

Open

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Agenda

6pm
Thursday, 5th December 2013
Council Chamber
Wyre Forest House
Finepoint Way
Kidderminster



Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Members of Committee:

Chairman: Councillor H E Dyke	
Vice-Chairman: Councillor T Ingham	
Councillor C Brewer	Councillor N Gale
Councillor J Greener	Councillor V Higgs
Councillor D C H McCann	Councillor T L Onslow
Councillor J Phillips	Councillor M Rayner
Councillor C Rogers	Councillor A M Sewell

Would Members please note that, to ensure continuity in scrutiny, substitutes should only be appointed for the Scrutiny Committee in exceptional circumstances.

Information for Members of the Public:

Part I of the Agenda includes items for discussion in public. You have the right to inspect copies of Minutes and reports on this Agenda as well as the background documents used in the preparation of these reports.

Part II of the Agenda (if applicable) deals with items of "Exempt Information" for which it is anticipated that the public may be excluded from the meeting and neither reports nor background papers are open to public inspection.

Declaration of Interests by Members – interests of members in contracts and other matters

Declarations of Interest are a standard item on every Council and Committee agenda and each Member must provide a full record of their interests in the Public Register.

In addition, alongside the Register of Interest, the Members Code of Conduct ("the Code") requires the Declaration of Interests at meetings. Members have to decide first whether or not they have a disclosable interest in the matter under discussion.

Please see the Members' Code of Conduct as set out in Section 14 of this constitution for full details.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) / Other Disclosable Interest (ODI)

DPI's and ODI's are interests defined in the Code of Conduct that has been adopted by the District.

If you have a DPI (as defined in the Code) in a matter being considered at a meeting of the Council (as defined in the Code), the Council's Standing Orders require you to leave the room where the meeting is held, for the duration of any discussion or voting on that matter.

If you have an ODI (as defined in the Code) you will need to consider whether you need to leave the room during the consideration of the matter.

Co-opted Members

Scrutiny Committees may wish to appoint Co-Opted Members to sit on their meetings in order to add value to the scrutiny process. To appoint a Co-Opted Member, a Committee must first agree to appoint either a specific person or to approach a relevant organisation to request that they put forward a suitable representative (e.g. the local Police Authority). Co-Optees are non voting by default but Committees can decide to appoint voting rights to a Co-Optee. The Co-Option of the Member will last no longer than the remainder of the municipal year.

Scrutiny Committees can at any meeting agree to terminate the Co-Option of a Co-Opted Member with immediate effect. Where an organisation is appointed to put forward a Co-Opted Member, they are able to send a substitute in exceptional circumstances, provided that they notify Democratic Services in advance. Co-Opted Members must sign up to the Members Code of Conduct before attending their first meeting, failure to sign will mean that they are unable to participate. This also applies to substitute Co-Opted Members, who will need to allow sufficient time before a meeting in order to sign the Code of Conduct.

The following will apply:

- i) The total number of voting co-opted members on any Scrutiny Committee will not exceed 25% at any one time.
- ii) The total number of voting Co-opted Members on any Review Panel will not be limited.

- iii) Those Co-opted Members with voting rights will exercise their rights in accordance with the principles of decision making set out in the constitution.

For Further information:

If you have any queries about this Agenda or require any details of background papers, further documents or information, you should contact Louisa Bright, Committee and Member Services Officer, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster, DY11 7WF. Telephone: 01562 732763 or email louisa.bright@wyreforestdc.gov.uk

Wyre Forest District Council

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Thursday, 5th December 2013

Council Chamber, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster

Part 1 - Open to the press and public

Agenda item	Subject	Page Number
1.	Apologies for Absence	
2.	Appointment of Substitute Members To receive the name of any Councillor who is to act as a substitute, notice of which has been given to the Solicitor of the Council, together with the name of the Councillor for whom he/she is acting.	
3.	Declarations of Interests by Members In accordance with the Code of Conduct, to invite Members to declare the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI's) and / or Other Disclosable Interests (ODI's) in the following agenda items and indicate the action that they will be taking when the item is considered. Please see the Members' Code of Conduct as set out in Section 14 of the Council's Constitution for full details.	
4.	Minutes To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on the 7th November 2013.	7
5.	Annual Crime and Disorder Review To consider a report from the Community Safety and Partnerships Officer which provides an update on the progress of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership (CSP).	10
6.	How Are We Doing? Performance Update To consider a report from the Business Improvement Officer which updates Members on the performance of the Council for Quarter 2 (from 1 st July 2013 to 30 th September 2013).	64
7.	Council Tax Discount Scheme and the Impact of the Welfare Reform Act To consider a report from the Welfare Reform Manager on the Council Tax Discount scheme and the impact of the Welfare Reform Act.	78

8.	Local Welfare Scheme Update To consider a report from the Corporate Customer Development Manager which provides an update on the Council's local welfare scheme.	87
9.	Sustainable Communities Act – Proposed Levy on Large Retail Outlets To consider a report from the Chief Executive which seeks agreement from the Committee on a recommendation to Council on whether or not to back a campaign to introduce a levy on large retail units.	104
10.	New Leisure Centre Update To receive a report from the Cultural Services Manager which summarises the progress made on the new leisure centre.	109
11.	Recommendations from the Local Development Framework Review Panel To consider a recommendation from the Local Development Framework Review Panel regarding the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) Spatial Plan for Recovery and Growth Consultation.	113
12.	Feedback from Cabinet To note the content of the Cabinet action list, following consideration of the recommendations from	119
13.	Work Programme To review the work programme for the current municipal year with regard to the Sustainable Community Strategy Theme, Corporate Plan Priority, Annual Priorities and the Forward Plan.	120
14.	Press Involvement To consider any future items for scrutiny that might require publicity.	
15.	To consider any other business, details of which have been communicated to the Solicitor of the Council before the commencement of the meeting, which the Chairman by reason of special circumstances considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting.	

16.	<p>Exclusion of the Press and Public</p> <p>To consider passing the following resolution:</p> <p>“That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of “exempt information” as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act”.</p>	
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Part 2

Not open to the Press and Public

17.	<p>To consider any other business, details of which have been communicated to the Solicitor of the Council before the commencement of the meeting, which the Chairman by reason of special circumstances considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting.</p>	
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WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER

THURSDAY, 7TH NOVEMBER 2013 (6PM)

Present:

Councillors: H E Dyke (Chairman), J Aston, C Brewer, N Gale, J Greener, V Higgs, D C H McCann, T L Onslow, J Phillips, M Rayner, C Rogers and A M Sewell.

Observers

Councillors: N J Desmond and M J Hart.

OS.46 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor T Ingham (Vice-Chairman).

OS.47 Appointment of Substitutes

Councillor J Aston was appointed as a substitute for Councillor T Ingham.

OS.48 Declarations of Interests by Members

No declarations of interest were made.

OS.49 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Councillors A M Sewell and M Rayner entered the meeting at this point, (6.01pm).

Members received a briefing from the Chief Financial Officer regarding a recent announcement by the Co-Operative Bank that they had decided to withdraw from their involvement in providing services to local authorities.

It was noted the Council was currently in the process of tendering for banking services and an award was planned before Christmas 2013.

Councillors T L Onslow and D C H McCann entered the meeting at this point, (6.07pm).

**OS.50 Recommendations from Treasury Management Review Panel:
Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy
Mid-year Review Report 2013/14**

The Committee considered a report from the Chief Financial Officer which provided

Agenda Item No. 4

Members with a mid-year review of the Council's treasury management policies, practices and activities in accordance with the revised CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice.

Recommend to Cabinet to recommend to Council:

The Treasury Management Mid-Year Review and updated Prudential Indicators be approved.

OS.51

Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority – Draft Community Risk Management Plan 2014-2020

Members considered a report from the Chief Executive on the Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Authorities Draft Community Risk Management Plan 2014-2020.

Members were advised consultation on the draft plan finished on 10th January 2014 and a decision by the Fire Authority would be made on 19th February 2014.

A Members briefing session regarding the proposals had been held on 24th October 2013, which helped inform the debate which ensued.

Following a show of hands the Committee agreed to recommend to Council that a response to the consultation be submitted. It was noted Councillors V Higgs and A M Sewell objected to any service cuts and voted against the decision.

Agreed: The Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommends that the following response should be submitted to the consultation:

- 1. Wyre Forest District Council makes no comment about the proposal relating to Bewdley but objects to any proposal to reduce Kidderminster to a single engine when much smaller towns (such as Bromsgrove, Malvern and Droitwich) are proposed to retain two engines. It is recognised that the other towns have their first engine crewed on a different basis, which is not whole-time shift;**
- 2. The number of members of the Fire and Rescue Authority should be reduced, together with a reduction in related training costs;**
- 3. The Council considers that any further reductions in fire cover for Wyre Forest in future would be unacceptable.**

OS.52

Feedback from Cabinet

Agreed: The content of the Cabinet action list following consideration of the recommendations from the meeting on 22nd October 2013 be noted.

OS.53

Work Programme

The Chairman advised that there were places remaining on the Blue Badge Review Panel.

Agreed:

- **The work programme be noted.**
- **The Committee and Member Services Officer to re-send the email to Group Leaders requesting nominations for the Blue Badge Review Panel.**

OS.54 Press Involvement

There were no future items for scrutiny that might require publicity.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 6.51pm.



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Briefing Paper

Report of: Kathryn Washington, Community Safety & Partnerships Officer
Date: Thursday, 5th December 2013
Open

Annual Crime and Disorder Review

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the progress of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership (CSP).

2. Background

- 2.1 In November 2011, following formal agreement by the relevant responsible authorities, the three district CSPs in Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest agreed to merge to create a single North Worcestershire CSP. Following development of Terms of Reference for the new CSP and preparation of a formal application to merge, the North Worcestershire CSP operated in shadow form whilst awaiting Home Office approval of the new arrangements.
- 2.2 Following the elections of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) in November 2012, statutory responsibility for overseeing the merger of the CSPs fell to the Office of the West Mercia PCC. On 24th May 2013, the North Worcestershire CSP Combination Agreement, which formally endorsed the North Worcestershire merger, was signed by all Community Safety Responsible Authorities and Bill Longmore, the West Mercia PCC. It is believed to be the first Combination Agreement in the country to be agreed and endorsed by a PCC.
- 2.3 Local representation on the North Worcestershire CSP is fulfilled through a number of positions. Wyre Forest District Council's Elected Member representative is the Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing, Councillor Ian Hardiman. The Council's Responsible Authority representative and also Deputy Chair is Linda Collis, Director of Community Wellbeing and Environment. The Community Safety and Partnerships Officer sits on the CSP and the Safer Wyre Forest Group is represented by its Chair, Justin Bryant, Community Development Manager, Vestia Community Trust.
- 2.4 Scrutiny arrangements for the CSP remain unchanged with local authorities continuing to have a statutory duty to scrutinise the work of its local CSP under Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006.

- 2.5 Alongside the relationship the Council has with the CSP, there is also a direct role in holding the PCC to account through the established West Mercia Police and Crime Panel. Wyre Forest District Council's representative on the panel is the Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing, Councillor Ian Hardiman. Information about the work of the Panel can be found at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/democratic-services/committees-and-panels/holder/police-and-crime-panel.aspx

3. Key Issues

3.1 Current Position

- 3.1.1 Initially in shadow arrangement, North Worcestershire CSP has been in operation since July 2012. New Terms of Reference were adopted in September 2012, outlining membership and operating procedures.
- 3.1.2 Since September 2012, a number of changes identified in the Terms of Reference have now taken place.
- 3.1.3 As of 22nd November 2012 and following the election of the West Mercia PCC, the former Responsible Authority Member, West Mercia Police Authority ceased to exist. PCCs are not a Responsible Authority in CSPs but the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 does place a duty on CSPs and PCCs to work together to develop local crime and disorder strategies.
- 3.1.4 As of 31st March 2013, Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) also ceased to exist. Wyre Forest Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Redditch and Bromsgrove CCG replaced Worcestershire PCT as a Responsible Authority member of the CSP.
- 3.1.5 District Operational Groups are now identified as Safer District Groups and are known as Safer Bromsgrove Group, Safer Redditch Group and Safer Wyre Forest Group. The North Worcestershire Hate Incident Partnership and the Redditch and Bromsgrove Safeguarding Adults Group operate as sub groups of the CSP. Earlier this year a Wyre Forest Vulnerable Adults Group was established, based on the Redditch and Bromsgrove model.

3.2 North Worcestershire CSP Plan

- 3.2.1 The CSP still retains its statutory duty to produce a three year rolling plan outlining how the Partnership intends to address key crime and community safety priorities, as identified in its annual Strategic Assessment. North Worcestershire CSP agreed its Community Safety Partnership Plan 2013-16 in August this year (Appendix 1). This was following discussions with the Office of the PCC and the Worcestershire Safer Communities Board to ensure strategic links were clearly made with the West Mercia Police and Crime Plan (2013-17) and the Worcestershire Community Safety Agreement (2013-14).

3.2.2 The North Worcestershire CSP priorities are:

- To maintain low crime levels and improve public confidence
- Reducing the impact of alcohol and drugs misuse on communities
- Reducing domestic abuse and safeguarding vulnerable people
- Reducing re-offending
- Reducing anti social behaviour

3.2.3 Within the Partnership Plan there is an outline of key objectives, actions and measures for each priority and these will form the basis of the performance management of the CSP over the lifetime of the Plan.

3.4 CSP Funding 2013/14

3.4.1 Prior to the merger, each district CSP delegated responsibility for its existing budgets to its respective district operational group. This ensured that any funding allocated to individual districts remained solely for the benefit of the local area it had been allocated to.

3.4.2 Following the elections of PCCs, all community safety funding streams previously distributed by a district or countywide basis became the responsibility of the PCC to allocate.

3.4.3 After taking up office, the West Mercia PCC released the first round of community safety funding in January 2013 and North Worcestershire CSPs applications for funding were agreed at the same amounts as previous year's funding as follows:

Initiative	Amount
North Worcestershire Hate Incident Partnership	£3,000
Community engagement, consultation and communications	£5,000
North Worcestershire Home Security Projects	£5,000
North Worcestershire CSP Analyst	£30,000
Safer Bromsgrove Group*	£25,994
Safer Redditch Group*	£39,810
Safer Wyre Forest Group*	£40,653
Total	£150,457

*District specific funding amounts allocated using the same needs-based formula as employed in previous years

3.4.4 In September 2013, the PCC opened the second year of community safety funding for 2014/15 to allow for early applications. North Worcestershire CSP is currently drafting bids up to the same amounts as last year to support both North Worcestershire wide and district specific projects and initiatives.

3.5 Local Delivery - Safer Wyre Forest Group

3.5.1 Local delivery of community safety projects and initiatives falls under the remit of the Community Safety Operational Groups. In Wyre Forest, the Safer Wyre

Forest Group meets on a monthly basis to monitor district performance and review local operational delivery against the actions outlined in the Community Safety Partnership Plan. This group is the first point of contact for any local crime and community safety issues or concerns that may require a multi agency response. The Safer Wyre Forest Group's delivery plan for 2013/14 can be found at Appendix 2.

3.5.2 Current Safer Wyre Forest projects and initiatives include:

Project	Description
Home Security Scheme	Provides home security advice and improvement to victims of burglary and those fearful of being burgled
Community Payback	Working closely with West Mercia Probation Trust to facilitate local residents and community groups to access Community Payback in order to improve their local area
Christmas campaign	Awareness raising campaign which aims to give simple advice to residents, enabling them to take steps to avoid becoming a victim of crime over the festive period
Domestic abuse campaign	Awareness raising campaign to highlight the often hidden subject of domestic abuse. Working closely with the ContinU Trust to take the message into local schools, using innovative displays and drama workshops to spark conversations between staff and students
Environmental awareness project	Partnership working with Birchen Coppice Primary school. Issues were identified through an environmental audit of the area and addressed by engaging young people in a litter pick and educational environmentally themed fun afternoon. This is currently being followed up by a week of drama workshops culminating in a show to be attended by other young people and parents, to help drive the message home and instil pride in the area
National campaigns and awareness raising	Provide local campaigns and seasonal initiatives supporting national campaigns such as White Ribbon campaign
Responding to specific crime trends	Established time limited Task and Finish Groups to address vehicle

Project	Description
	crime in Stourport-on-Severn and shoplifting in Kidderminster town centre
Communications	The Safer Wyre Forest Team leads on the North Worcestershire CSP website and the three CSP newspaper columns

Local projects delivered by the North Worcestershire Hate Incident Partnership include:

Project	Description
Schools 'Respect' programme	Delivers community safety workshops and education session on Hate Crime and a variety of community safety subjects in schools. Programme is well established in Redditch and in Wyre Forest has been piloted at King Charles I High School
Hate Incident Reporting Scheme	Provides opportunities for victims, witnesses and third parties to report hate incidents on-line, by telephone or at a number of community reporting centres
Hate Crime Awareness film and training package	The Hate Incident Partnership has produced a training film and are developing an accompanying manual to increase awareness of hate crime and its effects on individuals and communities

3.5.3 The creation of the North Worcestershire CSP has highlighted some differences regarding staffing and capacity to support the delivery of community safety projects. Community safety teams in each of the districts differ in size and the way they are funded. Redditch and Bromsgrove Councils have a team with mainstreamed full time posts, whilst in Wyre Forest there is one mainstream funded full time post and two part-time grant funded posts. It is intended to ensure that this is brought to the attention of the North Worcestershire CSP for discussion and future consideration.

3.6 North Worcestershire CSP Performance Framework

3.6.1 The North Worcestershire CSP receives a performance report at its quarterly meetings. The most recent report tabled at the Board on 17th September is April - July 2013 (Appendix 3, an updated report will be presented at its next meeting on 17th December. The data is presented as North Worcestershire then broken down into each district. Wyre Forest's individual performance is highlighted in the report.

4. Options

- 4.1 That the progress made by the North Worcestershire CSP be noted.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing.
5.2 Director of Community Wellbeing and Environment.
5.3 Chair of Safer Wyre Forest Group.

6. Related Decisions

- 6.1 None.

7. Relevant Council Policies/Strategies

- 7.1 Wyre Forest District Council Corporate Plan 2011 – 2014.

8. Implications

- 8.1 Resources: Staff time and funding from external budgets.
8.2 Equalities: There are no negative impacts on equality which arise as a result of the CSP and its associated activities.
8.3 Partnership working: The NWCSP Strategic Group and its delivery groups involve a number of partners at a strategic and operational level.
8.4 Human rights: No direct implications from this report.
8.5 E Government: No direct implications from this report.
8.6 Transformation: No direct implications from this report.

9. Equality Impact Needs Assessment

- 9.1 As this is an update report no equality impact assessment is required.

10. Wards affected

- 10.1 All wards and across the administrative boundaries of Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest.

11. Appendices

Appendix 1 - North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership Delivery Plan 2013-16.

Appendix 2 - Safer Wyre Forest Group Delivery Plan 2013-14.

Appendix 3 - North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership Performance Report April - July 2013.

12. Background Papers

North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership Terms of Reference and Operating Protocols.

Officer Contact Details:

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North Worcestershire
Community Safety Partnership

**NORTH WORCESTERSHIRE
COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP
PLAN
2013-16**

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Foreword

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the first Partnership Plan of the newly formed North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership (CSP).

This North Worcestershire partnership will continue to build on the efforts and achievements of the previous district CSPs and we believe that by coming together on a more formal, statutory basis we have put ourselves in a stronger position to respond to any forthcoming challenges in the arena of community safety and crime reduction.

There has already been significant change to our way of working, for example the dissolution of Police Authorities and the election of Police and Crime Commissioners, the move away from central government control towards localism and significant changes within health services that have created a new CSP responsible authority in Clinical Commissioning Groups.

North Worcestershire CSP is believed to be the first in the country to have officially merged following the signing of a combination agreement by a PCC and this new arrangement means that organisations are better placed to work together to reduce crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour affecting local communities; avoiding duplication, sharing resources and expertise and promoting good practice across the whole of North Worcestershire.

Inevitably this plan has been developed at a time of substantial economic change. Budgets across the public sector continue to reduce dramatically and our partners will need to identify significant savings in the forthcoming years whilst continuing to provide and maintain high quality services that meet the needs of customers and users. Whilst this will no doubt present some challenges, our partnership can take great pride in a successful history of joint working and collaboration.

The foundations of North Worcestershire CSP are built on 3 district partnerships that have a proven track record of identifying and channelling external and mainstream funding toward community safety initiatives. Our partners will continue to work together to improve safety across the area, identifying the most serious crime and community safety problems that affect our communities and allocating resources effectively to solve those issues.

Within this economic context we should never forget the emotional costs of crime, anti-social behaviour, drug and alcohol misuse which are borne by victims, their families and local communities. For example, research suggests that the measurable cost of a single residential burglary offence to the householder and the Criminal Justice System is in the region of £3,500. However, we also know that the impact of that crime on the victim and their family can be a deeply traumatic and life altering experience and that is something that it is impossible to put a price on.

Our planned work for the next three years is based on five priorities, with proposed actions for each set out in greater detail later in this document:

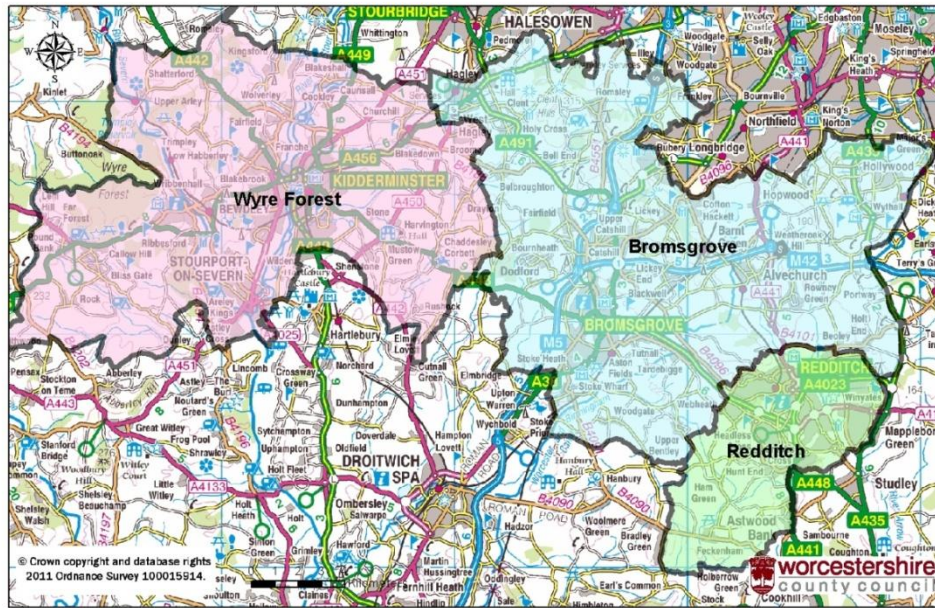
- To maintain low crime levels and improve public confidence
- Reducing the impact of alcohol and drugs misuse on communities
- Reducing Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding Vulnerable People
- Reducing re-offending
- Reducing Anti Social Behaviour

Community Safety Partnerships were introduced in recognition of the fact that the causes of crime, anti-social behaviour, drug and alcohol misuse and environmental disorder are varied and complex. We recognise that the solutions to these problems will require innovation, shared expertise and high levels of co-operation and teamwork. We also recognise that the rich diversity amongst our communities in North Worcestershire may require different approaches and solutions to be applied in different areas to meet the needs of those most at risk but ultimately the outcome achieved will be the same.

