by the Town Council, who will ring-fence the funds for Neighbourhood Plan work. All payments will be processed in accordance with Broseley Town Council's financial procedures.
- b. The NPAG will have delegated authority to spend monies so ring-fenced without further reference to the Town Council. NPAG will also have delegated authority to spend monies allocated by the Town Council for the Neighbourhood Plan project.
- c. Specific items of expenditure will be approved via a minuted resolution at a NPAG meeting, said resolution to be counter-signed by three Broseley Town Councillors present at the relevant meeting.
- d. Advisory Group members and volunteers from any working groups may claim back any previously agreed expenditure incurred during any Neighbourhood Plan related work in accordance with Broseley Town Council's procedures.

Conduct

- a. Advisory Group members will abide by the 'Nolan' principles of public life and the Town Council Code of Conduct, including declarations of interest.
- b. Whilst members as individuals will be accountable to their parent organisations, the Advisory Group as a whole is accountable to the wider community for ensuring that the Plan reflects their collective expectations.
- c. The Advisory Group will achieve this through applying the following principles:
 - i. Be clear and open when their individual roles or interests are in conflict;
 - ii. Treat everyone with dignity, courtesy and respect regardless of their age, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, or religion and belief;
 - iii. Actively promote equality of access and opportunity.

Dissolution

The Advisory Group will be dissolved once its objectives have been attained or when the Town Council considers its services are no longer required.

Appendix Two

Broseley Neighbourhood Plan - timeline of key events

11 July 2017	Broseley Town Council (BTC) resolves to explore the idea of drawing up a NP.
1 November 2017	First meeting to discuss the route to creating a NP, with attendance from Shropshire Council and a representative from Shifnal, who had a made plan.
14 November 2017	BTC resolves to set up a steering group, with town councillors and interested members of the public. This steering group, later to be called the 'Broseley Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group' (NPAG) meets most months from thereon.
9 January 2018	BTC delegates an initial budget to the steering group.
26 January 2018	First public meeting held to launch the 'Broseley and Benthall Neighbourhood Plan'. Work starts on defining the NP boundary; following informal consultation with Barrow Parish councillors, it is proposed that parts of Barrow be included.
13 March 2018	BTC approves NPAG terms of reference and agrees to submission of an application to Shropshire Council to designate the NP area.
15 March 2018	Barrow Parish Council rejects the proposal that parts of Barrow Parish be included in a NP along with Broseley.
10 April 2018	BTC approves revised terms of reference for NPAG (excluding any involvement of Barrow Parish) and agrees to submission of an application to Shropshire Council to designate the NP area, comprising the whole of Broseley Town and nothing else.
19 April 2018	Application to designate the NP area is sent to Shropshire Council. The four week consultation period starts on 1 May 2018.
24 May 2018	Grant of £1,525 from Locality is approved.
June 2018	First public consultation takes place, with a questionnaire delivered to every household in Broseley, plus an on-line version of the poll.
July 2018	Two public meetings are held to present the results of the consultation. Task groups are set up to explore aspects of the proposed NP in more detail.
17 September 2018	Shropshire Council approves the application to designate the NP area.
22 September 2018	Public meeting held on the subject of Heritage and Environment.
27 October 2018	Public meeting held on subject of Public and Voluntary Services.
December 2018	Consultation with local businesses is launched.
29 January 2019	Public meeting held on housing and other development. Second public consultation (paper and online) on specific development sites is launched.
March 2019	Programme of meetings with landowners etc commences.
14 May 2019	BTC approves appointment of Michael Barker as planning consultant to help write NP.
15 May 2019	Public meeting held to provide update on all aspects of NP and announce plans for next public consultation.
12 June 2019	Grant of £7,320 from Locality is approved.
July-August 2019	Third public consultation takes place, with briefing document and questionnaire delivered to every household in Broseley.
September 2019	Results of third public questionnaire published.
14 th January 2020	Working draft of NP approved by Broseley Town Council.
January	NP Display with maps and executive summary in Broseley Library.
19 th February 2020	Public Meeting to present draft NP.
10 th March 2020	BTC approves draft Neighbourhood Plan for section 14 consultation.
September 2020	BTC begins Section 14 consultation
29 th April 2021	BTC approves Neighbourhood Plan for section 15 consultation.
April 2021	BTC submits Section 15 version to Shropshire Council

Appendix Three

Valued Green Space

The 2013 Broseley Town Plan, in response to strong demand expressed through consultation, designated a number of areas of the Town as 'local green space'.

During the Neighbourhood Plan consultation process the Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group (NPAG) were asked to consider additional areas for protection. NPAG therefore re-consulted on all the areas identified. As before there was a high degree of local support for a specific designation to protect these areas. NPAG were advised on this issue by an Environment and Heritage sub-group, and the following matrix arises out of that work.

NPAG identified criteria that might support a 'valued green space' designation, and scored each area put forward against those criteria. An area had to achieve a score of 4, (with at least one maximum score of 3) before it was included in the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Criteria

Existing designation – as recreational space, conservation area, wildlife site, village green, Field in Trust (3 points)

Public Access – Open space (3 points), access via a footpath, bridleway or permissive path (2 points), limited access via a footpath or permissive path (1 point), no public access (0 points)

Heritage value – As identified by a recognised heritage listing (3 points), locally identified heritage value (2 points), as a buffer zone to a recognised heritage site (1 point)

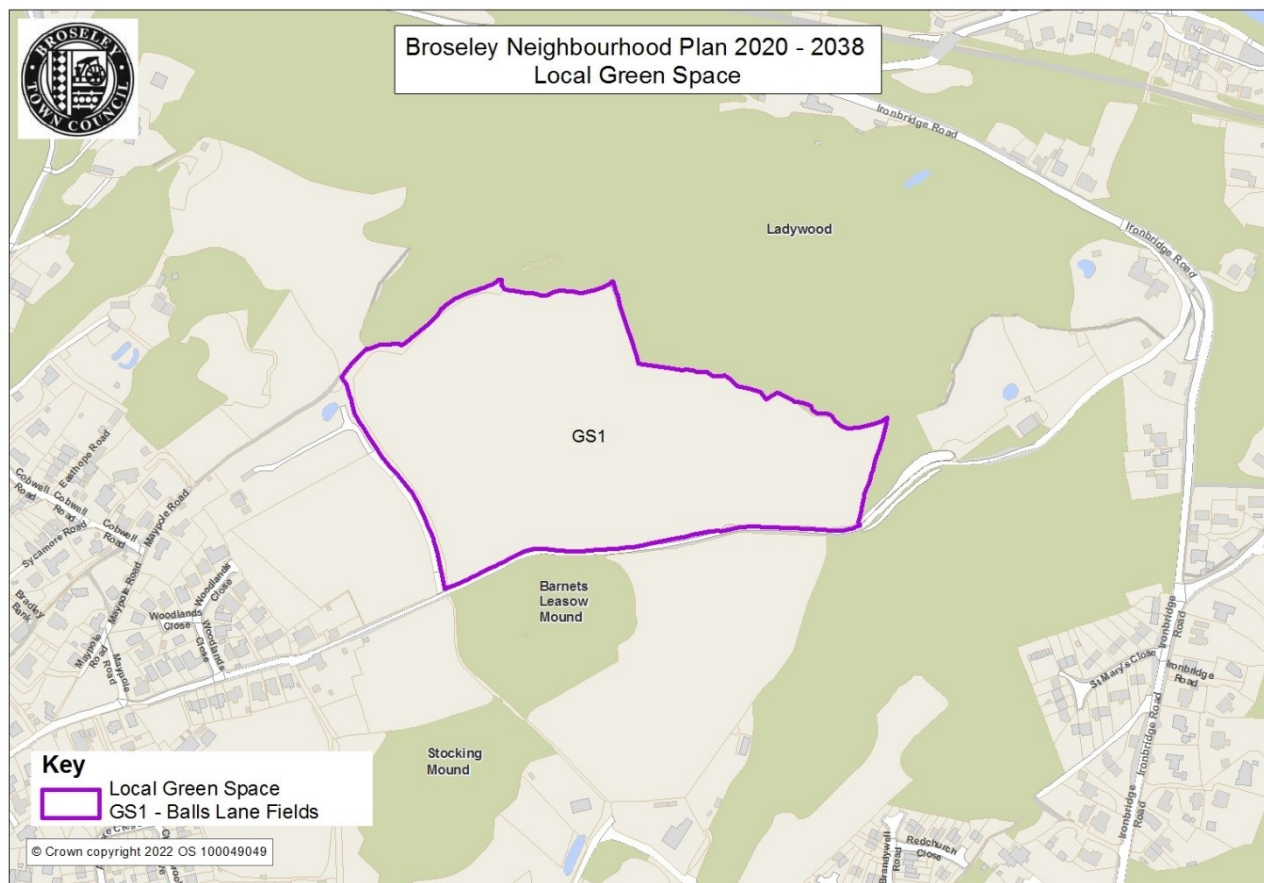
Environmental value – ancient woodland or rare species/habitat (3 points), area with more diverse flora, eg woodland, meadows, hedgerows, able to support range of flora and fauna (2 points), Area with limited biodiversity eg fields, grass land etc (1 point), as a buffer zone to a designated wildlife site (1 point)

Visual Amenity – Open views offering significant visual amenity (3 points), views to open countryside as referenced in Broseley Conservation Statement (2 points), limited views over green fields or of/from a significant local building or landmark (1 point)

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Figure A3.1: Ball Lane Fields Local Green Space

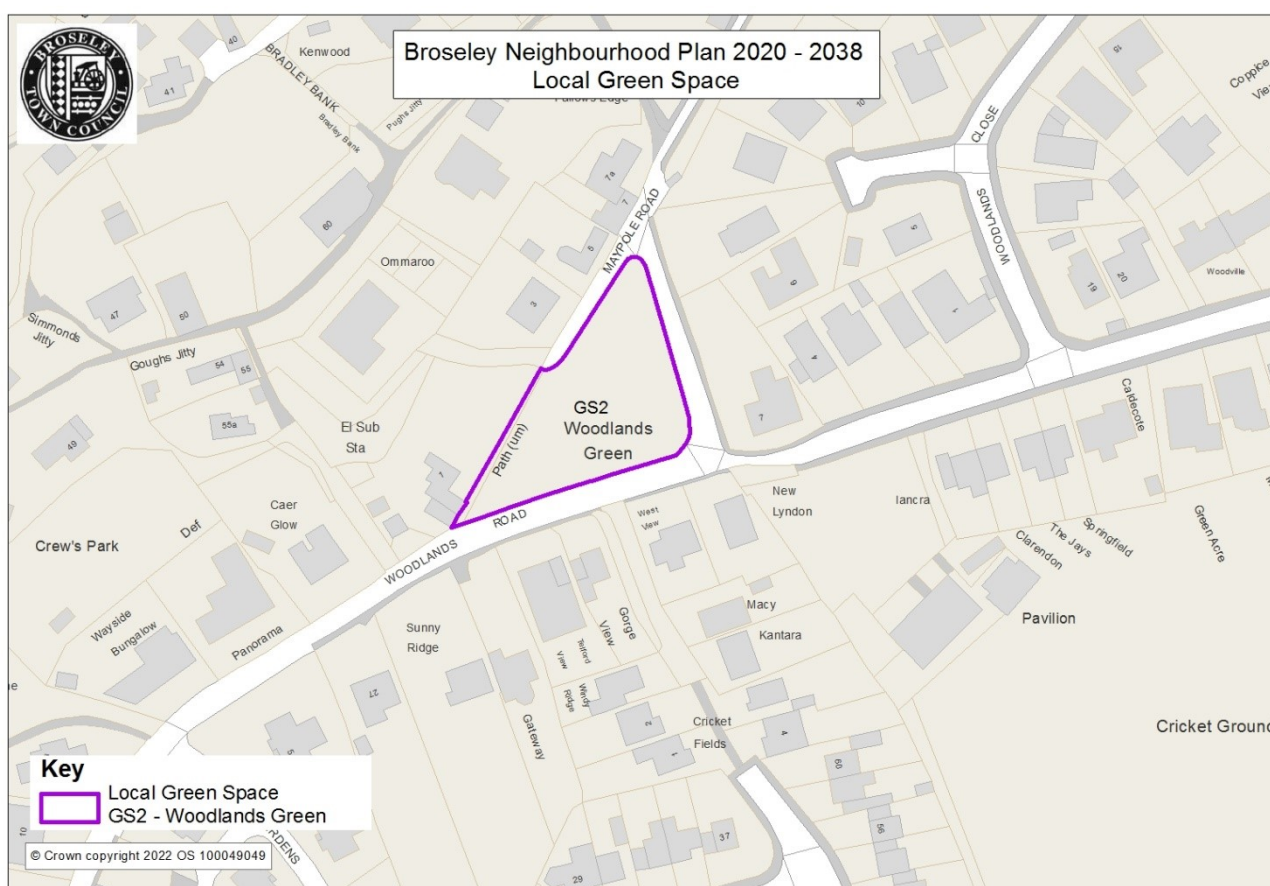
MAP CODE	SITE NAME	COMMENT		MATRIX SCORE
GS1	Ball Lane Fields	Extensive views north-west over Ironbridge Gorge to the Wrekin. Borders World Heritage Site		7
MATRIX SCORES				
Public Access	Heritage Value	Environmental Value	Visual Amenity	Existing Designation
1	1	2	3	0



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Figure A3.2: Woodlands Green Local Green Space

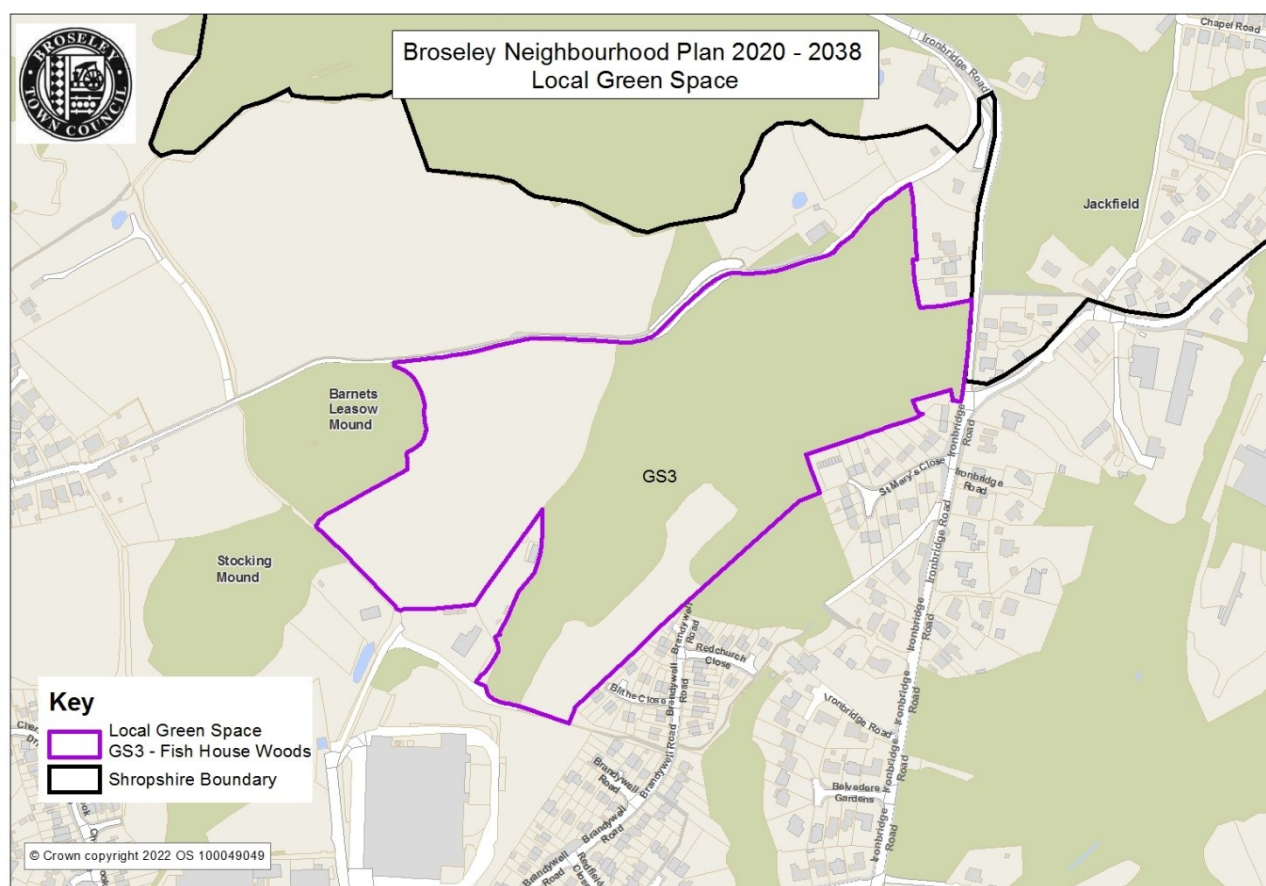
MAP CODE	SITE NAME	COMMENT		MATRIX SCORE
GS2	Woodlands Green	Extensive views north-west over Ironbridge Gorge to the Wrekin. Conservation Area		8
MATRIX SCORES				
Public Access	Heritage Value	Environmental Value	Visual Amenity	Existing Designation
3	2	1	2	0



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Figure A3.3: Fish House Woods Local Green Space

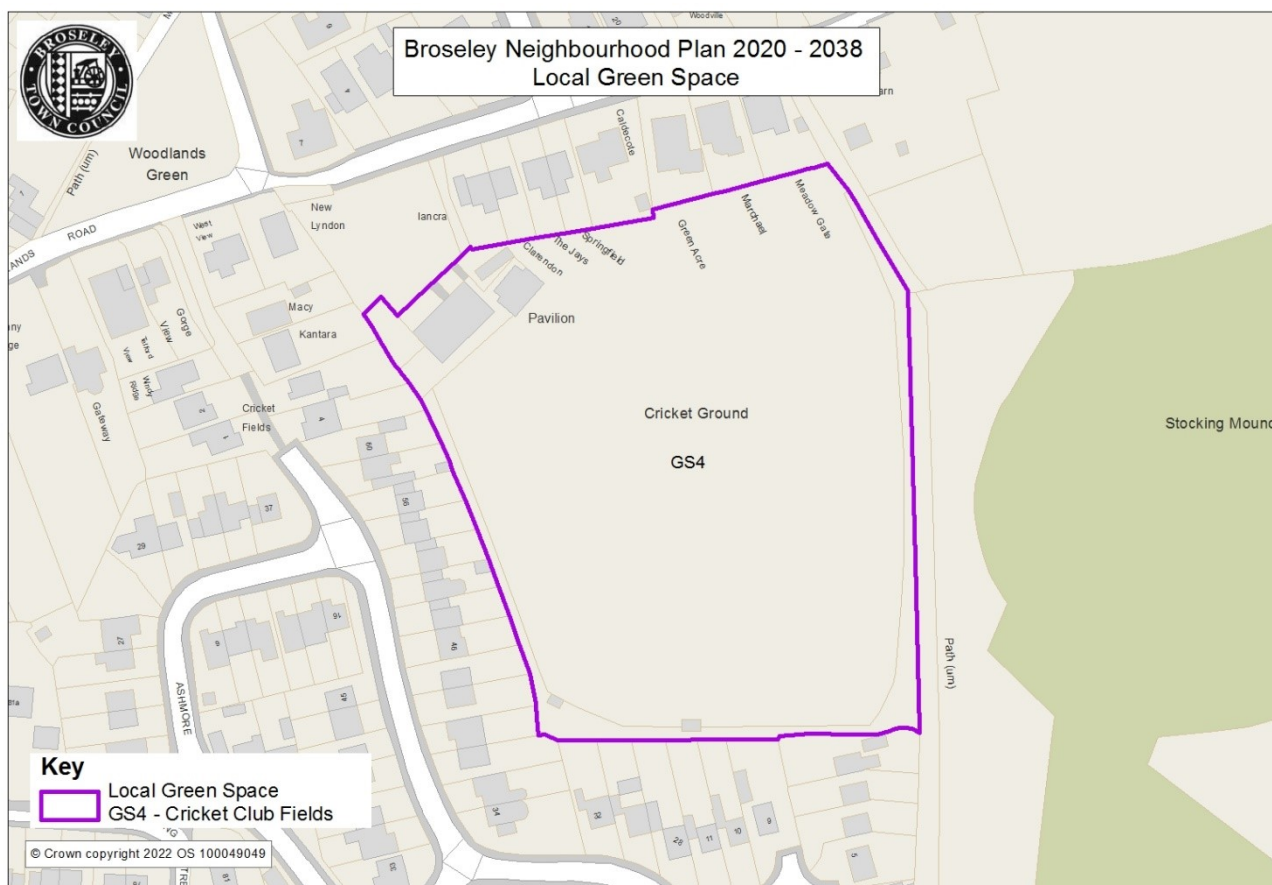
MAP CODE	SITE NAME	COMMENT			MATRIX SCORE
GS3	Fish House Woods	Privately owned mixed pasture and woodland with public footpath access. Borders World Heritage Site			6
MATRIX SCORES					
Public Access	Heritage Value	Environmental Value	Visual Amenity	Existing Designation	
1	1	3	1	0	



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Figure A3.4: Cricket Club Fields Local Green Space

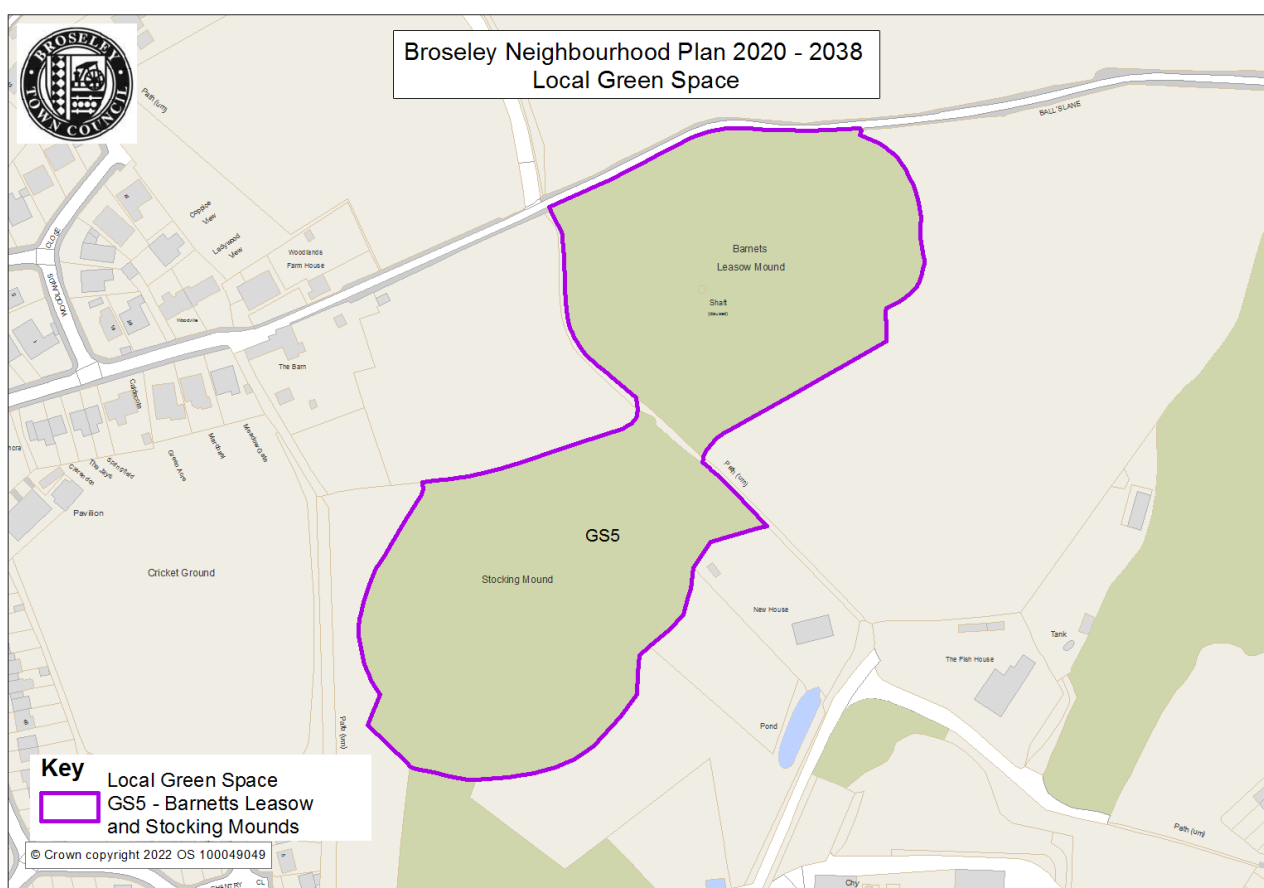
MAP CODE	SITE NAME	COMMENT			MATRIX SCORE
GS4	Cricket Club Fields	Recreational space			6
MATRIX SCORES					
Public Access	Heritage Value	Environmental Value	Visual Amenity	Existing Designation	
1	0	1	1	3	



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Figure A3.5: Stocking Mound & Barnetts Leasow Mound

