

## CABINET 7 SEPTEMBER 2022

### Member Questions

<b>Question from:</b>	Julian Dean	
<b>Subject:</b>	Sustainable Warmth Programme	
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Ian Nellins	Approved

I'm sure cabinet will agree that effective and urgent delivery of the sustainable warmth programme is a top priority for the council as we approach a winter with unprecedented fuel costs. Timely delivery of measures into the homes of those who qualify is dependent on capacity at council level, speedy procurement and contracting, and effective working with partners, both at the Marches Energy Agency and in the associated trades. Following a recent email from a resident who was concerned that delays might mean the loft insulation she is likely to qualify for might not be in place for the winter, what assurances can be given that all teams associated with the delivery of this programme are on track to deliver measures at pace?

These Local Authority Delivery (LAD) and Home Upgrade (HUG) schemes collectively known as the Sustainable Warmth scheme, represent the Affordable Warmth & Energy Efficiency (AWEE) team and Government's first foray into attempting to deliver to the new "Whole House" approach. This work is particularly challenging in Shropshire where we have a lot of older, hard to treat properties, this is complicated and done poorly has the potential to cause a lot of damage both structurally to homes and reputationally to the council. So far we have delivered Low Carbon heating measures to the value of £420,000 to homes across the county. The AWEE team now have both contracts (to the value of £4.96m) in place to deliver all the major measures and funding out until the end of March 2023. Due to this we are in negotiations with the funders to draw down more funding as we now have demonstrable capacity to deliver. As one of only 3 LA's consulted, we have been working closely with BEIS to better target their approach to assist rural areas like ourselves. The next round of funding for HUG will open imminently and the team are working hard to prepare a programme of works that will significantly increase the level of works going forward.

Our innovative procurement model has secured lead Contractors that have agreed to bring a package of training and support whilst being actively involved in delivery, for local non accredited businesses that will enable them to bid in their own right in the future. To that end we are hosting 2 "Local Installer" events where interested installers can meet the Lead Contractors and understand exactly what accreditation entails and what support is on offer. The team are trialling various ways to deliver on the more difficult cases including using Structural Surveyors and Architects to project manage complicated jobs; and using various different funding streams such as Household Support fund to cover the "enabling" works that we are coming across such as damp works etc, necessary before the primary measures can be installed. All of this is complicated and has taken time to get right. The AWEE team are presently working on a briefing that will explain in more detail

exactly what funds we have and the measures and approaches to both developing and supporting the supply chain and delivering energy efficiency and Low Carbon heating measures across the county. It is worth remembering that the AWEE team consists of only 2 full time Officers.

<b>Question from:</b>	Kate Halliday	
<b>Subject:</b>	Transport – Shrewsbury Health & Wellbeing Hub	
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Dean Carroll	Approved

Transport to and from the proposed Shrewsbury Health and Wellbeing Hub is a key consideration for the Programme Team. They will ensure that a travel and access analysis is part of an integrated impact assessment which we will undertake as soon as we confirm the location for the hub. An integrated impact assessment will look at the impact that the change or relocation of service could have on patients at the practices involved, and with the help and input from patients will seek to identify ways to minimise any negative impacts as much as possible. We cannot undertake a full integrated impact assessment until we have agreed and secured a site for the hub. The programme is working with the Council to ensure that there is a specific bus route that stops next to the new Hub. There are also Section 106 monies from the wider SUE South development to support a new bus route. The modelled cost savings will be developed as part of the business case. Response provided by: Claire Parker, Director of Partnerships Gareth Robinson, ICB Director of Delivery & Transformation

We are aware of concerns from some patients, particularly around public transport to the preferred site, which has yet to be submitted for planning permission.

The Council has always been clear that good public transport links to this site would be key and is looking into potential transport options. Shropshire Council will feed this back to the ICS as part of the process, this will include scoping and understanding the transport requirements for the health and wellbeing hub which will help to define the model and costs associated with this, and how this may be funded.

While the Council can support with mapping and options and link to transport providers, Shropshire Council will not be funding transport to the site. It is likely that there would need to be an ongoing revenue commitment as part of the proposal to support transport, but until the development proposals are defined for a particular site, the details of the transport need will not be clear.

As part of any future planning application, the transport provision will need to be assessed and any requirements funded by the developer.

<b>Question from:</b>	Rob Wilson
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<b>Subject:</b>	NWRR	
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Dean Carroll	Approved
<p>In the Shropshire Star on the 25<sup>th</sup> August, Daniel Kawczynski was quoted as saying that “tax payers” will already have to pay more” for the North West Relief Road. Please could you tell the taxpayers of Shropshire how much more they will have to pay? And what amount does the administration consider too high to burden taxpayers with?</p> <p>The council is still developing it’s detailed design and monitoring market prices and as such do not have a definitive likely cost at this time. Should planning approval be granted a full business case will be developed for submission to the Department of Transport to release funding.</p>		

<b>Question from:</b>	Kate Halliday	
<b>Subject:</b>	Use of Public Spaces	
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Cecilia Motley	Approved
<p>A recent poll suggested that almost 1 in 4 households are planning not to use heating at all this winter due to the soaring costs of energy, and many more are planning to cut back on how long their heating will be on. Many councils are planning to use public spaces such as libraries, community centres and museums as ‘warm banks’ to allow people who may not have a heated home to gather in places that have heating. Is Shropshire Council planning to provide ‘warm banks’?</p> <p>We will certainly welcome those that need a safe, dry, warm space this winter to our publicly-accessible venues. Individuals already access our buildings, especially libraires, to keep warm, keep dry and keep safe and we interact with them in a professional and caring way to see if any additional services can be provided or sign posted.</p> <p>However, in response to the current cost-of-living crisis, a working group has been set up, which includes staff from Public Health and Culture, Leisure and Tourism to consider how best we can extend the ‘warm banks’ principles to other publicly-accessible venues during the colder months and help more people who are struggling. This group will engage with other community organisations to ensure there are places for people to go across the county and it will also consider how to provide activities and refreshments for people in need.</p> <p>As a customer focused organisation we understand our role and the important part that our public buildings play to communities and the individuals who access them daily. We will monitor and manage the situation to ensure that our buildings remain accessible, safe, and welcoming to those in need.</p>		