A North Worcestershire that is safe, secure and vibrant for all residents, businesses and visitors.

Sue Hanley
Chair, North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership

About North Worcestershire



Map Of North Worcestershire Showing Individual Districts

Produced by Emma Clark on behalf of the R&I Unit, June 2012

(This information has been taken from a variety of data sources including the ONS, CACI, West Mercia Police, Department of Work & Pensions and the 2011 Census figures.)

North Worcestershire is located in the county of Worcestershire, in the West Midlands region. It comprises Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest, with a mix of towns, villages and rural areas covering 178 square miles. The 2011 Census estimates North Worcestershire's population is approximately 275,826, with an estimated 115,997 households. By gender this can be broken down into 49% males and 51% females. The average age of someone living in North Worcestershire is 41.4 years, compared to an average age of 39.4 years in England and Wales.

In North Worcestershire 18% of the population is under 16, 63% are 16-64 and 19% are over 65 years of age. 92.1% of the population is classified as White British. The remaining 7.9% are from ethnic groups other than White British including White Other, Asian, African, Caribbean and Chinese.

Crime and Disorder

North Worcestershire is one of the safest parts of the country to live, work and visit. There has been a significant reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour over the years. However we recognise that there are perceptions that people may not feel reassured that this is necessarily the case. We know that there is always more that can be done to make people feel and be safer and to improve community wellbeing, particularly around supporting and protecting the most vulnerable people in our society.

North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership

North Worcestershire CSP was formed in April 2013 and brings together and replaces the original CSPs in Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest, which had been in place since 1998 as a result of the Crime and Disorder Act. The partnership covers the whole area within Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest Councils' administrative boundaries.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998, amended by the Police Reform Act 2002, makes it a statutory duty for certain organisations (known as responsible authorities) to work in partnership to develop strategies to reduce reoffending, tackle crime and disorder, anti social behaviour, alcohol and substance misuse and any other behaviour, which has a negative effect on the local environment.

The purpose of the North Worcestershire CSP is to provide a strategic and co-ordinated approach between agencies and communities across the area to address local community safety issues. Our vision is: 'Keeping North Worcestershire a safe place to live, work and visit.' This vision is underpinned by the following aims:

- To address the wider causes of crime and fear of crime
- To encourage community cohesion
- To reduce alcohol related harm
- To identify opportunities to reduce substance misuse
- To promote a community where domestic abuse and the fear of domestic abuse is not tolerated
- To promote a community where hate crime is unacceptable and those victims of hate crime are supported
- To provide effective, strategic leadership generating effective partnership working
- To deliver measurable outcomes

Statutory Requirements for CSPs

In recent years CSPs have been given much more freedom and flexibility regarding how they operate and manage performance. The statutory duties of CSPs are to:

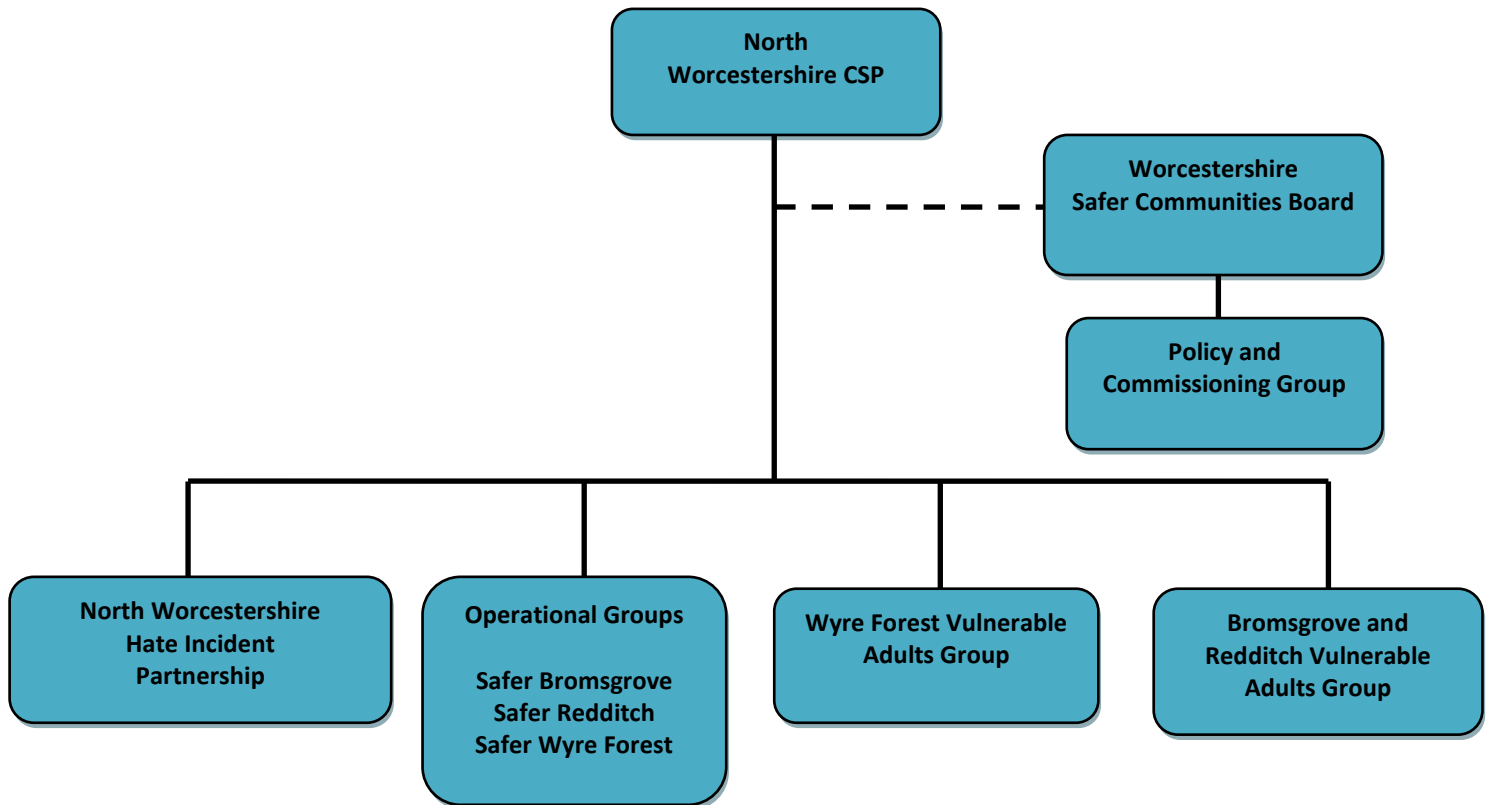
- Undertake a Strategic Assessment and to produce a three year rolling Partnership Plan, revised annually.
- Hold one or more public meetings on an annual basis, to be attended by all responsible authorities at a senior level.
- Determine whether a Domestic Homicide Review should be conducted. The CSP Chair is responsible to the Home Office regarding this duty.

What is the Partnership Plan?

The plan is a three year document which is refreshed on an annual basis. The plan outlines the Partnership priorities, which are determined by a process called the Community Safety Strategic Assessment. In determining the priorities, the

assessment considers a range of data and intelligence from different sources, such as police crime figures, anti social behaviour data and findings from public consultation.

Structure of the NWCSP



Safer Communities Board

In Worcestershire, community safety is strategically co-ordinated through the Safer Communities Board (SCB). The SCB also oversees a number of strategic groups including Domestic Abuse and Sexual Abuse Forums and the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Strategic Group. North Worcestershire CSP is represented in all levels of the SCB and provides performance monitoring and reports to the SCB Policy and Commissioning Group.

North Worcestershire CSP

North Worcestershire CSP is a strategic group which brings together the responsible authorities and other partners across the area. It is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Partnership Plan, submitting bids for external funding to support delivery of the Partnership Plan, linking the work of the CSP to other bodies wherever required and identifying support required to progress delivery of the Partnership Plan.

North Worcestershire Hate Incident Partnership

The North Worcestershire Hate Incident Partnership aims to tackle all forms of hate crime and targeted harassment across North Worcestershire. The Partnership was established in July 2012 following a merger of Bromsgrove Hate Incident

Partnership, Redditch Anti Harassment Partnership and Wyre Forest Hate Incident Partnership. It includes representatives from a number of statutory, voluntary and community organisations including Redditch Borough Council, Bromsgrove District Council, Wyre Forest District Council, Local Registered Social Landlords, West Mercia Police, West Mercia Probation Trust, Youth Offending Teams and Victim Support.

The Partnership meets regularly to monitor reports received through the Hate Incident Reporting Scheme, discuss harassment cases that have been referred by local agencies and identify appropriate support to victims and witnesses. The Partnership also provides a forum for organisations to share best practice.

District Operational Groups

Delivery on the ground is at the heart of the North Worcestershire CSP and local operational groups known as Safer Bromsgrove, Safer Redditch and Safer Wyre Forest ensure that local issues and concerns remain at the centre of the new Partnership's priorities, projects and campaigns. The groups are responsible for delivering local actions from the Partnership Plan.

They discuss community safety issues brought to their attention and use a problem solving approach to identify effective actions to address these and allocate resources accordingly. They also promote public reassurance and engage with the media on different aspects of local community safety actions.

Vulnerable Adults Groups

Two groups exist in North Worcestershire, one for Bromsgrove and Redditch and one for Wyre Forest. They are co-ordinated by the respective councils for the areas. Multi agency panels come together to look at repeat concerns about an individual's vulnerability and behavioural issues in their local area.

Strategic Assessment

The Strategic Assessment is an analysis of the levels and patterns of crime and disorder and substance misuse in the area and the priorities the CSP should adopt to address those matters. In determining the priorities the CSP has also taken into account the government's community safety priorities, those of the PCC and the countywide priorities as led by the Safer Communities Board.

	<i>West Mercia Police & Crime Plan Objectives</i>	<i>Worcestershire Community Safety Agreement Priorities</i>	<i>North Worcestershire Strategic Assessment</i>
Priorities	Reduce the volume of violent crime with an emphasis on addressing the harm caused by alcohol through partnership working	Drugs & Alcohol	Common themes identified across the areas are alcohol and the night time economy, young people and alcohol, drinking at home and domestic violence, drug related re-offending and violent crime and domestic abuse linked to drug and alcohol use.
	Reduce the harm caused by drugs with a focus on treatment and targeting those that cause the most harm		
	Work in partnership to protect the most vulnerable people in our society	Domestic Violence and Safeguarding Vulnerable People	Common themes across the areas are alcohol and drug users, young people prone to anti-social behaviour or alcohol/drug use, victims of domestic violence, vulnerable people subjected to targeted harassment, violence and domestic burglary and/or criminal damage.
	Reduce the volume of anti-social Behaviour incidents	Anti-social Behaviour	Common themes across the areas are youth and alcohol related anti-social behaviour, or harassment of vulnerable people. Negative perceptions of anti social behaviour. Operation StaySafe was a North Worcestershire operation to identify young people acting in an anti-social way or using alcohol or drugs. They were removed to a safe place where professionals can refer them and their guardians to the appropriate services
	Bring offenders to account and reducing re-offending	Reducing Re-offending	Linked to main offence types of; shoplifting, assaults, drug offences, and criminal damage. Differences amongst specific areas alter the focus in each district. Key priorities are to identify and understand the local problem in order to effectively target resources at combating the issue and align local needs with Integrated Offender Management aims at a county level
	To meet the needs of the Strategic Policing Requirement - Preventing Violent Extremism	Preventing Violent Extremism	Common theme across all local areas to raise awareness and promote training packages. Tackled according to County level guidance, little geographic variation

North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership Priorities

Over recent years there has been a significant reduction in crime and disorder across North Worcestershire and in the majority of areas resident perceptions of crime, anti social behaviour and the safety of their local neighbourhood continues to improve. However, there are places in North Worcestershire where crime and the fear of crime are higher than in other locations. In order to build on the significant progress already made by the previous district partnerships, North Worcestershire CSP must continue to prioritise those issues of most concern to our local communities and target resources effectively. The issues that we plan to prioritise during 2013/16 are:

- To maintain low crime levels and improve public confidence
- Reducing the impact of alcohol and drugs misuse on communities
- Reducing Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding Vulnerable People
- Reducing re-offending
- Reducing Anti Social Behaviour

Priority: To maintain low crime levels and improve public confidence

- All crime and disorder whether serious crimes or low level incidents directly or indirectly impacts upon individuals and communities, affects health and wellbeing and can damage people's quality of life.
- Often the fear of crime affects people's well-being as much as their experience of actual crime as this often affected people's ability to play a full and active part in their communities and compromises the independence of vulnerable people.
- Reducing crime and anti-social behaviour requires a careful balance between reducing recorded incidents, encouraging reporting and addressing the negative perceptions of those who believe crime is worse than it really is.
- The Prevent Strategy continues to remain a priority within Worcestershire, the primary focus continues to be around training and awareness raising and ensuring that all partner agencies have access to training packages.

What was achieved in 2012/13?

- Progress continued to be made in reducing the levels of crime and disorder in North Worcestershire.
- Total recorded crime down by 19%, 3514 fewer offences for 2012/13. This continues the downward trend as seen in recent years.
- ASB incidents recorded by West Mercia Police reduced by 11.1%, 1548 fewer incidents for 2012/13.

- Successful delivery of a variety of district specific community safety projects and initiatives through established CSP operational group action plans.
- Effective Home Security Schemes, which support victims of crime and vulnerable people, continue in each district.

Objectives for 2013/14

- Deliver crime prevention initiatives to reduce crime.
- Co-ordinate community safety campaigns in response to key issues; to support crime reduction initiatives and reinforce positive messages about community safety in the area.
- Develop and implement a programme of community consultation and engagement to provide reassurance to communities and address fear of crime and community concerns.
- Prevent violent extremism by providing appropriate training and awareness raising packages to relevant audiences.

Measures 2013/14

- We will measure our success by monitoring and responding accordingly to:
 - Total Recorded Crime
 - Number of Dwelling Burglary offences
 - Number of Non dwelling burglary offences
 - Number of Theft from a motor vehicle offences
 - Number of Theft of a motor vehicle offences
 - Number of Robbery offences
 - Number of Shoplifting offences
 - Number of Prevent training packages delivered
 - Outcomes of the specific projects funded by the partnership
 - We will develop suitable measures regarding public confidence and reassurance

Priority: Reducing the impact of alcohol and drugs misuse on communities

- Drug and alcohol misuse can have negative social, economic, health and community safety impacts affecting users, their families and wider communities.
- Providing effective drug and alcohol treatment is important to support crime prevention and reoffending where substance misuse is an underlying problem.
- The night time economy (NTE), primarily consisting of pubs, night clubs and fast-food outlets is often a focus for alcohol related crime and disorder including violent offences, criminal damage and sexual assaults.
- Binge Drinking and 'Pre-Loading' (drinking at home or in a public place before going out) are drinking practices which can lead to a higher risk of crime or being victimised and also place an increased burden on public services such as policing, enforcement, transport and street cleansing.

What was achieved in 2012/13?

- Supported Street Pastors to be established in Bromsgrove and Wyre Forest.
- Supported and promoted targeted operations and key campaigns around responsible drinking throughout the year.
- Co-ordinated and implemented Redditch Town Centre improvements including improved CCTV, street lighting and landscaping.
- Support provided to local pub watch schemes and licensees associations.
- Welcomed CRI Pathways to Recovery services to North Worcestershire, providing services to reduce harm and promote recovery from substance misuse.

Objectives 2013/14

- Reduce the harmful effects of drugs and alcohol on the night time economy, on young people in public places, and on relationships.
- Continue to work with local Licensee Associations and Worcestershire Regulatory Services and to promote a safe, responsible Night Time Economy across North Worcestershire.
- Continue to work with and support CRI Pathways to Recovery and other local Drug and Alcohol Service providers to promote access to support for those seeking help for substance misuse.
- Promote and support educational campaigns to target proxy sales and other forms of inappropriate supply of alcohol to young people.

Measures 2013/14

- We will measure our success by monitoring and responding accordingly to:
 - The number of alcohol related recorded crimes

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- The number of alcohol related admissions for under 18s
- The percentage of service users completing a Structured Alcohol Recovery Programme
- The percentage of service users completing a Structured Drug Recovery Programme
- The number of Night Time Economy related crimes occurring within town centre areas between 8pm and 5:59am
- The number of assault without injury offences
- The number of violence against the person with injury offences
- The outcomes of the specific projects funded by the partnership

Priority: Reducing Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding Vulnerable People

- Research shows that certain crimes such as those involving Domestic Abuse or Hate are often hidden crimes that are significantly under-reported for a variety of reasons. The Partnership is committed to ensuring that those people whose voices are not heard but are most in need should be a key focus of our attention.
- In the Government's national strategies to tackle Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence, and Hate Crime, Community Safety Partnership's have a key role in supporting victims, preventing harm and bringing perpetrators to justice.
- Countywide Domestic Abuse strategies are developed and monitored through Worcestershire Forum against Domestic Abuse and the newly formed Worcestershire Sexual Violence Forum and CSP representation ensures local need and priorities are identified and resources targeted appropriately.
- North Worcestershire is leading the way in its approach to tackling Hate Crime, with its hugely successful Hate Incident Partnership. This dedicated forum has a key role in prevention work, increasing reporting and access to support and also improving operational responses to Hate Crime.

What was achieved in 2012/13?

- A number of successful awareness raising events across North Worcestershire as part of the 16 days of action domestic abuse campaign including a series of 'These Hands are not for Hurting Banners and a men's Heels walk in support of the national White Ribbon campaign.
- Co-ordinated seasonal publicity campaigns around domestic abuse, stalking and sexual violence.
- Successful merger to create North Worcestershire Hate Incident Partnership to support victims and witnesses of Hate Crime and targeted harassment.
- Development and implementation of a school Hate Crime education project providing awareness raising workshops to pupils at a variety of high schools.
- Developed and maintained support for Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults multi-agency groups across the area to monitor and manage complex cases with a high risk of harm to individuals and local communities.

Objectives 2013/14

- Identify individuals who may be vulnerable and assist them in accessing appropriate services.
- Protect vulnerable residents from becoming a victim of crime within their home (including burglary and domestic abuse).
- Reduce the harmful effects of hate crime through the work of the Hate Incident Partnership.

- Provide support to relevant multi agency forums set up to co-ordinate interventions and support for vulnerable and repeat victims, enforcement against offenders and actions in identified problem locations.

Measures 2013/14

- We will measure our success by monitoring and responding accordingly to:
 - The total number of Hate Crimes recorded
 - The number of Disability Hate Crimes recorded
 - The number of Race Hate Crimes recorded
 - The number of Religion Hate Crimes recorded
 - The number of Sexuality Hate Crime recorded
 - The number of Transgender Hate Crimes recorded
 - The number of Hate Crimes reported to the North Worcestershire Hate Incident Partnership
 - The number of crimes with Vulnerable Adult Marker
 - The number of new MARAC cases
 - The number of repeat MARAC cases
 - The percentage of total MARAC cases that were repeats
 - The total number of recorded crimes and incidents given a domestic abuse interest maker or action code
 - The number of recorded crimes defined as domestic abuse related
 - The number of incidents or calls to service defined as domestic abuse related
 - Attrition rates from IDVA service
 - The number of Domestic Violence Prevention Notices issued
 - The outcomes of the specific projects funded by the partnership

Priority: Reducing Re-offending

- A relatively small number of highly prolific offenders are responsible for a disproportionate amount of crime. These criminals cause immense damage to the lives of law-abiding citizens who live near them.
- The National Audit Office has estimated that the social and economic costs of reoffending by those released from short sentences alone are between £7-10 billion a year.
- Reducing Re-offending and Integrated Offender Management is delivered via countywide arrangements. However, the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership retains a statutory duty to ensure delivery and as such is part of the strategic group and governance arrangements for Integrated Offender Management.

What was achieved in 2012/13?

- Supported delivery of Worcestershire IOM Conference to raise awareness of IOM practices and support development of a countywide strategy.
- Supported countywide work into developing a needs assessment framework for IOM and embedding the work of the ODOC (One Day One Conversation - prolific and other priority offenders/integrated offender management operational teams).
- Supported IOM co-location in Redditch and Wyre Forest of police, probation and Pathways to Recovery.
- Maintained and developed strong links with Neighbourhood Watch Scheme including distribution and promotion of forensic property marking kits and other crime prevention tools.
- Co-ordinated multi-agency campaigns in response to emerging burglary “hot-spots” and seasonal risk factors. e.g., open windows during the summer period and pre-Christmas alerts to reduce prolific acquisitive crime.

Objectives 2013/14

- Identify and reduce the re-offending of those that cause the most harm in communities through Integrated Offender Management (IOM) processes.
- Maintain and develop “target hardening” services for vulnerable households and continue support for vehicle security messages across the area to reduce opportunities for prolific acquisitive crime.
- Ensure offenders are seen to contribute to the work of the CSPs through targeted community payback.

Measures 2013/14

- We will measure our success by monitoring and responding accordingly to:
 - The number of arrests IOM cohort (statutory)
 - The number of arrests IOM cohort (non-statutory)
 - The number of charges IOM cohort (statutory)

- The number of charges IOM cohort (non statutory)
- The number of community payback hours completed

Priority: Reducing Anti Social Behaviour

- Anti-social behaviour is identified in all consultations as an aspect of crime and disorder that causes great concern to local residents and it also places a significant burden on public resources.
- ASB can include behaviour such as excessive noise, graffiti, abandoned cars and threatening behaviour which can leave people feeling intimidated, angry or frightened. North Worcestershire CSP works with all its partners to reduce levels of ASB so that its residents can maintain a good quality of life.
- Although there have been significant reductions in ASB reported to the police, it is suggested that there is a certain amount that remains unreported.
- Results from November 2012 Viewpoint Survey show Perceptions of ASB as a problem at 18.9%. This is a slight deterioration compared to results from November 2011 at 16.9%. Consideration needs to be given to reducing any gap between perceptions and actual issues and targeting those areas where under-reporting may exist.

What was achieved in 2012/13?

- Through Operation StaySafe, identified and promoted referral and intervention processes to reduce the number of young people who are repeatedly involved in antisocial behaviour.
- Supported and promoted a variety of projects, initiatives and events to reduce youth related ASB, such as restorative resolutions, substance misuse referrals, diversionary and preventative workshops in schools and youth clubs.
- Co-ordinated and promoted enforcement and education activity through multi agency forums to target locations where alcohol related anti social behaviour is a problem.
- Provided support via multi agency forums for countywide processes to re-structure delivery of Positive Activities, Early Help and Stronger Families services across Worcestershire.