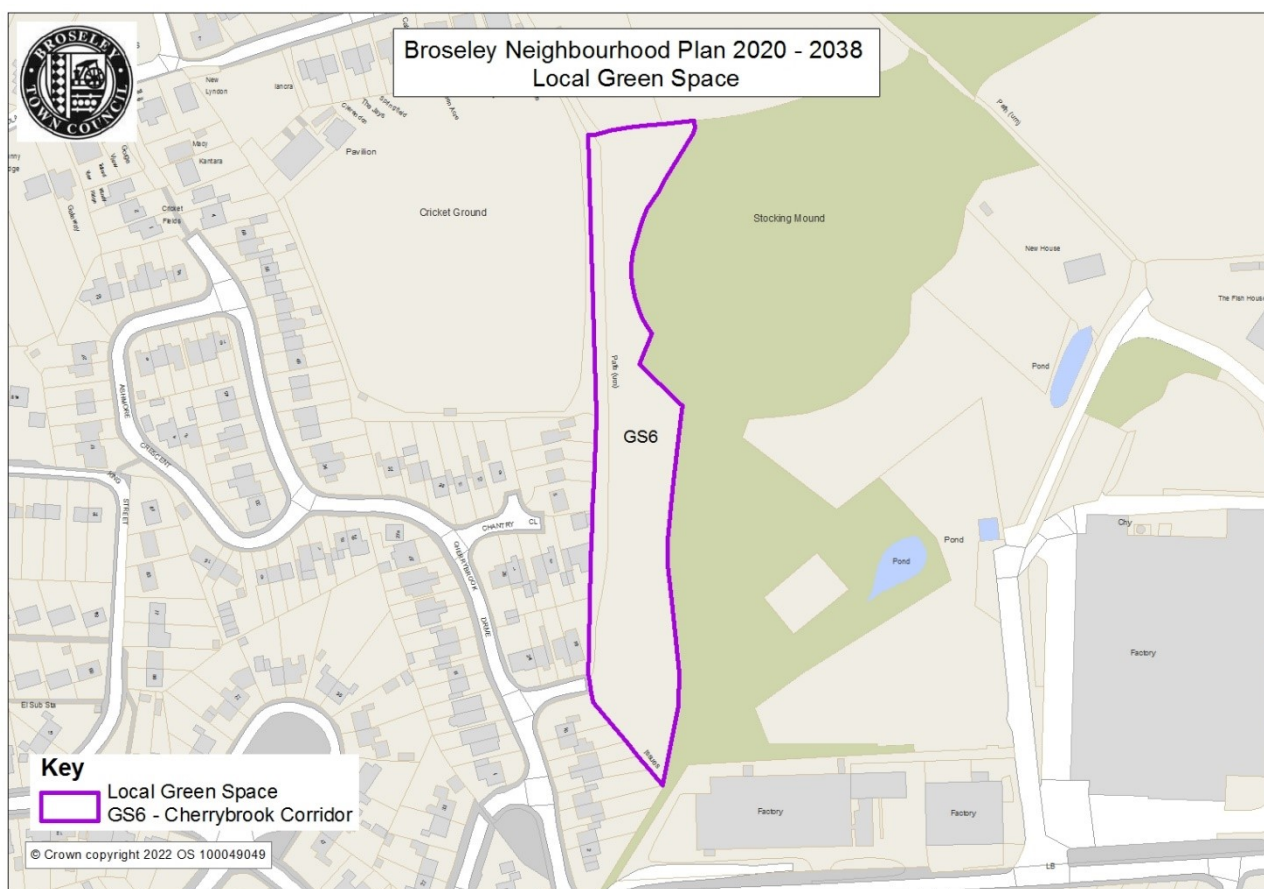
MAP CODE	SITE NAME	COMMENT	MATRIX SCORE	
GS5	Stocking Mound & Barnetts Leasow Mound	The English Heritage Monument Protection Programme for the Iron Industry lists Barnetts Leasow and Stocking mounds as ‘The best preserved example of a typical c18th – early c19th iron mine’. This site is recorded on the Historic Environment Record as PRN 36861 and recommended for scheduling as a historic monument.	11	
MATRIX SCORES				
Public Access	Heritage Value	Environmental Value	Visual Amenity	Existing Designation
1	3	3	1	3



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Figure A3.6: Cherrybrook Passage Local Green Space

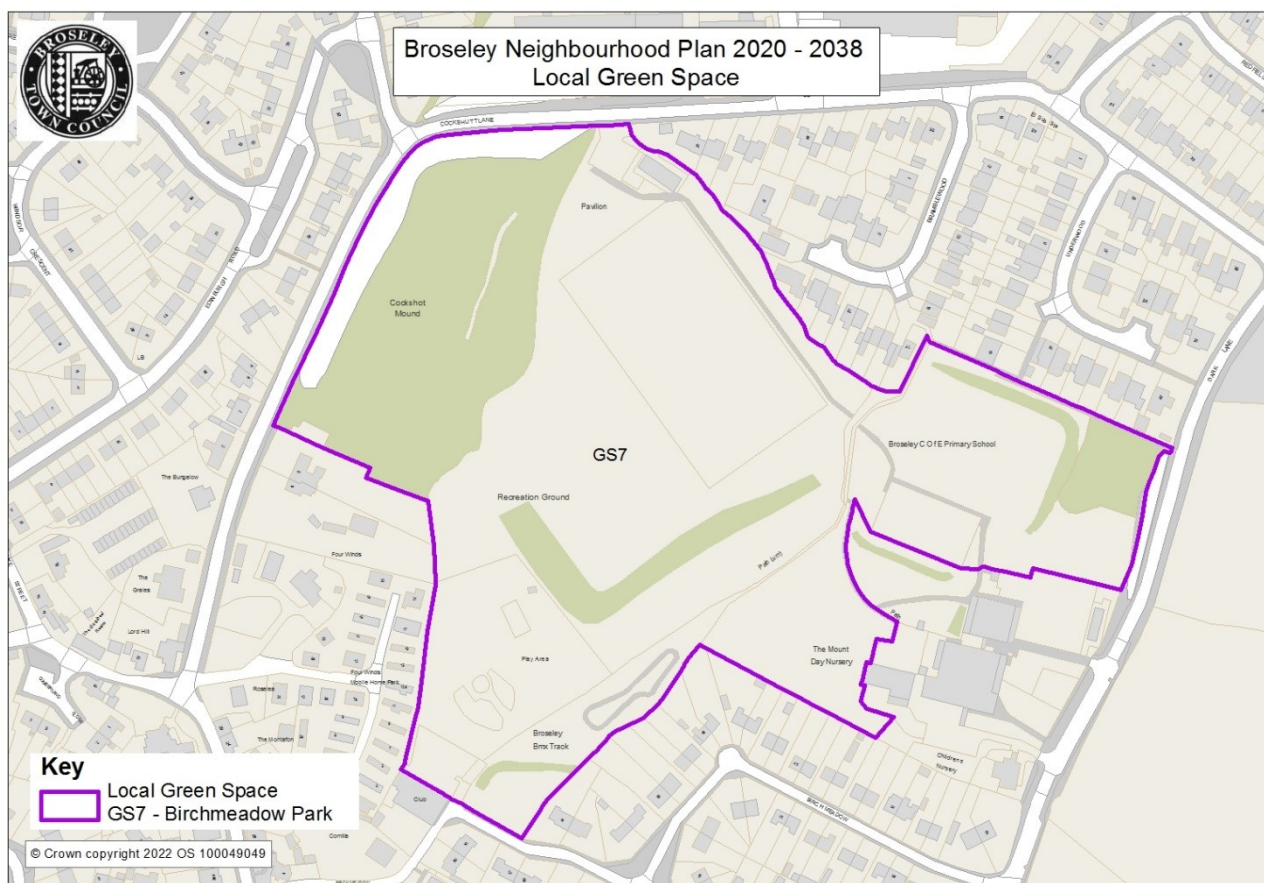
MAP CODE	SITE NAME	COMMENT			MATRIX SCORE
GS6	Cherrybrook Passage	A wildlife corridor, able to support diverse flora and fauna; three species of owls are known to frequent the small woodland. Borders the Stocking Mound site described in GS5			7
MATRIX SCORES					
Public Access	Heritage Value	Environmental Value	Visual Amenity	Existing Designation	
3	1	2	1	0	



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Figure A3.7: Birchmeadow Park Local Green Space

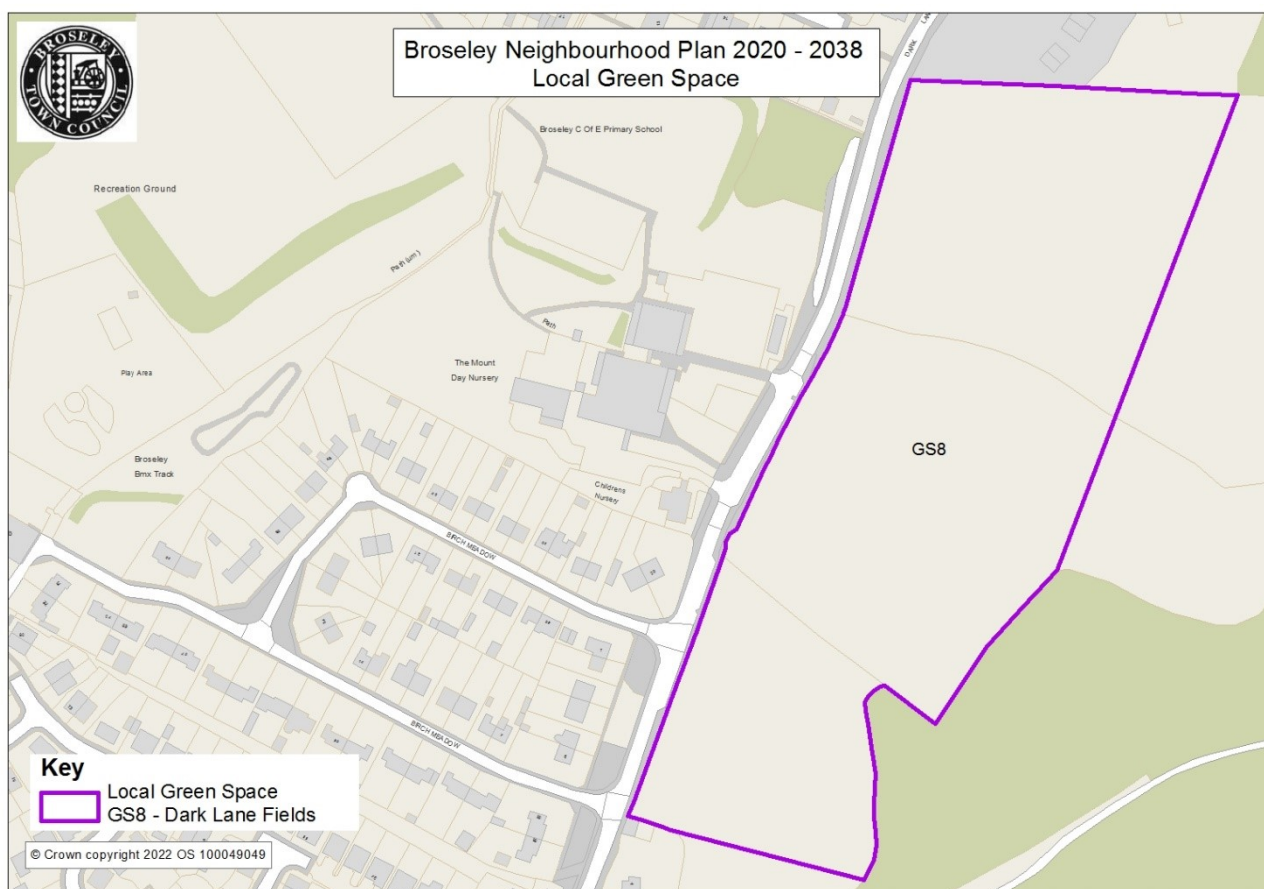
MAP CODE	SITE NAME	COMMENT			MATRIX SCORE
GS7	Birchmeadow Park	Recreational Space Fields in Trust			10
MATRIX SCORES					
Public Access	Heritage Value	Environmental Value	Visual Amenity	Existing Designation	
3	2	1	1	3	



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Figure A3.8: Dark Lane Fields Local Green Space

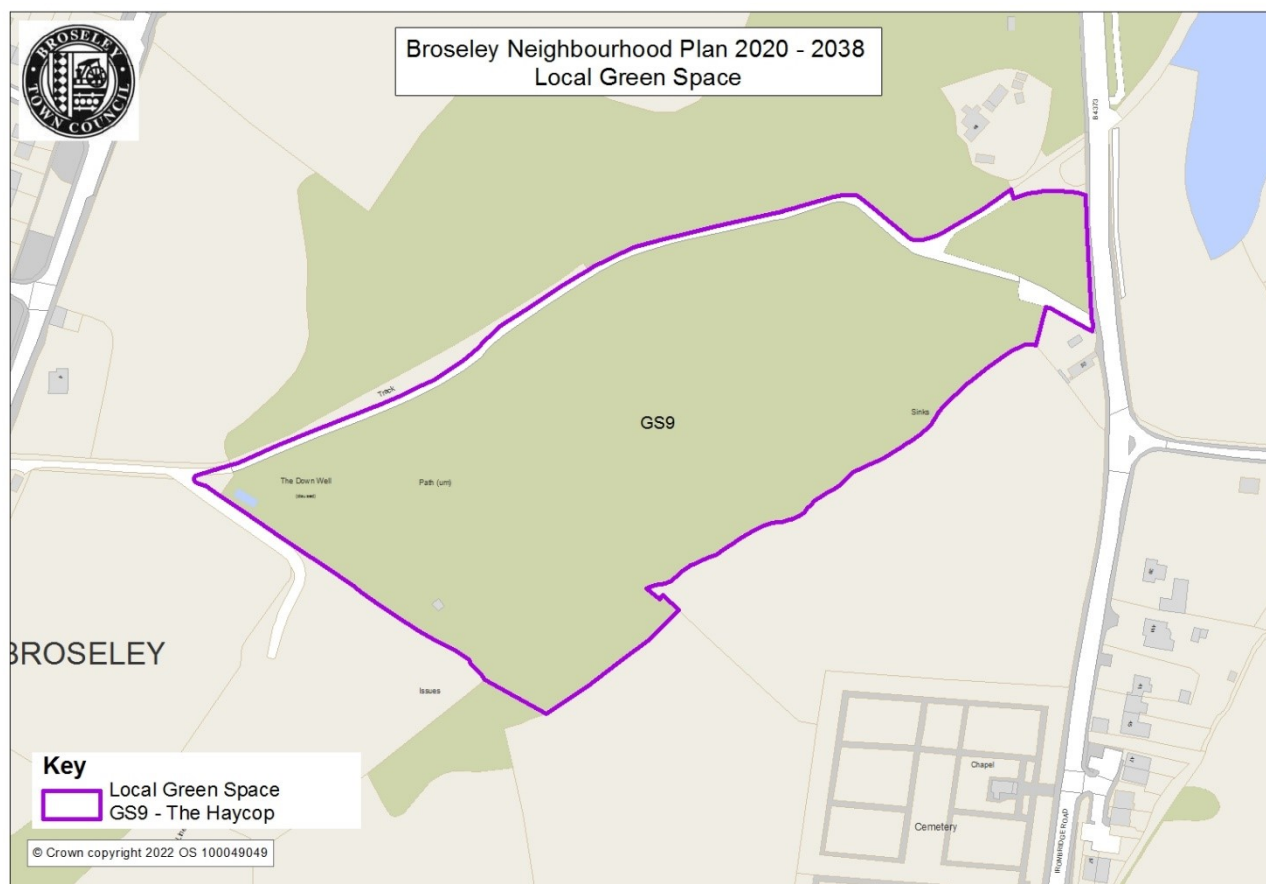
MAP CODE	SITE NAME	COMMENT		MATRIX SCORE
GS8	Dark Lane Fields	Open views over the Ironbridge Gorge to the whole of the West Midlands. Firs Field has the Trafalgar Firs, originally planted to commemorate the Battle of Trafalgar and replanted in the late C20th		6
MATRIX SCORES				
Public Access	Heritage Value	Environmental Value	Visual Amenity	Existing Designation
0	2	1	3	0



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Figure A3.9: The Haycop Local Green Space

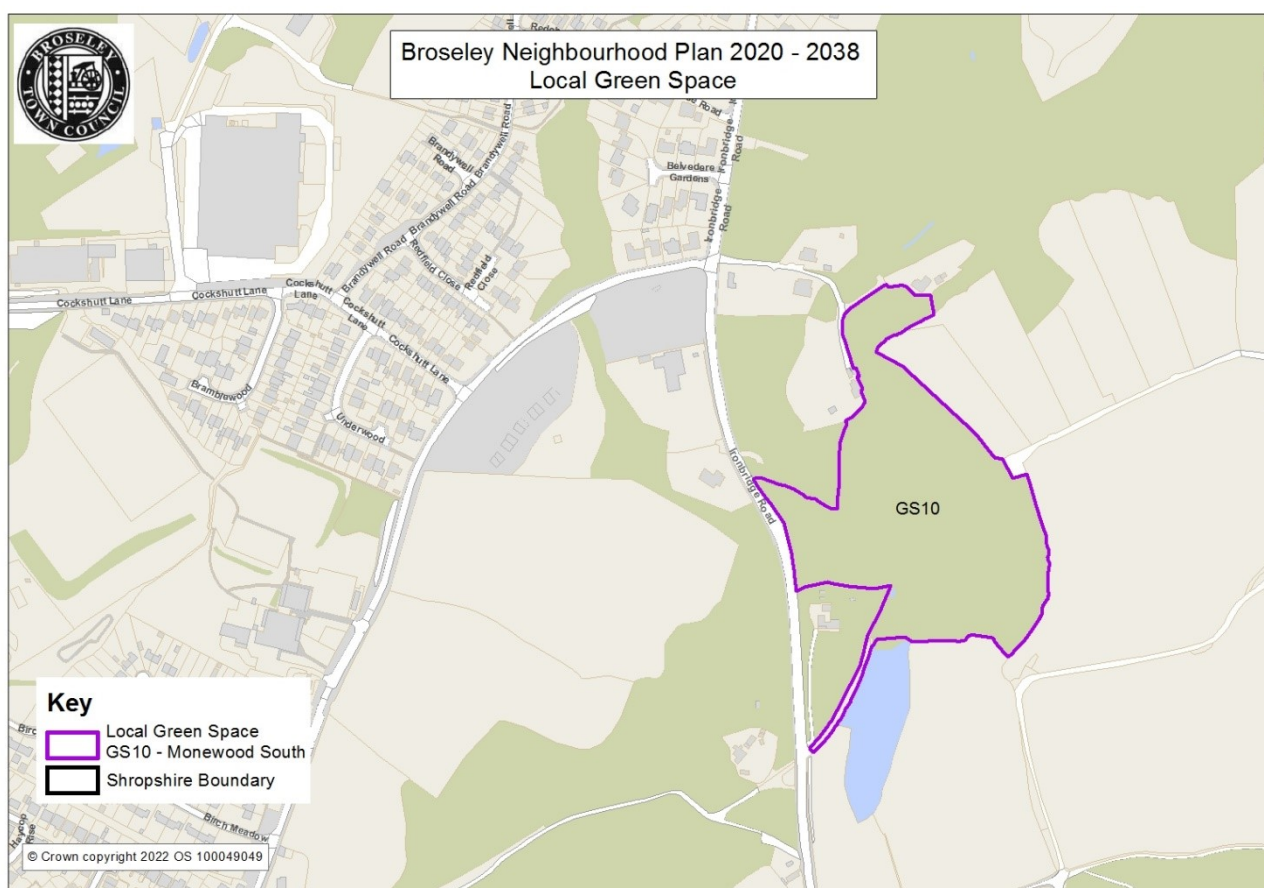
MAP CODE	SITE NAME	COMMENT	MATRIX SCORE	
GS9	The Haycop	<p>The Haycop is mentioned in the C15th, taking its name from the enclosed piece (hay) of rough coppice (cop).</p> <p>Coal was extracted from the Haycop as early as 1760, brick and stone foundations of the pit winding drum pit still remain.</p> <p>The reconstructed Down Well on the site served as Broseley's water supply in the 1880s.</p> <p>The Haycop is currently managed as a nature reserve by a local volunteer group. It is designated as a Local Wildlife Site.</p>	15	
MATRIX SCORES				
Public Access	Heritage Value	Environmental Value	Visual Amenity	Existing Designation
3	3	3	3	3



BROSELEY TOWN COUNCIL NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2020 – 2038

Figure A3.10: Monewood South Local Green Space

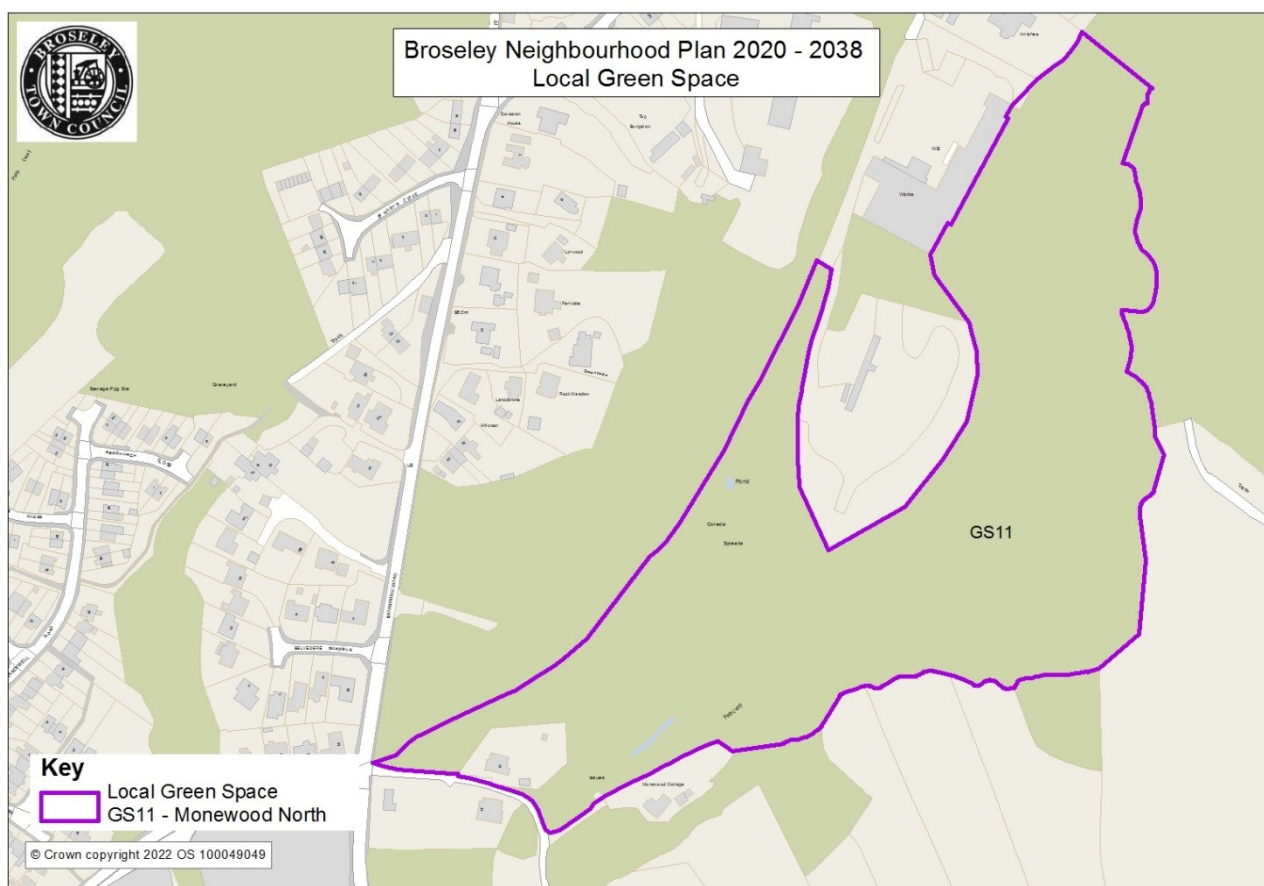
MAP CODE	SITE NAME	COMMENT	MATRIX SCORE	
GS10	Monewood South	Monewood is recorded in 1605 and qualifies as 'ancient woodland'. This area forms part of a green corridor running from the top of the Haycop Wildlife Site down to the Ironbridge Gorge.	8	
MATRIX SCORES				
Public Access	Heritage Value	Environmental Value	Visual Amenity	Existing Designation
2	2	3	1	0



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Figure A3.11: Monewood North Local Green Space

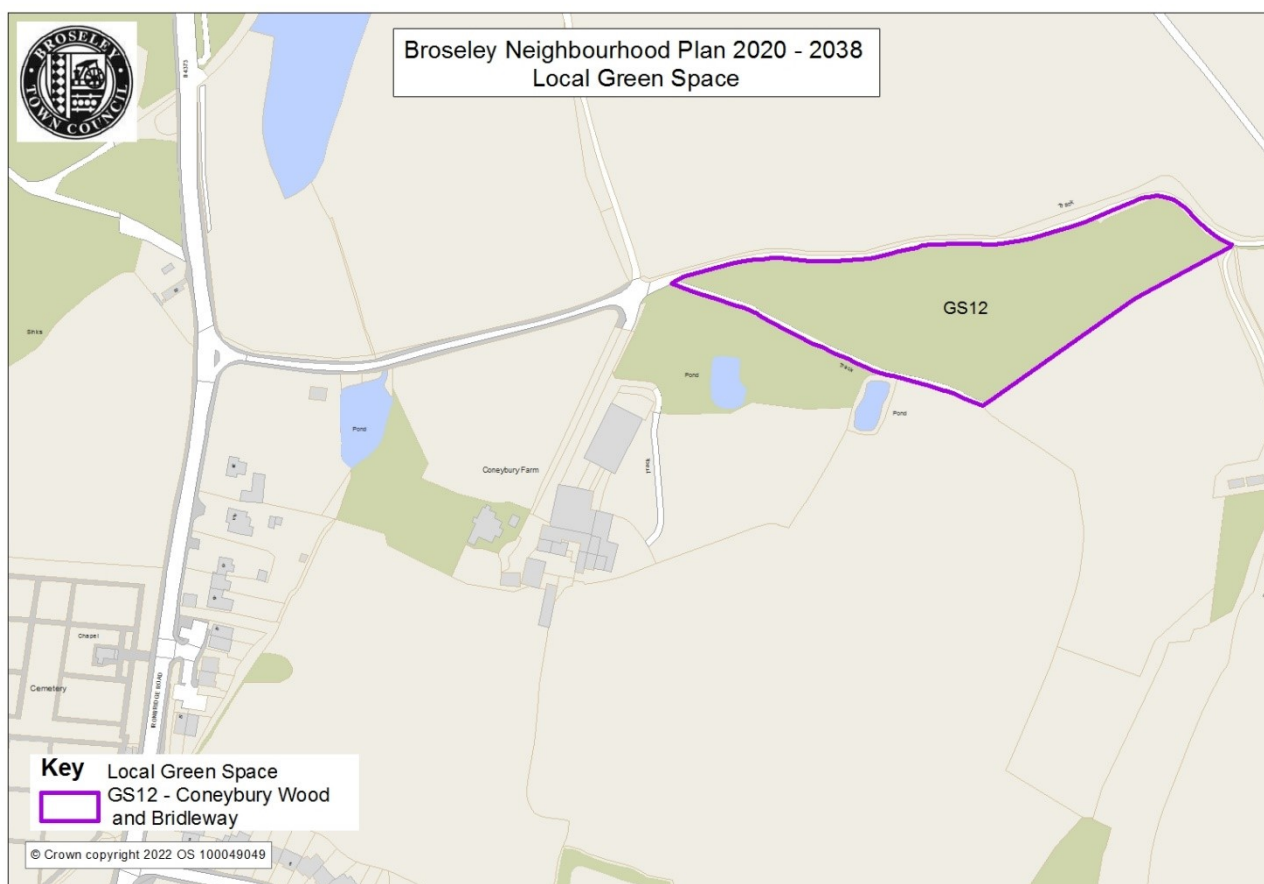
MAP CODE	SITE NAME	COMMENT	MATRIX SCORE	
GS11	Monewood North	<p>Part of the World Heritage Site.</p> <p>Monewood is recorded in 1605 and qualifies as 'ancient woodland'.</p> <p>The early C18th Jackfield Rails ran through this areas as did the C19th Calcutts Rails. These would have been used for transporting coal and ironstone, initially being wooden railways and later iron tramways.</p>	11	
MATRIX SCORES				
Public Access	Heritage Value	Environmental Value	Visual Amenity	Existing Designation
2	2	3	1	3



BROSELEY TOWN COUNCIL NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2020 – 2038

Figure A3.12: Coneybury Wood and Bridleway Local Green Space

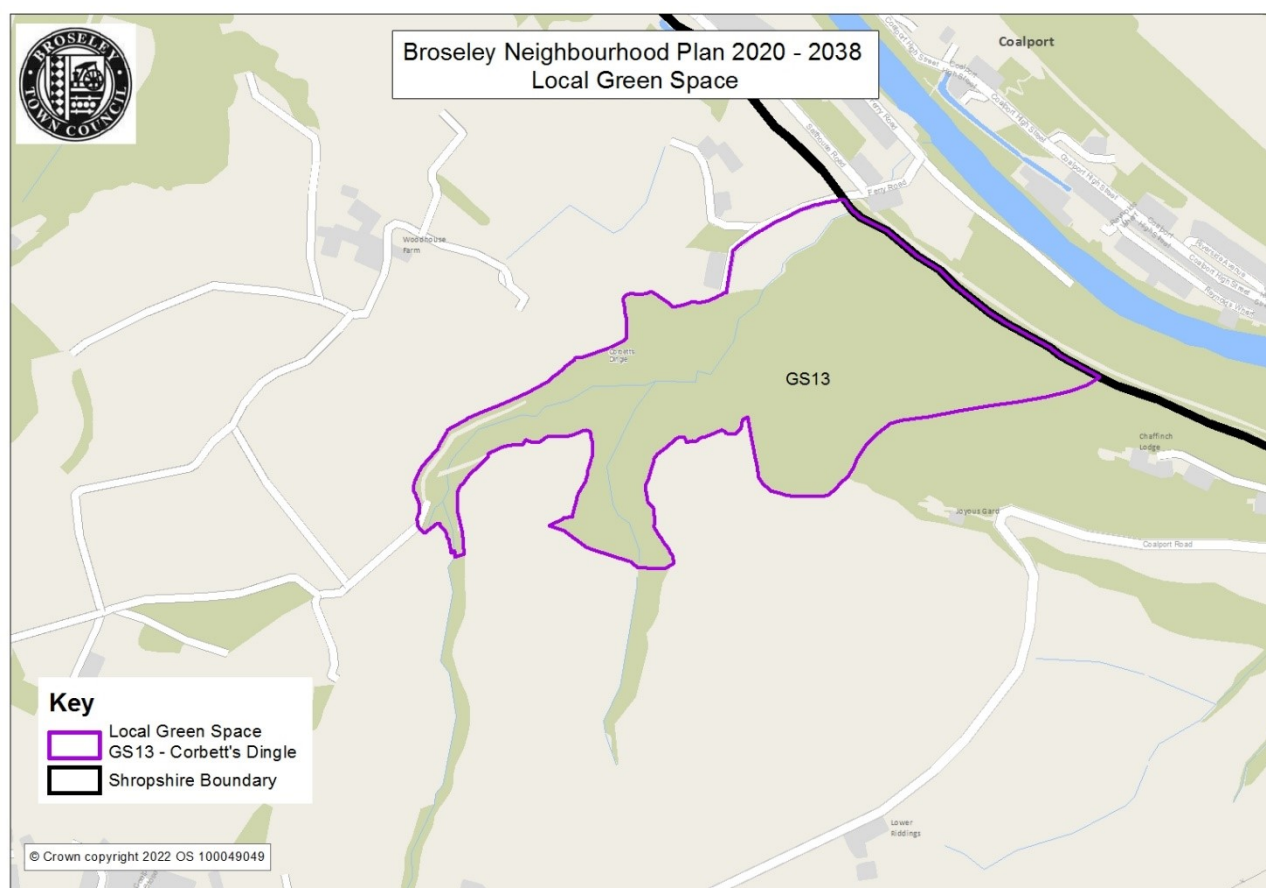
MAP CODE	SITE NAME	COMMENT		MATRIX SCORE
GS12	Coneybury Wood and Bridleway	Forms part of a natural green corridor running from Ironbridge Road to the River Severn.		6
MATRIX SCORES				
Public Access	Heritage Value	Environmental Value	Visual Amenity	Existing Designation
2	0	3	1	0



BROSELEY TOWN COUNCIL NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2020 – 2038

Figure A3.13: Corbett's Dingle Local Green Space

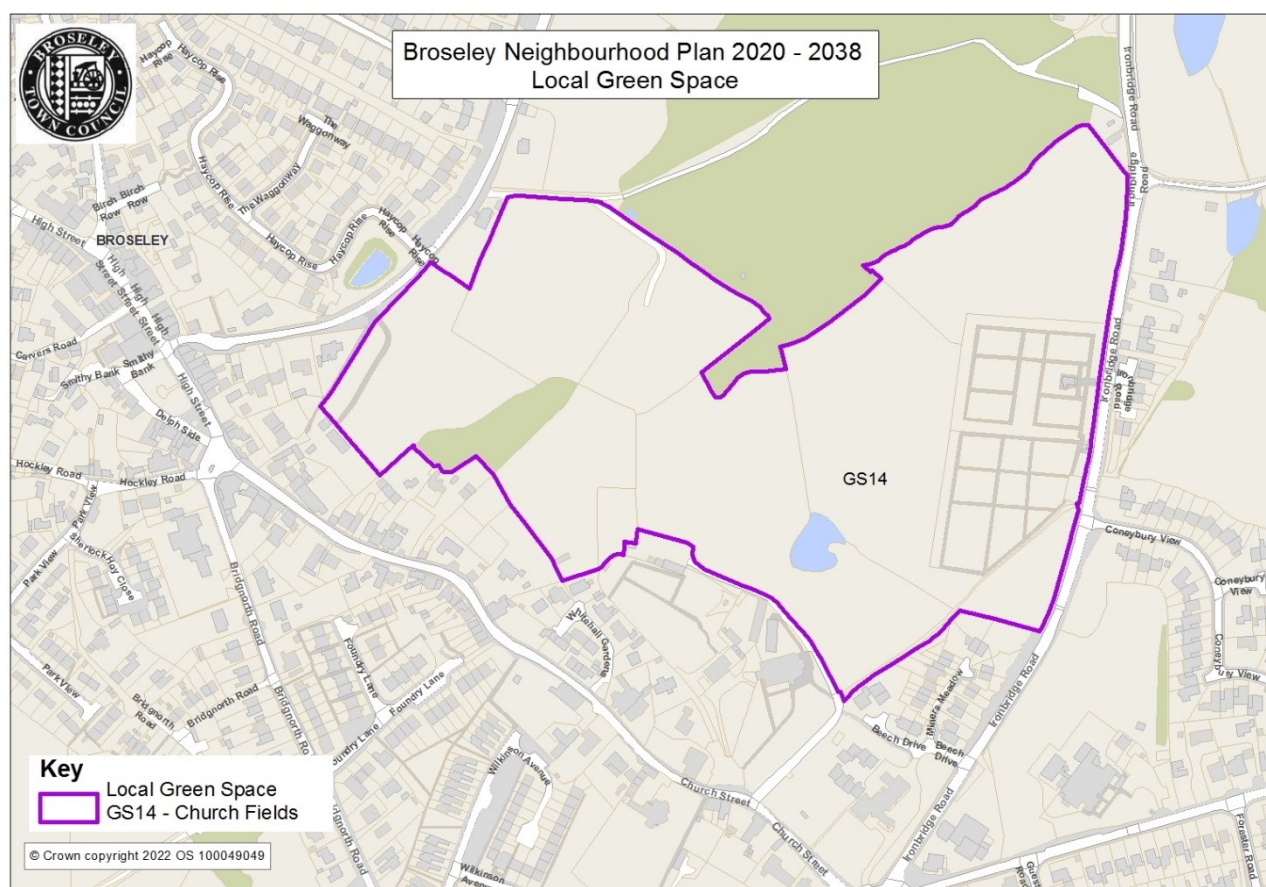
MAP CODE	SITE NAME	COMMENT	MATRIX SCORE	
GS13	Corbett's Dingle	Part of the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site. Corbett's Dingle is a valuable wildlife resource with locally rare plant species, three species of owl and geological features.	12	
MATRIX SCORES				
Public Access	Heritage Value	Environmental Value	Visual Amenity	Existing Designation
2	2	3	2	3



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Figure A3.14: Church Fields Local Green Space

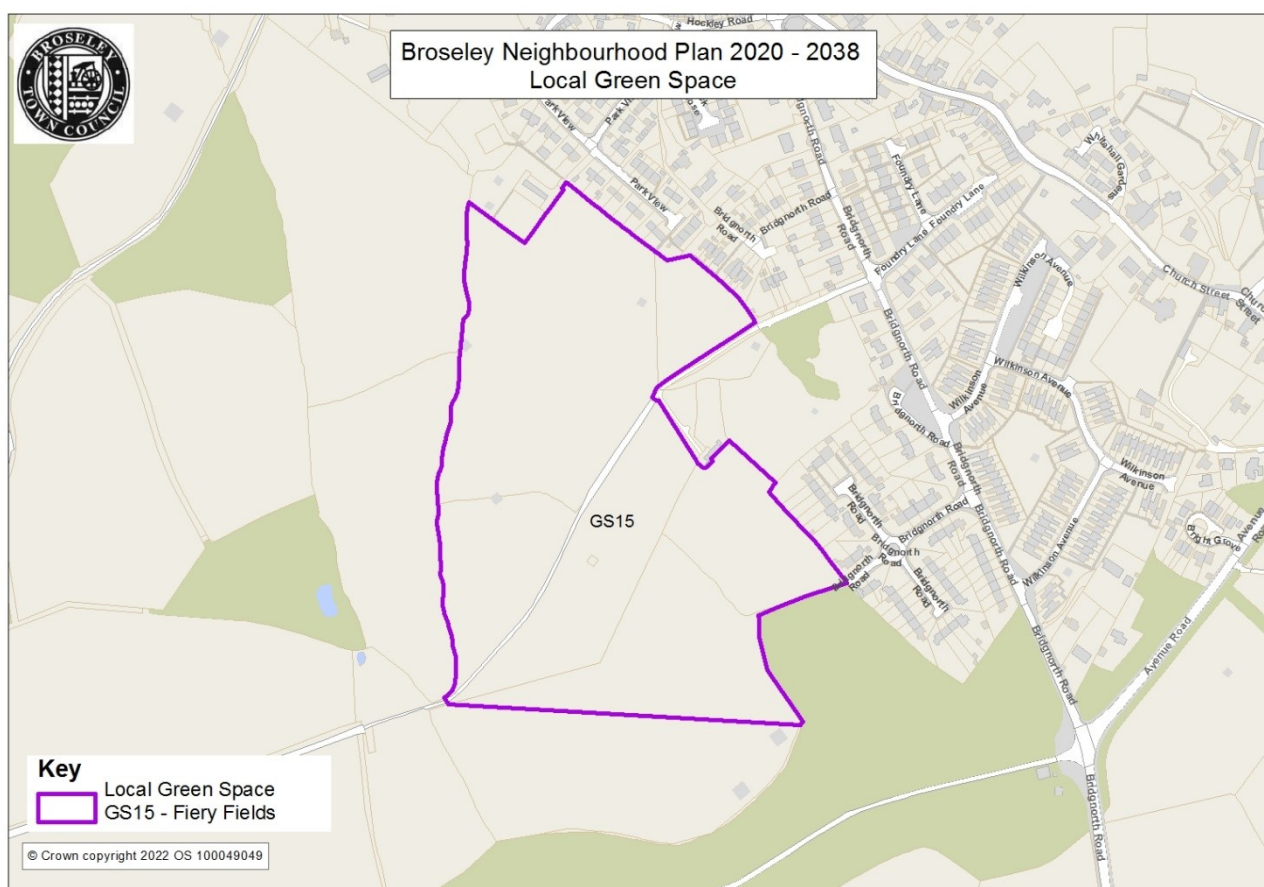
MAP CODE	SITE NAME	COMMENT	MATRIX SCORE	
GS14	Church Fields	<p>The area bounded by the parish church, cemetery, The Haycop and Dark Lane is comprised of wet pasture.</p> <p>This area offers views from and to the Church and from Dark Lane over the Ironbridge Gorge.</p> <p>This area acts as a buffer zone for both the Conservation area and the Haycop wildlife site.</p>	5	
MATRIX SCORES				
Public Access	Heritage Value	Environmental Value	Visual Amenity	Existing Designation
0	1	1	3	0



BROSELEY TOWN COUNCIL NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2020 – 2038

Figure A3.15: Fiery Fields Local Green Space

MAP CODE	SITE NAME	COMMENT	MATRIX SCORE	
GS15	Fiery Fields	<p>The Fiery Fields is a C16th and C17th mining areawith abundant evidence in the form of mounds and a capped pit head.</p> <p>The name itself comes from a spontaneous combustion in the c19th, when the coal below the surface of the fields burned for some months.</p> <p>The GS14 area encompasses a Local Wildlife site.</p>	12	
MATRIX SCORES				
Public Access	Heritage Value	Environmental Value	Visual Amenity	Existing Designation
3	2	2	2	3



BROSELEY TOWN COUNCIL NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2020 – 2038

Figure A3.16: Guest Road Play Area Local Green Space

MAP CODE	SITE NAME	COMMENT			MATRIX SCORE
GS16	Guest Road Play Area	Recreational space / play area			6
MATRIX SCORES					
Public Access	Heritage Value	Environmental Value	Visual Amenity	Existing Designation	
3	0	0	0	3	



A full copy of the Local Green Space matrix, including the green space sites that were rejected, can be found on the Broseley Town Council website.

All of the Local Green Spaces are illustrated on Figure 3: Policies and Proposals Map.

Appendix Four

In 2018 Shropshire's site allocation process assessed potential in Broseley and selected two sites (Coalport Road and Barretts Hill) as 'preferred options' for development. Both of these preferred options were decisively rejected in public meetings.

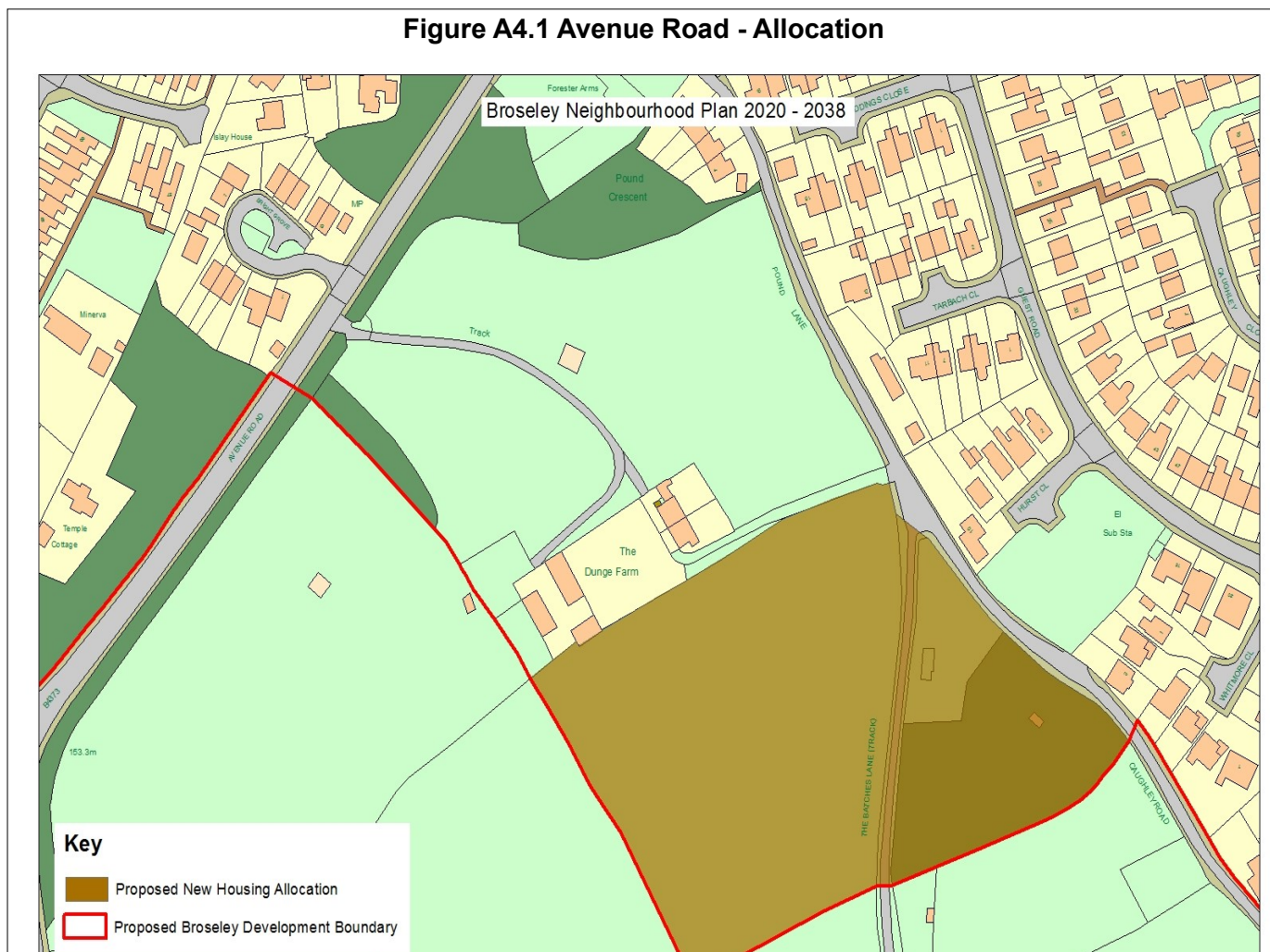
A parallel Neighbourhood Plan consultation narrowly accepted the Avenue Road site as a preferable option. This was confirmed in a later poll (See Consultation Statement) when a larger majority accepted this site as a 'mixed use' development option. The site was subsequently selected by the Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group after conversations with the landowner.

Avenue Road Allocation

The development boundary will be changed in the south-east of the Town to include an area for new mixed development off Avenue Road (as shown in Figure A4.1).

This was selected for consideration because of its proximity to the Town Centre and preferred routes out of the Town. The 'mixed use' development category was chosen because of the existing and adjacent employment site.

Figure A4.1 Avenue Road - Allocation



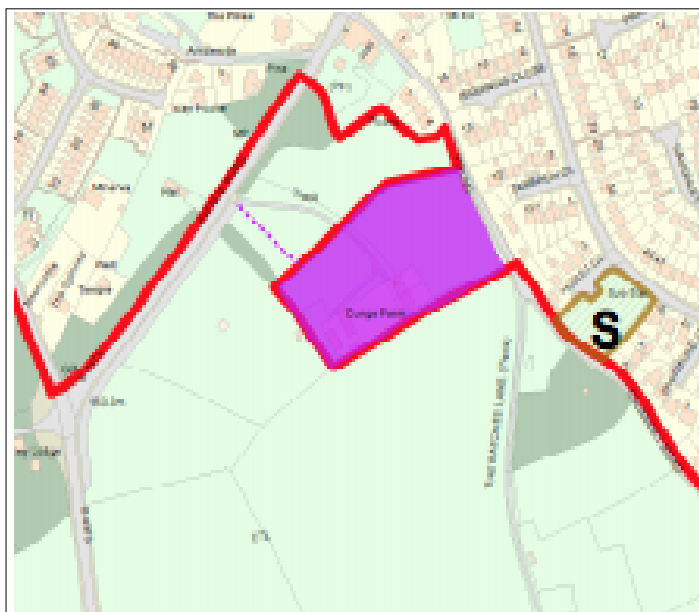


Figure A4.2 Red Line = Local Plan Development Boundary

This new allocation of 1.9 hectares lies to the south of the existing employment area (as shown marked in purple on Figure A4.2) and a development with current planning permission which itself incorporates the previous employment site (Figure A4.3).

Access to the new allocation will be via Avenue Road, through the employment area of the new development shown in Figure A4.3. Access will not be via Pound Lane.

The new development will be classed as 'mixed use' and restricted to 20 dwellings.

This site formed part of a larger block that was assessed by Shropshire Council as part of its site allocations consultation in 2018 (site reference BRO036). At the time the assessment rejected the larger block, largely because of the presumed access. This assessment recognised that development to the north of the site would materially affect the judgement. Development as described has now been given planning permission (16/02438/REF) and thus the access restrictions no longer apply.

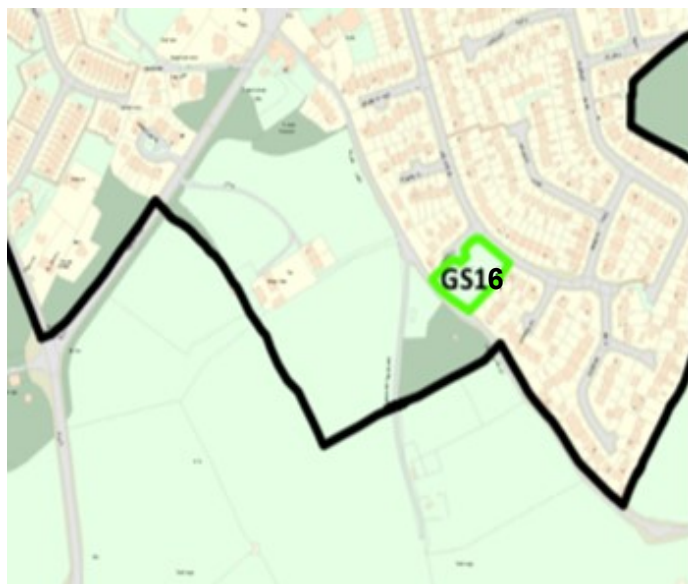
The same landowner owns both sites, and has been consulted about the development allocation.



Figure A4.3 (16/02438/REF) granted on appeal

Site Development Criteria

Figure A4.4 Black line = proposed development boundary



Proposals for development on this site should meet all the following criteria:

1. Access to be from the B4373 via the employment site as shown in Figure A4.3 above. Due to this access through an existing development, the number of units is restricted to 20. Alternative access from the B4373 near the Barrow Junction would allow additional units at a future date, if demand could be demonstrated at the time.
2. Separate pedestrian access to Pound Lane to be provided;
3. Mature trees and hedges to be retained where possible;
4. An area of Japanese Knotweed in the woodland to the south east of the allocation to be safely removed prior to any development;
5. Any application for development should be accompanied by a Heritage Assessment

to investigate and assess the eastern portion of the site. This area may have formed part of The Dunge Brick and Tile Works (HER PRN 07237) and the associated Dunge Colliery and associated coal workings (HER PRN 07285).

6. Development to provide around 20 homes

7. Development to be informed by an assessment of any coal mining legacy risk

The Broseley development boundary will be moved out to encompass this new allocation and the development proposed (as December 2020 not started) as set out in planning application 16/02438/REF.

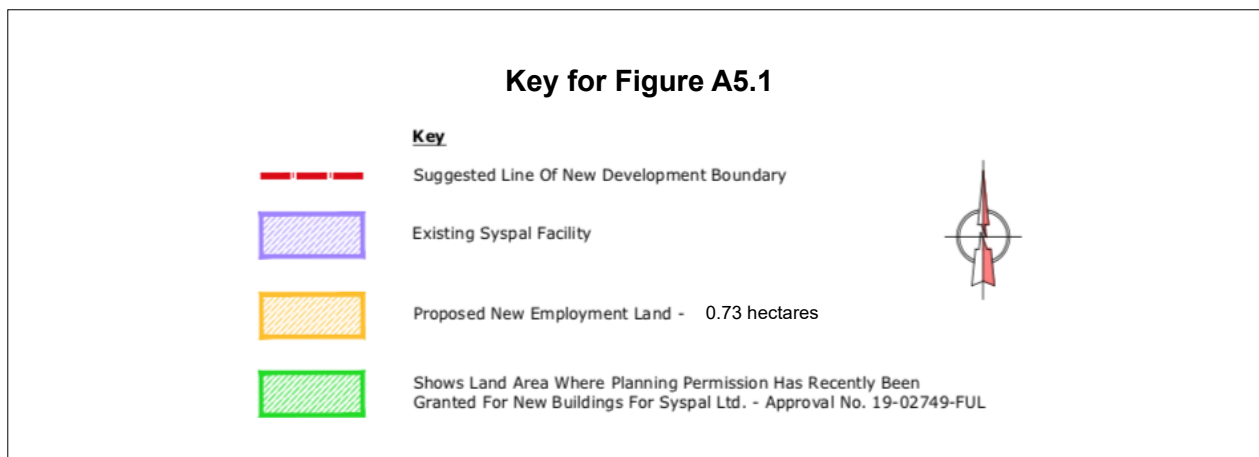
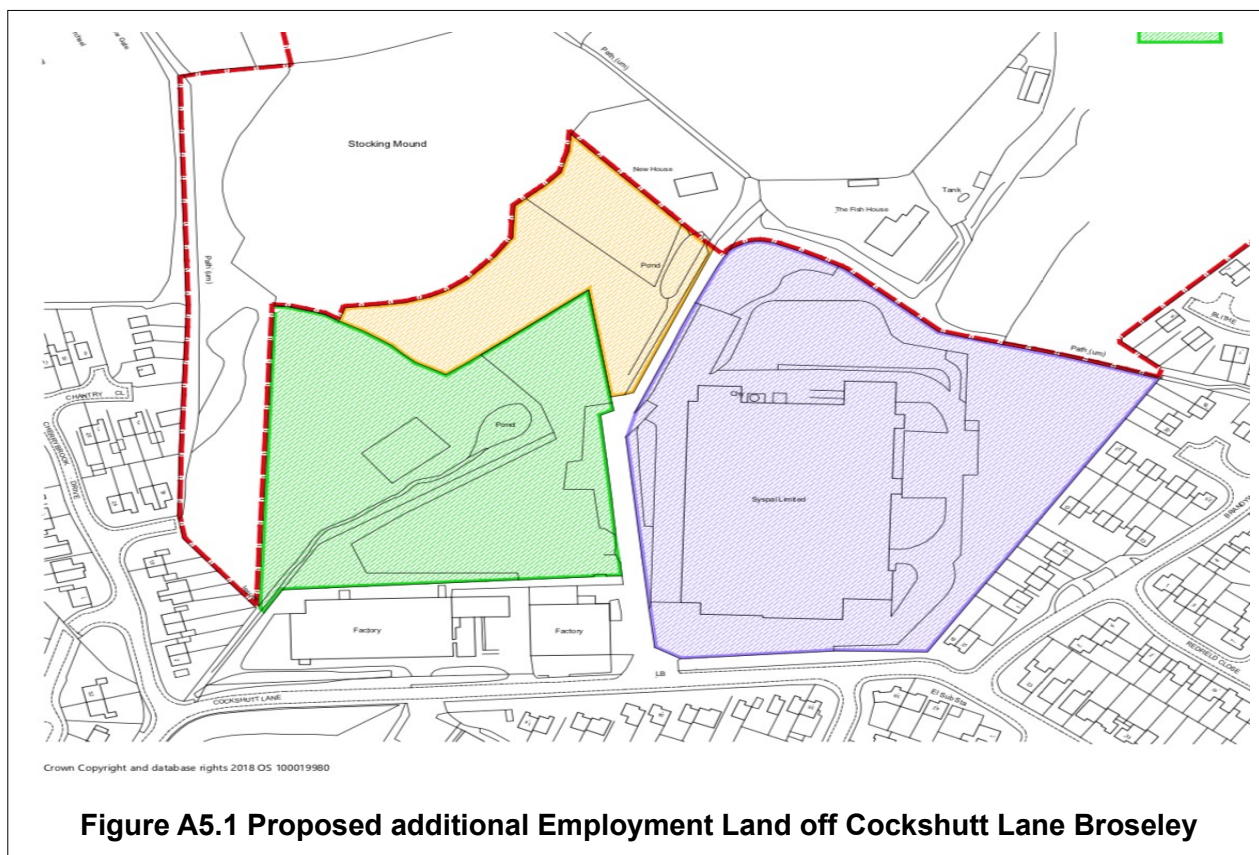
Appendix Five

Employment Land Allocation

Over the period 2016-2038, as set out by Shropshire's Local Plan, 3 hectares of employment land are required in Broseley.