Objectives 2013/14

- Reduce the harm caused to individuals and communities by anti-social behaviour.
- Tackle youth related anti-social behaviour by supporting the provision of targeted and non-targeted positive activities.
- Protect repeat victims of anti-social behaviour.
- Recognise the positive contributions young people make to their local communities.

Measures 2013/14

- We will measure our success by monitoring and responding accordingly to:

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- The total number of ASB incidents recorded
- The number of ASB environmental incidents recorded
- The number of ASB nuisance incidents recorded
- The number of ASB personal incidents recorded
- The number of Youth ASB incidents recorded
- The number of Alcohol ASB incidents recorded
- The percentage of residents who perceive ASB to be a problem in their area
- The outcomes of the specific projects funded by the partnership

Action Plans 2013/14

Priority: To maintain low crime levels and improve public confidence			
Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deliver crime prevention initiatives to reduce crime. ▪ Co-ordinate community safety campaigns in response to key issues; to support crime reduction initiatives and reinforce positive messages about community safety in the area. ▪ Develop and implement a programme of community consultation and engagement to provide reassurance to communities and address fear of crime and community concerns. ▪ Prevent violent extremism by providing appropriate training and awareness raising packages to relevant audiences. 			
Action	Responsibility	Target Date	Resources
Develop and implement a range of partnership actions to improve confidence and change negative perceptions	Operational Groups	March 2014	PCC Grant Partner contributions Officer time
Continue to develop and keep updated the NWCSP website	Community Safety Teams	March 2014	PCC Grant Partner contributions Officer time
Promote activities to advise the public on crime prevention by delivering campaigns in response to trends	Operational Groups	March 2014	PCC Grant Partner contributions Officer time
Support the implementation of the recommendations from the Counter Terrorism Local Profiles	Worcestershire Prevent Group	March 2014	Officer time

Priority: Reducing the impact of alcohol and drugs misuse on communities			
Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce the harmful effects of drugs and alcohol on the night time economy, on young people in public places, and on relationships. ▪ Continue to work with local Licensee Associations and Worcestershire Regulatory Services and to promote a safe, responsible Night Time Economy across North Worcestershire. ▪ Continue to work with and support CRI Pathways to Recovery and other local Drug and Alcohol Service providers to promote access to support for those seeking help for substance misuse. ▪ Promote and support educational campaigns to target proxy sales and other forms of inappropriate supply of alcohol to young people. 			
Action	Responsibility	Target Date	Resources
Continue to support Street Pastors in local areas	Operational Groups	March 2014	Officer time
Develop and implement a range of partnership activities to address alcohol related crime and disorder linking in with countywide strategies	Operational Groups	March 2014	PCC Grant Partner contributions Officer time
Promote activities to advise the public on crime prevention by delivering campaigns in response to trends	NWCSP Board Operational Groups	March 2014	PCC Grant Partner contributions Officer time
Work in partnership and continue to engage with organisations that can have a positive impact on the night time economy	NWCSP Board Operational Groups	March 2014	PCC Grant Partner contributions Officer time
Work in partnership and support organisations that work to reduce the harm caused by substance misuse, including Novel Psychoactive Substances	NWCSP Board Operational Groups	March 2014	PCC Grant Partner contributions Officer time

Priority: Reducing Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding Vulnerable People			
Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify individuals who may be vulnerable and assist them in accessing appropriate services. Protect vulnerable residents from becoming a victim of crime within their home (including burglary and domestic abuse). Reduce the harmful effects of hate crime through the work of the Hate Incident Partnership. Provide support to relevant multi agency forums set up to co-ordinate interventions and support for vulnerable and repeat victims, enforcement against offenders and actions in identified problem locations. 			
Action	Responsibility	Target Date	Resources
Continue to play an active role in the Worcestershire Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Forums and implement relevant actions at a local level	NWCSP Board Operational Groups	March 2014	PCC Grant Partner contributions Officer time
Develop and implement a range of partnership activities to address alcohol related crime and disorder linking in with countywide strategies	Operational Groups	March 2014	PCC Grant Partner contributions Officer time
Continue to support and develop the Vulnerable Adults Groups	NWCSP Board Wyre Forest District Council Redditch Borough Council	March 2014	Officer time
Continue to support and promote the Hate Incident Partnership	NWHIP	March 2014	PCC Grant Partner contributions Officer time
Continue to operate Home Security Scheme and Sanctuary Projects and look at where potential efficiencies and savings can be made across North Worcestershire	Operational Groups	March 2014	PCC Grant Partner contributions Officer time

Priority: Reducing Anti Social Behaviour			
Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce the harm caused to individuals and communities by anti-social behaviour. ▪ Tackle youth related anti-social behaviour by supporting the provision of targeted and non-targeted positive activities. ▪ Protect repeat victims of anti-social behaviour. ▪ Recognise the positive contributions young people make to their local communities. 			
Action	Responsibility	Target Date	Resources
Develop and implement a range of Partnership Activities to address ASB	Operational Groups	March 2014	PCC Grant Partner contributions Officer time
Develop and implement a range of activities regarding perceptions of ASB	Operational Groups	March 2014	PCC Grant Partner contributions Officer time
Identify and tackle ASB hotspots in order to conduct targeted initiatives	Operational Groups	March 2014	PCC Grant Partner contributions Officer time
Support the development of Early Help and Stronger Families Programmes	NWCSP	March 2014	Officer time
Continue to work with youth provision organisations including both statutory and voluntary sectors	Operational Groups	March 2014	Officer time PCC Grant

Priority: Reducing Re-offending			
Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and reduce the re-offending of those that cause the most harm in communities through Integrated Offender Management (IOM) processes. Maintain and develop “target hardening” services for vulnerable households and continue support for vehicle security messages across the area to reduce opportunities for prolific acquisitive crime. Ensure offenders are seen to contribute to the work of the CSPs through targeted community payback. 			
Action	Responsibility	Target Date	Resources
Continue to develop and promote local crime prevention projects and initiatives	Operational Groups	March 2014	Officer time PCC Grant
To consider developing mechanisms to enable the community to access community payback	NWCSP	March 2014	Officer time
Support the delivery of IOM and associated activities through participation in the IOM Strategic Group	NWCSP	March 2014	Officer time

Partnership Changes and Challenges

Police and Crime Commissioner

In late 2012 the West Mercia Police Authority was decommissioned and replaced by a new Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), who was elected in November 2012. The PCC is directly accountable to voters every four years and is scrutinised by a panel made up of other elected and independent members (Police Crime Panel). The PCC has statutory duties for holding the Chief Constable to account for the delivery of efficient and effective service through the setting of a five year Police and Crime Plan, and oversees value for money and performance. The PCC is not a responsible authority within the partnership but there is a reciprocal duty for the CSP and PCC to co-operate. The partnership will work closely with the PCC, his office and other partners across the West Mercia region to achieve this duty.

We have seen a significant change in the way funding is allocated, as funding that was previously allocated to CSPs has been transferred to the PCC. This year we have been successful in our bids to the PCC for the same levels of funding that we received in 2012/13. For future year's funding the bidding process will be more challenging as the funding will not be ring-fenced and is likely to be available to more than just CSPs to bid for, as was the case this year. In 2013/14 it is important that we evaluate everything that we do and continue to demonstrate our effectiveness and value for money.

Significant changes for Partners

There have been a number of significant changes within each of our partner organisations due to amendments in legislation, budget reductions and changes in resources. In 2012 a West Mercia Youth Offending Service was launched, it is managed on a day-to-day basis by West Mercia Probation Trust.

Significant changes are also on the horizon for probation services across England and Wales, with the government having published the consultation paper 'Transforming Rehabilitation' which describes proposals for reforming the delivery of offender services in the community.

West Mercia Police has formed a strategic alliance with Warwickshire Police, which looks to ensure that police services are delivered in an efficient and effective way; these arrangements are continuing to be developed and implemented.

Changes to Public Health

On 1 April 2013, Clinical Commissioning Groups became responsible authorities, replacing the former Primary Care Trust. There are two CCGs in North Worcestershire, Redditch and Bromsgrove CCG and Wyre Forest CCG

The Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) became a statutory body from 1 April. The Board's strategy and Public Health Outcomes Framework has clear links to the community safety and criminal justice agenda, which through our representation on the Safer Communities Board we will work to support their achievement.

Under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, from 1 April 2013, Public Health functions became the responsibility of the top tier Local Authority and transferred to Worcestershire County Council. A new Health and Wellbeing Team, located within the newly created Adult Services and Health directorate, has been set up at Worcestershire County Council which will deliver community safety functions including the continued co-ordination of the Safer Communities Board.

This year we have also seen changes within the drugs and alcohol arena with Worcestershire's Drug and Alcohol Action Team being disbanded and the functions being absorbed within the Adult Services and Health directorate.

Monitoring progress

Measures of success help us monitor and track progress against targets and stated outcomes for each area. The action plans in this document describe the work planned to achieve outcomes. While the action plans presented only provide brief descriptions of the work planned, they are backed up by processes which monitor outputs, targets, milestones and timescales, and who is responsible for individual actions. Progress on key performance indicators related to the work in the Plan is reported to the NWCSP and the Safer Communities Board through the Policy and Commissioning Group.

The partnership will receive regular scrutiny from the Overview and Scrutiny Committees established within each of the district and borough councils. The purpose of the committees is to review, scrutinise and make reports or recommendations to the responsible authorities of the CSP. These committees enable councils to hold the responsible authorities to account for local action and local public spending. They are a requirement for councils under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

Resources

The North Worcestershire CSP has been awarded a grant from the PCC to deliver its plan. The funding will be used as outlined below and is for a one year period:

Initiative	Amount
North Worcestershire Hate Incident Partnership	£3,000
Community Engagement, Consultation and Communications	£5,000
North Worcestershire Home Security Projects	£6,000
North Worcestershire CSP Analyst	£30,000
Safer Bromsgrove Tasking Group	£25,994
Safer Redditch Tasking Group	£39,810
Safer Wyre Forest Tasking Group	£40,653
Total	£150,457

Section 17 Responsibilities

Community Safety Partnerships were established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and Section 17 of this act is aimed at making the vital work of reducing crime a focus across the wide range of local services that authorities provide, putting community safety at the heart of local decision-making.

Section 17 states that:

“Without prejudice to any other obligations imposed upon it, it shall be the duty of each authority to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area.”

This recognises that each of the responsible authorities provides a wide and varied range of services and functions within the community. As the level and impact of crime can be influenced by the decisions and actions taken in the day-to-day activities of these local bodies, the act places a duty on these authorities to do all they can to reasonably prevent crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in their area.

With changes to grant provision, reducing resources and competing priorities, Section 17 can provide a welcome opportunity for key partners to review core functions and service provision and ensure that community safety is embedded as a core aim in every service delivered. Innovative and creative use of mainstream budgets to meet multiple aims that include crime and disorder reduction and prevention can directly benefit organisations, the Partnership and local communities by reducing duplicated effort and cost, whilst improving public services to create safer neighbourhoods.

Community Engagement

The partnership will continually seek to improve its engagement with the community. The partnership will publicise its work and raise awareness about the role of the partnership. We are committed to actively engaging our communities and responding to concerns, working together to resolve issues.

Communications Strategy

Channels of Communication

- It is suggested that the current communications channels (internal and external) available across North Worcestershire are mapped by the Community Safety Managers or equivalent across Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest.
- The North Worcestershire CSP will agree the most appropriate communications channels to transmit key messages to its audiences.
- Possible channels include:
 - Publications e.g. newspapers, internal newsletters
 - Annual reports, business plans, research and evaluation reports
 - Media including TV and radio
 - Websites
 - Events
 - Word of mouth, public meetings, presentations, focus groups
 - Marketing materials e.g. leaflets, posters and brochures

Roles and Responsibilities

- In the interest of consistency and professionalism all communications will be co-ordinated through the Community Safety Managers, or equivalent, in conjunction with the Chairperson of the North Worcestershire CSP and/or the Chairperson of the Operational Groups, where appropriate.
- Community Safety Managers, or equivalent, will ensure that relevant partner agencies are given the opportunity to comment on all communications before general release. Partners will be asked to ensure they comment within a timely manner to ensure the release meets press deadlines.
- Partners will agree to share information and knowledge that may be of mutual benefit.
- Partners will agree to keep each other fully informed of any issues which may affect each other, for example press interest in a particular story.
- Partners will agree to notify each other of any campaigns, publications etc. which may be of mutual interest.

Press Releases

North Worcestershire

- All North Worcestershire CSP press releases must include a short quote from the Chairperson and, where appropriate and beneficial, additional quotes should be included from key partners. The NWCSF logo should be used in conjunction with the lead agency's logo or branding.

- All press releases must be signed off by the Chairperson or the Vice Chairperson in advance of circulation for release.
- A draft copy of the press release should be sent to the Community Safety Managers, or equivalent, who will liaise with the North Worcestershire CSP Chairperson for endorsement.
- The Community Safety Managers, or equivalent, will then advise the partner(s) issuing the press release of any comments or additions that the Chairperson may wish to be considered for inclusion.
- Following any required revision, the partner(s) can then forward the press release to the local media, ensuring the Chairperson is advised of any photo-call opportunity.
- Press releases must be issued on North Worcestershire CSP headed paper.
- A copy of the issued press release must be given to the Community Safety Managers, or equivalent, for file and adult purposes.

District wide

- The Operational Groups may issue press releases where a project has solely been delivered in their respective district. Where this is the case a press release must include a quote from the North Worcestershire CSP Chairperson and the Operational Group Chairperson. Both parties must have signed off the press release before its circulation. The 'Safer Bromsgrove/Redditch/Wyre Forest' logos should be used in conjunction with the NWCSF logo/branding.
- All press releases must be signed off by the Chairperson or the Vice Chairperson in advance of circulation for release.
- A draft copy of the press release should be sent to the Community Safety Managers or equivalent who will liaise with the North Worcestershire CSP Chairperson and Operational Group Chairperson for endorsement.
- The Community Safety Managers or equivalent will then advise the partner(s) issuing the press release of any comments or additions that the Chairperson may wish to be considered for inclusion.
- Following any required revision, the partner(s) can then forward the press release to the local media, ensuring the Chairperson(s) are advised of any photo-call opportunity.
- Press releases must be issued on North Worcestershire CSP headed paper.
- A copy of the issued press release must be given to the Community Safety Managers or equivalent for file and adult purposes

Resources

- The North Worcestershire CSP will agree the allocation of pooled resources for joint CSP communications activity. It is anticipated that North Worcestershire CSP projects will be identified at the beginning of the financial year, which will support forward planning of communications related activity.

Branding and Marketing

- The North Worcestershire CSP has developed a logo to be used for all branding related activities.
- Operational Groups will use the North Worcestershire CSP logo in conjunction with the Safer Bromsgrove/Redditch/Wyre Forest logo, as appropriate.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- A review of the communications strategy will be undertaken on an annual basis.
- All communications activities will be collated and reported on a quarterly basis to the North Worcestershire CSP.
- A process to evaluate the effectiveness of communication activities will be developed.

Logos

North Worcestershire



Operational Groups



Partners

This section lists the organisations that are members of the NWCSP. Please follow the links for more information.

Responsible Authorities

Bromsgrove District Council	www.bromsgrove.gov.uk
Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority	http://www.hwfire.org.uk
Redditch and Bromsgrove Clinical Commissioning Group	http://www.redditchandbromsgroveccg.nhs.uk
Redditch Borough Council	www.redditchbc.gov.uk
West Mercia Police	www.westmercia.police.uk
West Mercia Probation Trust	www.westmerciaprobatation.org.uk
Worcestershire County Council	www.worcestershire.gov.uk
Wyre Forest Clinical Commissioning Group	http://www.wyreforestccg.nhs.uk
Wyre Forest District Council	www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk

Co-opted or Invited to Participate

Magistrates Bench Chairs - Bromsgrove and Redditch, Kidderminster	www.justice.gov.uk
Chairs of the Operational Groups	See www.nwcsp.org
Chair of the North Worcestershire Hate Incident Partnership	See www.nwcsp.org
West Mercia Youth Offending Service	
HMP Hewell	www.justice.gov.uk
Portfolio Holders for Community Safety at Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest Councils	www.bromsgrove.gov.uk www.redditchbc.gov.uk www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk
Victim Support	www.victimsupport.org.uk
Worcestershire County Association of Local Councils	www.worcscalc.org.uk
Worcestershire Regulatory Services	www.worcsregservices.gov.uk

Contact Us

Website

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Postal Address

Chair of NWCSP
c/o Redditch Borough Council
Redditch Town Hall
Redditch
Worcestershire
B98 9AH



**Safer Wyre Forest Tasking Group
Delivery Plan 2013/14**

Priority: To maintain low crime levels and improve public confidence

Objectives:

- Deliver crime prevention initiatives to reduce crime
- Co-ordinate community safety campaigns in response to key issues; to support crime reduction initiatives and reinforce positive messages about community safety in the area.
- Develop and implement a programme of community consultation and engagement to provide reassurance to communities and address fear of crime and community concerns.
- Prevent violent extremism by providing appropriate training and awareness raising package to relevant audiences.

Action	Activity	Responsibility	Target Date	Resources	Measures	Progress Update
Develop and implement a range of partnership actions to improve confidence and change negative perceptions	NWCSP Column	Community Safety Team	Ongoing	Officer time	Viewpoint data 2012/13 Perception of ASB as a Problem - 24.20%, increase 5.5% compared to 2011/12	September: HH writes 3 monthly columns on behalf of NWCSP Chair. Chair really pleased with quality of work. JLL piloting e-bulletin
	Press releases					
	Attending appropriate events					
	Engaging partners					
	Develop e-bulletin					October: This month's columns focus on 16 days campaign. Viewpoint survey 2013/14 being conducted in November.

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Action	Activity	Responsibility	Target Date	Resources	Measures	Progress Update
Continue to develop and keep updated the NWCSP website	Website re-developed and launched	Jeannette Lane	April 2013	Officer time	No of hits on the website	September: Action completed. Launched in April 2013
	Keep site updated	Jeannette Lane R&B Community Safety Teams	Ongoing	Officer time	Aug-Sept: 95 Sep -Oct: 68 Oct-Nov: 103	September: Continually updating it though limited information received from Bromsgrove and Redditch. October: As above
Promote activities to advise the public on crime prevention by delivering campaigns in response to trends	Attendance at Older People's Forum	Hilary Hollis Jeannette Lane	01.08.13	Officer time Cost of materials	No of people spoken to - 74	September: Action completed. 74 people spoken to. 150 bells/cables given out, 3 personal alarms, 18 vehicle crime packs and 17 property marking packs
Promote activities to advise the public on crime prevention by delivering campaigns in response to trends	Attendance at Over 55s retirement road show	Hilary Hollis	07.09.13	Officer time	No of people spoken to - 65	September: Action complete. 65 people spoken to. 40 bells/cables given out, 3 personal alarms, 2 light timers, 22 vehicle crime packs and 21 property marking packs
	Attendance at Fire Service Electric Blanket testing events	Hilary Hollis	16.09.13 17.09.13 18.09.13	Officer time	No of people spoken to - 55	September: Action complete. Engaged with 55 people over three days. 50 bells/cables & 25 vehicle crime packs given out

Action	Activity	Responsibility	Target Date	Resources	Measures	Progress Update
	Christmas Crime prevention campaign	Hilary Hollis	End Nov-Beg Jan	Officer time Cost of materials	December's performance of: - Theft from a motor vehicle - Dwelling Burglary - Night Time Economy Crime - ASB Incidents related to the Night Time Economy Compare figures to previous months and years to identify impact.	September: Agenda item at September's Tasking. October: underway, project plan available.
	Deliver targeted interventions based on identified issues	Hilary Hollis	Ongoing	Cost of materials	Measures for individual projects	May: Vehicle crime task and finish action plan July: Woodbury Wizard fun day event held 28 th June. 59 families attended. September: Advised by PC Jon Harris vehicle crime down in Stourport by 29% on same period last year. Compares to 2.7% reduction in Kidderminster and 2.1% increase across North Worcs. Prolific offender sentenced to 15 months in prison. October: Shoplifting Task & Finish Group

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						set up, project plan available. Workshops at Birchen Coppice Primary School.
Action	Activity	Responsibility	Target Date	Resources	Measures	Progress Update
Support the implementation of the recommendations from the Counter Terrorism Local Profiles	Encourage partners to attend training sessions that are available	Kathryn Washington Ruth Pawsey	Ongoing	Officer time	No of Prevent Packages delivered	<p>September: Not aware of any packages delivered in WF.</p> <p>October: Still waiting for CTLP to be produced. KW likely to be involved in any resulting activity. Advised that WRAP training for police took place in April and June. Tasking can help by promoting training packages to partners and local organisations.</p>

Priority: Reducing the impact of alcohol and drugs misuse on communities						
Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduce the harmful effect of drugs and alcohol on the night time economy, on young people in public places and on relationships. - Continue to work with local Licensee Associations and Worcestershire Regulatory Services and to promote a safe, responsible Night Time Economy across North Worcestershire - Continue to work with and support CRI Pathways to Recovery and other local Drug and Alcohol Service providers to promote access to support for those seeking help for substance misuse. - Promote and support educational campaigns to target proxy sales and other forms of inappropriate supply of alcohol to young people. 						
Action	Activity	Responsibility	Target Date	Resources	Measures	Progress Update
Continue to support Street Pastors in local areas	Involvement in Steering Group	Paul Crowley	Ongoing	Officer time	Discuss measures with Street Pastors Co-ordinator	<p>September: KW meeting with Marie Holmes, Street pastors co-ordinator 3.10.13</p> <p>October: meeting took place, provided information so can make links with schools through ContinU Trust and possible funding opportunities.</p>
Develop and implement a range of partnership activities to address alcohol related crime and disorder linking in with countywide strategies	Co-ordinate involvement in relevant initiatives that result from countywide alcohol group	Kathryn Washington	Ongoing	Officer time	Measures dependent on initiative	<p>September: KW attended August's meeting.</p> <p>October: no further information to report.</p>
Work in partnership and continue to engage with organisations that can have a positive impact on the night time economy	Continue to support the Kidderminster Licensees Association	Jeannette Lane PC Andy Forbes	Ongoing	Officer time	<p>Engagement from trade</p> <p>Initiatives resulted from group</p>	<p>September: Meeting held this month. Updates from Street Pastors and licensing changes. KLA supporting the Alcohol Harm Initiative and 'Call Time on Violent Crime' campaign. Posters put up for the 'Behave Be Banned' scheme. New Chair required.</p> <p>October: Meeting held 6th November, new chair</p>

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						appointed.
Action	Activity	Responsibility	Target Date	Resources	Measures	Progress Update
Work in partnership and continue to engage with organisations that can have a positive impact on the night time economy	Review the provision of admin support to KLA	Kathryn Washington	December 2013	Officer time	N/A	September: KLA advised that support to be withdrawn December. October: KLA have been advised.
Work in partnership and support organisations that work to reduce the harm caused by substance misuse, including Novel Psychoactive Substances	Support the exploration of Recovery Cafe on the Walshes and the potential dry bar	Justin Bryant	Health Hub to be piloted January 2014	Officer time	To discuss with Justin Bryant, Rachel Cockayne and Nicola McAlister	September: No progress to report. October: Developing pilot Health Hub on Walshes which CRI have said would be involved in.
	Briefing from Richard Allsupp to WFDC Members regarding NPS	Ian Hardiman	September 2013	Officer and Member time		September: Briefing took place 19.09.13 October: Action complete. KW met with Debbie Tillsley from WCC, advised that undertaking needs assessment on substance misuse, includes NPS.
	Take forward opportunities to involve CRI service users in developing activities	Justin Bryant	Ongoing	Officer time	To be discussed	September: No progress to report. October: Mark Thresh (CRI) will identify opportunities within SWF to involve CRI service users in influencing the development of support services for people affected by drugs & alcohol.