This Neighbourhood Plan intends to meet this requirement via its employment policies as set out in the main document, specifically paragraphs 4.16 to 4.23 and Policy EJ3.

A new allocation of 0.73 hectares of employment land will be sited off Cockshutt Lane as set out in Figure A5.1.



Background

Syspal are the main manufacturing employer in Broseley. In 2019 permission was granted (19/02749/FUL) for an extension to their existing site.

The extended site (shown in green in Fig A5.1) occupies the site of a previous employment site used for scrap metal recovery.

There were a number of issues with the site and proposal that were addressed in detail by Shropshire Council officers as part of the application process.

After planning permission had been granted advisory group members met with Syspal to review issues that had been raised during the application process. The request to consider a further enlargement of the development boundary arose out of those discussions.

Reasoning

This new allocation is being made to support employment growth in Broseley.

The site chosen is adjacent to and will form part of an existing employment site. Whilst there is close proximity to a heritage site and to 'valued green space' the Town Council believes that the issues addressed in the planning proposal made in 2019 are substantially the same and that similar management of the development would mitigate the impact on the environment and community.

Site Development Criteria

The new boundary and employment land allocation lies to the north of the factory extension given planning permission by Shropshire Council in 2019. The land is in the same ownership - Syspal Ltd. - who have promoted the land as an employment site to Broseley Town Council.

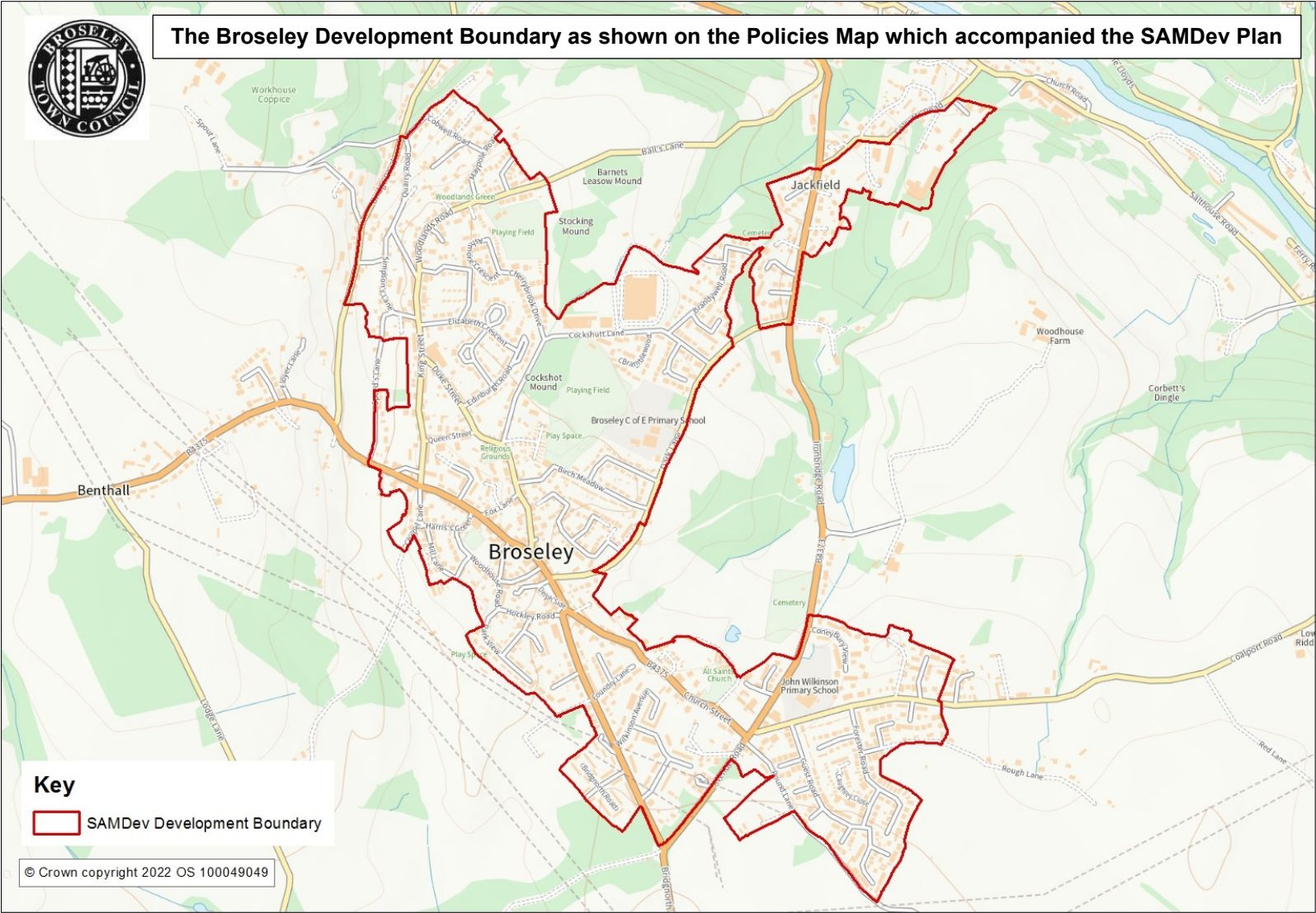
This is an employment land allocation; proposals for market housing will not be supported on this site.

Proposals for development on this site should meet all the following criteria:

- 1) Access will be via the existing access point off Cockshutt Lane.
- 2) All development proposals should be accompanied by appropriate assessments of their impact on heritage, wildlife and trees.
- 3) Protect the pond on the allocation and its associated watercourses, which should not be culverted;
- 4) Include a suitable buffer zone to avoid encroachment on the bordering heritage site;
- 5) Ensure continued access for the residential properties at the end of Wilkinson Avenue;
- 6) Ensure continued access from Cockshutt Lane to the footpath from Brandywell Road to Balls Lane via Barnett's Leasow Mound.

Appendix Six

Figure A6.1: The Broseley Development Boundary as shown on the Policies Map which accompanied the SAMDev Plan



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BROSELEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Report to Shropshire Council of the Independent Examination

By Independent Examiner, Tony Burton CBE BA MPhil (Town Planning) HonFRIBA FRSA

Tony Burton
tony@tonyburton.org.uk
March 2022

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1. Executive Summary

1. I was appointed by Shropshire Council with the support of Broseley Town Council to carry out the independent examination of the Broseley Neighbourhood Plan.

2. I undertook the examination by reviewing the Plan documents and written representations, and by making an unaccompanied visit to the Neighbourhood Area.

3. I consider the Plan to be an adequate expression of the community's views and ambitions for Broseley. It is based on an effective programme of public consultation which has informed a Community Vision to 2038 supported by plan objectives. This is to be achieved through nine policy themes and a set of 24 objectives and 44 planning policies dealing with issues distinct to the locality. There is a commitment to supporting implementation and monitoring of the Plan and to a future review. The Plan is supported by a Consultation Statement and Basic Conditions Statement and has been screened to determine whether full Strategic Environmental and Habitats Regulations Assessments are required. An Appropriate Assessment has been undertaken. There is supporting evidence provided and there is evidence of community support and the involvement of the local planning authority.

4. I have considered the 11 separate representations made on the submitted Plan. These are addressed in this report as appropriate.

5. Subject to the recommended modifications set out in this report I conclude that the Broseley Neighbourhood Plan meets all the necessary legal requirements, including satisfying the Basic Conditions. I make a number of additional optional recommendations.

6. I recommend that the modified Plan should proceed to Referendum and that this should be held within the Neighbourhood Area of Broseley parish.

2. Introduction

7. This report sets out the findings of my independent examination of the Broseley Neighbourhood Plan. The Plan was submitted to Shropshire Council by Broseley Town Council as the Qualifying Body.

8. I was appointed as the independent examiner of the Broseley Neighbourhood Plan by Shropshire Council with the agreement of Broseley Town Council.

9. I am independent of both Broseley Town Council and Shropshire Council. I do not have any interest in any land that may be affected by the Plan. I possess the appropriate qualifications and experience to undertake this role.

10. My role is to examine the Neighbourhood Plan and recommend whether it should proceed to referendum. A recommendation to proceed is predicated on the Plan meeting all legal requirements as submitted or in a modified form, and on the Plan addressing the required modifications recommended in this report.

11. As part of this process I must consider whether the submitted Plan meets the Basic Conditions as set out in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended). To comply with the Basic Conditions, the Plan must:

- have regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State; and
- contribute to the achievement of sustainable development; and
- be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan in the area; and
- be compatible with European Union (EU) and European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) obligations, including the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

12. An additional Basic Condition was introduced by Regulations 32 and 33 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) in 2018 that the making of the neighbourhood development plan does not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. I am also required to make a number of other checks under paragraph 8(1) of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

13. In undertaking this examination I have considered the following documents as the most significant in arriving at my recommendations:

- the submitted Broseley Neighbourhood Plan
- the Basic Conditions Statement
- the Consultation Statement
- Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment screening statements and Appropriate Assessment
- the relevant parts of the development plan comprising the Shropshire Core Strategy (2006-2026) and Shropshire Site Allocations and Management of Development (SAMDev) Plan (2006-2026)
- representations made on the submitted neighbourhood plan
- relevant material held on the Broseley Town Council and Shropshire Council websites
- National Planning Policy Framework (2021)
- Planning Practice Guidance
- relevant Ministerial Statements

14. I have also given due consideration to the current review of the Shropshire Local Plan (2016-2038) which is at Examination. The Plan was prepared under an earlier version of the National Planning Policy Framework than that used for my examination but the consultation on the submitted Plan took place after the most recent NPPF's publication in July 2021.

15. No representations were received requesting a public hearing and having considered the documents provided and the representations on the submitted Plan I was satisfied that the examination could be undertaken by written representations without the need for a hearing.

16. I carried out an unaccompanied visit to the Neighbourhood Area on a weekday during January. I visited the main locations addressed in the Plan, including the proposed changes to the development boundary, the shopping and employment areas, the proposed areas of Valuable Green Space and a selection of local footpaths. I considered the relationship with the World Heritage Site and saw examples of recent development.

17. Throughout this report my recommended modifications are bulleted. Where modifications to policies are recommended they are highlighted in **bold** print with new wording in “speech marks”. Existing wording is in *italics*. Modifications are also recommended to some parts of the supporting text. These recommended modifications are numbered from M1 and are necessary for the Plan to meet the Basic Conditions. A number of modifications are not essential for the Plan to meet the Basic Conditions and these are indicated by [square brackets]. These optional modifications are numbered from OM1.

18. Producing the Broseley Neighbourhood Plan has clearly involved significant effort over many years led by the Advisory Group. The process began in 2017 and is informed by significant community involvement. There is evidence of collaboration with Shropshire Council and continuing this will be important in ensuring implementation of the Plan. The commitment of all those who have worked so hard over such a long period of time to prepare the Plan is to be commended and I would like to thank all those at Shropshire Council and Broseley Town Council who have supported this examination process.

3. Compliance with matters other than the Basic Conditions

19. I am required to check compliance of the Plan with a number of matters.

Qualifying body

20. The neighbourhood plan has been prepared by a suitable Qualifying Body – Broseley Town Council – which being a town council is the only organisation that can prepare a neighbourhood plan for the area.

Neighbourhood Area

21. I am satisfied that the Plan relates to the development and use of land for a designated neighbourhood area which comprises the parish area of Broseley Town Council and was agreed by Shropshire Council on 17 September 2018.

22. The boundary of the neighbourhood area can be discerned from the map on page 5 which references it as the “Town Council Boundary”. This is not at a scale that allows the detailed boundary to be determined and no link is provided to where the boundary is available online. The map is unnumbered and has two titles “*Broseley Key Information*” and “*Broseley – Key Assets*”.

- M1 – Confirm in the supporting text and/or legend that the Town Council Boundary and neighbourhood area are the same and provide a link to where the boundary can be viewed at a larger scale

Land use issues

23. With minor exceptions identified below I am satisfied that the Plan’s policies relate to relevant land use planning issues.

Plan period

24. The period of the neighbourhood plan runs from 2020 to 2038 and the 2038 end date aligns with the period of the Shropshire Local Plan review. The period is shown on the cover and included in a header on each page of the Plan.

Excluded development

25. I am satisfied that the neighbourhood plan makes no provisions for excluded development (such as national infrastructure, minerals extraction or waste).

4. Consultation

26. I have reviewed the Consultation Statement and relevant information provided on the Broseley Neighbourhood Plan website. This provides a clear record of the consultation process that has been undertaken since 2017 under the guidance of the Advisory Group which included a mix of town councillors and interested members of the public. The public consultation process has been adequately open and transparent.

27. A number of different engagement methods have been used, including a website, public meetings, online surveys, street meetings and regular use of social media. At the time of the Examination the Town Council website's information about the Plan was out of date. A specific survey of views on different development sites was undertaken. Participation levels have been good with more than 400 questionnaires returned on the initial online survey, representing almost one fifth of the population, and over 250 responses to the survey on potential development sites. A further consultation in 2019 elicited nearly 200 responses. A number of public meetings were held on specific themes, including heritage and environment and public services. Some specific consultation with both local businesses and landowners was undertaken. Information was displayed and provided in the local library. Shropshire Council provided informal comments on the emerging Plan before formal consultation on the draft. There is evidence of strong support from the public for the approach presented in the Plan.

28. The Plan was subject to Regulation 14 consultation between 12 September 2020 and 3 November 2020. This included documents being placed online and promoted through social media and on local noticeboards. Printed copies of the draft plan were placed in the library and key stakeholders were contacted directly by email. There is evidence of the consultation including the required statutory and other consultees. While very few responses were received I consider an adequate process has been followed.

29. The Consultation Statement states that *"The policies that can be seen in the current Plan evolved through these consultations"* but this was not supported by direct evidence of

the changes made. A document summarising changes to the Plan's policies in response to representations from Shropshire Council was available to me via the Town Council website. On requesting further information from the Town Council I was provided with a summary of changes made in response to other representations.

30. 11 separate representations have been made on the submitted Plan including from individuals, statutory bodies, a national charity and a neighbouring Town Council. All the representations have been considered and are addressed as appropriate in this report. A number of representations make suggestions for changes to the Vision or Objectives of the Plan or for the inclusion of additional policies. These include representations from West Mercia Police on designing out crime. The suggestions are reasonable but the scope and content of the Plan is a matter for Broseley Town Council as the Qualifying Body and it is more appropriate to make such representations at an earlier stage of consultation on the pre-submission draft Plan. They might also be considered if there were to be a review of the Plan at a future date.

31. I am satisfied with the evidence of the public consultation undertaken in preparing the Plan since 2017. The Plan has been subject to wide public consultation at different stages in its development. While the number of responses to the Regulation 14 consultation is low, the participation rates have generally been good. The process has allowed community input to shape the Plan as it has developed and as proposals have been firmed up. Local businesses, landowners and the local planning authority have been engaged through the process.

5. General comments on the Plan's presentation

Community Vision and Objectives

32. The Plan includes a short Community Vision. This reflects the feedback received through consultation and is consistent with the themes, objectives and policies in the Plan. The overall approach combines a desire to look after the existing character while securing a viable economy and vibrant community. It is consistent with sustainable development.

Other issues

33. The policies are not easily distinguished from the rest of the Plan and the identifying codes are inconsistently presented with varying use of capitals and full stops (e.g. Policy A1, Policy DS.1 and POLICY HO1). It is essential that the policies are clearly differentiated from other aspects of the Plan.

- M2 – Clearly differentiate the Plan's policies from the supporting text (such as by using tinted boxes) and be consistent in the format of the identifying code

34. The Plan's format is inconsistent. It includes use of different point sizes for the same level of heading (e.g. *"Foreword"* and *"Introduction"*) and a confused hierarchy of headings. The Contents does not recognise that some sections are sub-sections of others and the sub-headings are inconsistently numbered throughout the Plan. This also results in a confused approach to paragraph numbering. The Contents does not include any of the heading numbers. The text on page 5 is centred. A logical Plan structure would be as follows:

1. Foreword
2. Introduction
 - The National Planning Policy Framework and Shropshire context
 - Broseley – an early industrial town
 - Broseley – key information [moved from earlier section]
 - Preparing the Plan
 - Meeting the Basic Conditions [moved from later section]
3. Plan Vision and Objectives

Community Vision [moved from earlier section]

Objectives

Housing

Employment and jobs

Green Spaces and Green Infrastructure

Traffic and Accessibility

Conservation and Heritage

Community Resources

Sport, Leisure and Recreation

Supporting the Visitor Economy

Achieving Sustainable Development and Responding to

Climate Change

4. Policies

Preparing the Policies

Plan Policies

Design

Housing

Economy and Jobs

Green Spaces and Infrastructure

Community Resources

Supporting the Visitor Economy

Achieving Sustainable Development and responding to Climate
Change [including Water Infrastructure]

5. Monitoring and Review

6. Appendices

35. There is logic in the heading for each of the Plan's Objectives being the same as the Plan's policies with the addition of a policy section on design. There are no policies relating to sport and recreation. Policy CH2 relates to green spaces and infrastructure rather than conservation and heritage and should be relocated. Policy CH1 duplicates existing policy and so the section on "*Conservation and Heritage*" should be deleted.

- M3 – Amend the Plan to provide a consistent approach to the structure, hierarchy and paragraph numbering and use consistent headings

36. The map extracts are not consistently numbered and they are not included in the Contents. There are a number of further issues:

- Five maps (pages 5, 9, 42, 43 and 44) lack any identifying number and there are two Figure 1s (pages 38 and 40)
- The map on page 9 repeats that on page 43 which can be deleted and in the retained map (a) the area covered should be extended to include the whole of the area of the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site/Ironbridge Gorge Conservation Area within the parish and (b) “*World Heritage Site*” in the Key should be replaced with “Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site/Ironbridge Gorge Conservation Area” to clarify the Conservation Area status.
- The Map on page 5 is not numbered and has two potential headings “*Key Information*” and “*Key Assets*”.
- The boundary of the World Heritage Site shown on page 9 differs from that of the Conservation Area on page 5 by extending further south along Ironbridge Road than the junction with Calcutts Road and this acknowledged error should be corrected
- The Policies Map on page 42 provides important information and should be located in the Introduction. It is more accurately titled a “Policies and Proposals Map” and the following changes are needed to the Legend:
 - “Proposed” Broseley Development Boundary
 - “Proposed” Valued Green Space [delete text in brackets and see later recommendation on re-naming these to Local Green Spaces]
 - “Existing” Designated Retail Area
 - “Existing Employment Area”

37. The “*Employment Area*” between Pound Lane and Avenue Road is now replaced by the consented residential and employment development adjacent to the Policy HO2 allocation, as described in Appendix 5.

38. The Town Plan map on page 44 is a source of potential confusion given the differences with the Proposals Map. If the purpose for its inclusion is to show the existing Development Boundary then a simplified map showing just this would aid clarity of the Plan and be consistent with other recommendations on how to depict the proposed change to the Development Boundary.

39. The population of Broseley is identified as 5,600 on page 5 and 4,929 on page 7 using different sources.

40. It is not for the Examination to prescribe the structure of the Plan. The clarity of the Plan is, however, a matter for the Basic Conditions and modifications to provide this clarity are necessary.

- M4 – Amend the Plan to provide greater clarity in the use and presentation of maps reflecting the feedback provided in this report
- OM1 – [Be consistent in the use of supporting data throughout the Plan]

41. The Plan includes references to a number of documents which comprise the evidence base. It does not provide details or links to many of these documents and there is no single source for the Plan's evidence base provided online. The majority of the evidence base documents are not made available on the Town Council's website.

- OM2 – [List all the evidence base documents used in the Plan in an Appendix along with links where available and consider providing a section of the Town Council's website which brings together all the documents in the Plan's evidence base into a single location.]

6. Compliance with the Basic Conditions

National planning policy

42. The Plan is required to “*have regard*” to national planning policies and advice. This is addressed in the Basic Conditions statement which relates each of the Plan’s policies and objectives to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (February 2019). A new National Planning Policy Framework was published after the Basic Conditions Statement was prepared and before the Examination. I do not consider the changes to national planning policy to be material in terms of the Plan’s ability to meet this Basic Condition and I agree with Broseley Town Council’s view, provided on request, that the Basic Conditions statement shows “*conformity with the 2021 edition of the NPPF*”.

43. The Basic Conditions Statement provides a table that tests compatibility of each of the Plan’s objectives with relevant sections of the National Planning Policy Framework and a further table that compares the Plan’s policies with the relevant sections of the National Planning Policy Framework, supported by a brief commentary. It concludes that “*the Basic Conditions Statement demonstrates that the NDP [neighbourhood development plan] has regard to the relevant policies of the NPPF*”.

44. The assessment provided is relatively limited and generally comprises a description of the purpose of the Plan policy. No conflicts are identified. The assessment is also partial as policies A1 and DS1 – DS10 are missing. I requested an update to the Basic Conditions Statement to address this and one was provided. It identified no conflicts.

45. Overall the analysis does serve to demonstrate that consideration has been given to national planning policy.

46. I address some conflicts with national planning policy in my consideration of individual policies and recommend some modifications. There are also some areas where the drafting of the Plan’s policies needs to be amended in order to meet the National Planning Policy Framework’s requirement for plans to provide a clear framework within which decisions on planning applications can be made. The policies should give a clear

indication of *“how a decision maker should react to development proposals”* (paragraph 16). It is also important for the Plan to address the requirement expressed in national planning policy and Planning Practice Guidance that *“A policy in a neighbourhood plan should be clear and unambiguous. It should be drafted with sufficient clarity that a decision maker can apply it consistently and with confidence when determining planning applications. It should be concise, precise and supported by appropriate evidence. It should be distinct to reflect and respond to the unique characteristics and planning context of the specific neighbourhood area for which it has been prepared.”* (NPPG Paragraph: 041 Reference ID: 41-041-20140306). The Plan’s policies do not always meet these requirements and a number of recommended modifications are made as a result.

47. Generally, I conclude that the Plan has regard to national planning policy and guidance but there are exceptions as set out in my comments below. These cover both conflicts with national planning policy and the need for some policies to be more clearly expressed and/or evidenced or for duplication with other planning policies to be avoided.

48. I am satisfied that the Plan meets this Basic Condition other than where identified in my detailed comments and recommended modifications to the Plan policies.

Sustainable development

49. The Plan must *“contribute to the achievement of sustainable development”*. This is addressed in the Basic Conditions Statement by a brief assessment of how relevant Plan policies contribute to each of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. It concludes that this *“demonstrates that the Broseley NDP provides a balance of economic, social and environmental policies that confirm to the requirements of the NPPF”*.

50. The assessment is broad brush and succinct in its approach. It is also partial as policies A1, DS1 – DS10, VE1, WA1 and CH1 – CH2 are missing. I requested an update to the Basic Conditions Statement to address this. This was provided and it identified no conflicts.

51. Although the Basic Conditions Statement provides a bare minimum of information my own assessment of the Plan is that it is consistent with the Basic Conditions and I am satisfied that the overall contribution of the Plan to sustainable development is positive.

Development plan

52. The Plan must be *“in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan”*. The Basic Conditions Statement addresses this by relating the most relevant Local Plan and neighbourhood plan policies to each other and providing a brief commentary. The Basic Conditions Statement incorrectly identifies the Shropshire Local Plan Review 2016 – 2038 as being part of the development plan although it also recognises that the Plan need not be tested against it.

53. The assessment concludes that the Plan *“is in general conformity”*. No conflicts or departures are identified.

54. The approach is very limited and it is partial as Policy A1 is missing. It includes an erroneous reference to Policy DS110. I requested an update to the Basic Conditions Statement to address the omission. This was provided and it identified no conflicts.

55. Shropshire Council made representations on the consultation draft Plan. These did not raise general conformity issues and when requested for a view on the submitted Plan it said *“Shropshire Council considers that the draft Broseley Neighbourhood Plan to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the adopted development plan and the draft development plan.”*

56. In the absence of strong evidence in the Basic Condition Statement I have considered general conformity in my own assessment of each of the Plan’s policies. I am satisfied the Plan meets this Basic Condition other than where identified in my detailed comments and recommended modifications to the Plan policies.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

57. The Plan must be informed by a Strategic Environmental Assessment if it is likely to have significant environmental effects. Broseley Town Council published a Screening Statement prepared by a planning consultant that concluded the Plan *“is unlikely to have any significant environmental effects and is therefore screened-out of the SEA process”*. I am satisfied by the robustness of the approach taken by the Screening Statement. Its assessment omits Policy A1 but this is limited in effect and the omission does not bring the overall conclusion into question.

58. The Screening Statement states that Natural England, Environment Agency and Historic England *“will be given an opportunity to comment on this Screening Statement”* and on request I was provided with a copy of the *“targeted consultation”* undertaken by Shropshire Council. Environment Agency responded to *“concur with the SEA report conclusion”* and no response was received from Historic England or Natural England. I note that Historic England made representations on the submitted Plan and did not raise any issues relating to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Statement. Given the evidence that the Plan will not have significant environmental effects I am satisfied with this approach.

59. I conclude that the Plan meets this Basic Condition.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

60. The Plan must be informed by a Habitats Regulations Assessment if it is likely to lead to significant negative effects on protected European sites. Broseley Town Council published a Screening Report on the submitted plan prepared by Shropshire Council that identified housing and employment land allocations as a result of policy HO2 and EJ3 that are in excess of those in the adopted development plan. While recognising consistency with the emerging Local Plan it concluded that the lack of a Habitats Regulations Assessments accompanying an examined and approved development plan means that there is not sufficient certainty that appropriate mitigation can be secured to avoid likely significant effects on the Severn Estuary European Marine Site (comprising the Severn Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar site) due to changes in water quality. The Screening Statement concluded that

an Appropriate Assessment would be needed for the Plan to proceed with mitigations in place.

61. Broseley Town Council published an Appropriate Assessment prepared by Shropshire Council for the submitted plan. This addressed the Shropshire Water Cycle Study's consideration of the employment and housing growth in the emerging Shropshire Local Plan. This also includes the land allocated for housing and employment development in Plan policies HO2 and EJ3. The Study concludes that improvement in the treatment of waste water upstream of the Severn Estuary European Marine Site can offset the impact of the growth proposed. As a result the Plan needs to mitigate the risk of resulting in significant negative effects by including a policy that will require water and sewerage infrastructure to keep pace with new development. An appropriate policy has been added to the Plan as Policy WA1. The detail of this policy is addressed later in my report.

62. On request I was provided with a copy of the "targeted consultation" on the Screening Report and Appropriate Assessment with the statutory environmental bodies undertaken by Shropshire Council, including Natural England. It made no comments.

63. I conclude that the Plan includes appropriate mitigation to meet this Basic Condition.

Other European obligations

64. The Plan must be compatible with European Union (EU) and European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) obligations. The Basic Conditions Statement asserts that this is the case. No contrary evidence has been presented and on request I was provided with evidence of changes being made to the Plan during its preparation. I conclude that there has been adequate opportunity for those with an interest in the Plan to make their views known and representations have been handled in an appropriate manner with changes made to the Plan.

65. I conclude that the Plan meets this Basic Condition.

7. Detailed comments on the Plan policies

66. This section of the report reviews and makes recommendations on each of the Plan's policies to ensure that they meet the Basic Conditions. I make comments on all policies in order to provide clarity on whether each meets the Basic Conditions. Some of the supporting text, policy numbering, headings and the Contents will need to be amended to take account of the recommended modifications.

Design

67. **Policies A1 and DS.1 to DS.10** – The Plan includes an overarching design Policy A1 alongside ten additional design policies DS.1 – DS.10 which collectively provide design principles for new development.

68. The overarching design Policy A1 makes reference to a "*Design Statement*". There is limited information on how this was prepared and no copy was provided with the submitted document. There is no link to the Design Statement and it is not immediately obvious where it can be obtained. On request I was sent a copy of a two page statement that largely duplicates the design principles included as Plan policies. It also runs to a different time period of 2018 – 2026. It is understood by Shropshire Council that the Design Statement forms part of the Broseley Town Plan and I was informed this was endorsed and adopted as a material consideration for development management purposes by resolution of Shropshire Council on 26th September 2013. Broseley Town Council informed me that the design statement was originally drawn up for the Town Plan in 2012 and was prepared with the assistance of Shropshire Council and local volunteers with professional expertise.

69. The Design Statement does not help the clarity of the Plan and given the level of duplication it does not add anything to its content. References to the Design Statement in the supporting text can largely be replaced by referencing the Plan which will form part of the development plan when made and this will also provide necessary clarity over the time period which will be extended to 2038.

- M5 – Retitle this section as “Design” and delete references to the Design Statement in the policies and supporting text while retaining relevant content. Provide links to the Town Plan and relevant Conservation Area appraisal as supporting evidence for the design principles

70. Policy A1 relates to the design principles but identifies these as being in the Design Statement when they are also in the Plan as individual policies. The policies will become part of the development plan when the Plan is made and will therefore have a different status to the Design Statement. The Plan period also runs further into the future. In addition, the approach is confusing in sometimes relating to development within Conservation Areas, sometimes outside and sometimes either.

71. The design policies do not meet the expectations of Planning Practice Guidance for them to be *“clear and unambiguous”* and *“drafted with sufficient clarity that a decision maker can apply it consistently and with confidence when determining planning applications”*.

72. To meet the Basic Conditions, especially regarding the clarity of the policies, I recommend a restructuring and simplification of the approach to provide a single Design Policy that includes principles and applies to development within and outside Conservation Areas.

73. On the details of some of the policies:

- DS.2 – it is unclear whether all three elements of a new building or extension should be considered. Not all buildings will use brick.
- DS.4 – the first sentence is a description of an important element of Broseley’s character suitable for the supporting text
- DS.5 – the intention of a *“prevailing consideration”* is unclear and this principle is addressed by DS.1
- DS.6 – planning applications do not *“attempt”* to mitigate light pollution and a link to the Institution of Lighting Engineers’ guidance should be provided from the supporting text

- DS.6 – planning applications do not “*attempt*” to provide high quality approaches
- DS.8 – all development plan policies apply to all planning applications as appropriate and it is unnecessary to cross-refer. Planning applications do not “*attempt*” to mitigate the impact of sheet glass and this is addressed by DS.2
- DS.10 – there is a lack of evidence to support a restrictive approach to the use of A-boards and planning applications are determined by the local planning authority and not the Town Council – I recommend this Policy is deleted

74. Policies A1 and DS.1 to DS.10 do not meet the Basic Conditions.

- **M6 – Replaces Policy A1 and DS.1 to DS.10 with:**

“Policy D1

Development proposals that demonstrate due regard to the following design principles will be supported:

- a) **Be in keeping with the form and materials that define the town’s heritage**
- b) **Be of a design and use material that respects local character with regard to:**
 - a. **Floor area, roof pitch and roof height;**
 - b. **Size of windows and facades; and**
 - c. **Style and colour of brickwork and roof tiles as appropriate**
- c) **Where possible retain existing walls and hedges and provide boundary walls on street frontages and hedges elsewhere**
- d) **Incorporate the use of locally distinctive brick and/or stone headers and decorative corbels, cornices and patterned/alternating brickwork on frontages**
- e) **Minimise light pollution and have regard to appropriate Institution of Lighting Engineers’ guidance**
- f) **Provide innovative high quality approaches to meeting the design principles on individual plots**
- g) **Incorporate the use of street furniture using materials, colour and designs that respect local character, including existing street furniture that is retained. “**

Housing

75. The Plan supports the guidelines for residential development in Appendix 5 of the draft Shropshire Local Plan 2016 – 2038. This identifies a need for 50 dwellings in addition to those completed or consented and these are earmarked for windfall sites. Although the revised Local Plan has yet to be adopted there has been no questioning of this approach in representations made on the Plan.

76. The Plan adopts an alternative approach to meeting this outstanding requirement by allocating a site with capacity for 20 homes and assuming a reduced rate of windfall development. It also assumes completion of an exceptions site granted planning permission during the Plan's preparation and Shropshire Council confirmed this to be a reasonable assumption. While no evidence is provided for the revised allowance for windfall sites I am content the Plan makes provision for housing development in strategic conformity with the emerging Local Plan and Shropshire Council shares this view.

77. **Policy HO1** – This supports development on sites within the development boundary that meet local needs and other criteria.

78. This broad approach is consistent with national and local planning policy.

79. Broseley's Development Boundary is defined in the Shropshire Site Allocations and Management of Development (SAMDev) Plan (2006-2026) and shown on the Proposals Map. The Plan proposes amending the boundary and the supporting text should reference where it is established in existing development plan policy.

80. The Plan includes no definition of "*local needs*" by virtue of geography or affordability and the policy is relevant to all housing needs. It lacks clarity in what is meant by "*evidence based affordable housing*". The reference to "*valued green spaces*" should be modified in line with my recommendation regarding the designation of Local Green Spaces in the Plan. I was provided with different definitions of "*infill*" and "*windfall*" sites by Broseley Town Council and Shropshire Council and the Plan includes no definition. Given the dependency of the housing land supply position in the area on windfall sites I consider

this the most appropriate and well defined term to use. A common definition is provided in the National Planning Policy Framework. Windfall sites within the development boundary meet Broseley Town Council's definition of infill sites.

81. The Policy adopts a negative tone in identifying relevant planning considerations as "*limitations*" and that it will be supported "*provided*" criteria are met. Planning policies should be positive.

82. The drafting of the Policy can be strengthened through use of consistent notation for the different considerations, appropriate use of capitals and clarifying whether all considerations should apply in all circumstances.

83. Policy HO1 does not meet the Basic Conditions.

- **M7 – Amend Policy HO1 to:**
 - **Replace the first sentence with "New housing development in Broseley will be supported on windfall sites within the Broseley Development Boundary [ref Proposals Map]."**
 - **Replace c) with "maintain Broseley's Local Green Spaces [ref Proposals Map]; and**
 - **Replace notation i) to iv) with a) to d)**
 - **Replace "*will be supported provided proposals*" with "should"**
 - **Insert "or" at end of subsection iii:**
 - **End the Policy with a full stop**
- **M8 – Reference the definition of the existing Development Boundary in the adopted Shropshire Site Allocations and Management of Development (SAMDev) Plan (2006-2026) in the supporting text**

84. **Policy HO2** – This alters the Development Boundary and designates a site for housing development which should meet criteria set out in an Appendix.

85. The Policy reflects a significant public debate over the preferred location for development in Broseley. It draws on Shropshire Council's preferred sites consultation for the Local Plan which considered alternative sites that were not taken forward. This in turn was based on an earlier site assessment process that considered a larger potential site. This was not taken forward and the circumstances have changed with adjacent development also offering new access. Consultation on potential sites was undertaken during the Plan's preparation with the Avenue Road site identified as a preferable option. There is evidence of landowner engagement.

86. I am satisfied there has been sufficient consideration of alternative sites and appropriate levels of public consultation over the proposed site allocation. My own visit confirms it as an appropriate location for new housing subject to normal planning considerations. The Coal Authority makes representations that *"There may be mine entries on, or around, the Avenue Road site which may have implications for the layout and quantum of development which can be accommodated"* and I recommend that this risk is addressed in the Site Development Criteria.

87. The Policy references *"site allocation criteria"* to be taken into account by any development proposals and these are located in an Appendix. The criteria are appropriate. They relate to the site's development rather than its allocation and so I recommend a renaming..

88. The presentation of the site's location in the map in the Appendix is not at a scale sufficient to identify the detailed boundary.

89. There is no evidence provided supporting the intended capacity for the site of 20 dwellings. On request both Broseley Town Council and Shropshire Council provided relevant planning considerations which may limit capacity, including from the site assessment process undertaken for the Local Plan. I was informed *"This assessment notes that the site includes areas of scrub/woodland, mature trees and hedgerows which are of ecological value and should be retained, whilst this can be incorporated into open space provision it is likely that it would reduce the sites capacity below the general 'starting point'*

for assumptions around site capacity of 30 dwelling per hectare. The assessment also notes that the site may have archaeological interest, which means a heritage assessment will be required to support any Planning Application. It is also understood that there are two routes for electricity cables (pylons located to north and south of the site) running through the north-eastern element of the site which will require appropriate buffering, as will the employment uses associated with the Planning Permission to the north of the site, again likely reducing the site capacity below basic assumptions. Finally, it is important to reflect local character, design and layout (consistent with the adopted and draft Local Plans) and consider other local circumstances, which again can impact on site density.” I recommend inclusion of these considerations in the supporting text to support inclusion of an intended capacity for 20 dwelling sin the policy.

90. The site allocation requires an amendment to the Development Boundary and this needs to be supported by a map at an appropriate scale to view the changes. The current boundary is designated in Policies Map – (S4) Broseley Inset for the adopted SAMDev Plan (2015). It would be preferable to provide a map showing the current and amended boundary in each of the two locations where changes are being made referenced in a single Policy. This should be supported by an appropriate justification for the changes made. In all other locations the Development Boundary should follow the line of the Local Plan policies map.

91. The Policy should be redrafted to provide the necessary clarity in addressing the outcome of its examination.

92. Policy HO2 does not meet the Basic Conditions.

- **M9 - Replace Policy HO2 with “Land off Avenue Road is allocated for housing development with an indicative capacity for 20 dwellings [see Figure ?]. Development proposals for this site should have regard to the criteria in Appendix 5.”**

- M10 – Provide supporting text to Policy HO2 which explains the planning considerations that support an intended capacity for 20 dwellings
- M11 – Amend Appendix 5 to:
 - Provide a large scale map depicting the boundary of the site allocation
 - Replace “*Site Allocation Criteria*” with “Site Development Criteria” and insert “all” after “*meet*” in the first line of this subsection
 - Add an additional criterion “Development to provide around 20 homes”
 - Add an additional criterion “Development to be informed by an assessment of any coal mining legacy risk”
 - Delete “*See next page*”

- **M12 - Insert a new Policy at the beginning or end of the Policies section**
“Policy DB1

The Development Boundary for Broseley is as provided in Figure ?”

- M13 – Provide supporting text to Policy DB1 which explains and justifies the amendment to the Development Boundary in two locations, including maps of sufficient scale showing the new boundary and the two proposed changes

93. **Policy HO3** – This identifies an area of Broseley where “*no new development will be supported*” due to constraints in the road network.

94. The Policy is highly restrictive and would prevent any new building in the defined area. No evidence is provided of the “*severe constraints*” in the road network. On request I was informed the area included many of Broseley's 'jitties' which are “*essentially bridleways, with access only possible for pedestrians or small vehicles*” and accessed down single lane roads with no pavements. I observed these constraints during my visit but the area affected by the Policy is only broadly defined and no map is provided. The Policy also lack necessary clarity as to what categories of development it applies to, relying on a footnote to exclude alterations and extensions.

95. National planning policy expects development plans to be *“prepared positively”* (paragraph 16, NPPF) and for policies to *“be underpinned by relevant and up-to-date evidence”* (paragraph 36, NPPF). The Policy also lacks the clarity required.

96. In the absence of this clarity and sufficient evidence demonstrating the severity of the constraints on the road network or the impact which would arise from new development the Policy does not meet the Basic Conditions.

- **M14 – Delete Policy HO3**

97. **Policy HO4** – This supports affordable housing proposals outside the Development Boundary consistent with the approach in Shropshire’s Local Plan.

98. The Policy defines affordable housing as being for *“local people”* and provided by a *“recognised Housing Association”*.

99. The Shropshire Local Plan addresses provision of affordable homes on exceptions sites in Core Strategy Policy CS11 and an adopted Supplementary Planning Document. This includes a definition of *“local”*. Local Plan policy does not limit providers of affordable homes on exceptions sites to Housing Associations, including, for example, other registered social housing providers. It also includes locational criteria.

100. It is the stated intention of the Policy to be consistent with Local Plan policy on exceptions sites. The Policy departs from this in important aspects and lacks clear definition in its approach. As a result it lacks the clarity necessary for a planning policy.

101. National planning policy is also that policies should *“serve a clear purpose, avoiding unnecessary duplication”* (paragraph 16, NPPF). The Policy goes beyond existing Local Plan policy in only one respect by defining a preference for sites to be within 1200m of the main services in the town centre. No evidence is provided to support this distance. On request I was informed 1200m *“represents a 20 minute walk for a moderately fit adult. Our view is that the BNP should support a ‘walking culture’ and that exception sites should be within*

walking distance of the main services in the Town". It is a requirement of Local Plan policy that *"exception sites must be demonstrably part of, or adjacent to, a recognisable named settlement"* (paragraph 5.13, Adopted Type and Affordability of Housing SPD) which already supports the desired objective.

102. The Policy is supported by some evidence of local needs in an Appendix. This comprises an exchange of emails with Shropshire Council officers and a snapshot assessment of the level of housing need in October 2019 from *"Homepoint"*. A single data point from 2019 does not provide a sufficient evidence base and no detail of what is included on Homepoint is provided. It is inappropriate to include an email exchange with a named officer within the Plan and any data should be provided as a freestanding extract from Shropshire Council. Given my recommendations on the policies relating to the Appendix it should be deleted.

103. Policy HO4 lacks the clarity needed and duplicates existing planning policies. It does not meet the Basic Conditions.

- **M15 – Delete Policy HO4 and Appendix Four**

104. **Policy HO5** – this supports single plot exception sites that are easily accessible to the main services in the town centre and which are not identified a valued green space.

105. The Policy duplicates existing Local Plan policy, including the adopted Supplementary Planning Document. Any proposals for development of valued green spaces will be considered in relation to the development plan policies affording them protection.

106. Policy HO5 does not meet the Basic Conditions.

- **M16 – Delete Policy HO5**

107. **Policy HO6** – This requires proposals for new housing within the Development Boundary to make provision for affordable housing in line with the Local Plan.

108. The Policy duplicates existing provisions in the Local Plan. It does not meet the Basic Conditions.

- **M17 – Delete Policy HO6**

109. **Policy HO7** – This supports new housing development within the Broseley Conservation Area subject to specific criteria.

110. The Policy is drafted in restrictive terms in stating that development will “*only*” be supported which meets the criteria. It is also restrictive in only supporting development of infill sites which complement the surrounding townscape when development of other types of site which meet the same standards would also be appropriate. The drafting takes an unduly restrictive approach to the density of new development which lacks the flexibility to recognise higher density can complement the existing townscape as well as lower density. The negative impact on sight lines should also be significant before it becomes a constraint on new development.

111. The Policy’s requirement that development “*provides benefit*” should be consistent with the legal requirement for all development to “*preserve or enhance*” a Conservation Area.

112. It is unclear whether a development proposal will be considered against all of the criteria or needs to satisfy only one of them to be supported. All of the criteria are not appropriate to some development proposals.

113. The supporting text states that the “*adopted Shropshire Development plan identifies a target of 50 new homes to 2038*”. This refers to a Local Plan which is at Examination and has not yet been adopted.

114. Policy HO7 does not meet the Basic Conditions.

- **M18 – Amend Policy HO7 to:**
 - Delete *“only”* in the first line
 - Replace *“provides benefit”* with *“preserves or enhances”* in a)
 - Replace *“an infill”* with *“a”* in b)
 - Insert *“, where appropriate,”* before *“is able”* in c)
 - Add *“and”* after *“;”* at the end of c)
 - Insert *“significant”* before *“negative”* and delete *“and/or on overall density of provision”* in d)

- M19 – Replace *“adopted”* with *“draft”* in line 3 of paragraph 8.11

Economy & Jobs

115. **Policy EJ1** – This supports employment related development in specific use classes subject to a number of criteria.

116. The Policy requires new development to have a *“positive effect”* or *“impact”* or that it *“promotes”* for it to be supported and this is an unduly restrictive approach for which no evidence is provided. The drafting around the acceptability of impacts on the local road network should be clearer.

117. It is unclear whether a development proposal will be considered against all of the criteria or need satisfy only one of them to be supported.

118. The final criterion g) relates only to a change of use and should be separated from the rest of the Policy. It is unduly restrictive in stating what will *“only”* be supported and lacks clarity over the time period for which the property has been marketed.

119. The Policy relates to Use Classes B and D. The Use Classes Order was amended in September 2020 and I recommend modifying the Policy to refer to the most relevant use classes now in force - Class B2, B8, E, F1 and F2.

120. Policy EJ1 does not meet the Basic Conditions.

- **M20 - Amend Policy E J1 to:**
 - Replace “*B and D*” with “B2, B8, E, F1 and F2”
 - Replace “*have a positive*” with “not have a significant adverse” in a)
 - Insert “a significant adverse” before “*unacceptable*” in b)
 - Replace “*has a positive*” with “does not have a significant adverse” in e0
 - Insert “and” after “;” at end of e)
 - Replace “;” with a full stop at end of f)
 - Make g) a freestanding limb of the Policy
 - Delete “*only*” and insert “for a reasonable period of time” after “*price*” in the former g)

121. **Policy EJ2** – This supports employment related development in specific Use Classes outside the Development Boundary subject to additional criteria.

122. The purpose of the Broseley Development Boundary is to provide certainty as to the most appropriate location for development and to protect land outside it from other than exceptional development or that appropriate to a rural location. The effect of Policy EJ2 is to apply the same criteria to development outside as well as inside the Development Boundary other than in relation to access by heavy goods vehicle. There is no evidence provided of a need to further release of land for employment uses and no evidence is provided as to why access to any such development outside the Development Boundary should be from the specific location.

123. Policy EJ2 conflicts with the strategic intent of the Development Boundary and is not supported by appropriate evidence. It does not meet the Basic Conditions.

- **M21 – Delete Policy EJ2**

124. **Policy EJ3** – This retains existing employment land and allocates a new site for employment related development consequent on an alteration in the Development Boundary.

125. The two limbs of the Policy serve distinctly different purposes and I recommend they are provided as separate policies.

126. The first part of Policy EJ3 is not supported by evidence as to the particular significance of an existing employment site on King Street/Duke Street. This will in any case fall within the ambit of the general policy for retaining existing employment land. It is notable that the King Street/Duke Street employment area is not included on the Local Plan policies map for Broseley and the boundaries of all the existing employment areas shown on the Plan's Policies map are different to those on the Local Plan policies map. I am content with the addition of the land on Kings Street/Duke Street but no evidence has been provided to amend the boundaries shown in in the Local Plan policies map. This should be clarified by referencing a map of the existing employment areas consistent with the Local Plan as part of the addition of the King Street/Duke Street site.

127. The Policy's support for "*more effective use*" of existing employment sites is unclear and it is not addressed in the supporting text.

128. The second part of Policy EJ3 allocates a new site for employment use consequent on an adjustment to the Development Boundary. I have separately recommended that the Development Boundary is addressed in a separate policy, supported by appropriate maps showing the changes and a justification. The proposed site is adjacent to an existing employment site which was extended through a planning consent in 2019.

129. There is an inconsistency in the proposed location of the new Development Boundary. This is shown differently in the Plan's Policies Map and the map in Appendix 6 where it runs down the entire western edge of the site such that Green Space 5a lies outside it. I sought clarification on this difference and Broseley Town Council acknowledges an error in the Policies Map and that the intention is for Green Space 5a to be outside the Development Boundary.

130. The strategic planning context is provided by the emerging Local Plan that provides for an additional 3ha employment land in Broseley, to be delivered through *“any employment development allocated within the Broseley Neighbourhood Plan”* (Policy S4.1) among other sources. Appendix 6 of the Plan incorrectly identifies this as being between 2006-2036. This should read 2016-2038. The relationship between the Local Plan and the neighbourhood plan is both positive and appropriate. The proposed allocation responds to a specific request from the business occupying adjacent land and owning the site with certainty over future expansion. It also reflects wider public support for local employers evident in the public consultation.

131. Appendix 6 states that the proposed allocation provides either an additional 0.74 ha or an additional 1.70 acres. 0.74 ha equates to 1.83 acres and 1.70 acres to 0.69 ha. These are not insignificant differences and the area of the proposed allocation should be clarified and used consistently.

132. I visited the site and it provides an appropriate location. There is a strong relationship to the existing employment land which is under the same ownership. The landowner is supportive of the proposed allocation. The site includes important water features and is adjacent to Stocking Mound, an important heritage asset related to the area’s mining history and included on Shropshire’s Historic Environment Record. The Policy seeks to take account of these and other planning considerations by referencing *“site allocation restrictions”* in an Annex. The criteria relate to the site’s development rather than being restrictions. They are broadly appropriate although they fail to include the expected access to the site and include a cryptic reference to “SC” and further clarity would be provided by including them under a separate heading, as for the residential site allocation in Appendix 5.

133. Policy EJ3 does not meet the Basic Conditions.

- **M22- Replace Policy EJ3 with “Existing employment land shown in Map ? will be retained in employment use where possible and development proposals which maintain or enhance existing employment use will be supported.”**

- **M23 – Insert a new Policy “Land off Cockshutt Lane is allocated for employment use [see Figure ?]. Development proposals for this site should have regard to the criteria in Appendix 6.”**

- **M24 – In Appendix 6:**
 - Replace “2006- 2036” with “2016-2038” in the first line
 - Replace sub heading “*New Boundary*” with “Site Development Criteria and:
 - Add “meet all the following criteria:” after “*Proposals for development of this site*” and move this to after the second paragraph
 - Replace the third paragraph with “1) Access will be via the existing access point off Cockshutt Lane”
 - Replace the first criterion with “All development proposals should be accompanied by appropriate assessments of their impact on heritage, wildlife and trees”
 - Renumber the remaining criteria
 - Clarify the area of the proposed allocation and use consistently throughout the Plan
 - Replace all references to “SC” with “Shropshire Council
 - Make other changes consequent on the recommended Modifications,

- **M25 – Amend the Policies Map to depict the Development Boundary as shown in Appendix 6**

134. **Policy EJ4** – This supports appropriate proposals for new retail floor space in the Primary Shopping Area.

135. The Policy is positively worded and supported by an unreferenced map showing the location of each “*Designated Retail Area*”. On seeking clarification I was informed that these are the same as the Primary Shopping Areas referenced in the Policy. The Local Plan identifies a single Primary Shopping Area which falls almost entirely within the designated

Broseley Town Centre. The other shopping areas identified in the Plan are not recognised in the Local Plan.

136. On visiting each location I am satisfied that it is appropriate for them all to be recognised in the Plan. To avoid confusion with the Local Plan it is appropriate for the Plan to identify them as “Retail Areas” and the Policy and supporting map should be amended appropriately.

137. Policy EJ4 does not meet the Basic Conditions.

- **M26 – Amend Policy EJ4 to replace “*the Primary Shopping Area*” with “a Retail Area (see Map ?)”**

138. **Policy EJ5** – This supports proposals for home working and home-run businesses subject to their impact on local amenity.