Priority: Reducing Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding Vulnerable People

Objectives:

- Identify individuals who may be vulnerable and assist them in accessing appropriate services.
- Protect vulnerable residents from becoming a victim of crime within their home (including burglary and domestic abuse).
- Reduce the harmful effects of hate crime through the work of the Hate Incident Partnership.
- Provide support to relevant multi agency forums set up to co-ordinate interventions and support for vulnerable and repeat victims, enforcement against offenders and actions in identified problem locations.

Action	Activity	Responsibility	Target Date	Resources	Measures	Progress Update
Continue to play an active role in the Worcestershire Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Forums and implement relevant actions at a local level	Chair Countywide Public Awareness Group and cascade plans locally	Kathryn Washington	Ongoing	Officer time	Domestic Abuse Help Line figures	September: Planning meetings are underway. Next meeting 10 th October. October: Launch event 25 th November at University of Worcester, JB and HH attending. Heels Walks in Worcester 21st and Redditch 29 th November, HH supporting.
	National Personal Safety Day	Hilary Hollis	October 2013	Officer time		September: Planning meetings are underway October: Action complete. Project plan available included attendance at BMET Academy Freshers' Fair on 24.09.2013.
	Local 16 Days of Action and White Ribbon Campaign	Hilary Hollis	November-December 2013	Officer time	Domestic Abuse Help Line Figures No of pledges made from local area Feedback from	September: Planning meetings underway October: Project plan available for Wyre Forest delivery.

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					school based workshops	
Action	Activity	Responsibility	Target Date	Resources	Measures	Progress Update
Carry out statutory duties regarding domestic abuse	Participation in Domestic Homicide Reviews where relevant	Kathryn Washington	Ongoing	Officer time Cost of review	No of reviews	<p>July: Attended DHR Sub group July. Agreed not to go forward with review, NWCSP Chair to advise Home Office of decision.</p> <p>September: Waiting for Home Office response.</p> <p>October: Still waiting to hear from Home Office. Meeting for near miss took place.</p>
Continue to support and develop the Vulnerable Adults Groups	Terms of reference	Kathryn Washington	Ongoing	Officer time	No of referrals	June: ToR agreed, ISP being finalised.
	Information Sharing Protocol					July: June 3 referrals, July 4 referrals 1 CMHT to attend from September.
	Multi Agency Meetings held every 6 weeks					September: Meeting held. One new referral. CMHT didn't attend, KW to follow up. NWCSP asked for short presentation at December meeting.
	Ensure right agencies are involved					October: Currently have 9 referrals. Averaging one new one each meeting. Separate meeting arranged 5 th November for a specific case which is of significant concern.

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Action	Activity	Responsibility	Target Date	Resources	Measures	Progress Update
Continue to support and promote the Hate Incident Partnership	Webpage and online reporting process established	Community Safety Team	Ongoing	Officer time	No of reports	October: No reports received locally through NWHIP.
	NWHIP professionals launch event	Community Safety Team	July 2013	Officer time Grant funding	Feedback from attendees	July: Action completed, event held 03.07.13
	Local community based event	Community Safety Team	15.08.13	Officer time Grant funding	Results from event to form an action plan for future work	September: Event was held on 15 th August in Kidderminster Town Centre. Evaluation presented to NWHIP, action plan to be developed. October: Results to be discussed and formed into an action plan for next NWHIP in December.
	Refreshing and identifying new reporting centres	Community Safety Team	Ongoing	Officer time	Measures included in NWCSP performance framework	September: Not yet started October: Not yet started
	Ensure promotional materials are sourced and distributed appropriately	Community Safety Team	Ongoing	Officer time Grant funding	To support above	September: Not yet started October: Some materials have been

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						distributed but not on a significant scale
Action	Activity	Responsibility	Target Date	Resources	Measures	Progress Update
Continue to operate Home Security Scheme and Sanctuary Projects and look at where potential efficiencies and savings can be made across North Worcestershire	Operate the Home Security Scheme	Hilary Hollis Kim Elliott	March 2013	Officer time Grant funding	No of properties secured by the HSS No of burglary victim referrals No of vulnerable people referrals No of repeat referrals Evaluation results	<p>September: Wardens and PCSOs continue to make referrals. Domestic abuse victims being referred by Pete Aston, West Mercia Police.</p> <p>October: 45 properties secured by the HSS 3 burglary victim referrals 42 vulnerable people referrals 0 repeat referrals</p> <p>Exploring smart water for 14/15.</p> <p>Kim to undertake evaluation</p>

Priority: Reducing Anti Social Behaviour						
Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduce the harm caused to individuals and communities by anti-social behaviour. - Tackle youth related anti-social behaviour by supporting the provision of targeted and non-targeted positive activities. - Protect repeat victims of anti-social behaviour. - Recognise the positive contributions young people make to their local communities. 						
Action	Activity	Responsibility	Target Date	Resources	Measures	Progress Update
Develop and implement a range of Partnership Activities to address ASB	Work with wide range of partners on issues of concern to local residents e.g. WFDC Environmental Services	Kathryn Washington Hilary Hollis	Ongoing	Officer time	Reduction in ASB	October: Participating in Broadwaters Door Knocking, survey includes an ASB question.
Develop and implement a range of activities regarding perceptions of ASB	Young People Celebration Event	Hilary Hollis	11 July 2013	Officer time Buffet costs	Feedback from event. Viewpoint data 2012/13 Perception of ASB as a Problem - 24.20%, increase of 5.5% compared to 2011/12	July: Event held, well received. Good publicity and new points of contact for future projects. Planning for 2014. Action complete.
Identify and tackle ASB hotspots in order to conduct targeted initiatives	Analysis and responses to be identified. To examine the 3 categories of ASB.	Kim Elliott	Ongoing	Officer time	NWCSP Analyst to consider	September: To be discussed at Tasking. October: Not progressed yet due to prioritising other work.

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Action	Activity	Responsibility	Target Date	Resources	Measures	Progress Update
Continue to work with youth provision organisations including both statutory and voluntary sectors	Develop relationships with providers	Tasking Group Members	Ongoing	Officer time Grant funding	Measures for individual funded projects Evaluations to be conducted end March	<p>June: Funding bids from KDYT and Police provisionally agreed subject to further info.</p> <p>July: Funding agreed to West Mercia Police for Wyre Forest Streetz Consequences Board Game - £105</p> <p>September: Agreed to provide £3975 to KDYT for youth boxing project. JB and KW have met with Ann and Kevin Barker regarding youth cafe, also asked by Office of PCC for comments on their funding application.</p> <p>October: No new updates.</p>

Priority: Reducing Re-offending						
Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify and reduce the re-offending of those that cause the most harm in communities through Integrated Offender Management (IOM) processes. - Maintain and develop “target hardening” services for vulnerable households and continue support for vehicle security messages across the area to reduce opportunities for prolific acquisitive crime. - Ensure offenders are seen to contribute to the work of the CSPs through targeted community payback. 						
Action	Activity	Responsibility	Target Date	Resources	Measures	Progress Updates
<i>Continue to develop and promote local crime prevention projects and initiatives</i>	<i>See Plan ‘Reducing Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding Vulnerable People’</i>					
To consider developing mechanisms to enable the community to access community payback	Complete phase 2 of Community Payback initiative	Hilary Hollis Stan Reeves Kim Elliott	December 2013	Officer time Grant funding for supervisor costs	Feedback from applicants Feedback from offenders	September: meeting scheduled to finalise
	Publicity					September: meeting scheduled to finalise
	Conduct evaluation					September: HH and KE to discuss and take forward.
	Presentation to NWCSP in December					September: Presentation to NWCSP on 17.12.13 October: meeting scheduled to progress

Action	Activity	Responsibility	Target Date	Resources	Measures	Progress Updates
Support the delivery of IOM and associated activities through participation in the IOM Strategic Group	Admin support provided to Strategic Group	Jeannette Lane	Ongoing	Officer time Grant funding		September: Ongoing October: KW started to advise colleagues that this arrangement may come to an end if proposed changes with staffing happens.
	Co-ordinator attends Strategic Group representing NWCSP	Kathryn Washington	Ongoing			September: Ongoing October: IOM Task and Finish Group set up and ODOC sub group. KW and Ruth Pawsey involved. Funding for IOM Nominals drug testing agreed.
	IOM Partnerships Co-ordinator Post to be hosted by WFDC for 12 months using external funding	Kathryn Washington	November 2014			September: Interviews 27 th September. October: Successfully recruited to post, start date 18 th November.

North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership Performance Framework – August 2013

Introduction / Explanatory Notes

This performance report provides North Worcestershire CSP with performance information at a CSP and district level. The information provided here will be reflected in the Safer Communities Board performance report which shows county-wide, North Worcestershire and South Worcestershire information

All data refers to year to date (unless otherwise stated) up to July 2013/14 with the relevant percentage change.

Where performance issues are highlighted, the figures within the table are hyperlinked to more detailed information provided further on in the report (from page 6 onwards).

Report Format:

Grey cells	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer Communities Board Indicators – these have been selected and agreed by the SCB. They can only be amended redefined by the SCB or its sub groups (e.g. IOM group are currently defining a local reoffending measure)
White Cells	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These are local CSP Indicators taken from previous district level performance frameworks • These can be added to or changed as required by North Worcestershire CSP • These indicators provide information to allow the CSP to monitor performance in the priority areas indentified in the strategic assessment, indentify trends and provide local context to the countywide SCB indicators.
Indicator Definitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The definitions for each indicator are listed from page 7 onwards, and hyperlinked under each theme title in the table

Exceptions and Highlights

1. New Integrated Offender Management indicators included in the performance report with first month's data. These are to be agreed at the IOM strategy group on 19th September.
2. Change in this report in what the current year to date figure is compared to. Previously it was compared to the same period last year, now it will be compared to the average of the same period over the past 3 years. This should account for some of the annual variation and we will be able to see if any change is more significant against a long term trend.
3. Total recorded crime in North Worcestershire is down 17.4% compared to the previous 3 year's average. This is 1083 fewer offences.
4. Total ASB for North Worcestershire is down 7.6% compared to the previous 2 year's average. 351 fewer incidents.
5. There were notable drops in:
 - Total Criminal Damage down 31.1%
 - Violence Against a Person with Injury down 28.8%
 - Theft of a Motor Vehicle down 27.7%
6. Across North Worcestershire there were increases in:
 - Shoplifting up 20.5%
 - Theft From Motor Vehicle up 3.3%

Performance Table – Year to date to 31st July 2013/14 (unless otherwise stated)

Theme	Measure	North Worcestershire			Bromsgrove			Redditch			Wyre Forest		
		Previous 3 year average	Latest	Change	Previous 3 year average	Latest	Change	Previous 3 year average	Latest	Change	Previous 3 year average	Latest	Change
Reducing Reoffending Indicator Definitions	% on cohort less than 12 months		50%										
	Baseline arrests for those on cohort less than 12 months		45										
	Change in average arrests for those on cohort less than 12 months		-20%										
	% on cohort more than 2 years		13%										
Harm Reduction (ASB) Indicator Definitions	Total no. of ASB Incidents ⁶	4628	4277	-7.6%	1119	1027	-8.2%	1688	1502	-11.0%	1821	1748	-4.0%
	ASB Environmental ⁶	500	308	-38.4%	139	89	-36.0%	177	107	-39.5%	184	112	-39.1%
	ASB Nuisance ⁶	3277	3254	-0.7%	787	798	1.4%	1185	1111	-6.2%	1304.5	1345	3.1%
	ASB Personal ⁶	851	715	-16.0%	193	140	-27.3%	326	284	-12.9%	332.5	291	-12.5%
	Youth ASB ⁶	1896	1519	-19.9%	464	403	-13.1%	669	479	-28.4%	763	637	-16.5%
	Alcohol ASB ⁶	869	698	-19.7%	201	155	-22.9%	341	251	-14.9%	328	292	-10.8%
	Perception of ASB as a Problem (NI17) ¹	16.9%	18.9%	+2.0%	13.10%	17.10%	+4.0%	19.70%	14.20%	-5.5%	18.70%	24.20%	+5.5%
Harm Reduction (Hate Crime)	Total Hate Crime ⁷	61	56	-8.2%	13	3	-76.3%	24	30	23.3%	24	23	-4.2%
	Disability Hate Crime		1			0			0			1	

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Theme	Measure	North Worcestershire			Bromsgrove			Redditch			Wyre Forest		
		Previous 3 year average	Latest	Change	Previous 3 year average	Latest	Change	Previous 3 year average	Latest	Change	Previous 3 year average	Latest	Change
Indicator Definitions	Race Hate Crime		50			3			29			18	
	Religion Hate Crime		3			0			2			1	
	Sexuality Hate Crime		5			0			1			4	
	Transgender Hate Crime		0			0			0			0	
	Hate Crimes Reported to the Local Authority ⁸	27	17	-37.0%	8	4	-50.0%	19	13	-31.6%	0	0	0.0%
	Crimes with Vulnerable Adult Marker	78	35	-54.9%	19	14	-27.6%	22	13	-41.8%	36	8	-77.8%
Domestic Abuse Indicator Definitions	No. of New MARAC Cases ⁶	30	51	72.9%	8	11	37.5%	10	21	110.0%	13	19	46.2%
	No. of Repeat MARAC Cases ⁶	8	16	100.0%	4	5	42.9%	3	3	20.0%	2	8	300.0%
	% Repeat MARAC Cases	22.9%	23.9%	4.1%	27.5%	31.3%	13.6%	18.5%	12.5%	-32.3%	15.6%	29.6%	89.6%
	Total Domestic Abuse	1744	1375	-21.2%	377	293	-22.2%	649	498	-23.3%	718	584	-18.7%
	Offences with DV Interest Marker	584	430	-26.4%	136	88	-35.3%	214	171	-20.0%	235	171	-27.1%
	Incidents (Calls for Service)	1160	947	-18.4%	241	205	-14.8%	436	328	-24.7%	484	414	-14.4%
	% Victims supported at court (of those within the court process) ⁵	83%	65%	-22%									

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Theme	Measure	North Worcestershire			Bromsgrove			Redditch			Wyre Forest		
		Previous 3 year average	Latest	Change	Previous 3 year average	Latest	Change	Previous 3 year average	Latest	Change	Previous 3 year average	Latest	Change
	DVPOs Issued ³	4	1	-75%									
Drugs & Alcohol Indicator Definitions	Alcohol-related Recorded Crimes	1036	740	-28.6%	243	160	-34.2%	338	283	-16.3%	455	297	-34.7%
	Alcohol related admissions for under 18s ^{2,9}	46	41	-10.9%									
	% completing Structured Alcohol Recovery Programme ^{4,9}	40.6%	20.9%		Note: previous refers to Apr 12 – Mar 13, latest refers to Apr 13 - Jun 13								
	% completing Structured Drug Recovery Programme ^{4,9}	6.9%	1.5%		Note: previous refers to Apr 12 – Mar 13, latest refers to Apr 13 - Jun 13								
	NTE Crime	261	145	-44.5%	60	35	-42.0%	82	56	-31.7%	119	54	-54.6%
	No. training packages delivered ^{3,6}	4	0	-100%									
Crime Indicator Definitions	Total Recorded Crime	6075	4992	-17.8%	1632	1348	-17.4%	1950	1689	-13.4%	2492	1955	-21.6%
	Assault without Injury	811	587	-27.6%	182	135	-26.0%	311	234	-24.7%	318	218	-31.4%
	VAP with Injury	684	487	-28.8%	165	98	-40.6%	229	202	-11.8%	290	187	-35.6%
	Dwelling Burglary	237	198	-16.6%	87	78	-10.7%	65	51	-21.9%	85	69	-18.5%
	Non-Dwelling Burglary	437	378	-13.5%	142	113	-20.4%	91	83	-8.8%	204	182	-10.8%
	Total Criminal Damage	1037	712	-31.3%	241	179	-25.8%	353	238	-32.6%	443	295	-33.4%
	Theft from	451	466	3.3%	139	142	2.4%	148	134	-9.5%	164	190	15.6%

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Theme	Measure	North Worcestershire			Bromsgrove			Redditch			Wyre Forest		
		Previous 3 year average	Latest	Change	Previous 3 year average	Latest	Change	Previous 3 year average	Latest	Change	Previous 3 year average	Latest	Change
	Motor Vehicle												
	Theft of Motor Vehicle	159	115	-27.7%	45	42	-7.4%	35	32	-9.4%	78	41	-47.7%
	Robbery	46	36	-21.7%	13	6	-53.8%	18	22	22.2%	15	8	-46.7%
	Serious Sexual Offences	90	80	-11.1%	20	17	-16.4%	33	36	9.1%	37	27	-26.4%
	Shoplifting	445	536	20.5%	90	103	14.9%	190	203	6.7%	165	230	39.7%
	Metal Theft ⁶	192	63	-67.2%	33	19	-42.4%	31	25	-18.0%	129	19	-85.2%
	Arson ⁶	36	22	-38.0%	9	8	-11.1%	15	7	-53.3%	12	7	-39.1%
	Deliberate Fires	158	105	-33.7%	43	26	-39.5%	52	31	-40.0%	64	48	-24.6%

¹ Due to a change in the wording and definition of the question in the Viewpoint survey this indicator can only be compared to 2011, therefore previous relates the single previous figure. The latest figure is from the November 2012 Viewpoint.

² Previous refers to 2010/11. Latest refers to 2011/12. 2011/12 figures are provisional only and based on NHS Worcestershire Local estimates

³ Data submitted quarterly – latest refers to quarter 1 2013/14. Previous refers to quarter 4 2012/13.

⁴ Based on locality office rather than local authority of residence due to data accuracy being greater. The calculation is based on the percentage of the total treatment population achieving recovery, previous refers to Apr 12 – Mar 13, latest refers to Apr 13 - Jun 13

⁵ This indicator has changed from attrition rate to the percentage of victims supported at court. Figure for Worcestershire as a whole and is not yet split into south and north Worcestershire. This indicator is to be discussed at policy and commissioning group on 19th September 2013. Latest represents quarter 1 2013/14. Previous represents quarter 4 2012/13.

⁶ Only 2 years figures available therefore previous figures are based on a two year average rather than 3 years.

⁷ A hate crime can contain more than one, or no, hate crime markers (race, disability, etc.). Therefore the total number of hate crimes may be larger or smaller than the sum of the markers. Also note that this total is a total of the hate crimes as defined by the Home Office definition and does not include police recorded 'crime/incidents'.

⁸ Hate Crimes Reported to Local Authority – Data covers April 2012 to January 2013. This previous for this indicator simply refers to the year to date for 2011/12 and not to any average.

⁹ It is not possible to produce an average for this data

North Worcestershire CSP Performance Indicators – Definitions

Grey shaded cells indicate Safer Communities Board indicators, white shaded cells are CSP specific indicators

Theme	Measure (as it appears in the table)	Description / Definition	Source
Reducing Re-Offending	% on cohort less than 12 months	Percentage of cohort who have been on the cohort less than 12 months	West Mercia Police
	Baseline arrests for those on cohort less than 12 months	The total number of arrests in the six months prior to being added to the cohort of those on the cohort for less than 12 months	West Mercia Police
	Change in average arrests for those on cohort less than 12 months	Change in average number of arrests for individuals who were added to the IOM cohort in the last 12 months between the 6 months before joining the cohort and the 6 month period after they have been on the cohort for 3 months.	West Mercia Police
	% on cohort more than 2 years	Percentage of cohort who have been on the cohort more than 2 years	West Mercia Police
Harm Reduction (ASB)	Total no. of ASB Incidents	Total number of anti-social behaviour incidents recorded by West Mercia Police	West Mercia Police
	ASB Environmental	Number of ASB incidents recorded under: "Environmental" category	West Mercia Police
	ASB Nuisance	"Nuisance" category	
	ASB Personal	"Personal" category	
	Youth ASB	ASB incidents with youth qualifier (720) or where log text contains one or more of the youth key words (youth, young, child, kid, underage, under age, teen, lad (not lady), boy (not boyf), girl (not girlf))	West Mercia Police
	Alcohol ASB	ASB incidents with alcohol qualifier (710) or where log text contains one or more of the alcohol key words (drink, drunk, alcohol, intoxicated, public house, licensed premise, wine, beer, cider, vodka, lager, spirit)	West Mercia Police
	Perception of ASB as a Problem (NI 17)**	Percentage of residents who perceive ASB to be a problem in their area	Worcestershire Viewpoint Survey
Harm Reduction (Hate Crime)	Total Hate Crime	Number of recorded crimes with a "racially or religiously aggravated" offence title, or where a hate crime interest marker has been applied	West Mercia Police
	Disability Hate Crime	Number of hate crimes where type of hate is recorded as: "disability"	West Mercia Police
	Race Hate Crime	"race"	
	Religion Hate Crime	"religion"	
	Sexuality Hate Crime	"sexuality"	
	Transgender Hate Crime	"transgender"	
	Hate Crimes Reported to the Local Authority	Number of hate crimes reported to the local authority	Hate Incident Partnerships
Domestic Abuse	Crimes with Vulnerable Adult Marker	Number of recorded crimes given the Vulnerable Adult (VA) Interest Marker	West Mercia Police
	No. of New MARAC Cases	Number of new MARAC cases	MARAC Coordinators (North & South Worcestershire)
	No. of Repeat MARAC Cases	Number of Repeat MARAC cases	
	Percentage Repeat MARAC Cases	Percentage of total MARAC cases that were repeats	
	Total Domestic Abuse	Recorded crimes and incidents given a	West Mercia Police