139. Policy EJ5 meets the Basic Conditions.

140. **Policy EJ6** – This supports conversion of existing buildings for business where it does not have a significant impact.

141. The Policy is consistent with the Plan’s support for creating new economic opportunities. Policy EJ6 meets the Basic Conditions.

Green spaces and green infrastructure, sport and recreation

142. This section of the Plan relates only to green spaces and green infrastructure and should be retitled accordingly consistent with other recommended modifications to the Plan’s structure. The Plan does not include any policies directly to deliver its objectives relating to sport and recreation.

143. **Policies GR1 and GR2** – These protect 11 areas of “*valued green space*” identified in the Broseley Town Plan and identify 5 additional areas of valued green space for the same protection.

144. The evidence supporting these designations is a reference to the Town Plan, a map showing the location of each green space and an Appendix which scores each of the areas against five criteria (Existing designation, Public Access, Heritage Value, Environmental Value, Visual Amenity). There is also evidence of strong public support for recognising and protecting green space and the additional areas were included as a result of public consultation conducted when preparing the Plan. A representation to the Plan noted that not all the proposed green spaces have public access. Public access is not a requirement for designation provided that there are other public benefits provided by the green space. Each green space had to achieve a minimum score to be included. None of the areas included in the analysis failed to meet this standard. I was informed that three locations had been assessed for designation but not taken forward as they failed to meet the standard.

145. I visited each of the 16 green spaces and, with exceptions, I concur with the assessment provided in Appendix 3. The most suitable boundary for GS6, GS10 and GS11 could be the subject of debate. GS7 is designated on grounds of its recreational value for sport but also includes a significant area of woodland. GS8 is described as having open views across the “*east*” Midlands rather than the West Midlands. GS3 is designated on the grounds that it is of high environmental value without supporting evidence and some additional information was provided on request.

146. Most significantly GS15 is not included in the Plan’s map and so its location has not been subjected to public consultation on the submitted Plan. I was informed that the boundary was included on a map placed in the public library but this would not have been known to a majority of those who engaged with the Plan. A verbal description of the location of GS15 is not sufficient and it cannot be included in the Plan.

147. On request I was provided with some further information supporting designation and detailed boundary maps for each Green Space. These should be available in the final

Plan. I was also informed that a significant part of GS1 has been consented for development and the boundary should be amended to exclude the area permitted for development. I am also content with the more minor changes to the boundary of GS3.

148. The numbering of the green spaces is unhelpful. GS5a is distinct from GS5 and they should be number sequentially. The larger scale maps also confirm the merit in separating GS6 into two and these should also be differently numbered. It would also be helpful to provide short names for those green spaces which do not have them

149. On request Broseley Town Council confirmed consultation had taken place with landowners and that it had met or spoken to the main landowners as part of the consultation process and involved other landowners in a survey in 2019.

150. The Plan's approach to "Valued Green Spaces" aligns with the expectations of national planning policy for designating "Local Green Spaces" and I note this is the approach taken by the Broseley Town Plan on which a majority of the proposals are based. The distinction is an important one because of the added protection afforded designated Local Green Space. On request an updated Basic Conditions Statement was provided that confirmed that *"the term, 'Valued Green Space' is synonymous with the NPPF term 'local green space'. The phrase 'valued green space' has been used in the Plan because this term was used in the predecessor Town Plan and therefore has a local resonance"*. I respect the intention to secure maximum public recognition of these green spaces but recommend the Plan aligns with the terminology of national planning policy. This is to ensure maximum clarity over the high level of protection afforded by the designation.

151. To be afforded a level of protection consistent with them being Green Belt Local Green Spaces need only by designated by the Plan. This follows a Court of Appeal case with relating to a Local Green Space policy in a neighbourhood plan (*Lochailort Investments Limited v. Mendip District Council and Norton St Philip Parish Council*, [2020] EWCA Civ 1259) which means it is inappropriate to include any wording that sets out how development proposals should be managed.

152. Policies GR1 and GR2 do not meet the Basic Conditions.

- **M27 – Replace Policies GR1 and GR2 with “The following areas are designated as Local Green Space (see Map?):**
 - **GS1 – Land north of Balls Lane.....etc**
- **M28 – Delete GS15 in the World Heritage Site on the edge of the neighbourhood area from the Plan**
- M29– Include the updated and detailed boundary maps for each Local Green Space provided for the Examination in addition to a single map depicting them all
- OM3 – [Provide brief names for each Local Green Space which does not have one and correct the description of open views for GS8 to the West Midlands]

153. **Policy GR3** – This addresses the importance of formal and informal open space when considering development proposals.

154. The Policy is broad in its approach and will require an assessment of the importance of particular open spaces to be made on a case by case basis. It is unduly restrictive in stating what will “*only*” be supported and removing support from development with only a minor adverse impact.

155. Policy GR3 does not meet the Basic Conditions.

- **M30 – Amend Policy GR3 to:**
 - **Delete “*only*”**
 - **Replace “*adversely affect*” with “have a significant adverse impact on”**

156. **Policy GR4** – This encourages development which creates wider accessibility to the local footpath network, which closes gaps and which improves existing provision.

157. The Policy is not supported by evidence of the location of the footpath network or where gaps and priorities for improving existing provision exist. On request I was provided with a map of the existing footpath and bridleway network and recommend this is included in the Plan. National planning policy supports policies to “*protect and enhance public rights of way and access, including taking opportunities to provide better facilities for users, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks*” (paragraph 100, NPPF). This approach is more precise in defining the network and addressing other users such as horse riders and cyclists on bridleways.

158. Policy GR4 does not meet the Basic Conditions.

- **M31 – Amend Policy GR4 to replace “*footpath*” with “*rights of way*”**
- OM4 – [Include a map and/or link to the existing rights of way network in the neighbourhood area]

159. **Policy GR5** – This identifies a series of five “green routes” to be protected and to benefit recreation and tourism.

160. The Policy is not supported by evidence supporting the designation of the five “green routes” and no information on their location beyond a brief written description is provided. I was informed this could be provided on a map. It is unclear whether these routes use existing rights of way. Policies GR4 and GR5 are inconsistent in their approach with the former limited to footpaths and the latter including bridleways. A common approach to public rights of way should be used.

161. The Policy includes a statement of the Plan’s intentions for creating a “*walking culture*”, improving links to the World Heritage site and encouraging development of a permissive path network. This is best located in the supporting text.

162. Policy GR5 does not meet the Basic Conditions.

- **M32 – Amend Policy GR5 to replace the first three sentences with:**
“Public rights of way through green spaces in Broseley will be protected and, where possible enhanced. Development proposals will be supported which improve the network, including through the provision of permissive paths and the delivery of green routes in the following locations (see Map?):”
- OM5 – [Provide a map showing the location of the five green routes]

163. **Policy GR6** – This supports protection and improvement of the area’s green infrastructure of trees, hedgerows and woodland.

164. The Policy requires only minor drafting changes to meet the Basic Conditions.

- **M33 – Amend Policy GR6 to replace “*will be expected to*” with “*should*”**

165. **Policy GR7** – This states that the Town Council will work with landowners to identify a space for allotments close to the town centre.

166. As drafted the Policy is a statement of intent and not a planning policy relating to the determination of a planning application. It is appropriate for it to be included in the supporting text. The Policy should relate to planning considerations and the supporting text should also reference the location of the Town Centre as designated in the existing Local Plan and consider identifying the boundary on a map.

167. Policy GR7 does not meet the Basic Conditions.

- **M34 – Replace Policy GR7 with “Proposals for allotments close to the town centre will be supported.”**

- M35 – Provide details of the location of the Town Centre as designated in the Local Plan in the supporting text

Conservation, Heritage, Landscape and the Environment

168. **Policy CH1** – This seeks development in the Conservation Area that is consistent with the Broseley Design Statement and Conservation Area Appraisal.

169. Policy CH1 does not address any issues not already included in recommended Policy D1. It is restricted to development in Conservation Areas and appropriate consideration of the Town Plan and any relevant Conservation Area Appraisal is provided by the recommended modifications to the Design section of the Plan. This also addresses the lack of clarity about what constitutes the Broseley Design Statement. Retaining Policy CH1 duplicates another Plan policy and reduces the Plan’s clarity.

170. Policy CH1 does not meet the Basic Conditions.

- **M36 – Delete Policy CH1**

171. **Policy CH2** – This supports development with a positive impact on the countryside surrounding Broseley.

172. The Policy is positively worded and meets the Basic Conditions. Policy CH2 contributes to the Green Spaces and Green Infrastructure Objective 5.4b) and should be relocated into this section of the Plan.

- **M37 - Relocate Policy CH2 into the Green Spaces and Green Infrastructure section as a GR policy**

173. As a consequence of these changes the section on *“Conservation, Heritage, Landscape and the Environment”* should be deleted as recommended in modifications to the Plan’s structure.

Community Resources

174. **Policy CR1** – This supports development resulting in the loss of community resources subject to specific criteria.

175. The Policy is supported by examples of community resources in the neighbourhood area. Limited detail is provided and it is a non-exhaustive list.

176. National and strategic planning policy is to protect existing facilities and support new ones that make a positive contribution. Policy CR1 takes a different approach that supports the loss of facilities unless specific criteria are met. This is not consistent with Local Plan policies CS8 and CS15, national planning policy (paragraph 93, NPPF) or the Plan's own objective *"to secure and retain community facilities"*.

177. Policy CR1 does not meet the Basic Conditions.

- **M38 – Replace Policy CR1 with:**

"Development proposals that would result in the loss of community resources and facilities in Broseley should demonstrate that:

- a) The community resources and facilities are no longer required; or either**
- b) That alternative appropriate provision exists or will be provided elsewhere in the community to serve local people; or**
- c) Suitable alternative resources and facilities are included in the proposal."**

178. **Policy CR2** – This supports new or improved community facilities subject to criteria relating to their impact on the local area.

179. Policy CR2 meets the Basic Conditions

Supporting the visitor economy, tourism and leisure

180. This section should be retitled "Supporting the Visitor Economy" as recommended in the modifications to the structure of the Plan. This aligns it with the Plan's objectives.

181. The policies are supported by evidence of visitors choosing to stay overnight in other locations despite Broseley's location near to Ironbridge Gorge. As a result the Plan supports an approach which supports tourist-related development and protects Broseley's rural character.

182. **Policy VE1** – This supports tourist related development that enhances an existing business, brings positive conservation benefits and does not harm neighbouring residential areas. It adopts the same approach whether or not the development proposal is within the Development Boundary.

183. The effect of the Policy is dependent on whether all of the criteria must be met. Given the Plan's objective to support tourist related development while protecting its rural character I have understood the Policy intention to be for any one of the criteria to be met. This was confirmed by Broseley Town Council. The Policy's approach could support significant development and I therefore recommend that the Plan's intention to protect the countryside around Broseley is directly addressed.

184. Policy VE1 does not meet the Basic Conditions.

- **M39 – Amend Policy VE1 to:**
 - **Delete *areas***
 - **Replace "*subject to*" with "**when**"**
 - **Insert "**or**" at end of b)**
 - **Replace "*an*" with "**a significant**" in c)**
 - **Insert "**or the quality and visual appearance of the countryside around Broseley**" at end of c)**

185. **Policy VE2** – This supports proposals for holiday accommodation that satisfy existing Local Plan policies.

186. The Policy duplicates existing development plan policy which will be used to determine any planning application for holiday accommodation in the neighbourhood area.

The specific Local Plan policies will also be replaced shortly given the advanced review of the Shropshire Local Plan, subject to the outcome of the current Examination in Public, resulting in the Policy becoming superseded.

187. Policy VE2 does not meet the Basic Conditions.

- **M40 – Delete Policy VE2**

188. **Policy VE3** – This does not support development adversely affecting the character of the countryside between Broseley and the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site.

189. The Policy is not supported by evidence defining the location of the countryside where it will be relevant and Broseley Town Council confirmed this area has not been defined. There is no evidence provided of what contributes to this countryside's *“unspoilt character”*. This reduces its clarity. The Policy is negatively worded and would not support development with only a minor impact.

190. Policy VE3 does not meet the Basic Conditions.

- **M41 – Replace Policy VE3 with:**
“Development proposals should avoid any significant adverse impact on the character of the countryside between the Broseley Development Boundary and the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site.”

191. **Policy VE4** – This seeks to protect and enhance defined areas used for outdoor recreation, sport and leisure.

192. The areas to be protected and enhanced do not appear on the Policies Map as indicated and as a result the Policy lacks both clarity as to where it applies and an evidence base justifying the approach. On request I was informed this was an omission and the areas are *“Birchmeadow Fields, Cricket Club site, MUGA and Guest Road play-space”*.

193. Policy VE4 does not meet the Basic Conditions.

- **M42 – Replace Policy VE4 with “The following areas used for outdoor recreation, walking, sport and recreation identified on the Policies Map will be protected and where possible enhanced:**
 - **Birchmeadow Fields;**
 - **Cricket Club site;**
 - **Multi-use Games Area; and**
 - **Guest Road play-space.”**

Achieving sustainable development and responding to the challenge of climate change

194. **Policy SD1** – This seeks development which achieves high standards of energy efficiency and proposals to be supported by a statement showing how they will achieve this.

195. The Policy is consistent with national and strategic policy to improve energy efficiency and renewable energy provision. The Policy lacks clarity as to what constitutes “a high standard” of energy efficiency although I was informed by Broseley Town Council “*EPC grade 'A' is one definition. We opted not to define this in the NP, because we wished to retain some flexibility in anticipation of emerging changes to national standards and recommendations*”. It is also unclear what is meant by “a high and sustainable level of design and construction”. It is unduly onerous in requiring every planning application to be accompanied by a statement as to how it will set high standards of energy efficiency and sustainability regardless of the scale of development or its significance. It should be clear that all the issues identified for being including in the accompanying statement should be provided only where relevant.

196. The scope of the Policy overlaps with other provisions, including Building Regulations. These address the thermal efficiency of building materials and compliance with construction and other standards. The drafting should be more consistent with other policies.

197. Policy SD1 does not meet the Basic Conditions.

- **M43 – Replace Policy SD1 with:**

“Development proposals should be designed to be energy efficient and sustainable. Relevant planning applications should include a statement setting out how the development will achieve this, including as appropriate:

- **Siting and orientation to optimise passive solar gain;**
- **The use of energy efficient measures such as loft and wall insulation and double glazing; and**
- **The incorporation of on-site energy generation from renewable sources.”**

198. **Policy SD2** – This seeks development involving existing buildings to be designed to reduce energy use and meet other standards, including the expectations of Policy SD1.

199. The Policy is less clearly drafted than Policy SD1 and duplicates its provision. Policy SD1 covers all development associated with existing buildings and compliance with other standards is not a matter of planning policy.

200. Policy SD2 does not meet the Basic Conditions.

- **M44 – Delete Policy SD2**

201. **Policy SD3** – This supports measures to reduce energy demand and generate renewable energy in heritage buildings providing it safeguards their historic character and for this to be done with the involvement of relevant organisations.

202. The main policy consideration is largely addressed by Policy D1 although there is some merit in explicitly addressing the desired approach to such energy measures in historic buildings. In the absence of a definition of *“heritage properties”* the clarity of the Policy will be improved by addressing *“heritage assets”* which are defined in national planning policy and which also addresses their significance as well as character.

203. The need for development to be *“carried out with the active engagement with and permission of the relevant organisations”* is unclearly drafted, ambiguous as to which organisations are relevant and not an appropriate planning consideration.

204. Policy SD3 does not meet the Basic Conditions.

- **M45 – Amend Policy SD3 to:**
 - Replace *“heritage properties”* with *“heritage assets”*
 - Replace *“building”* with *“asset”*
 - Delete from *“and the development”* to the end

205. **Policy SD4** – This states that non-residential development should aim for BREEAM Excellent.

206. National planning policy is that *“any local requirements for the sustainability of buildings should reflect the Government’s policy for national technical standards”* (NPPF, paragraph 154) and the Plan can support but not require development to deliver higher voluntary standards. BREEAM Excellent is also an onerous expectation to place on small scale non-residential developments.

207. Policy SD4 does not meet the Basic Conditions.

- **M46 - Replace Policy SD4 with:**
“Non-residential development meeting the Building Research Establishment (BREEAM) “excellent” standard will be supported.”

Water Infrastructure

208. **Policy WA1** – This requires development to demonstrate adequate provision is made for water, foul drainage, wastewater and sewerage, including where phasing is required or capacity improvements are provided via agreement.

209. The Policy is a response to the need identified in the Appropriate Assessment for mitigation against unacceptable impacts on the Severn Estuary European Marine Site. It will be helpful to explain this context in the supporting text.

210. I note that the Environment Agency has “*no concerns*” with the Policy and that Severn Trent Water raises no issues in its represent

211. The infrastructure addressed by the Policy is being considered as part of the Local Plan review which is at Examination. The Plan is proceeding ahead of the Local Plan review and it is necessary, therefore, for it to include appropriate mitigations. Planning Practice Guidance is supportive of neighbourhood plans addressing infrastructure (Paragraph: 045 Reference ID: 41-045-20190509). I agree with Shropshire Council’s view, provided on request, that it “*considers that draft Policy WA1 is a non-strategic policy*”.

212. As a result of its preparation late in the preparation of the Plan Policy WA1 is located in a separate section of the Plan. It is more logical for it to be included within the previous section as a SD policy related to sustainable development.

213. Policy WA1 meets the Basic Conditions.

- OM6 – [Move Policy WA1 into the Sustainable Development section of the Plan as a SD policy and provide an explanation in the supporting text of its role as a mitigation measure identified in the Appropriate Assessment.]

8. Recommendation and Referendum Area

214. I am satisfied the Broseley Neighbourhood Plan meets the Basic Conditions and other requirements subject to the modifications recommended in this report and that it can proceed to a referendum. I have received no information to suggest other than that I recommend the referendum area matches that of the Neighbourhood Area.

DECLARATION OF RESULT OF POLL

Broseley Neighbourhood Planning Referendum

I, Ann M Almond, being the Deputy Counting Officer at the above referendum held on Thursday 15 September 2022, do hereby give notice that the results of the votes cast is as follows:

Question		
Do you want Shropshire Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Broseley to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area.		
	Votes Recorded	Percentage
Number cast in favour of a Yes	679	89.22%
Number cast in favour of a No	80	10.51%

The number of ballot papers rejected was as follows:	Number of ballot papers
A want of an official mark	0
B voting for more answers than required	0
C writing or mark by which voter could be identified	0
D being unmarked or wholly void for uncertainty	2
Total	2

Electorate: 4039

Ballot Papers Issued: 761

Turnout: 18.84%

I do hereby declare that more than half of those voting have voted in favour of using the Neighbourhood Plan for Broseley to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area.

Dated Thursday 15 September 2022

Ann M Almond
Deputy Counting Officer

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SHROPSHIRE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Email

1. Synopsis

This report recommends the establishment of an advisory Shropshire Economic Partnership board to provide the mechanism for delivery of the Economic Growth Strategy 2022-27 and provide the required oversight for the delivery of the UKSPF government funding in Shropshire.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 Subject to the approval by Cabinet on 14 December 2022 of the Economic Growth Strategy (EGS) 2022-2027, the proposed Shropshire Economic Partnership Board ("SEPB") will provide a robust framework for ensuring that the EGS is implemented across partners, stakeholders, businesses and organisations and take collective ownership of the delivery of the EGS and Action Plan.
- 2.1 The proposed SEPB will bring together partners and organisations to work collectively to develop, drive and own the strategy.
- 2.2 The SEPB will help develop the Action Plan and appropriate Key Performance Indicators to measure the outcomes and impacts of the strategy which will create a unique set of KPI's to support the EGS and feed into the Shropshire Plan Healthy Economy priority._
- 2.3 The SEPB will assume the role of the Partnership Board for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), providing oversight for the delivery of this government funding in Shropshire as per the requirements for the administration of this fund set out by Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

- 2.4 The SEPB will make recommendations to the Section 151 officer of the Accountable body (i.e. Shropshire Council) in relation to how UKSPF and other agreed funding sources could be invested to support the delivery of the EGS and Shropshire Plan priorities.

3 Recommendations

Council to:

- 3.1 Approve the establishment of an advisory Shropshire Economic Partnership Board
- 3.2 To delegate authority to the Executive Director of Place in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Growth, Regeneration and Housing to establish a Shropshire Economic Partnership Board to drive forward the Economic Growth Strategy, develop and agree the associated Terms of Reference.
- 3.3 To delegate to the Executive Director of Place in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Growth, Regeneration and Housing to develop through the Shropshire Economic Partnership Board, produce the Action Plan to support the Economic Growth Strategy to delivery and the appropriate KPI's to support the Economic Growth Strategy and the Healthy Economy priority of the Shropshire Plan.

REPORT

4 Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1 The establishment of the Shropshire Economic Partnership Board provides an opportunity for positive impact across a variety of organisations, people and businesses. Through the proposed Governance approach provides the opportunity to ensure an inclusive agenda for the economy across Shropshire, via the Partnership representatives.
- 4.2 The Economic Growth Strategy (EGS) itself is anticipated to contribute towards improving on Shropshire's position as one of the healthiest places to live which will positively influence people's mental and physical wellbeing. This is not least through improving prospects of employment and therefore prosperity across age ranges and for people with disabilities and/or caring responsibilities, alongside upskilling and further education opportunities, as well as potential for greater social mobility across our rural county.
- 4.2 Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA) screening for the EGS indicates that positive impacts would thus be

intended for a variety of intersecting Protected Characteristic groupings as defined by the Equality Act 2010 (Age, Disability, Pregnancy and Maternity, Sex) through future engagement process and through the delivery of specific projects developed within the Action Plan. This would be due to an emphasis within the EGS on developing the County as a better place in which to live, learn, and do business, as well as to access for leisure, environmental and hospitality pursuits and endeavours. Additionally, positive impacts are anticipated to accrue for our tenth grouping of consideration in Shropshire, of Social Inclusion. This is not least due to improvements anticipated for vulnerable individuals and households such as young people leaving care, and veterans and serving members of the armed forces, as well as low income households, rural households, and people living in fuel poverty.

- 4.4 As such, the Shropshire Economic Partnership as envisaged should prove to be a crucial component of the delivery vehicles for the EGS, linking as it does into subregional and national policy imperatives around levelling up, as well as our own aspirations as a Council to work in collaboration across sectors for the benefit of all those who live in, grow up in, work in or visit Shropshire.

Risks

4.6 Do Nothing option

By not having a relevant governance in place to support and drive the EGS for Shropshire and oversight of the UKSPF as required by Government, would seriously impact on delivery and impact that the EGS has for businesses and residents of the County. It would also have a detrimental impact on the delivery of the Shropshire Plan- Healthy Economy delivery.

- 4.7 Failure to deliver the EGS is a strategic risk for the Council and the implementation of the SEP is a mitigating factor towards achieving this.

5 Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial implications as a direct result of this paper. However, the SEP will provide [oversight for](#) funding streams such as UKSPF. However, all funding allocations are subject to the appropriate Council financial procedures for assessment and decision making

6 Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.1 The EGS will support the challenge of climate change through clean growth with increased investment in low carbon innovation and

industries with a focus on sectors that support the environment and local green job growth.

6.2 Key areas of focus for the economic strategy in terms of climate change and aligning to the climate change strategy are:

- renewable energy development;
- energy efficiency retrofit measures for existing buildings (both domestic and non-domestic);
- low carbon vehicle fuels;
- Waste, materials and resource management;
- Land management, carbon capture & storage.

6.3 As the action plan and KPI's are developed and activities are finalised, these will be thoroughly investigated and appraised against the key Climate Change considerations.

7 Background

7.1 The development of the EGS is the outcome of ongoing collaborative work between Shropshire Council and the Economic Taskforce, Shropshire business community, along with partners and key stakeholders. This report provides Council with more details on appropriate governance to ensure that the EGS is collectively driven forward with our partners and stakeholders and co-owned and delivered for the prosperity of Shropshire.

7.2 UKSPF is a government fund that has been awarded to all local authority areas to support the delivery of the Levelling Up agenda. Shropshire's approach to the local delivery of UKSPF was covered in the Cabinet Report of 8 June 2022. Government requires that each local authority area establishes a Partnership Board to provide oversight of the delivery of UKSPF in their area. Due to relationship between UKSPF and economic growth, the governance arrangements for the delivery of the EGS will assume the Partnership Board role for UKSPF.

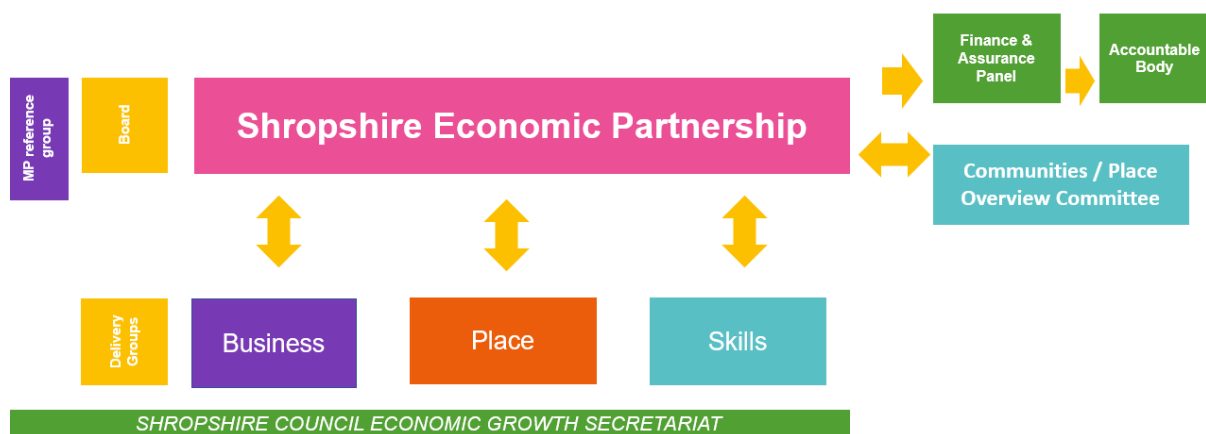
8 Additional Information

Governance

8.1 The current Economic Taskforce and the Shropshire Business Board have resolved to merge and form a Shropshire Economic Partnership which will work to collectively champion, drive and deliver the EGS for Shropshire, working to resolve challenges and issues as they emerge, ensuring Shropshire is in the best position to respond and be resilient.