Agenda Item No. 5 Appendix 3

Theme	Measure (as it appears in the table)	Description / Definition	Source
		Domestic Abuse interest marker or action code.	
	Offences with DV Interest Marker	Number of recorded crimes defined as domestic abuse related (definition as above)	West Mercia Police
	Incidents (Calls for Service)	Number of incidents or calls to service defined as domestic abuse related (i.e. where no crime was recorded but police attended / were informed of an incident)	West Mercia Police
	% victims supported at court (out of those within court process)	<i>tbc</i>	<i>tbc</i>
	DVPOs Issued	Number of Domestic Violence Prevention Orders issued (DVPO is the initial orders issued by the police in order to provide emergency protection to an individual believed to be the victim of domestic violence immediately after an attack, by preventing the perpetrator from contacting the victim or returning to their home. For more information see http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/violence-against-women-girls/domestic-violence/dv-protection-orders/)	West Mercia Police
Drugs & Alcohol	Alcohol-related Recorded Crimes	Criminal offences given the "AI" (alcohol involved) interest marker, or where the log text includes one or more of the alcohol key words (drink, drunk, alcohol, intoxicated, public house, licensed premise, wine, beer, cider, vodka, lager, spirit)	West Mercia Police
	Alcohol related admissions for under 18s	Alcohol related hospital admissions for those aged below 18 years of age.	JCU – Drug & Alcohol
	% completing structured Alcohol Recovery Programme	% of Service Users who start a structured Alcohol Recovery Programme and who are discharged having achieved recovery	JCU – Drug & Alcohol
	% completing structured Drug Recovery Programme	% of Service Users who start a structured Drug Recovery Programme and who are discharged having achieved recovery	JCU – Drug & Alcohol
	NTE Crime	Number of Night Time Economy related crimes (assaults, public order offences, sexual offences, drug offences and criminal damage) occurring within town centre areas between 8 p.m. and 5:59 a.m.	West Mercia Police
Prevent	No. training packages delivered	Number of Prevent Training Packages delivered - First time or refresher	West Mercia Police
Crime	Total Recorded Crime	Total number of criminal offences recorded by West Mercia Police (based on date record created)	West Mercia Police
	Assault without Injury	Includes assault without injury (common assault), assault without injury on a constable, and racially aggravated assault without injury	West Mercia Police
	VAP with Injury	Broadly including assault with injury (including racially aggravated offences), wounding, murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, causing death by dangerous or careless driving.	West Mercia Police

Agenda Item No. 5 Appendix 3

Theme	Measure (as it appears in the table)	Description / Definition	Source
	Dwelling Burglary	Burglary in a dwelling offences, including attempts, aggravated offences and Distraction Burglary	West Mercia Police
	Non-Dwelling Burglary	Burglary in a building other than a dwelling, including aggravated and attempted offences	West Mercia Police
	Total Criminal Damage	Including all types of criminal damage (to a dwelling, non-dwelling, vehicle, to other property), racially aggravated offences and arson	West Mercia Police
	Theft from Motor Vehicle	Theft from a motor vehicle	West Mercia Police
	Theft of Motor Vehicle	Theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle (including aggravated offences) and attempted offences.	West Mercia Police
	Robbery	Robbery of business or personal property	West Mercia Police
	Serious Sexual Offences	Broadly including indecent assault, sexual assault, rape, unlawful sexual intercourse and trafficking for sexual exploitation	West Mercia Police
	Shoplifting	Shoplifting offences	West Mercia Police
	Metal Theft	Recorded offences where the property stolen is recorded as: cables/wires/sockets, fixtures/fittings including boilers, kitchen & bathroom fixtures & cupboards, metal roller shutter, pipes/plumbing/guttering, tiles/roof slates/lead flashing, metal, scrap metal.	West Mercia Police
	Arson	The criminal act of setting a fire with intent to destroy or damage property belonging to another.	West Mercia Police
	Deliberate Fires	Fires where the cause is one that could be reasonably supposed to be started deliberately (but not necessarily with malicious intent). The cause of a fire is determined by the officer in charge at an incident based on the evidence available to them.	Hereford & Worcester Fire & Rescue Service



Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Briefing Paper

Report of: Rhiannon Foxall, Business Improvement Officer
Date: Thursday 5th December
Open

How Are We Doing? Performance Update

1. Summary

- 1.1 To update Members on the performance of the Council for Quarter 2 (from 1st July 2013 to 30th September 2013).

2. Background

- 2.1 Performance management is instrumental in all council activities as it helps us to keep track of how well we are performing and enables any potential issues to be identified at an early stage so remedial action can be taken. It also informs our decision making processes which underpin the delivery of our Corporate Plan 2011-14 (*Engage, Consult, Deliver*).
- 2.2 The Council has a number of processes in place to monitor our performance including:
- Corporate Plan Actions
 - Corporate Risks and associated actions
 - Leading Measures
 - Lagging Measures

3. Progress

- 3.1 [Appendix 1](#) is an exception report for all of our purposes (People, Place, Housing, Planning, Business, Enabling)
- 3.2 [Appendix 2](#) is a detailed report of performance against our purpose of 'Business'.

4. Key Achievements/Issues

- 4.1 Any overdue items are listed in Appendix 1. However, for many of these, the delays have clear reasons and revised timescales are identified. At this stage, none of the projects seem significantly adrift or unlikely to be completed.
- 4.2 The WFF 13/14 28 action has recently been cancelled due to a decision being taken at Cabinet/CMT on the 7th October to not re-run

the Members Survey until 2014. This action will therefore not feature in future reports.

- 4.3 A key achievement to note is the support given to local businesses through business start up and business booster grants. In 2012/13 £6,750.00 was issued in Business Start Up Grants and £8,185 in Business Booster Grants. The businesses that grants are issued to are tracked to monitor their survival rates over 6, 12 and 18 months, the results of which can be found in some of our measures in Appendix 2 and in more detail in [Appendix 3](#).

5. Options

- 5.1 That the progress in performance for quarter 2 be noted.

6. Consultation

- 6.1 Cabinet Member for Community Well-Being
- 6.2 Corporate Management Team

7. Related Decisions

- 7.1 None.

8. Relevant Council Policies/Strategies

- 8.1 Wyre Forest District Council Corporate Plan 2011 – 2014.
- 8.2 Wyre Forest Forward Programme of Projects 2013/14.

9. Implications

- 9.1 Resources: No direct implications from this report.
- 9.2 Equalities: No direct implications from this report.
- 9.3 Partnership working: No direct implications from this report.
- 9.4 Human Rights: No direct implications from this report.
- 9.5 E-Government: No direct implications from this report.

10. Equality Impact Needs Assessment

- 10.1 An equality impact assessment has been undertaken and it is considered that there are no discernible impacts on the nine protected characteristics as set out by the Equality Act 2010.

11. Wards affected

- 11.1 None.

12. Appendices

- 12.1 Appendix 1 – All purposes exception report
- 12.2 Appendix 2 – Full 'Business' report
- 12.3 Appendix 3 – Business Survival Tracking Report

13. Background Papers

Corporate Plan action information is available on the Council's Performance Management System, Covalent. Alternatively, reports can be requested from the Business Improvement Officer.

Officer Contact Details:

Name: Rhiannon Foxall
Title: Business Improvement Officer
Contact Number: Ext. 2786
Email: rhiannon.foxall@wyreforestdc.gov.uk

Exception report for all purposes

Those actions that are approaching their due date or are overdue



Enabling others to do what they need to do

WFF 13/14 28	Members Survey	40%	
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Due Date	Managed By	Latest Note	Latest Note Date
31-Dec-2013	Alison Braithwaite	AB: Preparations are underway for drafting this year's Members' Survey.	25-Sep-2013

Give me a voice

WFF 13/14 12	Community Asset and Service Transfer Work	40%	
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Due Date	Managed By	Latest Note	Latest Note Date
31-Mar-2014	Linda Collis; Caroline Newlands	Draft principles out for consultation with relevant Parishes.	27-Sep-2013

Help me improve my health and well-being

WFF 13/14 07	New Leisure Centre	50%	
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Due Date	Managed By	Latest Note	Latest Note Date
31-Mar-2014	Linda Collis	Discussions are progressing regarding the purchase of a site for the new leisure centre. When these have been concluded the next step will be to invite selected companies to tender for the contract to design and build,	21-Oct-2013

operate and maintain the leisure centre and to apply for outline planning permission.

Support me to run a successful business

WFF 13/14 18






State of the Area - Incubator Units

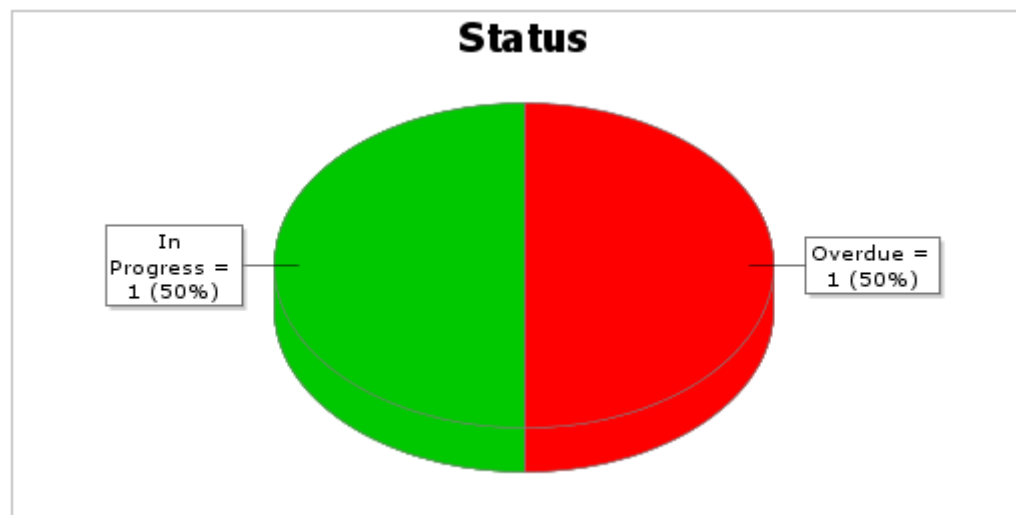
80%



Due Date	Managed By	Latest Note	Latest Note Date
30-Sep-2013	Mike Parker	Official opening by Chairman of the Council Wednesday 27th November.	19-Nov-2013

Support me to run a successful business

Action Status	
	Cancelled
	Overdue; Neglected
	Unassigned; Check Progress
	Not Started; In Progress; Assigned
	Completed



Due Date	Managed By	Latest Note	Latest Note Date
15-Mar-2014	Mike Parker	12 apprentices supported so far through the current programme.	23-Oct-2013

WFF 13/14 18

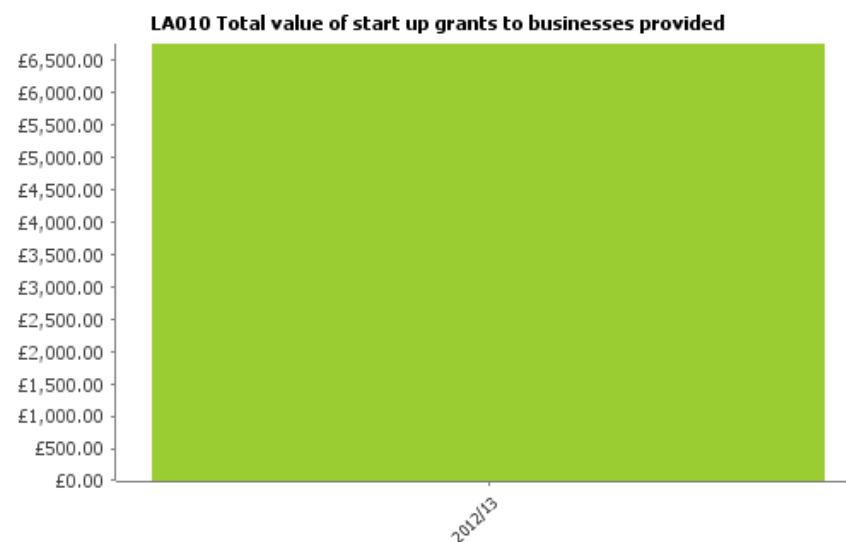
State of the Area – Incubator Units

80%



Due Date	Managed By	Latest Note	Latest Note Date
30-Sep-2013	Mike Parker	Official opening by Chairman of the Council Wednesday 27th November.	19-Nov-2013

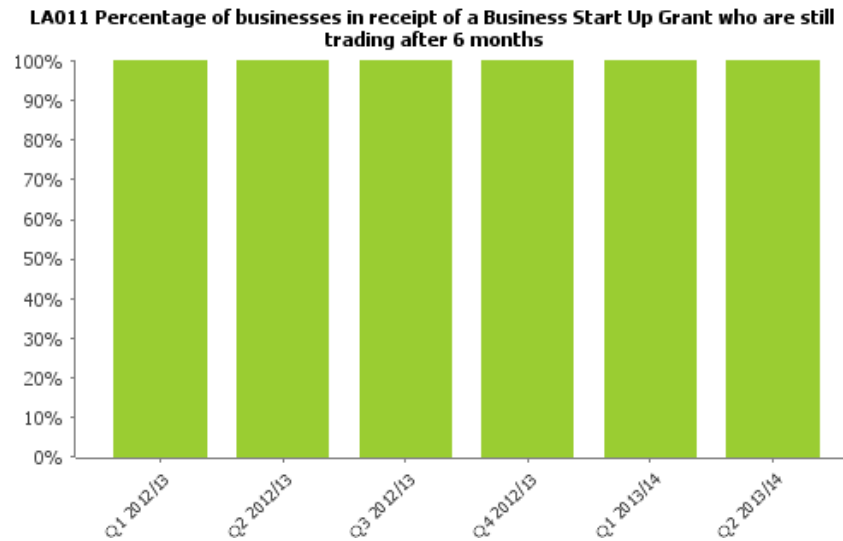
LA010 Total value of start up grants to businesses provided



Current Value £6,750.00

Managed By Steve Singleton

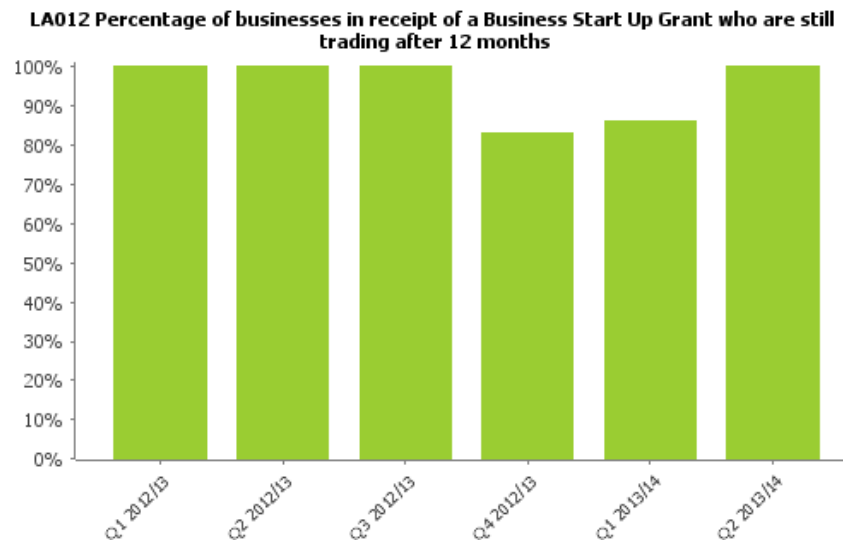
LA011 Percentage of businesses in receipt of a Business Start Up Grant who are still trading after 6 months



Current Value 100%

Managed By Steve Singleton

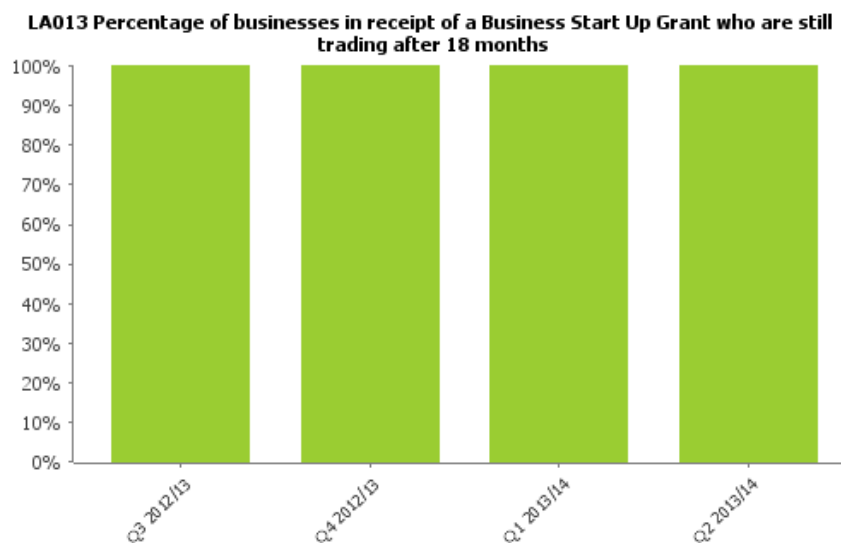
LA012 Percentage of businesses in receipt of a Business Start Up Grant who are still trading after 12 months



Current Value 100%

Managed By Steve Singleton

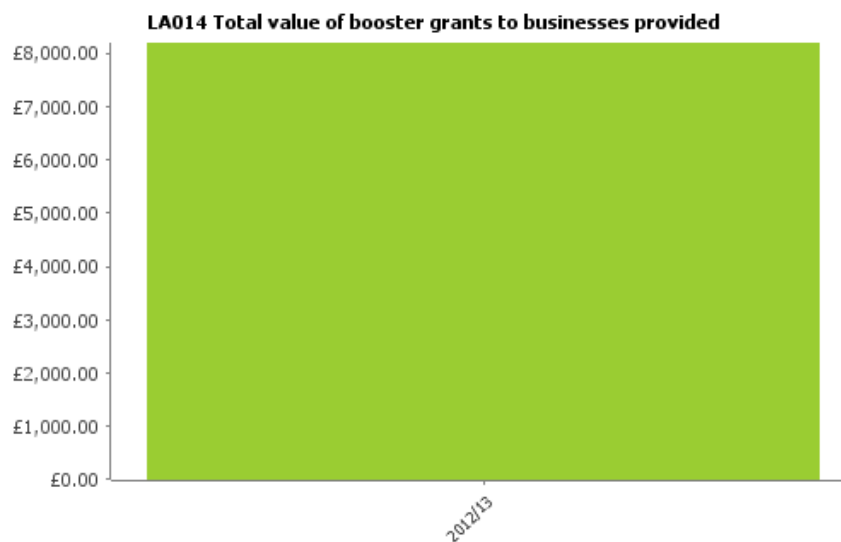
LA013 Percentage of businesses in receipt of a Business Start Up Grant who are still trading after 18 months



Current Value 100%

Managed By Steve Singleton

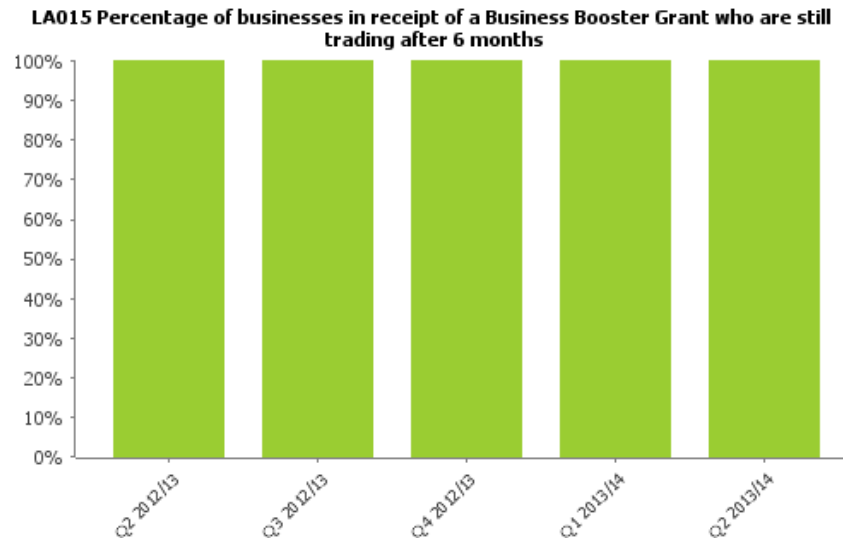
LA014 Total value of booster grants to businesses provided



Current Value £8,185.00

Managed By Steve Singleton

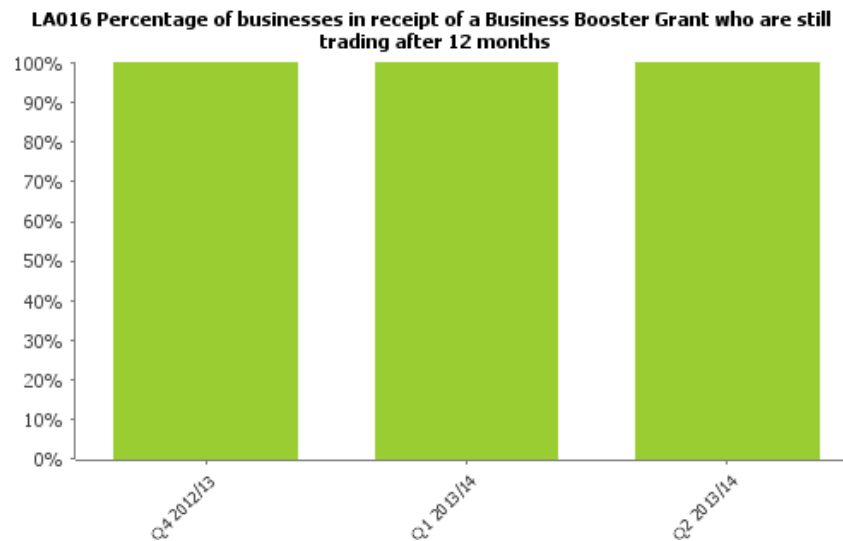
LA015 Percentage of businesses in receipt of a Business Booster Grant who are still trading after 6 months



Current Value 100%

Managed By Steve Singleton

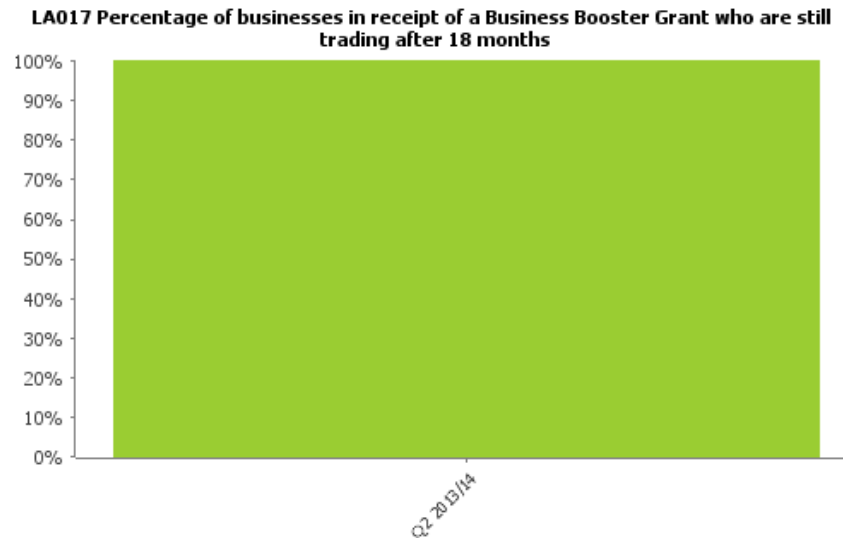
LA016 Percentage of businesses in receipt of a Business Booster Grant who are still trading after 12 months



Current Value 100%

Managed By Steve Singleton

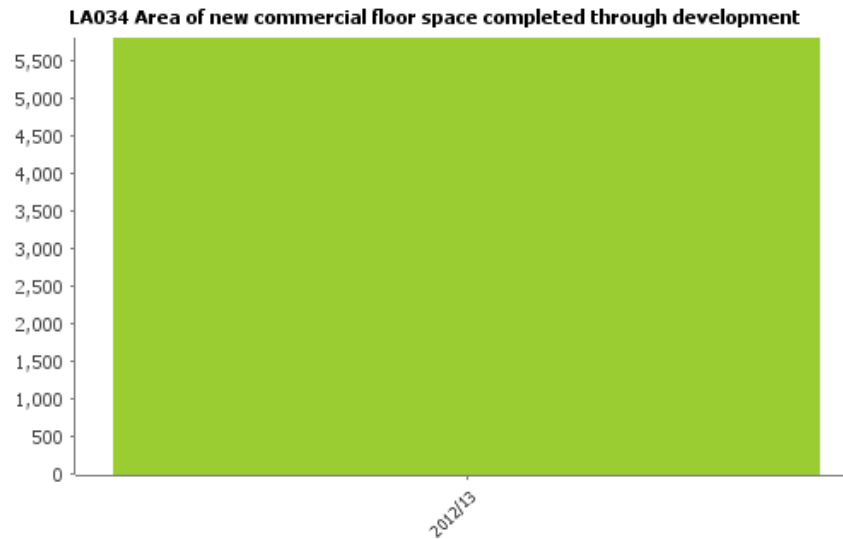
LA017 Percentage of businesses in receipt of a Business Booster Grant who are still trading after 18 months



Current Value 100%

Managed By Steve Singleton

LA034 Area of new commercial floor space completed through development



Current Value 5,793

Managed By Rebecca Mayman

LA048 Amount of new/extended business/commercial floorspace built as a result of the LDO

LA048 Amount (m2) of new/extended business/commercial floorspace built as a result of the LDO

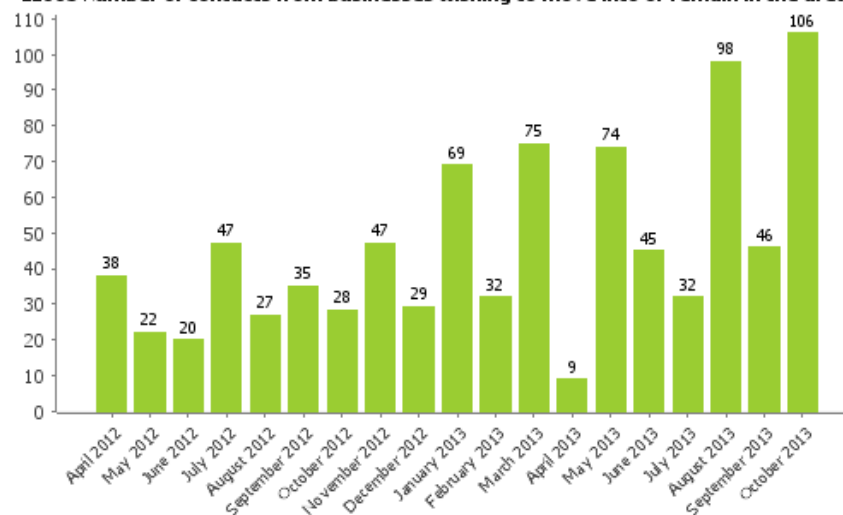


Current Value 217

Managed By Jonathan Elmer

LE063 Number of contacts from businesses wishing to move into or remain in the area. Contacts made via self service online with unit types requested:
Garage
Hotel
Industrial/Warehouse
Investment Property
Land
Office
Other
Restaurant/Pub/Club
Retail
Serviced Office

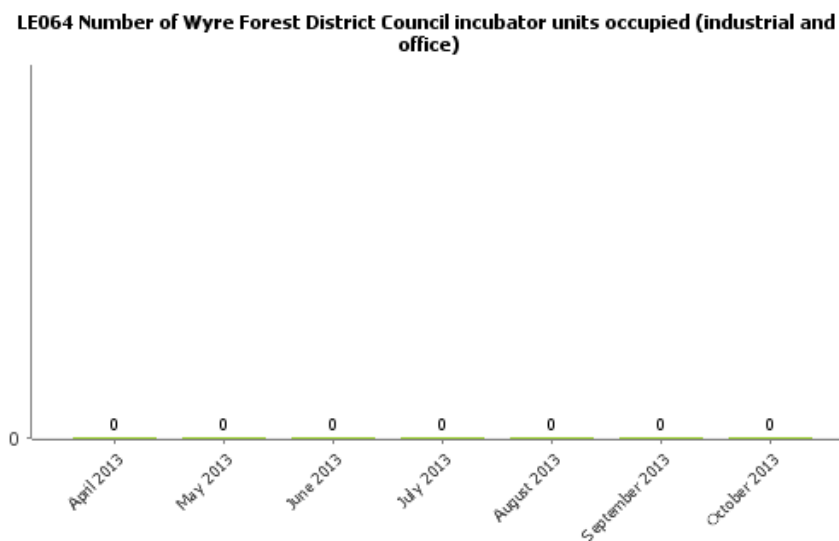
LE063 Number of contacts from businesses wishing to move into or remain in the area



Current Value 106

Managed By Steve Singleton

LE064 Number of incubator units occupied (industrial and office)



Current Value 0

Managed By Steve Singleton

Listed below are primary actions for other purposes but also impact on this purpose

WFF 13/14 20

Delivery of Hoobrook Link Road

Listed below are primary measures for other purposes but also impact on this purpose

BUSINESS START-UP GRANTS

		Grant Awarded	6 months Survival	12 months Survival	18 months Survival
2011/12	Q1	1	-	-	-
	Q2	5	-	-	-
	Q3	5	1	-	-
	Q4	6	5	-	-
2012/13	Q1	7	5	1	-
	Q2	2	6	5	-
	Q3	5	7	5	1
	Q4	1	2	5	5
2013/14	Q1	1	5	6	5
	Q2	2	1	2	5
	Q3				

BUSINESS BOOSTER / GROWTH GRANTS

		Grant Awarded	6 months Survival	12 months Survival	18 months Survival
2011/12	Q1	0	-	-	-
	Q2	0	-	-	-
	Q3	0	-	-	-
	Q4	2	-	-	-
2012/13	Q1	1	-	-	-
	Q2	1	2	-	-
	Q3	5	1	-	-
	Q4	1	1	2	-
2013/14	Q1	1	5	1	-
	Q2	0	1	1	2
	Q3				



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Briefing Paper

Report of: Val Upton, Welfare Reform Manager
Date: Thursday 5th December 2013
Open

Council Tax Discount Scheme and the Impact of the Welfare Reform Act

1. Summary

- 1.1 The overall cost of Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit has escalated nationally over the years and as a consequence, the Welfare Reform Act 2012 has been implemented to drive down this expenditure. Appendix A shows both the Council Tax Benefit and Housing Benefit expenditure since 2000 in respect of all the Authorities in Worcestershire.
- As part of the Welfare Reform Act, the Government replaced the national Council Tax Benefit Scheme with a localised Council Tax Discount Scheme. The main effect of this is to reimburse councils with only 90% of the previous costs of granting Council Tax Benefit – the impact on WFDC is to reduce funding by about £851,000 per annum. There have been other changes to the Housing Benefit Scheme as part of Welfare Reform – one significant change being the introduction of Under Occupancy reductions in respect of tenants of registered social landlords with a reduction of 14% of their Housing Benefit where they have an extra bedroom above their requirements, and 25% in respect of two extra bedrooms. The benefit cap of £500 a week which was also introduced from April 2013 had very little impact in Wyre Forest.

2. Background

- 2.1 On 8th November 2012, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered and supported the proposed scheme and asked that a recommendation was added relating to a review of the council tax support fund. It was proposed that an annual review of the level of funding available for the support fund is undertaken, and in addition, during the first year, it was proposed that there was a review undertaken after the first six months.

On 12th November 2012 Cabinet agreed the WFDC Council Tax Discount Scheme in respect of working age customers. The changes of the scheme in comparison to the original Council Tax Benefit Scheme was as follows:

- Maximum award of Council Tax Discount of 91.5%
- Minimum weekly payment of discount of £5
- Reduce the unit of capital to calculate tariff income in respect of savings from £250 to £200
- Remove the entitlement of second adult rebate
- No backdating of claims

3. Key Issues

- 3.1 The cost implications for the Council relating to the recommended option were identified in the Cabinet report on the 23rd October 2012. There is a predicted reduction in funding of £111,000 per annum to the Council as a consequence of the Council Tax Discount Scheme. The financial impact of the recommended option as illustrated in previous reports is shown below:

£k	Financial impact for Collection fund (£000)	Financial impact on WFDC (£000)
Estimated cost of Government cut to funding	851	111
LESS		
Council Tax exemption changes	273	36
Limitation of discount including limiting support to 90% for working age people	452	59
PLUS		
Support fund (maximum)	0	25
Total financial impact	126	41

At the time the Council Tax Discount Scheme was being agreed by Cabinet and Council, the Government offered Councils a transitional grant if the maximum Council Tax Discount Scheme was limited to no more than 91.5% in 2013-14. The transitional grant on offer to WFDC was £28,634: by designing the scheme to qualify for the grant, it reduced the cost to WFDC from £41,000 to £20,656. Council approved a move to 90% discount from 1st April 2014 as part of last year's decisions, and this will therefore be implemented in April.

- 3.2 There is a live caseload currently of 9724, of which 4756 working age customers are in receipt of Council Tax Discount Scheme and are required to pay a minimum of 8.5% of their council tax liability. It is therefore important to monitor the collection of this liability, taking remedial action as appropriate to ensure that the liability is collected to endeavour to achieve the projected savings required as a consequence of the cut in government funding. In addition to the above live caseload, a further 922 working age customers have received some Council Tax Discount Scheme since 1st April 2013 and again have a liability to pay. The table in Appendix B illustrates the latest position as at 4th November 2013 with regards to the collection of Council Tax in respect of customers of pension age and of working age.
- 3.3 Appendix C compares caseload and expenditure in respect of Council Tax Benefit as at 31/03/13 and Council Tax Discount as at 31/10/13.

- 3.4 Any award of the Council Tax Discount Scheme is immediately credited to the council tax account and, as Appendix C illustrates, the current expenditure for 2013/14 in respect of the Discount is £7,952,831.44. This figure will change throughout the rest of the financial year due to new applications for the Discount and Discounts changing due to changes of circumstances or ending.
- 3.5 There is a council tax support fund which is available to working age customers who are experiencing financial hardship as a consequence of the Council Tax Discount Scheme. The total amount of funds available equate to £75,000, which is made up of a contribution of £25,000 from the Worcestershire County Council in recognition of implementing a local scheme which was match funded with £25,000 from WFDC and a further £25,000 from the grant given to WFDC from Worcestershire County Council in respect of the new Social Fund. Information on the number of applicants for support from the fund is set out in the report on the Local Welfare Scheme. Appendix C illustrates that the implementation of the Discount Scheme resulted in a reduction in the caseload where working age customers no longer qualified because their weekly entitlement was less than the £5 per week minimum entitlement. Consideration can be given to these customers providing that they can demonstrate financial hardship in meeting their liability in full.
- 3.6 There are currently 4,890 Housing Benefit recipients who live in Registered Social Landlord properties. In April 2013 as part of the Welfare Reform Act, a reduction of either 14% or 25% has been applied to working age customers who live in this type of property where it is deemed that they are under occupying the number of bedrooms. The table below illustrates how many working age customers within the 4,890 tenancies are affected by the new legislation. This equates to 26% of the total number in receipt of Housing Benefit. The weekly entitlement of Housing Benefit has fallen from £112,639.68 to £91,280.84 once the legislation was implemented. This has resulted in a weekly saving of Housing Benefit expenditure of £21,358.84, which in percentage terms equates to almost 19%.

Landlord	Wkly Award Before £	Wkly Award After £	Number of Claims at 14%	Number of Claims at 25%	Total Number of Claims
Bromford Housing	1,827.48	1,477.14	16	7	23
Evesham & Pershore Housing	420.23	356.35	5	0	5
Festival Housing	101.57	87.33	1	0	1
Jephson Housing	1,968.88	1,650.36	24	0	24
Nexus Housing	246.92	211.08	3	0	3
Waterloo Housing	2,965.24	2,537.37	35	0	35
West Mercia Housing	3,068.46	2,562.93	33	5	38
Worcester Community Housing	104.65	90.00	1	0	1
Wyre Forest Community Housing	87,155.94	69,923.57	654	350	1004

Wyre Forest Sheltered Housing	14,780.31	12,384.71	174	1	175
	112,639.68	91,280.84	946	363	1,309

- 3.7 In 2012/13 the total gross expenditure for Housing Benefit in respect of RSL properties within Wyre Forest was £19,338,058. It can therefore be appreciated that the introduction of the under occupancy rules with regards to working age customers will contribute to reducing the escalating costs in respect of welfare benefits.
- 3.8 The reduction in Housing Benefit can cause financial hardship. The Department for Work and Pensions each year provides Councils with additional funding for Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP). This is a permitted total which is based on a percentage of each Council's benefit expenditure and is split between Government Contribution and the Council's own budget. DHP funding is available to customers who are in receipt of Housing Benefit but, for various reasons, are suffering financial hardship. It is intended as a short term means to help the customer. The amount of Government Contribution has increased considerably in 2013/14 to accommodate the Welfare Reforms. The table below illustrates the permitted totals and Government Contributions for the last 3 years.

	Permitted Total	Government Contribution	Authority Contribution
2011/12	£48,455	£19,382	£29,073
2012/13	£142,362	£56,945	£85,417
2013/14	£380,228	£152,091	£228,137

- 3.9 In the first six months of 2013/14 there have been 195 applications for DHP of which there have been 123 awards. The table below illustrates the reasons for the award together with the value.

Reason	Number of Awards	Value of Awards
Low Income	26	£3,079.53
LHA Under 35's	26	£3,269.25
Under Occupancy	71	£12,004.33
Total	123	£18,353.11

There is a further £6,987.68 committed as future payments in respect of the above awards.

4. Options

- 4.1 The Committee may wish to note the update on the impact of the welfare reforms OR to make recommendations to the Cabinet on any issues relating to the council tax discount scheme and support fund arising from this report.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Consultation was undertaken with residents of WFDC in autumn 2012 and presented to Cabinet on 23rd October 2012 and recommendations on the proposed scheme were made to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

6. Related Decisions

- 6.1 Cabinet 23/10/12 and 12/11/12 Council Tax Benefit Reform.
6.2 Council 21/11/12 Council Tax Benefit Reform.

7. Relevant Council Policies/Strategies

- 7.1 Medium Term Financial Strategy 2013/16 and 2014/17.
7.2 Council Tax Discount Scheme 2013/14.

8. Implications

- 8.1 Resources: The financial implications are contained within paragraph 3.1 of this document.
8.2 Legal & Policy: Were fully covered in Cabinet Report on 23/10/12
http://www.wyreforest.gov.uk/council/docs/doc47251_20121023_cabinet_agenda.pdf
8.3 Risk Management: Key risks at the time of the proposed scheme included lack of guidance from central government, which were making it difficult to plan for new arrangements effectively. There was also the risk of judicial review of changes and the level of financial risk passed to the Council as the funding was proposed to be a finite amount regardless of the caseload experienced by a local authority.

9. Equality Impact Needs Assessment

- 9.1 An EIA was undertaken at the time of the proposed scheme being presented to Cabinet.

10. Wards Affected

- 10.1 Whole WFDC area.

11. Appendices

- 11.1 **Appendix A:** Table illustrating Benefit expenditure from 2000 to 2012 in respect of the 6 District Councils within Worcestershire.
Appendix B: Table illustrating the recovery stages and balance outstanding of the Council Tax Discount Customers.
Appendix C: Comparison of Council Tax Benefit Caseload March 2013 with Council Tax Discount Caseload 31st October 2013.

12. Background Papers

DCLG guidance on the localisation of Council Tax Benefit published 17th May and 17th July 2012.

Council Tax Benefit is Changing – Consultation Document, Wyre Forest, published 23rd July 2012.

Localising support for council tax – Transitional grant scheme, published 18th October 2012.

Council Tax Benefit Reform – Report to Cabinet 12th November 2012.

Officer Contact Details:

Name: Val Upton
Title: Welfare Reform Manager
Email: val.upton@wyreforestdc.gov.uk
Contact Number: 01562 732620

Council Tax Benefit Expenditure in Worcestershire

Source: DWP Statistical and Accounting Data

Expenditure £ million, nominal terms

	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Worcestershire	15.9	17.4	19.2	22.6	26.0	27.9	29.4	30.5	32.7	37.6	39.5	39.2	
Bromsgrove	1.8	2.0	2.3	2.7	3.3	3.6	3.7	3.8	4.2	4.7	4.9	4.9	
Malvern Hills	1.8	2.1	2.4	2.8	3.2	3.5	3.7	3.8	4.1	4.7	4.9	4.9	
Redditch	3.0	3.2	3.4	3.9	4.4	4.7	4.9	5.1	5.5	6.4	6.8	6.6	
Worcester	2.9	3.2	3.4	4.1	4.6	4.9	5.2	5.4	5.7	6.6	7.0	7.0	
Wychavon	3.0	3.2	3.5	4.1	4.8	5.2	5.5	5.7	6.1	7.0	7.2	7.1	
Wyre Forest	3.4	3.7	4.1	4.8	5.7	6.1	6.4	6.6	7.1	8.2	8.7	8.6	8.4

Housing Benefit Expenditure in Worcestershire

Source: DWP Statistical and Accounting Data

Expenditure £ million, nominal terms

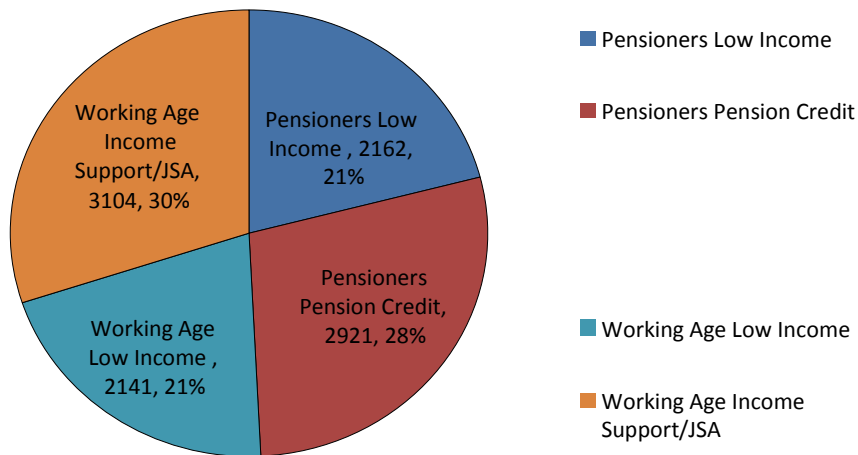
	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Worcestershire	62.7	67.6	73.9	67.6	76.1	82.6	88.9	94.9	103.1	125.4	131.2	140.9	
Bromsgrove	5.5	6.3	6.9	2.3	7.2	8.2	8.4	9.6	9.9	12.1	12.1	15.0	
Malvern Hills	8.5	9.0	9.9	9.7	10.2	10.9	11.5	12.1	13.0	15.8	16.7	17.8	
Redditch	12.1	12.8	13.4	13.1	13.3	14.1	15.1	16.1	17.6	21.0	22.3	23.2	
Worcester	12.5	13.5	14.9	14.4	15.0	16.4	17.9	18.9	21.2	25.6	27.3	29.4	
Wychavon	11.8	12.7	13.6	13.5	14.6	15.8	17.0	17.9	19.5	23.4	24.2	25.7	
Wyre Forest	12.3	13.4	15.2	14.6	15.7	17.2	18.9	20.3	21.8	27.4	28.6	29.8	31.5

Note: the figures illustrated for 2012/13 are provisional figures pending External Audit of the 2012/13 Final Claim

AS AT 4TH NOVEMBER 2013							
	Cases	% of Case Load	Cases Account Clear	% of Case Load	Total Council Tax Liability of Cases	Total Balance Outstanding net of Discount	% Liability O/S
Working Age							
Bill Stage	2113	36.00%	464	22%	£ 2,049,106.36	£ 204,601.23	9.98%
RN 1	784	13.27%	216	27.55%	£ 748,217.33	£ 77,043.62	10.30%
RN 2	710	12.02%	114	16.06%	£ 677,507.39	£ 86,689.06	12.80%
FIN 1	604	10.23%	150	24.83%	£ 575,843.00	£ 61,985.20	10.76%
FIN 2	22	0.37%	11	50.00%	£ 20,651.75	£ 1,582.64	7.66%
CNC	391	6.62%	168	42.97%	£ 355,878.99	£ 34,507.46	9.70%
SUM	295	4.99%	111	37.63%	£ 198,696.71	£ 36,707.66	18.47%
LO	366	6.20%	27	7.38%	£ 368,236.67	£ 83,730.48	22.74%
AIS	338	5.72%	7	2.07%	£ 292,173.72	£ 41,026.52	14.04%
AOE	13	22.00%	0	0.00%	£ 14,397.84	£ 4,371.22	30.36%
PDW	271	4.59%	5	1.85%	£ 259,589.30	£ 68,480.76	26.38%
Totals	5907		1273	21.55%	£ 5,560,299.06	£ 700,725.85	12.60%
Pension Age							
Bill Stage	4813	93.06%	3126	64.95%	£ 4,822,134.92	£ 173,168.45	3.59%
RN 1	181	3.50%	73	40.33%	£ 185,447.26	£ 15,703.69	8.47%
RN 2	74	1.43%	23	31.08%	£ 80,429.12	£ 9,450.18	11.75%
FIN 1	52	1.01%	15	28.85%	£ 53,071.22	£ 5,435.75	10.24%
FIN 2	2	4.00%	2	100.00%	£ 1,737.37	£ -	0.00%
CNC	24	0.46%	16	66.67%	£ 27,009.72	£ 1,324.63	4.90%
SUM	8	15.00%	1	12.50%	£ 7,984.20	£ 2,920.01	36.57%
LO	12	23.00%	1	8.33%	£ 17,217.65	£ 4,986.54	28.96%
PDW	6	12.00%	1	16.67%	£ 5,699.27	£ 1,559.45	27.36%
Totals	5172		3258	62.99%	£ 5,200,730.73	£ 214,548.70	4.13%
Grand Totals	11079		4531	40.90%	£ 10,761,029.79	£ 915,274.55	8.51%

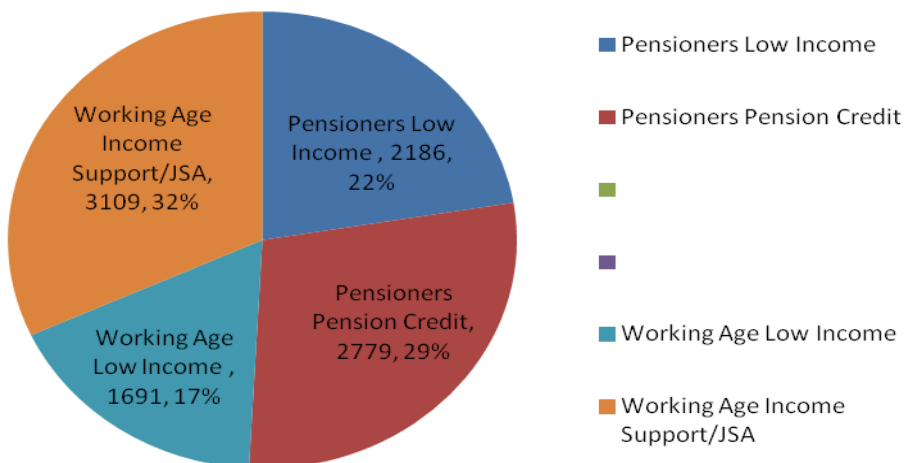
This is a "snapshot" as of 4th November on the recovery status in respect of anyone who has received Council Tax Discount Scheme since 1st April 2013. Analysis each month has illustrated that the balance outstanding has been reducing by 1% per month. Collectively between the Working Age and Pensioners there is a balance outstanding of £915,275 which equates to 8.51% of the actual liabilities of the accounts affected.