Proposed Governance Structure

- 8.2 The governance structure represents the overarching role of the SEPB and the sub delivery groups for the key themes which are reflected in the EGS. These delivery groups also align with the UKSPF and the approach for funding, which Shropshire Council has submitted in its investment plan to government. The new governance, which includes a finance and assurance group, will be able to effectively manage, monitor and review spend of this and other future funding as it becomes available. This aligns with and reflects the Healthy Economy theme of the Shropshire Plan and will help to deliver against the targets and ambitions outlined.



Action Plan

- 8.3 A significant amount of work has been undertaken on the development of the draft Action Plan Framework, with the help of the current economic taskforce and utilising the logic model approach which was undertaken for the EGS. The draft framework for this has been agreed by Cabinet as part of the suite of documents for the EGS. However, the SEPB will be developing up the details, activities and projects which will populate the Action Plan to be agreed as per the recommendations set out in this paper.
- 8.4 The approach has been to look at structuring an action plan to reflect the key themes of the Strategy - Local Business, Strategic Locations and Employment and Skills and looking at two levels of actions, Ambitions and Projects, to ensure that the right level of detail and approach is undertaken (see Appendix A). The full details, actions, activities, outcomes, outputs, and impacts need to be developed through the governance and groups outlined above. This will include many projects and activities that will contribute to the overall impact of the EGS but that will be delivered by partner organisations. The

development and ongoing monitoring of the Action Plan will be a key role of the SEPB and the subgroups and a priority for them to produce.

- 8.5 Community Overview Committee will have an on-going role in reviewing and monitoring the development of the Action Plan and KPI's for the EGS as these develop and align to the Shropshire Plan – Healthy Economy priorities. Place Overview Committee will also support this work, through the invitation to Community Overview Committee by the Chair as appropriate.

Key Performance Indicators

- 8.6 The EGS 2022-2027 has set out some high level KPI's as part of its overall ambition. However, further work is needed through the SEP to develop a fit for purpose set of KPI's which effectively capture the impacts that the EGS is aiming to achieve. This will include ensuring that targets from other strategies and work streams across the Council and organisations are captured such as climate and culture for example.
- 8.7 The development of these KPI's will feed into the Healthy Economy dashboard for the Shropshire Plan performance. Community Overview Committee have been involved in the development of the EGS and will have an ongoing role and input into the review and monitoring of the development and delivery of the KPI's and this is reflected in the governance diagram.

9 Conclusions

- 9.1 The Shropshire Economic Partnership Board will provide a robust and collaborative approach to drive forward the growth and economic aspirations for Shropshire and have oversight of funding streams. It will provide a truly co-owned and developed economic agenda for the County, one which is held to account by all those partners and stakeholders involved for the betterment of the businesses and residents of Shropshire

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

Cabinet report January 2021 - Shropshire's economic recovery, transformation and resilience framework report.

http://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/documents/s26358/Economic%20Recovery%20Committee%20Report%20Jan%202021_08012021.pdf

Communities Overview Committee report March 2022 - Economic Growth Strategy Review and refresh 2022-2027

<http://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/documents/s29898/Community%20overview%20report.pdf>

Communities Overview Committee report May 2022 – Economic Growth Strategy Review and Refresh.

<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=738&MIId=4667&Ver=4>

Cabinet report 8th June 2022 Economic Growth Strategy 2022-2027

<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/documents/s30576/Economic%20Growth%20Strategy-13042022%201211.pdf>

Communities Overview Committee report November 2022

<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/documents/s33037/Agenda%20Item%207%20-%20Economic%20Growth%20Strategy%202022%20-%202027.pdf>

Cabinet 14th December 2022

Economic Growth Strategy 2022-2027

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Cllr Dean Carroll

Local Members

All

Appendices

Appendix A – Governance, KPI development, Action and Delivery Plan

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SHROPSHIRE'S ECONOMIC GROWTH STRATEGY

Page 205

GOVERNANCE, KPI DEVELOPMENT, ACTION AND DELIVERY PLAN



**ECONOMIC
TASKFORCE**
INVEST IN SHROPSHIRE

 **Shropshire
Council**



ECONOMIC TASKFORCE

INVEST IN SHROPSHIRE

BUSINESS
NET ZERO

 **BID**
OSWESTRY

 **Shropshire**
Council


dykeyaxley
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

 **SHREWSBURY**
BID

 **Harper Adams**
University

 **The Marches**
Local Enterprise Partnership
Herefordshire - Shropshire - Telford & Wrekin

 Herefordshire,
Ludlow & North
Shropshire College

 University of
Chester

SHREWSBURY
COLLEGES GROUP

VISIT SHROPSHIRE


GRAINGER & WORRALL

 Shropshire
Business
Board

fsb⁰⁸

 **NFU**

 Shropshire
Chamber of
Commerce

 **Landau**
changing lives creating futures

ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

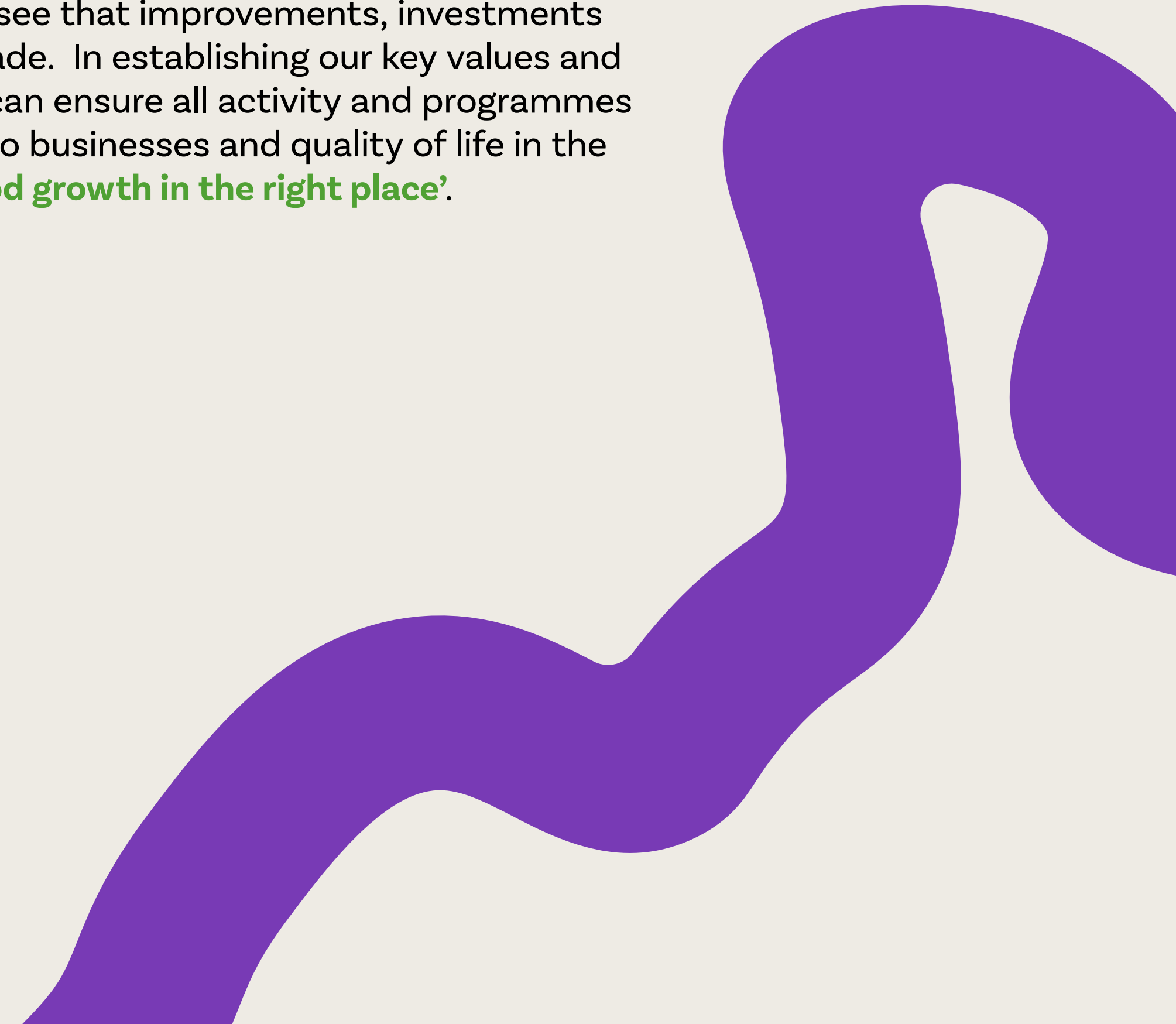
As an appendix to the **Shropshire Economic Growth Strategy 2022 -2027**, the intention of this document is to provide the developed Governance structure, action plan framework and expand on the KPIs that will measure the success of the activities and programmes that will be undertaken now and developed over the five year timeframe.

The Action & Delivery Plan is complex and requires collaborative work to complete and is the next planned activity to ensure all partner and stakeholder activity is compiled into one working document. For the purpose of this document, it indicates the ambition under each of the three key themes – business support, strategic locations and employment and skills and demonstrates examples of current activity in delivery to **provide the framework the Plan will take**. It will be updated annually to reflect changes in delivery strategy and achievement and will capture the work being undertaken in real time.

An important takeaway from this document is that the Governance section shows the emergence of the **Shropshire Economic Partnership (SEP)**, that has been deemed the most appropriate vehicle to take forward our ambitious, collaborative and bold strategy. The business community intend to merge the Shropshire Business Board with the Shropshire Economic Taskforce and drive growth through the SEP, this new Partnership will take overall ownership of the Strategy.

The Key Performance Indicators (KPI) section within this document sets the intention of how we will measure success and will be **the right mix of national key performance indicators alongside more localised measures**.

We acknowledge that the national sources, primarily through the Office for National Statistics (ONS) are used by Government and are important, especially when considering our ranking against other Local Authority areas in considering competitive bid applications and subsequent allocations of funding. We recognise that localised measures better show the impact of activity ‘on the ground’ in real time and are key to ensuring our businesses and residents see that improvements, investments and progress are being made. In establishing our key values and associated measures we can ensure all activity and programmes are actively adding value to businesses and quality of life in the County and providing **‘good growth in the right place’**.

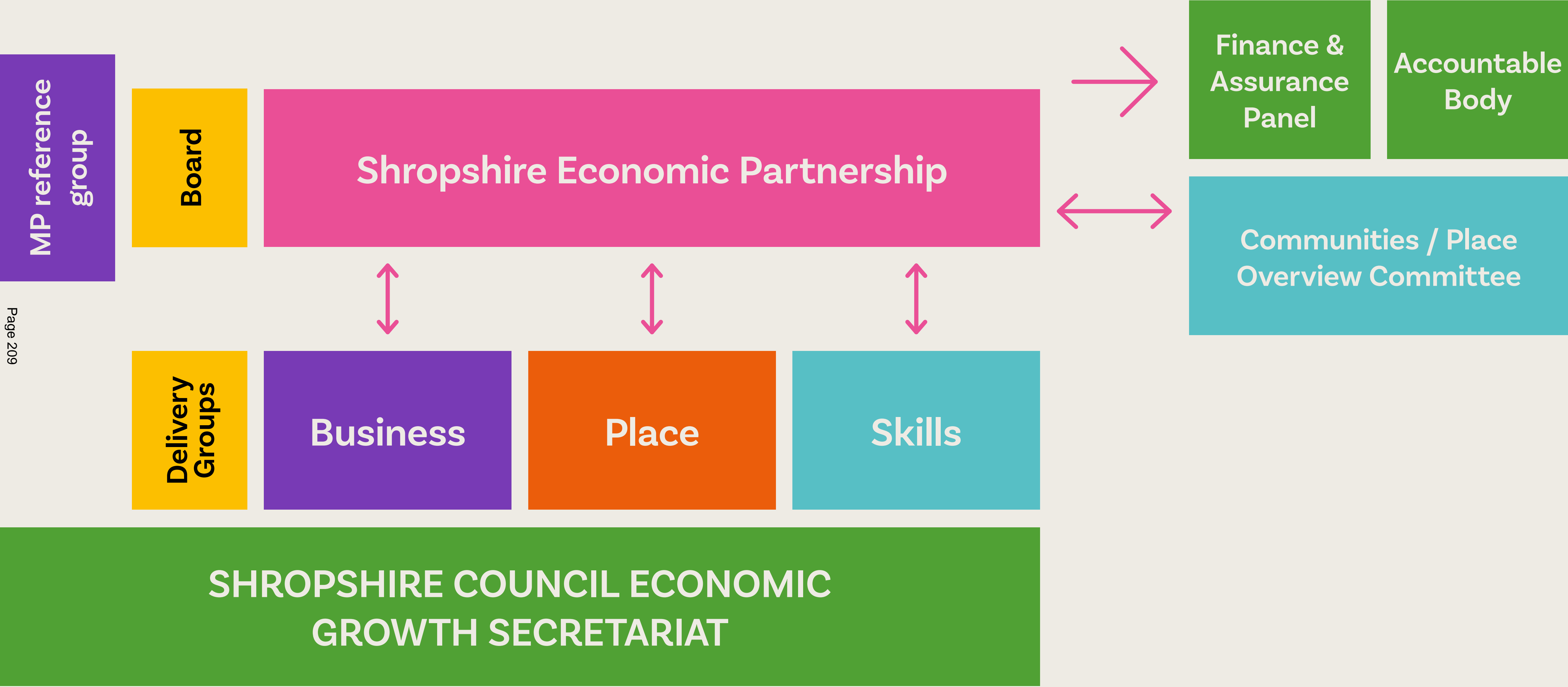


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GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS



DEVELOPING THE KPI'S

- How we will measure success

Our Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) will be a mixture of national and local measures with clearly defined impact, metric, source and targets, baselined at 2022 where possible.

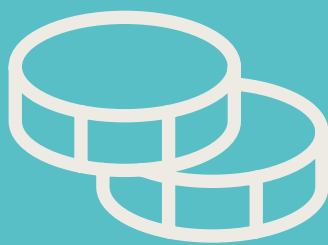
The delivery of the Shropshire Plan - Healthy Economy priority by Shropshire Council will be led by the work of this strategy. Other strategies whose delivery will support the Economic Growth Strategy and its key values are also mapped.

MEASURING SUCCESS



Productivity

Close the gap
by at least 50%



Wages

Close the gap
by at least 50%



Investment

£350 million
(2022 - 2027)



Homes

1,400+
per annum



Jobs

5,000+
by 2027

Supporting Local Business

- Increase in Business Start-Ups
- Sustained high levels of business survival
- Increase in inward investment
- Increase in the number of jobs, especially in higher skilled occupations
- Increase in business profitability / turnover / efficiency
- Levels of business confidence
- Businesses operating or diversifying into new sectors, specifically low carbon, agri-tech, cyber-security and defence

Strategic Locations

- Increase in number of households with access to ultrafast broadband and 4 and 5G mobile reception
- Net housing completions
- Investment in strategic infrastructure
- Employment land brought forward
- Town centre vacancy rates
- Town centre footfall

Employment and Skills

- Employment and unemployment rates
- Reduction in hard to fill vacancies
- Reduction in the proportion of businesses reporting skills gaps
- Increase in high value jobs across county
- Improved retention of working age population, especially in younger age brackets



Alongside the hybrid approach we will take, other Strategies shown here demonstrate the range of activities that contribute to the Shropshire economy. We have mapped these against our core values. Relevant targets will be captured and incorporated to support delivery of our Strategy.

OUR KEY VALUES

	Resilience	Sustainability	Inclusivity	Wellbeing & Health
Asset Management Plan	✓	✓		✓
Climate Strategy	✓	✓		✓
Digital Strategy	✓	✓	✓	
Great Outdoors Strategy			✓	✓
Health & Wellbeing Strategy	✓		✓	✓
Healthy Impact Assessment	✓		✓	✓
Housing Strategy		✓	✓	✓
Local Flood Risk Management Strategy	✓	✓		
Local Plan	✓	✓		



	Resilience	Sustainability	Inclusivity	Wellbeing & Health
LTP4 / Active Travel	✓	✓	✓	✓
Place Plans	✓	✓	✓	✓
Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy				✓
Rural / Community Strategy	✓	✓	✓	✓
Shropshire Green Infrastructure Strategy	✓	✓		
Shropshire Plan	✓	✓	✓	✓
Woodland & Trees Strategy		✓		✓
Vibrant Economy Strategy		✓		✓
Visitor Economy Strategy		✓		✓

ACTION & DELIVERY PLAN FRAMEWORK



Supporting
Local Business



Strategic
Locations



Employment
and Skills



AMBITION

Alongside the themes overall ambition the objectives start to identify development programmes and activities that the SEP will champion through development and subsequent delivery.

Objective	Potential Intervention	Potential Partners	Approach	Outcome	Potential Funding Source
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DELIVERY

These projects represent current activity and projects that support the delivery of the Economic Growth Strategy.

Project	Delivery Partners	Outputs	Outcomes	Timescale	Funding Channel
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AMBITION



Supporting
Local Business

To continue to provide comprehensive business support to new and existing employment markets/sectors, growing and attracting high-value sectors that support the creation of high-value jobs. Enabling resilience planning in all areas and supporting businesses to enhance their workforce’s wellbeing and their corporate responsibility.

Objective	Potential Intervention	Potential Partners	Approach	Outcome	Potential Funding Source
1. Build on established Business Support provision - to reflect business need.	Applying best practice from previous schemes and develop follow on.	Shropshire Chamber, FSB, LA partners, external providers.	Business support models and grant programmes.	Business growth and job creation. Increased Productivity	UKSPF Private sector match
2. Investment in open markets and improvements to town centre markets.	Develop grant schemes to support market hall traders.	Town Councils, BIDs.	Investment and grant programmes	New businesses. Job creation.	UKSPF Other public funding
3. Encourage investment in Research & Development.	Apply best practice from existing ERDF-funded innovation and knowledge schemes .	Harper Adams, Chester, Aston, Birmingham Unis.	Business support and grant schemes.	Increased productivity, new processes, new products .	UKSPF
4. Decarbonisation - supporting the natural environment.	Green economy sector support activity Resource efficiency Improving biodiversity.	Local authorities, Shropshire Chamber and other partners.	Business support and grant schemes.	CO2 reduction. Lower energy consumption. Increased energy production from renewable sources.	Marches Energy Fund UKSPF Private sector match
5. Support and strengthen Shropshire’s 'key sectors'.	Best practice consortiums, peer to peer networking.	DIT, Shropshire Chamber and Shropshire Council.	Business support and networking opportunities.	Increased export. Development of sector supply chains and procurement opportunities	DIT UKSPF
6. Develop and promote the visitor economy and cultural offer.	Develop activities to strengthen resilience of the locality.	Cultural Consortium partners, Visit Shropshire, Shropshire Chamber.	Marketing and promotion, Data analysis, Capital grants.	Increased day and overnight visitors.	UKSPF Other public sector funding Private sector support through Visit Shropshire

CURRENT PROJECTS



Supporting Local Business

What follows is only one example of current activity that is in delivery that will support delivery of the Shropshire Economic Growth Strategy, its purpose is to demonstrate the framework that will be used in delivery of the Action and Delivery Plan.

Example Business Support Project	Delivery Partners	Outputs	Outcomes	Timescale	Funding Channel
Continuation of Growth Hub model to deliver core offering of business support, 1 2 1 advice and support, access to funding and Finance, Support with Skills and Training, Webinars, workshops, Networking, Podcasts etc.	Marches Growth Hub, Suite of pre-approved Business Advisers and Trainers, Good2Great Ltd and DiT	Improved levels of business confidence. Improved/ sustained levels of business survival. Number of business receiving non financial support / 12 hours specialist support / Medium intensity support / Training etc.	Agile, frequently used, and responsive business support service. Increased provision of peer-to-peer business networks and connected clusters . Continued and increased availability and relevance of business support and access to finance opportunities	2022 onwards	UKSPF





Strategic Locations

To continue to provide comprehensive business support to new and existing employment markets/sectors, growing and attracting high-value sectors that support the creation of high-value jobs. Enabling resilience planning in all areas and supporting businesses to enhance their workforce’s wellbeing and their corporate responsibility.

Objective	Potential Intervention	Potential Partners	Approach	Outcome	Potential Funding Source
1.Active involvement in place-making.	Investment plans .	Shropshire Council; Town and Parish Council; BID; Business Community.	A market town to be selected as pilot area.	To replicate the investment model across a number of market towns.	UKSPF
2.Working cross border on projects - utilising the strategic position.	Shared infrastructure; drive cross border business; supply chain development;	WMCA; Midlands Engine; LEP; Midlands Connect; Welsh Assembly; Neighbouring local authorities; Mersey-Dee Alliance .	Lobby, relationship building, working on joint approaches and funding opportunities.	Developed partnerships, joint projects, private and public investment, Government recognition .	WMCA, Partners.
3.Enabling clean, inclusive, sustainable, low carbon and good quality economic growth.	Strategic Infrastructure Investment Network.	ALL - Public, Private, Community.	National and Local policy - implement National targets; developing sustainable projects.	Reduce the impact of economic growth on the natural environment.	UKSPF, DEFRA.
4.Bring forward employment sites.	Appropriate supply of service and employment land; Growth corridors focus - A5, A49, A483, M54.	Shropshire businesses and developers.	Responding to need and Local Plan allocations.	Retaining and expanding local business;	Shropshire Council, Private Sector, Government funding.
5.Town Centre renewal and resilience.	High Street development, active travel and connectivity, destination marketing.	Shropshire Council, Town and Parish Councils, BID, Business Community, Visit Shropshire.	Funding bids, Cultural Compact.	The Cultural Compact is to be established to deliver strategic ambitions.	

CURRENT PROJECTS



Strategic Locations

What follows is only one example of current activity that is in delivery that will support delivery of the Shropshire Economic Growth Strategy, its purpose is to demonstrate the framework that will be used in delivery of the Action and Delivery Plan.

Example Strategic Locations Project	Delivery Partners	Outputs	Outcomes	Timescale	Funding Channel
Future Oswestry	Oswestry BID, Town Council, Shropshire Council	Delivery Plan in development bringing together priorities and proposals developed from the Masterplan Vision.	Making Oswestry a better place to live, do business and a healthier and more sustainable town.	Delivery Plan to identify short term projects (0-5 years) to long term aspirations (10-15 years).	LUF2, UKSPF, HSHAZ, partner resources, private leverage





To retain and develop a skilled workforce where individuals have opportunities to progress in the labour market through up-skilling, re-skilling and developing transferable skills, through delivering higher level skills to meet the demands of businesses within the local economy.

Employment and Skills

Objective	Potential Intervention	Potential Partners	Approach	Outcome	Potential Funding Source
1. Continually map and address skills gaps by working with the community and voluntary sectors.	Local Skills Plans	ALL	Utilising VCS and business support; networking opportunities.	Support initiatives that empower VCS, SME's and employers to articulate and review skills gaps and plan for the future.	
2. Develop and deliver opportunities for retraining and upskilling the workforce including basic skill provision, reskilling and the development of transferable skills to improve employability.	'Local Skills Hub'	ALL	Build connection between Shropshire's Skills Offer to the wider business and economic community.	Enabling clear advice and support to SME's, businesses, VCS, and residents/community about the range of Shropshire's skills offer.	UKSPF
3. Work with training providers to meet the skill needs of the business community.	Opportunities for training providers to align to businesses to review and meet skills needs.	ALL education & training providers Shropshire Businesses	Business support and networking opportunities; promote funding opportunities and joint working approaches.	Aligning skills provision to current and future jobs growth and economic opportunities for emerging sectors	UKSPF DfE
4. Continue to work with schools, colleges and businesses to develop and retain young talent alongside increasing employer engagement and take up of apprenticeships in SME's.	A dedicated [young] people's 'one stop service'	Marches Careers Enterprise Centre All education & training providers Shropshire Businesses	Provide tailored information on local careers, work experience opportunities, apprenticeships, entrepreneurship, self-employment, skills development, and the availability of wider support.	Retain [young] talent within Shropshire, providing an emerging workforce who are ready to work and who have the right skills. Increase the number of apprenticeships through Shropshire's skills offer	DfE

CURRENT PROJECTS



What follows is only one example of current activity that is in delivery that will support delivery of the Shropshire Economic Growth Strategy, its purpose is to demonstrate the framework that will be used in delivery of the Action and Delivery Plan.

Employment and Skills

Example Employment and Skills Project	Delivery Partners	Outputs	Outcomes	Timescale	Funding Channel
Marches Skills Advisory Panel	Marches LEP	The Local Skills Report [2022] aims to influence local partners and provides intelligence to central government.	Provide strong local leadership by increasing understanding of our labour market and skills issues, driving engagement with employers and liaison with training providers.	2022 onwards	DfE





UKSPF

Investment
Plans

Growth Hub



Design
Codes

Silverpreneurs®

SBLTV
Knowledge



Coworking
Hubs

Business Park
Programme

Examples of Current
Activities & Delivery Projects

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

DfE

Dept for Education, responsible for children's services and education, including early years, schools, higher and further education policy

DIT

Dept for International Trade, responsible for business import and export activity

DLUHC

Dept of Levelling Up, Housing & Communities – a Government Department

HSHAZ

High Street Heritage Action Zone funding, an allocation from Historic England to preserve the heritage assets in key areas

KPI's

Key Performance Indicators are quantifiable measures that will be used to evaluate the success of the strategy

LUF2

Levelling Up Fund (round 2) provided by DLUHC

LTP4

Local Transport Plan, a document that details all highways and transport requirements over a set period of time

MARCHES CEC

The Careers and Enterprise Company - the national body for careers education in England, supporting schools and colleges to deliver modern, 21st century careers education

PMO

Programme Management Office, a new resource at Shropshire Council to better coordinate projects and activities

SEP

Shropshire Economic Partnership, who will take over ownership of the Strategy from the Economic Taskforce, will also include the Shropshire Business Board

UKSPF

UK Shared Prosperity Funding, a replacement fund for the ERDF and ESF Provided by DLUHC

WMCA

West Midlands Combined Authority, representing Local Authorities to make the region a better place. The government gives them money and power to make decisions for their region



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Committee and Date

Council
15th December 2022

Item

Public

Recruitment of Co-opted Independent Members for the Audit Committee

Responsible Officer

James Walton

e-mail: james.walton@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 258915

1. Synopsis

In line with best practice, the Audit Committee is seeking to recruit a co-opted, independent member to sit alongside elected members and attend a combination of virtual and physical Audit Committee meetings for a four-year term.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The Local Government Association (LGA) Finance Peer Review carried out in June 2022 urged the Council to consider appointing a co-opted independent member as part of the Audit Committee. The merits of such an appointment include the opportunity to make productive and helpful contributions to the Committee which would align with the thinking of other councils and the Government's direction of travel.
- 2.2. Agreement is now needed to progress with recruitment to this role to ensure the Committee is compliant with the membership change.
- 2.3. This appointment is expected to support the Council's priority for a Healthy Organisation, helping deliver the strategic objective of ensuring that councillors are supported to advocate for their constituents but also be ambassadors for the council.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. That the Council consider the approach set out in the report, and delegate authority to the Executive Director of Resources (in consultation with the Chair of the Audit Committee) to progress

recruitment of a co-opted independent person for a term of four years.

- 3.2. That the Council nominate members to a panel who will undertake the shortlisting, carry out interviews and recommend the successful candidate for this role to Council on a date to be confirmed in early 2023.

REPORT

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1. The risk of not attracting candidates for this role will be managed through the strategy for marketing the role across the Council's social media channels and local press engagement.
- 4.2. There are clear criteria set out in the application pack to ensure that candidates for this role can offer the expertise and knowledge to the Committee, balanced with political neutrality.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. Expense arrangements in place are consistent with those for other non-elected, co-opted committee members and there will be a small cost in providing IT licenses. There are no financial implications outside of the Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy in adopting the recommendations proposed.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.1. There are no direct implications for Climate Change in progressing this appointment.

7. Background

- 7.1. The Local Government Association (LGA) Finance Peer Review carried out in June 2022 urged the Council to consider appointing an independent member as part of the Audit Committee.
- 7.2. The Audit Committee has considered this as part of their self-evaluation against the CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) Guidance on the function and operation of Audit Committees and agrees the need for an independent co-opted member.
- 7.3. An independent member is entitled to be reimbursed for expenses but not to receive any allowance or remuneration.
- 7.4. Co-opted members to Council committees are not members of the Council itself, therefore other than in limited circumstances (for

example, an advisory committee established under s102(4) Local Government Act 1972) they have no voting rights. Co-opted members would instead be consulted during committee meetings and their views considered by voting members of the committee.

- 7.5. An approach for the advertisement, recruitment and selection to these roles is set out below. A draft timetable is included in **Appendix 1**.

Role Profile

- 7.6. A draft application pack, including the role profile which for the co-opted independent member is attached at **Appendix 2** to this report. This sets out the knowledge and experience requirements which are needed to best support the effective performance of the Committee.

Advertisement

- 7.7. Information about the roles will be hosted on the Council's website, supported by communications in the local press and across the Council's social media channels. A period of three weeks for the roles being advertised is suggested, with the deadline for applications being received at the end of that period.

Selection

- 7.8. Council will need to nominate members to carry out shortlisting and interviewing the candidates. It is recommended that this is carried out by the Chair, Vice Chair, and a member of the Audit Committee, who would be supported in the process by officers.
- 7.9. Applications will be reviewed by the appointed panel against the role profile in the application pack, and shortlisted candidates will be invited to interview; these can be facilitated virtually. Following the interview process, and subject to references successfully being obtained, the panel will recommend the co-option of one of the candidates to Council.
- 7.10. Details of the candidates will be circulated to members of the Audit Committee, and the candidates will be invited to attend Committee meetings along with induction training.

8. Additional Information

- 8.1. Council is required to approve changes to committee structures and composition. The co-option of an independent member to the Audit Committee therefore needs to be agreed by Council and included in the Constitution.

- 8.2. Any appointments must comply with s102(3) Local Government Act 1972 (power to co-opt from outside Council membership) and s13 Local Government & Housing Act 1989 (which pertains to voting rights).
- 8.3. The arrangements in this report seek to implement the recommendations which have been agreed to, having demonstrated that the Committee has considered best practice and the impact of the move to the governance system operation and has identified proposals to ensure the Committee composition and structure is appropriate for local requirements.

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)

Cllr Gwilym Butler, Portfolio Holder Finance and Corporate Support
Cllr Brian Williams, Chair of Audit Committee

Local Member

n/a

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Proposed timeline of recruitment

Appendix 2 – Application Pack

Proposed timeline for recruitment of co-opted independent member of the Audit Committee

For Council to approve candidates at 2 March 2023 meeting

w/c 12.12.22	Report on suggested approach including draft application pack to be considered and approved by Council.
w/c 19.12.22	Web page to be launched, press release published by Communications team, social media campaign begins Application period opens
w/c 09.01.23	Application deadline: Wednesday 11 January 2023
w/c 16.01.23	Shortlisting of candidates to take place by a panel including the Chair of Audit Committee supported by officers if needed.
w/c 30.01.23/ 06.02.23	Interviews to be held
w/c 13.02.23	Provisional offers to be made to successful candidates subject to reference check
w/c 20.02.23	Report to be submitted to Council nominating successful candidates
w/c 27.02.23	2 March 2023 - Council Induction training for co-opted independent members
June/July 2023	Date tbc - Audit Committee Co-opted independent members introduced to Committee.

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Audit Committee

Appointment of an Independent Member

Application Pack

November 2022



<p style="text-align: center;">AUDIT COMMITTEE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED INDEPENDENT MEMBERS</p>

This application pack includes;

- Background to Shropshire Council
- The Council's Audit Committee
- Applicant Information; role description and role specification
- Shropshire Council Member's Code of Conduct
- Application Process

Expectations of applicants

The Council is currently recruiting for a co-opted independent member of the Audit Committee.

The successful applicant will need to be available to attend approximately five meetings of the Committee in any year and any associated training and development events. We expect that applicants will need to be able to attend a combination of virtual and physical meetings. Applicants will need to be contactable throughout the year. The appointment will be made for four years.

Applicants must disclose to the Council any matter that might damage the reputation of the Council or indicate a real or perceived conflict of interest with the role of the Audit Committee.

Previous experience of audit committees may be helpful but is not essential.

Co-opted independent members should not be (or have been, within the last three years) an Elected Member or employee of Shropshire Council; or any of its wholly owned companies.

Co-opted independent members should not be (or have been, within the last five years) a Councillor/Elected Member with any other Local Authority (including town or parish councils).

Co-opted independent members should not be affiliated with any political party, or have been affiliated, within the last five years.

The council seeks to reflect and represent all its residents and welcomes applications from the Shropshire community. The successful candidate will be resident in the Shropshire area.

The co-opted independent member is not a job vacancy; should you be appointed you will not be an employee of the Council. The successful applicant will receive specific training to enable them to undertake their new role effectively.

The closing date for receipt of applications is 11 January 2023

SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL

Background

Shropshire Council was established in April 2009 as part of the structural changes to local government in England. The Council is responsible for, amongst other things, maintaining the roads, providing transport services, commissioning school places and specialist support services for vulnerable children and their families, educating children, providing social care to elderly and vulnerable people and looking after waste and recycling.

Shropshire Council's vision is 'Shropshire Living the Best Life'. Our elected members have a pivotal role in bringing about improvements to the quality of life of people living in the County. They do this by making decisions, delivering change, challenging and scrutinising proposed actions and taking up issues raised with them by their constituents.

THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee is a key component of the Council's arrangements to support good governance at Shropshire Council. It provides

- i. an independent and high-level focus on the audit, assurance and reporting arrangements that underpin good governance and financial standards;
- ii. independent review of the Council's governance, risk management, control frameworks and oversees the financial reporting and annual governance processes; and
- iii. promotes high standards of ethical behaviour by developing, maintaining and monitoring Codes of Conduct for Councillors and co-opted Members (including other persons acting in a similar capacity).

The Audit Committee, like all of the Council's Committees, must be politically balanced. However, the success of the Audit Committee depends upon its ability to remain apolitical. It must adopt a non-political approach to its meetings and discussions at all times.

OFFICIAL

Page 9 of 16

The co-option of independent members will help to bring additional knowledge and expertise to the committee and also reinforce its political neutrality and independence.

Co-opted members to Council committees are not members of the Council itself, therefore other than in limited circumstances (for example, an advisory committee established under s102(4) Local Government Act 1972) they have no voting rights. Co-opted members would instead be consulted during committee meetings and their views taken into account by voting members of the committee.

Where the Council has delegated to the Committee decisions such as the adoption of financial statements, the independent member should not be able to vote on those matters.

The detailed functions in respect of governance, risk and control; internal audit; external audit; financial reporting; accountability arrangements; related functions and standards arrangements can be found in the Council's [Constitution](#).

INDEPENDENT MEMBER ROLE PROFILE

1. To promote and support the good governance of the Council and its affairs
2. To promote and support open and transparent government
3. To provide support and encouragement to new Councillors
4. To be committed to the values of the Council, set out in our [Shropshire Plan](#)
5. To be committed to the values expected of those in public office, established in the Seven Principles of Public Life:
 - Selflessness
 - Integrity
 - Objectively
 - Accountability
 - Openness
 - Honesty
 - Leadership

INDEPENDENT MEMBER PERSON SPECIFICATION

The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate the following

1. Good advocacy skills: able to present relevant and well-reasoned arguments, and provide effective and constructive challenge
2. Ability to set aside own views and always remain open-minded, objective, and impartial and act with integrity
3. Ability to analyse, interpret and absorb information and evidence effectively and quickly
4. Good communication and interpersonal skills; a confident public speaker

5. Ability and willingness to challenge ideas and contribute positively to policy development
6. Understanding the role of officers, members and other agencies and ability to have constructive and challenging dialogue with other Members and Officers
7. Respect for, and desire to work with different groups and individuals with a commitment to supporting continual improvement and development within the Council
8. Practical experience in financial management/accountancy within the public or private sector
9. Understanding and compliance with confidentiality requirements

Demonstrating the following would be desirable:

10. Knowledge and understanding of meeting law, rules and conventions
11. Understanding of delegated powers
12. Understanding of strategic, policy and service contexts for decisions, focusing on material issues
13. Knowledge of and commitment to the values of the Council
14. An understanding of the roles and purpose of Internal and External Audit

BEHAVIOUR and CODE OF CONDUCT

Whilst operating as a member of the Audit Committee, co-opted independent members are expected to follow the Nolan Principles of Standards in Public Life, which form the basis of the elected Member's Code of Conduct.

For information, a copy of the current code of conduct can be found here;

<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/ecSDDisplay.aspx?ID=416&RPID=519353511>

APPLICATION PROCESS

Closing Date

The closing date for receipt of applications is Wednesday 11 January 2023

Please submit your application form to:

Assistant Director of Legal & Governance
Shropshire Council
Shirehall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
Shropshire
SY2 6ND

Or tim.collard@shropshire.gov.uk

Selection of candidates will be strictly in accordance with the role description and role specification outlined in this pack and will be based on the information contained in your application only, as supported by references.

Acknowledgements

Your application will be acknowledged, and you will be advised as to whether you have been selected for interview or not in due course.

Selection

Short listing for this appointment will be based upon an assessment of how applicants meet the criteria in the 'Person Specification' as evidenced by the application.

It is suggested therefore that you include information on how you meet the criteria.

The Interview Panel may include both Members and officers of the Council.

Referees

Please note that your two referees will be contacted without further notice to you unless you indicate to the contrary.

<p align="center">APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT AS AN INDEPENDENT MEMBER OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE</p>
--

1. PERSONAL DETAILS

TITLE :

FULL NAME:

HOME ADDRESS:

CONTACT TELEPHONE NO:

EMAIL:

2. Have you ever been a Councillor, co-opted member or officer of Shropshire Council or a Councillor, co-opted member or officer of a parish or town council which falls within Shropshire?
--

YES/NO

<i>If your answer to this question is yes, please give the date on which you ceased to Member or employee.</i>
--

3. Are you related to, or a close friend of, a member or employee of Shropshire Council?

YES/NO

<i>If your answer to this question is yes, please give details below</i>
--

4. Are you, or have you been a member of a political party?
YES/NO
<i>If the answer to this question is yes, please give details below</i>
5. Please indicate whether there is any matter concerning your own conduct which, if it were generally known, might affect public confidence in your ability to contribute to the work of the Audit Committee.
6. Please confirm that you are able to meet the attendance requirements of the role i.e. attending ad hoc meetings (called at short notice) at Council venues or by way of video conference.

7. Please say why you wish to be considered for the post of Independent Member and what you could offer the Council. Give brief details of your experience (e.g. employment/business/professional/voluntary/public service) and qualifications, and any other matter which you consider relevant to your suitability for appointment. Please also explain how you meet the role profile and person specification outlined in the application pack.

continue on a separate sheet if required

8. References: Please give the name, address, and telephone number of two referees who are not related to you and are not members of a borough/town or parish council within Shropshire and who are able to comment on your suitability for appointment. (Your referees will be contacted without further notice to you, unless you indicate to the contrary).

Referee 1

Name:

Address:

Telephone Number:

Referee 2

Name:

Address

Telephone Number

Data Protection Act

Information from this form will be processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018. In signing it you agree to this data being held and processed and if appointed to the position you also agree to further personal information, including sensitive data (e.g. bank details) being held and processed by Cheshire East Council in accordance with the Act.

DECLARATION	
<p>I wish to be considered for appointment as an Independent Member of the Audit Committee and confirm that, if appointed, I will undertake to observe the code of conduct for councillors and co-opted members of Shropshire Council, as adopted by the Council.</p> <p>The information which I have given is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.</p>	
SIGNATURE	
DATE	

Please return the completed application form to:

Assistant Director of Legal & Governance
Shropshire Council
Shirehall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
Shropshire
SY2 6ND

Or tim.collard@shropshire.gov.uk

Deadline for receipt of applications: 11 January 2023

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Committee and Date

Council 15 December 2022

Item

Public

Allocation of Committee Seats and Appointments

**Responsible
Officer**

Tim Collard

e-mail: Tim.collard@shropshire.gov.uk

Tel: 252756

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 As a result of the election of Councillor Rachel Connolly and Andy Boddington re-joining the Liberal Democrat Group, amendments are required to the distribution of seats on committees, and other bodies to which proportionality rules apply. In order to ensure proportionality, it has been suggested that the number of seats on each Scrutiny Committee should be reduced from 10 to 9.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 As part of the Council's priority within the Shropshire Plan to maintain the Council as a Healthy Organisation, we must ensure compliance with the political balance rules. Not only does this meet legislative requirements but it also promotes "a strong, well-governed decision-making process that delivers effective services."
- 2.2 The provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 require the Council to review the representation of each political group on committees, panels etc. at each annual meeting or as soon as practicable after that meeting. The regulations require that all Scrutiny, Standing and Regulatory Committees are politically balanced across the total number of committee places. Subject to that overriding requirement, each committee must also be politically balanced, as far as it is reasonably practicable.
- 2.3 The Executive (Cabinet) is not subject to the political balance rules.

- 2.4 Advisory Committees and other ad hoc bodies and groups are not subject to the political balance rules either, but traditionally political proportionality has been applied to them outside the overall aggregate balance referred to in paragraph 2.1 above.
- 2.5 Following her election to the Bridgnorth West and Tasley Division, the Council has been advised that Councillor Connolly is to be a member of the Labour Group. The by-election was required to be held following the passing of Les Winwood, who had been a member of the Conservative Group.
- 2.6 A notice has been received to confirm that Councillor Andy Boddington has joined the Liberal Democrat group. He was previously not aligned to any political group.
- 2.7 Accordingly, it is necessary to review the membership of committees to reflect this change in the relative size of the political groups.
- 2.8 In order to accurately reflect the political balance of the authority, it is suggested that the most appropriate option is to reduce the number of seats on each of the Scrutiny Committees from 10 to 9. As a consequence, the Conservative membership on each of the Scrutiny Committees will be reduced by one to five. In order to maintain political balance across the Councils Committees, one seat on the Housing Supervisory Board will be lost by the Independent Group and re-allocated to the Liberal Democrat group. The Independent Group will be allocated a seat on the Southern Planning Committee.
- 2.9 In addition, since the last meeting of the Council, a number of changes have been made to the membership of Committees.

3. Recommendations

- 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 Conservative Group provides notification of which of its members will be removed from each of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- c) That the Leader of the Independent Group provides notification of which of its members will be allocated to the Southern Planning Committee.
- d) That the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group provides notification of which of its members will be allocated to the Housing Supervisory Board.

3.2 The following changes to committee membership be noted:

Southern Planning Committee

Councillor Heather Kidd to replace Councillor Richard Huffer as a member of the Southern Planning Committee

Councillor Roger Evans to replace Councillor Heather Kidd as a member of the Southern Planning Committee

Councillor Ed Potter to replace Councillor Richard Marshall as a member of the Southern Planning Committee

Northern Planning Committee

Councillor Nat Green to replace Councillor Alex Wagner as a member of the Northern Planning Committee

Councillor Alex Wagner to replace Councillor Nat Green as a substitute member of the Northern Planning Committee

Councillor Ed Potter to be appointed as a substitute member of the Northern Planning Committee

REPORT

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1 The Council is obliged to ensure that the membership of committees and related bodies is proportionate to individual group membership.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 The allocation of seats on Committees will have no obvious financial implications.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.1 The allocation of seats on Committees will have no obvious impact in terms of climate change.

7. Background

- 7.1 The Council is required to approve the allocation of seats to the political groups for the remainder of the coming year. In accordance with the Political Balance Rules, the revised maximum number of seats available to each of the groups will be:

Group Name	Seats per Group
Conservatives	61 (-5)
Liberal Democrats	22 (+1)
Labour	14
Independent	6
Green	6
Total	109

- 7.2 Since the last Council meeting, notification has been received of changes to the membership of Committees.

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

None

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder) – Leader of the Council

Local Member - All

Appendices

None

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MEMBER QUESTIONS

Question from Councillors Dan Morris and Steve Davenport

Could the Portfolio Holder for Highways Cllr Richard Marshall update Council on the status of the economically important Pant-Llanymynech bypass? In addition, given the new found enthusiasm for road bypasses by some parties who were seemingly hitherto unconvinced of the economic and environmental benefit of building bypasses, does he now expect a similar new found enthusiasm and support from them for the North West Relief Road, and please could he update Council on when he now expects determination at planning for the NWRR?

Response from Councillor Richard Marshall, Portfolio Holder for Highways and Regulatory Services

Can I thank the members for the question. Contrary to what many would have you believe it is vital that we continue to invest in the critical infrastructure of the county to ensure our economy is as productive as we can be, that people can move around and access essential services and that our connectivity to the rest of the UK places us in the best possible position.

As everyone knows Shropshire wrestles with pockets of deprivation in various locations, but tackling rural deprivation and improving access to services, education and employment is perhaps the key one which can raise the level of our local economy and contribute to improved quality of life. Of course when such work is done well it can help mitigate a range of wider environmental pressures such as congestion and the resultant air pollution.

I was very pleased to hear the Liberal Democrat MP for North Shropshire on the radio publicly supporting the administration's policy of road building and I very much look forward to working cross party to ensure both the pan-Llanymynech by pass and the NWRR are delivered.

My understanding is that the DfT are still working on developing an Outline Business Case for the Pant-Llanymynech by pass and I am delighted to say that for Shrewsbury NWRR we have almost concluded the extensive amount of ground investigation and environmental assessment work required to satisfy the requirements of the Environment Agency and Natural England. The aim is to complete the submission of that information in January which then enable the matter to be considered by Planning Committee in the spring.

Question from Councillor Julian Dean

Energy bills are a continuing challenge for small businesses as well as for households. Meanwhile the council has a commitment to achieve carbon neutral status by 2030 on its own estate.

What energy efficiency measures have been installed in the Darwin Shopping Centre since its acquisition? Have PV panels been installed on its extensive roof space?

Are tenants provided with advice and guidance on reducing energy use? Is there a renewable energy purchase scheme promoted to tenants?

Are greenhouse gas emissions for the shopping centre included in council emissions reporting?

Beyond the Darwin Shopping Centre is there a programme of support and guidance on energy saving measures and renewable energy installation for the council's business tenants elsewhere?

Response from Councillor Ian Nellins, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, Environment and Transport

Q. What energy efficiency measures have been installed in the Darwin Shopping Centre since its acquisition?

- Core C goods lift has been installed this year and utilises the latest technology and energy efficient drive system. This was a consideration when choosing the type of lift needed.
- The centre energy contracts are all with West Mercia Energy to give us the best possible costs / contracts available.
- The gas meter has been removed from the Pride Hill centre and a programme of removing electricity meters in the Riverside is ongoing. This reduces standing charges on redundant areas.

Following an Env' Audit by the previous owners –

- All lights within the Darwin centre have been changed to LED. This includes the new (for 2022) Xmas lights in the Darwin – energy efficiency was a part of the tender process by centre management + Shropshire Council. The centres power supplies are split into essential (24hr) and non-essential (timed). To offer the most savings we have installed dimmable / motion sensor-controlled lighting in the back of house areas so no lights are operating when the centre is closed.

- All escalators in the Darwin have “eco” mode to aid in saving energy.
- The centre’s BMS operates equipment at minimum times.
- Historically the centre was heated throughout however the heater units were inefficient and were removed as part of the Primark project. The centre now utilises heat from the atriums (solar gain) and retains this heat with air curtains and overdoor heaters at the entrances.

With the above in mind, it was considered by auditors that unless very significant costs are incurred to change or install new systems the Darwin Centre operates as efficiently as possible.

Q. Have PV panels been installed on its extensive roof space?

- This has been looked at previously however the cost to install was considered prohibitive. Although the Darwin roof is extensive it is littered with tenant owned / maintained HVAC and our smoke extract systems, so a clear space is not available to install enough panels to make it viable.
- Additionally, water harvesting was also investigated however as an add on it again was considered unviable when considering initial install costs versus ongoing savings within the public toilets.

Q. Are tenants provided with advice and guidance on reducing energy use?

- National retailers will follow their own advice from head office however independent are advised to consult with their energy providers.
- The tenants fit out guide includes a section on environmental considerations and specifically highlight energy efficiency when choosing materials and products. Raw materials with inherently lower environmental impact (e.g. recycled paper, packaging made from recycled materials etc.) and increase the proportion of wood and wood products (supplied as raw materials) which are derived from certified sources and sustainable forestry (FSC) should be used where possible.

Q. Is there a renewable energy purchase scheme promoted to tenants?

- All tenants have their own metered supplies therefore national retailers will be tied into contracts via their brokers. As a

recommendation new, independent tenants, are given information for West Mercia Energy (Shropshire Council energy brokers) however the decision is theirs.

Q. Are greenhouse gas emissions for the shopping centre included in council emissions reporting?

- Carbon emissions from the shopping centre are not included in SC's footprint since we are not directly responsible for emissions generated by our tenants.

Question from Councillor Mike Isherwood

Following the tragic death of Awaab Ishak and the coroner's ruling that the toddler died due to a respiratory condition caused by mould growing in his family's home, can portfolio-holder Cllr Dean Carroll tell Council what steps he and his department are taking to ensure that a similar situation does not arise in any property of which Shropshire Council is ultimately landlord.

Response from Councillor Dean Carroll, Portfolio Holder for Growth, Regeneration and Housing

Members will be aware that Shropshire's Council housing is managed on our behalf by our Arm's Length Management Organisation, Shropshire Towns and Rural (STAR) Housing.

The risk of condensation and mould growth is something that STAR has always been aware of and works closely with tenants to alleviate such issues as they arise. We are also aware that due to the cost-of-living crisis the potential that residents may not being able to afford to heat their homes adequately has increased. As a result, STAR has been working hard this year to update processes.

STAR Housing already has in place a 5-year stock condition survey programme, providing clear condition data about the stock. This exceeds usual good practice, as most Registered Providers have only 10% stock condition data, from which they extrapolate to make assumptions on the remainder.

All of STAR's contract officers and responsive repairs team leaders received Housing Health and Safety Rating System training from a qualified Housing Quality Network trainer in September 2022, with particular emphasis on damp and mould. The team had previously been trained in this, but this refresher training has ensured new staff were also captured.

All of STAR's external contractors are expected to report any issues of concern to STAR. This can include anything from damp and mould to issues of hoarding, or of child neglect. A strong relationship has been built with contractors, who are happy to assist as "eyes and ears" in properties where access may otherwise be difficult.

STAR's own in-house team of operatives are also expected to report any issues they observe via e-forms, which are directed to the relevant teams to be actioned.

Since early Autumn STAR's contact centre has become more proactive, checking with every tenant when they report any type of repair to ask whether they have any damp or mould concerns. Where issues are reported, when the operative attends to carry out the original repair, they will also carry out an inspection to see if they can determine the cause of these issues. If necessary, a further inspection by a repairs team leader will be carried out. If it is something that the operative can identify (e.g., a fault with an extractor fan) they will then report this repair for action.

Where a tenant reports damp and mould, STAR carries out an inspection. Where required, for example if it is due to a structural issue or damp-proof course failure, a further specialist survey is done by contractors who then recommend remedial works. Alternatively, there may be a need for the tenant to be signposted to STAR's Financial Inclusion team to see what assistance can be provided to access additional financial support for them to increase their home heating usage.

STAR regularly posts and publishes "help us to help you" information asking tenants to report issues and reminding them how they can make contact, via phone or email. Energy efficiency advice is provided both on the STAR website and via tenants' newsletters posted out to them. The website has advice videos, including "Breaking the mould" giving advice about how to avoid condensation and mould.

From October 2022 STAR's Housing Support Officers have been carrying out monthly checks to see whether the extractor fans in our supported clients' homes are working, or whether the tenant has turned them off. This ensures ventilation of the property.

STAR reviews complaints on a regular basis, including any disrepair claims to see whether there are any "lessons learnt", or where we can prevent further issues occurring. As an example, the monthly checks by support workers were initiated following identification of an issue of supported tenants turning extractor fans off. STAR now works closely with tenants so that they understand the importance of ventilation and that the costs of having the fans operating are minimal.

STAR's board has recently approved additional funding for further help and assistance, both towards the cost-of-living crisis, and any increase in reports of damp and mould. This includes an additional financial inclusion officer to provide further advice as required for those concerned about use of their heating and other bills.

Question from Councillor Rob Wilson

Since May 2021:

How many miles of road have been resurfaced in Shropshire?

How many miles of footpath have been resurfaced in Shropshire?

How many miles of cycle path have been resurfaced in Shropshire?

Response from Councillor Richard Marshall, Portfolio Holder for Highways and Regulatory Services

Since the start of May 2021, Shropshire Council has undertaken:

- 229 miles of road resurfaced
- 14 miles of footway resurfaced
- no cycleways have been resurfaced in that period (however 3/4 mile of cycle lane resurfaced on Abbey Foregate as part of a carriageway scheme).

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