Council Tax Benefit Caseload 31st March 2013 - Total 10328



The average weekly Council Tax Benefit Expenditure in March 2013 was £166,043 based on the live caseload of 10,328. The overall net Council Tax Benefit credited to Council Tax Accounts for the financial year 2012/13 was £8,458,288.63.

Council Tax Benefit Caseload 31st October 2013 - Total 9765



The average weekly Council Tax Discount Scheme Expenditure in October 2013 was £153,431.27 based on the live caseload of 9,765. The overall net Council Tax Discount Scheme credited to Council Tax Accounts for the financial year 2013/14 is £7,952,831.44. So far, the implementation of the Council Tax Discount Scheme has reduced the live caseload by 563 cases and the annual expenditure by £571,497.56



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Briefing Paper

Report of: Lucy Wright, Corporate Customer Development Manager
Date: Thursday 5th December 2013
Open

Local Welfare Scheme Update

1. Summary

- 1.1 On 21st March 2013, CMT agreed the operational processes for the Council's local welfare scheme and the purpose of this briefing paper is to provide an update on the scheme now it has been operating for six months.

2. Background

- 2.1 £242,000 was delegated to Wyre Forest from Worcestershire County Council (WCC) in order for us to devise a local welfare scheme starting on 1st April 2013. The following table shows how the funding was apportioned and the spend up to 1st October 2013:

Allocation of funding	Amount	Spend to date	Budget remaining
Support at the Hub*	£25,000	£25,000	£0
Food banks	£20,000	£10,000	£10,000
Furniture	£50,000	£15,957	£34,043
Utilities**	£12,000	£6,885	£5,115
Housing	£30,000	£5,725	£24,275
Council Tax Support Scheme	£25,000	£1,089	£23,911
Homelessness (in addition to the DCLG grant)	£82,000	£82,000	n/a
TOTAL	£244,000	£146,656	£97,344

*this money was used to retain the existing staff levels instead of reducing the establishment as part of the corporate support savings.

**The utilities budget was used to increase x2 CSA's hours to allow specialist CSA's to be trained in providing specialist advice in order to give customers longer term solutions to their energy problems.

- 2.2 WCC have advised that £240,000 will be delegated to Wyre Forest for 2014/15 and have advised that any unspent money is to be returned to them. The plan is to use the resources in full that assist local welfare services including homelessness.
- 2.3 Although data was available from the Department of Work and Pensions regarding demands for Crisis Loans and Community Care Grants, it was agreed at the outset that the above areas would be the focus of priority for

those in need. It was concluded that as the scheme was new, it would be reviewed by the Corporate Customer Development Manager and the Strategic Housing Services Manager to ensure the needs of those requesting emergency help, were met.

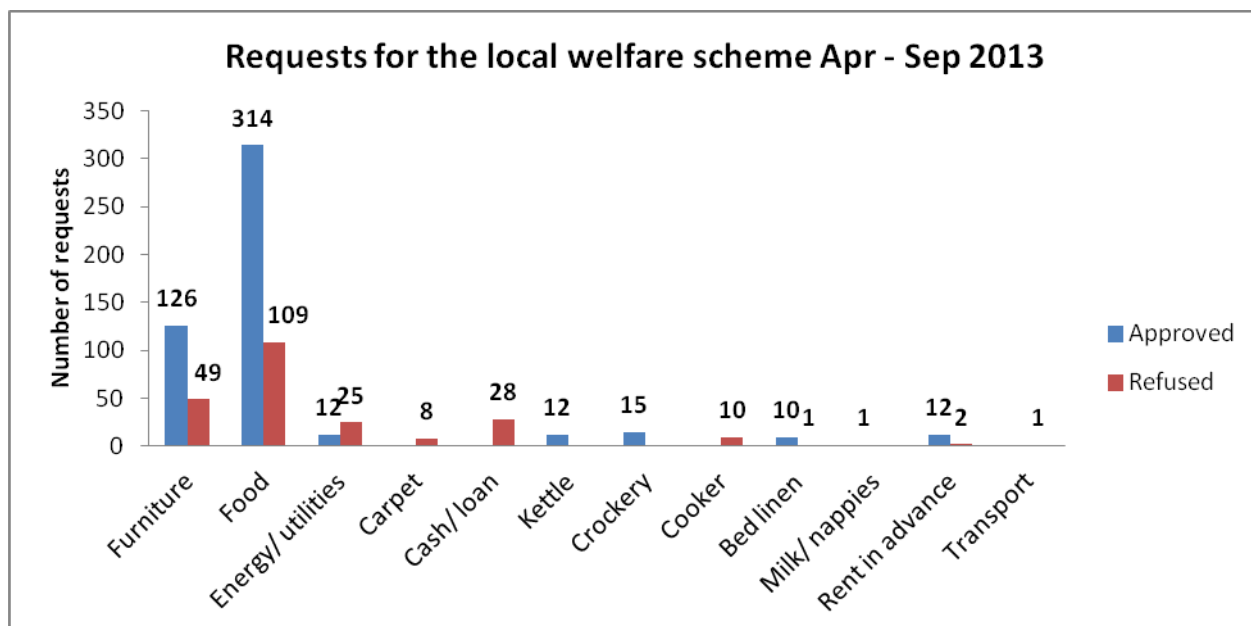
- 2.4 A decision was made when setting up the scheme that cash would not be given out either in grants or loans. This policy decision was soon found to be regrettable as we were finding it difficult to help customers to pay their heating bills as there is no easy way to top up gas/electricity meters. A solution has been devised for this as shown later.

3. Key Issues

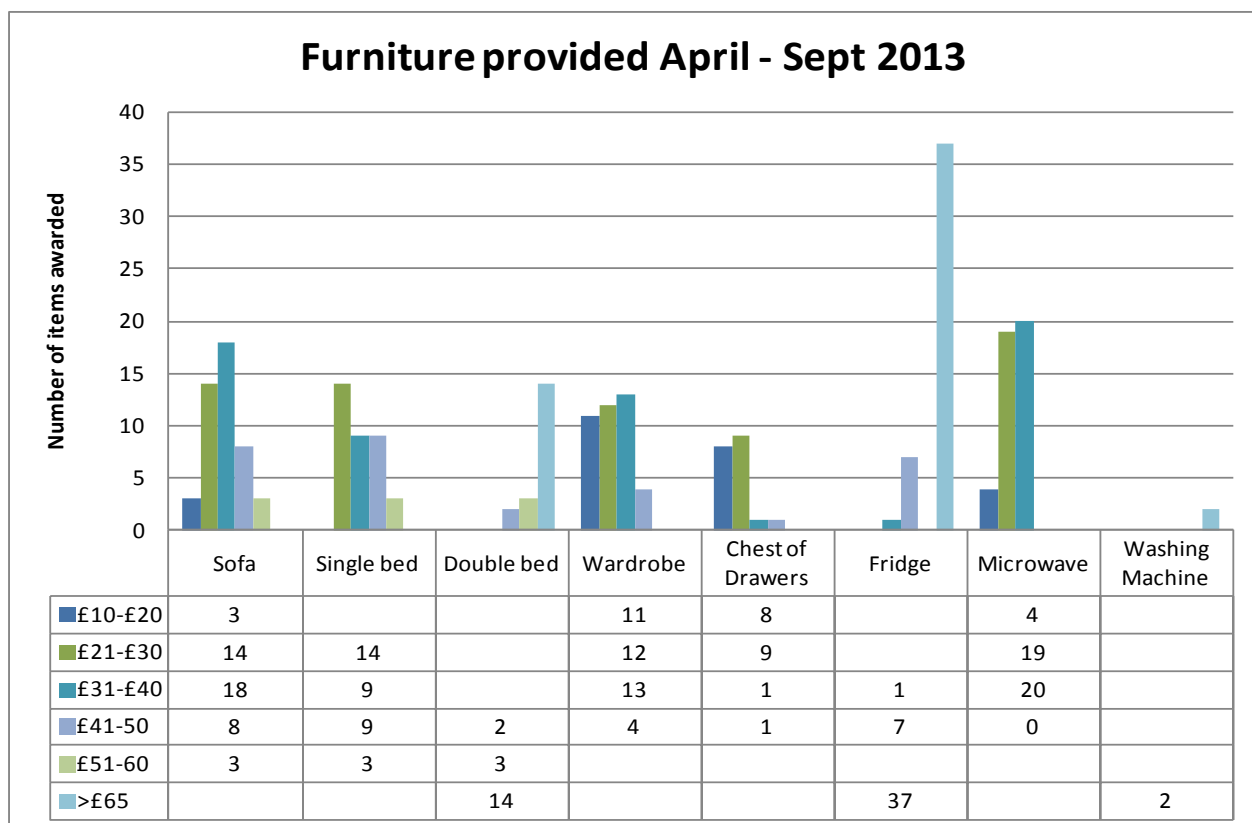
- 3.1 There have been 735 requests for help under the local welfare scheme between 1st April and 31st September 2013. The following table shows the number of requests made by customers who have subsequently been assessed by a member of our welfare team:

Month	Number of requests	Number of requests approved
April	152	85 (56%)
May	113	82 (74%)
June	125	83 (65%)
July	135	100 (74%)
August	124	80 (65%)
September	87	66 (76%)
TOTAL	735	498 (68%)

- 3.2 The above table does not include phone calls, emails or general enquiries about the scheme nor does it include claims for the Council Tax Support Scheme. There have also been an additional 431 enquiries about the local welfare scheme by way of phone calls, emails or general enquiries from customers or support workers.
- 3.3 Between 1st April and 31st September 2013, there have been 32 applications for the Council Tax Support Scheme, 16 of which were approved. Requests for support however have increased recently and as a comparison, there have been a further 42 applications between 1st October and 25th November.
- 3.4 The following chart shows the type of requests for help under the local welfare scheme:



- 3.5 Requests for food have been the highest area of demand. Vouchers are issued on behalf of Baxter Church food bank which is open 3 days a week where customers can exchange the vouchers for 3 days worth of food. At the request of the food bank, customers are limited to 3 vouchers in 6 months although discretion is often used when customers have no other option available to them. Food parcels are stored at the Hub in Kidderminster and are issued to those in immediate need. These food parcels are provided by Franche Community Church. Both food banks have so far received 50% of the allocated funding.
- 3.6 Access to housing (furniture, bedding, cutlery/crockery etc) has been the second highest area of demand. Customers may have had to move out of the private rented sector where they lived in furnished accommodation into social housing, moved from residential or institutional care into unfurnished properties, or had to move due to relationship breakdowns or fleeing domestic violence.
- 3.7 The scheme provides beds, wardrobes/chests of drawers, microwaves and fridges which are currently provided by arrangements we have in place with two local charities –Forces Support and more recently, British Heart Foundation who deliver direct. The Hub also holds a small stock of kettles, microwaves, bed linen, cutlery and crockery which is either donated or purchased locally if stocks run low.
- 3.8 The following chart shows what items of furniture have been provided and the costs. One application may well receive more than one item. Fridges and microwaves are the most difficult items to obtain through our local charities so when they run out of stock, new items are provided:



- 3.9 A high demand area has been for help with utilities. It is for this reason that between 1st November and 31st March we are now topping up customers meter cards if they are eligible for help with their utility bills. This is being carried out alongside the specialist advice that is offered to those in need of help to overcome their longer term energy problems.
- 3.10 All applications for the local welfare scheme are made in person. This allows our dedicated welfare team of customer service advisors to understand customers needs more than a paper based application would allow. The welfare advisors undertake a financial assessment looking at the customers' income and expenditure and give budgeting advice and support accordingly. They also work closely with our partner organisations and will refer customers who have more complex needs. Together with the benefit assessors, housing needs team and our rent bond officer who are on site at the Hub, the team are far more equipped to achieve our purpose of helping customers with their financial situation, preventing evictions and helping customers to stay in their homes.
- 3.11 68% of all requests for help were approved. Reasons for refusal often fall into one or more of the following categories:

Repeat requests (only 3 food vouchers are issued in any 6 month period)
 Expenditure does not exceed income
 Immediate health of customer or their family will not be at risk if not approved
 Requests are made for items that are outside the agreed remit of our scheme (cash, loans, transport, carpets, cookers etc)

- 3.12 Although recorded as refused, customers are always given advice and support and names of other agencies that may be able to assist.

4. Options

- 4.1 Recommendation that the Committee note the progress on the provision of the Local Welfare Scheme.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Not applicable.

6. Related Decisions

- 6.1 Cabinet meeting 19th February 2013 delegated split of funding for Social Fund monies to Cabinet Member on 26th March 2013.

7. Relevant Council Policies/Strategies

- 7.1 Not applicable.

8. Implications

- 8.1 Resources: Budgets have been identified as outlined in the report and is managed within the Chief Executive and Economic Prosperity and Place Directorates.

9. Equality Impact Needs Assessment

- 9.1 Not applicable.

10. Wards affected

- 10.1 All WFDC.

11. Appendices

- 11.1 **Appendix A** Financial Support Available From the Council.

12. Background Papers

Not applicable.

Officer Contact Details:

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Title: Corporate Customer Development Manager
Contact Number: 01562 732948
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Wyre Forest District Council

Financial Support Available from the Council

2013/14

Updated November 2013

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- 1.0 Introduction and aims
- 2.0 Support Available
- 3.0 Assessment of need
- 4.0 Access to support
- 5.0 Evidence required
- 6.0 Disputes
- 7.0 Notification of decisions
- 8.0 Factors used to make decisions
- 9.0 Exclusions
- 10.0 Monitoring arrangements
- 11.0 Publicising the support available

1.0 Introduction and aims

The aim of this document is to outline the areas of support available which contributes to the delivery of the Council's purpose to help customers with their financial situation.

We aim to assist vulnerable people in meeting their needs for subsistence or financial support where they are unable to meet their immediate short term needs or where they require assistance to maintain their independence or re-integrate within the community and to work in partnership with other organisations to help people in the longer term to maximise income and reduce debt.

We will provide assistance to:

- Alleviate poverty
- Encourage and sustain people in employment
- Sustain people's tenancies and prevent homelessness
- Safeguard people in their own homes
- Help people who are trying to help themselves
- Keep families together
- Support elderly or vulnerable people in the local community
- Help people through personal and difficult times
- Support young people in the transition to adult life
- Promote good educational outcomes for children and young people
- Ensure help is given to those most in need
- Reduce incidents of repeat offending

2.0 Support Available

We will provide assistance by undertaking:

- An assessment of need – to establish if the customer meets one of the qualifying conditions as outlined below or as stated in the relevant policy for that service.
- A financial assessment – to establish if the customer has immediate access to any other forms of support or financial assistance.

The areas of support that are available are:

- **Homeless prevention/help to stay in your home** which may include:
 - Finding suitable alternative accommodation including in the private rented sector
 - Preventing homelessness through supporting you in your current housing
- **Access to housing** which may include provision of the following:

- Access to items that will enable a tenancy to be sustained including any of the following;
 - Furniture / white goods
 - Beds
 - Bedding
 - Chairs/Sofas
 - Tables
 - Wardrobes
 - Pans, utensils, crockery and cutlery
- Help with transport costs to access a housing unit/bedspace that is available
- **Help with energy bills** including helping customers in emergency situations together with providing longer term solutions to help with energy bills. Between November and March, customers may be eligible for a payment towards their utility bills and a full assessment will be undertaken to determine eligibility. If agreed, only 1 award will usually be made each year. Cash will **not** be given out and meter cards will be topped up accordingly or payments made direct to customers utility accounts.
- **Help with Council Tax bills** which may include:
 - applications for the Council Tax Discount Scheme (formerly Council Tax Benefit)*
 - applications for Council Tax exemptions and/or discounts
 - setting up special arrangements to pay
 - applications for the discretionary Council Tax Support Scheme*
- **Help with Housing costs** which may include:
 - applications for Housing Benefit
 - applications for the Discretionary Housing Payments fund*
 - Rent in Advance*
 - Rent Bond Scheme*

*Separate policies apply for these existing schemes

- **Basic financial assessments** to determine whether there are any other organisations or support available to help the customer such as Tax Credits, Child Benefit etc. We will undertake a full income and expenditure calculation of the customer and their household to determine if they have any excess income to be used to meet all or part of the support requested.

We will also work with our existing partners who can offer the following support:

- **Food banks** – vouchers/referrals to be given in crisis or emergency situations which will include key consumables for babies (e.g. nappies/baby milk)

- **Money advice** – referrals to CAB who can undertake a detailed financial assessment in order to provide a long term solution to a customers financial situation
- **Charitable organisations** – vouchers/referrals to be given in crisis or emergency situations

Support will **not** include:

- Cash or cheque payments
- Payments into an individuals bank account

Customer will receive a maximum of 3 awards of support each year with the exception of payments towards utilities which will be restricted to 1 award each year except in unusual circumstances.

3.0 Assessment of need

Most assessments will be undertaken in conjunction with the existing policy as highlighted above as eligibility differs for certain areas of support.

To qualify with help to prevent homelessness and accessing housing, the customer must be a resident of Wyre Forest and must be at risk of becoming homeless. Please see the procedure for rent bonds and the Housing Act 1996 (as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002) for further information.

To qualify for support with rent costs or council tax please see the relevant separate policies.

To qualify for other support the customer must meet one of the following conditions:

- The customer has suffered a disaster to their home such a major flooding, gas explosion or house fire, where serious damage has been caused to the home or the home has become uninhabitable.
- As a direct result of the inability to afford the goods or services requested, either the health of the customer or their partner will immediately deteriorate.

With regard to the second condition only, the customer or their partner who lives with them **must also meet at least one** of the following:

- a) They have a serious physical health problem which they are receiving treatment for

- b) They have a dependant child who normally lives with them and that child's health would be at immediate risk
- c) They are homeless or at risk of homelessness
- d) They have a substance or alcohol misuse problem for which they are receiving treatment or support for
- e) They are on probation or receiving support relating to their offending history
- f) They are affected by or at risk of domestic abuse
- g) They have a learning disability that has been diagnosed by a GP / specialist They have a physical or sensory impairment
- h) They have a mental health problem which they are receiving treatment or support for
- i) They are a vulnerable person with support needs
- j) They are pregnant
- k) They need support to move back into the community after a stay in supported or temporary accommodation
- l) They need support to move out of inappropriate accommodation
- m) They need support to stay in the home and prevent a move into residential care or hospital
- n) They need support to prevent a serious deterioration of health within the home
- o) They are leaving accommodation in which they receive significant and substantial care and supervision such as:
 - Hospital or other medical establishments
 - Care home
 - Hostel
 - Staff intensive sheltered housing
 - Local authority care
 - Prison or detention centre
 - Short term supported housing
 - Bed and breakfast accommodation with a high level of floating support

The customer must also be establishing themselves in the community. Both the time spent in the accommodation (usually a minimum of 3 months or a pattern of frequent or regular admission) and the level of individual care and supervision provided whilst living in the accommodation will be taken into consideration when making a decision.

4.0 Access to support

- 1) Requests for support wherever possible, will need to be in person at the Customer Service Centre at Kidderminster:

Monday	8:30am – 5:00pm
Tuesday	8:30am – 5:00pm
Wednesday	10:00am – 5:00pm
Thursday	8:30am – 5:00pm
Friday	8:30am – 5:00pm

- 2) Where the customer is not able to visit in person, a visit will be arranged to the customers' home if required by 2 members of staff.
- 3) Requests can be made by the customer, their appointee, their carer, their advocate or a third party agency acting on behalf of the customer. Written confirmation will need to be provided that the third party agency is acting on behalf of and with the consent of the customer.
- 4) We will require evidence of one of the qualifying criteria listed in 3.0 by either:
 - a) Confirmation by phone with the relevant specialist provider
 - or**
 - b) Other evidence provided by the customer based on the individual circumstances of each case
- 5) Where the customer has health, care or support needs which aren't currently being met or have not yet been assessed by a specialist provider (for example a GP, support or care agency), they will be signposted to the relevant provider to assess their needs. Support will be given without specialist assessment if it is their first application and they meet the eligibility criteria for the specific requested support and are deemed to be in financial crisis. Any subsequent applications will not be accepted if the customer has not presented themselves to the relevant specialist provider.
- 6) We will also make a financial assessment, which will involve a series of questions to establish if the customer has immediate access to any other form of financial assistance.
- 7) We will assess the customers' needs and inform them of the outcome of their decision during the initial interview wherever possible. If successful, the decision may be pending the provision of evidence by the customer, or confirmation with a specialist provider.
- 8) If unsuccessful, we will notify the applicant of their appeal rights if applicable depending on the support requested.
- 9) We will also provide the customer with any relevant welfare advice or signpost to an advice agency if for example the applicant may qualify for additional welfare benefits such as Tax Credits, Personal Independent Payment etc.
- 10) For the majority of customers, relevant evidence (of need and identity) will need to be provided before further support can be given. Acceptable evidence will be discussed with the customer.

- 11) If furniture / white goods are required an email will be forwarded to the supplier with details of items required and a reference number which will also be given to the applicant.
- 12) If payment towards a utility bill is required, this will be carried out by topping up the customers prepayment meter card/s.

5.0 Evidence required

We reserve the right to verify any information or evidence provided by the customer, as required. Any such request will be essential to decide eligibility and will only be used in connection with the support requested.

Examples of evidence that may be required include:

- Passports, driving licence or other evidence of identity
- Wage slips or self employed accounts
- Benefit or Tax Credit letters
- Bank statements or other evidence of savings
- Receipts, utility statements or other evidence of expenditure
- Doctors letters confirming health conditions or prescriptions for relevant medication
- Contact details of support worker in relevant support agencies
- Officers will need to record that relevant evidence has been seen

6.0 Notification of decisions

Once a decision has been made on the relevant support scheme requested, the customer will be notified of the outcome. Notification will include:

- Where support has been agreed, the information or item(s) to be provided/the period of award if relevant
- Where the support cannot be given, the reason for this decision
- Details on who the customer can contact if they need further information

7.0 Disputes/requests for re-consideration

- Disputes can be raised verbally or in writing
- Where a dispute regarding a decision for support is made, we will conduct a review and notify the customer within one working day of the dispute being received. This review will be carried out by an Officer different from the one who made the initial decision and the outcome will be confirmed over the phone, in person or in writing.
- This decision will be final and no further disputes will be considered.

8.0 Factors used to make decisions

When deciding on the potential support to be provided, we may take into consideration the following factors (this list is not exhaustive):

- All the income and essential expenditure of the applicant and their household
- Any disability related expenditure of the applicant and their household
- All income will be taken into consideration including that which would normally be disregarded for benefit purposes such as Disability Living Allowance and child maintenance
- Consideration will be given as to whether or not expenditure is considered to be above the basic living requirements. If expenditure is deemed to be unreasonably high, the Council may make further enquiries to clarify the details. In these cases, the Council may substitute a sum for the expenditure concerned, which it considers to be a reasonable amount
- Any savings and investments held by the applicant and their household which could be used to help their financial situation
- Whether other family members could help in any way
- Whether the applicant or their household could reduce their expenditure in any way on non essential items
- Whether the applicant or their household are entitled to other welfare benefits or Tax Credits but are not claiming them
- The level of indebtedness of the applicant and their household
- Whether the applicant or their household are taking long term action to help their problems in meeting their living costs
- Any other steps by the applicant to help themselves
- Financial advice they have sought to alleviate their situation such as money advice from CAB or Welfare Rights

The following income and capital will be disregarded when entitling assessment for the food vouchers, furniture and utilities:

- Any payment of expenses for:
 - Participation in 'work for your benefit' schemes
 - Attending mandatory work activity, employment, skills or enterprise schemes
 - A person who is a volunteer for a charitable or voluntary organisation
 - A person who participates in a service user group
 - Jurors, witnesses or prison visitors
- Certain benefits and discounts:
 - Discretionary Housing Payments
 - Council Tax discounts and reliefs
 - Council Tax Support
 - Housing Benefit
 - Mortgage interest relief payments
- Any income payable or capital held outside the UK where there is a prohibition against the transfer to the UK of that income

- Any payment made by a local authority under section 17 of the Children's Act 1989 unless they are for the same current need for support
- Any payment for bank charges or commission to convert a payment of income to sterling
- Refugee Integration Loans
- The dwelling normally occupied by the customer as their home
- Any property which is actively being sold
- Any property acquired by the customer which they intend to occupy as their home, which is undergoing essential repairs or alterations
- The proceeds of sale of any property formerly occupied by the customer as their home, which is to be used for the purchase of another property intended for occupation but this will be at the discretion of the Council
- Any property occupied by a partner or relative or any member of their family where that person is a pensioner or disabled
- Any property that is occupied by a former partner of the customer as their home, where the former partner is a lone parent , or where the property is actively being sold
- Any payment made by a local authority to the customer, to be used to purchase property for occupation as their home or to carry out repairs or alterations to their home
- Any future interest in property other than land or premises where the customer has granted a lease or tenancy
- Any amount paid to the customer or acquired as a loan, as a result of damage or loss of the home or personal possessions and intended for its repair or replacement, unless it is for the same need as the support requested
- Any amount deposited with a Registered Provider which is to be used for the purchase of another property intended for occupation
- Any personal possessions unless it is for the same need as the support requested
- The surrender value of any life insurance policy
- Any payments for:
 - Travel expenses for hospital visits
 - Medical supplies and vouchers
 - Health in pregnancy grants
 - Home office payments for prison visitsUnless they are for the same need as the support requested
- Any payment made to assist a disabled person to obtain or retain their employment
- Any capital administered on behalf of a person by the High Court, County Court or the Court of Protection
- Any payment made by a local authority for a service which is provided to develop or sustain the capacity of the customer or their partner to live independently in their accommodation, including personal budgets

We will also take into consideration:

- The amount of funding available for the rest of the financial year

- Other requests for support and awards made and the overall impact on the remaining budgets available

Where requests for food vouchers, furniture and/or utility payments are given, this does not automatically entitle further support even if the customers' situation remains the same.

9.0 Exclusions

Support will **not** be awarded for the following items or services:

- A need which occurs outside the district of Wyre Forest unless the need is for a person who is in the process of moving into the district and that item or service will assist them with their move
- An educational or training need including clothing and tools
- Distinctive school uniform or sports clothes for use at school or equipment to be used at school
- Travelling expenses to and from school
- School meals taken during school holidays by children who are entitled to free school meals
- Expenses in connection with court (legal) proceedings such as legal fees, court fees, fines, costs, damages, subsistence or travelling expenses (other than emergency travelling expenses when stranded away from home)
- Removal or storage charges if the applicant is being re-housed following a compulsory purchase order, a redevelopment or closing order, a compulsory exchange of tenancies or under a housing authority's statutory duty to the homeless
- Domestic assistance or respite care
- A medical, surgical, optical, aural or dental item or service (these needs can be provided free of charge by the National Health Service, if the applicant is getting Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, income related Employment and Support Allowance or Pension Credit)
- Work related expenses
- Debts to Government agencies or local authorities
- Investments
- Purchase, installation, rental and call charges for phones
- Mobility needs
- Holidays
- A TV or radio, or a licence, aerial or rental charges for a TV or radio
- Garaging, parking, purchase and running costs of any motor vehicle except where payment is being considered for emergency travel expenses

The following people **cannot** be supported by the schemes available in this document:

- People who normally reside outside Wyre Forest, unless the need is for a person who is in the process of moving to the district and has a local connection
- People who are deemed by a specialist provider to have no local connection to Wyre Forest

- Care home residents and hospital in-patients unless the need is for a person who will be discharged as part of a resettlement plan
- Persons who are members of and fully maintained by a religious order
- People in full time education unless they are entitled to:
 - Income support
 - Income based Job Seekers Allowance
 - Income related Employment and Support Allowance
 - Pension Credit
- Prisoners who are in prison or released on temporary licence
- A person who is or would be, treated as a person from abroad for the purpose of Income Support , income based Jobseekers Allowance , income related Employment and Support Allowance and Pension Credit and has no entitlement to those benefits including:
 - Foreign nationals with limited immigration status
 - Foreign nationals with no recourse to public funds
 - Non-economically active European Union individuals
 - UK nationals who are not habitually resident in the UK

10.0 Monitoring arrangements

We will monitor the support provided, to ensure we have sufficient funds to meet current and future demands on the budgets throughout the financial year.

We will monitor the type of referrals, which organisations are making the referrals and the type of support we provide to ensure where possible, they are meeting positive outcomes for the customer.

11.0 Publicising the support available

We will ensure local registered housing associations and voluntary sector organisations are made aware of the support available, the qualifying criteria which needs to be met to receive support and how applications can be made.

We will ensure:

- Training is provided for front line staff to ensure knowledge of the support available is both relevant and up to date
- Referrals by front line staff are consistent and appropriate



Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Briefing Paper

Report of: Ian Miller, Chief Executive
Date: Thursday, 5th December 2013
Open

Sustainable Communities Act – Proposed Levy on Large Retail Outlets

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report seeks agreement from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on a recommendation to Council on whether or not to back a campaign to introduce a levy on large retail units.

2. Background

- 2.1 On 25 September Council considered a motion from Councillor Jamie Shaw as follows:

Supermarket Levy

“Council, as a partner with seventy other local authorities in the “Local Works” Supermarket Levy campaign, resolves to submit the following proposal to the government under the Sustainable Communities Act:

“That the Secretary of State gives Local Authorities the power to introduce a local levy of 8.5% of the rate on large retail outlets in their area with a rateable annual value not less than £500,000 and requires that the revenue from this levy be retained by each Local Authority, in order to be used to improve local communities in its area, by promoting local economic activity and local services and facilities, in so doing contributing to community wellbeing and protection of the environment.”

Council notes that, under the terms of the Sustainable Communities Act, evidence about the impact of supermarkets on other retail outlets locally, and the opinions of interested local persons, have to be presented in the submission to government.”

- 2.2 Council resolved to refer the motion to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration and for it to make a recommendation.
- 2.3 There is a growing campaign to use the powers in the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 to compel the Government to consider introducing a levy on large retail outlets – principally supermarkets - to match the arrangements in Northern Ireland that have been made in 2012 by the

Northern Ireland Assembly. The proposal is that the levy should be 8.5% of the annual business rate liability and it would be charged only on shops with a rateable value exceeding £500k.

- 2.4 If such a levy were to be introduced, it would affect the following existing retail units in Kidderminster. At present there are no retail units elsewhere in Wyre Forest that would be affected:

Company	Rateable	Amount	8.5%of total
J SAINSBURY PLC	£2,620,000	£1,234,020.00	£104,891.70
TESCO STORES LTD	£2,080,000	£979,680.00	£83,272.80
WM MORRISON SUPERMARKETS PLC	£1,700,000	£800,700.00	£68,059.50
B&Q PLC	£1,060,000	£499,260.00	£42,437.10
CDS LTD T/A THE RANGE HOME AND LEISURE	£780,000	£367,380.00	£31,227.30
Total of potential 8.5% Levy			<u>£329,888.40</u>

- 2.5 The proposal is to extract more tax revenue from large retail operators. Among them are the supermarkets, which are perceived to be making very significant profits and having an adverse impact on other independent and smaller traders. The additional funding for councils could be used to help promote steps that would seek to counter these effects or be invested in other ways to support the local economy, regeneration or front-line services.
- 2.6 It is important to stress that, if Wyre Forest District Council backed the campaign and the Government decided to introduce a levy, it would apply throughout England. It would not therefore involve any competitive disadvantage for the district.
- 2.7 The mechanism for proposals to be considered under the Sustainable Communities Act is set out in the box.

The Sustainable Communities Act 2007 (SCA) means councils and communities can put forward new thinking on how best to improve quality of life and wellbeing in their local areas.

It provides a statutory framework for councils in England – working with local people and community groups – to put forward proposals on sustainable improvements to economic, environmental and social wellbeing.

The Local Government Association (LGA) was appointed in round one as the national 'selector' body to assess and shortlist proposals made by councils under the act. Proposals from the final shortlist were then decided on by the

Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, after consultation with the LGA as selector.

On 15 December 2010, the Secretary of State issued a second invitation to local authorities under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 ("the Act") inviting councils to consult people, ask them how they would like to see their local area improved and to take whatever action they see fit to make it happen. The Government also announced a new barrier-busting portal which now provides the mechanism to make proposals under the SCA.

Under this new model, there will no longer be formal SCA rounds.

(Source: LGA)

- 2.8 If Wyre Forest District Council backed the campaign by passing a motion in support of a levy on large retail units, there is thus no guarantee that it would be implemented as, ultimately, the decision rests with the Government and with Parliament if primary legislation is required.

3. Key Issues

- 3.1 Any mechanism that produced new revenue streams for the Council would be welcome. There is clear evidence that major retailers, in particular the supermarkets, are continuing to make large pre-tax profits. The latest figures reported are:

Company	Pre-tax profit	Period
Sainsbury	£788 m	Year to 16 March 2013
Tesco group	£1.39 bn	Six months to 24 August 2013
Wm Morrison	£901m	Year to 3 February 2013
B&Q	£187 m	Year to 2 February 2013
The Range	£48m	2012/13

- 3.2 Most supermarkets have also embarked on expansion campaigns, opening smaller shops in various locations, with the general effect being to reduce the number of smaller or independent shops and supermarkets. The proposal for a levy is not seen as seeking to restrict or limit competition. It is fanciful to think that major supermarkets would close in Wyre Forest or elsewhere if the levy were to be introduced: they are the main source of the companies' profits. The additional cost could be absorbed by the companies reducing their profits or – the Committee needs to be mindful of this – passing on some or all of the cost to their customers through higher prices.

- 3.3 The question is essentially whether the financial interests of the community at large are better served, on balance, **either** by an additional revenue stream for the council to invest in services that can promote economic regeneration, sustainable communities and other services **or** by keeping prices charged by large retailers lower.
- 3.4 Another potential impact of the levy, if introduced, is that it might tempt retailers only to invest in smaller stores where the rateable value fell below the threshold. The economic model for large retail units depends on generating higher profits from larger floorspace so this is not seen as a significant risk.

4. Options

- 4.1 The Committee can recommend to Council:

Either that Wyre Forest District Council should back the campaign for a levy on large retail outlets;

Or that Wyre Forest District Council should not endorse the campaign for a levy on large retail outlets.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Director of Economic Prosperity and Place

6. Related Decisions

- 6.1 None.

7. Relevant Council Policies/Strategies

- 7.1 None directly relevant. The scale of the financial challenge facing the Council over the period of the medium term financial strategy means that new sources of income would be welcome.

8. Implications

- 8.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. If the levy was introduced at a rate of 8.5%, it could produce a significant revenue stream worth over £300k a year for the council.
- 8.2 There are no policy implications arising from this report. Any change would be introduced at national level and would not require any decision by the Council.

9. Equality Impact Needs Assessment

- 9.1 An initial screening has not identified any impact on the protected categories as any levy would relate to businesses.

10. Wards affected

10.1 All wards.

11. Appendices

11.1 None.

12. Background Papers

The campaign in support of the levy has been organised by “Local Works”, a coalition of over 100 national organisations campaigning to promote the use of the 2007 Act. More information on the campaign, including a detailed rationale for the proposal, is available at this link:

<http://localworks.org/pages/supermarkets>

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Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Briefing Paper

Report of: Kay Higman, Cultural Services Manager
Date: Thursday 5th December 2013

Open

New Leisure Centre Update

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report summarises the progress made and will be a regular item on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agenda. This will be a monthly report, in response to requests from the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny and the Labour Group.

2. Background

- 2.1 Members will be aware of the background to this project as this was the subject of a detailed scrutiny review, members briefing and recent Cabinet report and decisions. The decision to go forward with a new leisure centre and rationalise current provision dates back to January 2012.

3. Key Issues

- 3.1 Discussions are ongoing with the St Francis Group about acquiring land in their ownership on the Silverwoods development, please see the attached location map for the proposed area. Heads of Terms have been prepared and are being discussed.
- 3.2 The opportunity to tender for the new leisure centre has been re-advertised because of the change of site. The return date is mid December; the 4 short listed contractors have received letters saying they do not need to reapply. After the return date any further PQQ's that have been returned will be evaluated and should they meet the Council's key requirements they will be added to the select list.
- 3.3 Discussions are ongoing with Sport England regarding the application for external funding. Originally it was hoped that the decision would be made at a Board meeting in December but unfortunately this has been cancelled and the revised date is January 20th. The application has been made for between £1.5 and £2 million which would be used for additional facilities and to bridge the financial gap and reduce the Council's borrowing. Sport England is happy with the proposals for additional courts in the sports hall, 8 courts rather than 6 and the addition of the climbing wall. This would meet their desired sports development outcomes and was based on the Facility Planning Model and the public consultation.

- 3.4 A meeting has also taken place with Worcestershire county cricket to try and secure funding for indoor nets/mats and enhanced lighting for the hall and these discussions are very positive.
- 3.5 An outline planning application for the Silverwoods site is currently being prepared and will hopefully be determined in Feb/March 2014.
- 3.6 It is expected that the invitation to tender will be issued in February 2014.
- 3.7 The amended timetable for the project is being drafted currently and will be available at the next meeting of this committee.
- 3.8 The disposal of the site at Stourport Sports Centre will also be investigated to achieve the best possible value for the Council.

4. Options

- 4.1 There are currently no options for this committee to debate at this stage.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 A consultation/communication plan is being updated and there will be press releases and key communication with the media, staff and the public.

6. Related Decisions

- 6.1 The budget process is a related decision and the new leisure centre will provide a saving to the Council on current revenue budgets.

7. Relevant Council Policies/Strategies

- 7.1 Council's Corporate Plan.

8. Implications

- 8.1 Financial - If successful the Sport England grant will reduce the Council's borrowing requirement significantly which will make the leisure centre more affordable and save the Council revenue. We are also continuing to explore alternative funding options.

9. Equality Impact Needs Assessment

- 9.1 This has been carried out and reveals no significant impact.

10. Wards affected

- 10.1 All.

11. Appendices

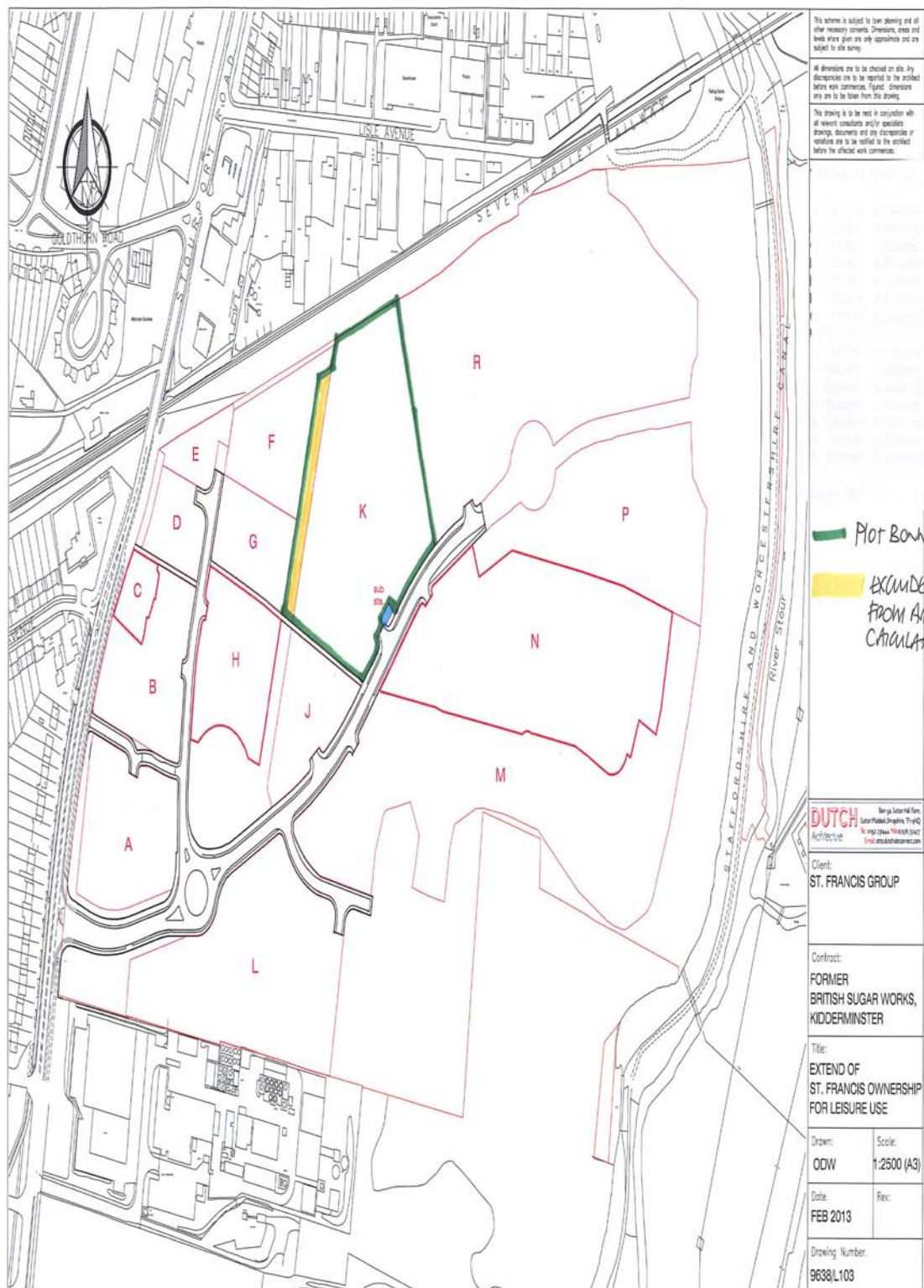
- 11.1 Copy of site map.

12. Background Papers

Nil.

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WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Overview and Scrutiny Committee
5th December 2013**

**Local Development Framework Review Panel
25th November 2013**

**Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP)
Spatial Plan for Recovery and Growth Consultation**

The Panel Members considered a report from the Planning Policy Manager which provided background information on the evolution of the Spatial Plan for Recovery and Growth (SPRG). Members scrutinised the draft plan and provided comments for inclusion in the draft consultation response.

**Recommend to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to recommend to
Cabinet:**

- **The Draft Consultation response, as attached at Appendix A, to the Draft Spatial Plan for Recovery and Growth be endorsed.**

Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership

Draft Spatial Plan for Recovery and Growth Consultation Responses

Wyre Forest District Council

The comments set out below are made on behalf of Wyre Forest District Council. These are largely general points on this first iteration of the Spatial Plan and we look forward to commenting on a more detailed version of the Plan in the future.

1. Rank the “Drivers of Change” (most important first)

- Creating a place to do business, the economic imperative for growth (1)
- Population growth (2)
- Population change (3)
- Quality of life (4)
- Climate change (adaptation and mitigation) (5)
- Land scarcity (6)
- Innovation (7)
- Public policy and opinion (8)
- Globalisation of trade and capital (9)
- Civic and business leadership (10)
- Regulation (11)

The figures above show an indicative response to this theoretical question. Some more detailed comments are set out below.

2. Add any comments on the “Drivers of Change” identified above and for the more detailed theme based listing in the full documentation.

As a general comment, it is important that the drivers of change are addressed holistically and therefore it is perhaps not helpful to separate them all out. This is a plan to assist recovery and growth and therefore the economic imperative for growth will obviously be the most important driver of change in this context. It is crucial to view Economic, Social and Environmental elements as interlinked – all contribute to recovery and growth and most importantly a sustainable plan.

The District Council considers that land scarcity particularly on brownfield sites within more historic settlements is an important driver for change.

The need for comprehensive infrastructure to support the economy, population growth and quality of life is a driver for change which has not been included. The economy cannot be improved without infrastructure improvements.

It is noted that globalisation of trade and capital is included, but that there is no driver relating to retail and the change in retailing habits, which have an impact on logistics and distribution. This will be very important for the GBSLEP's economy going forward and the impact on its commercial centres.

3. Taken as a whole, do you support the key principles of the emerging Spatial Plan we have identified.

Yes. The principles are a sound basis for the development of an inclusive plan. It would be helpful for these to be emphasised in the Sustainability Appraisal process so that they are integral within the Plan.

4. Rate the importance of the overarching principles of spatial planning we have identified.

The number at the end of each principle presents the District Council's views on the relative importance of each principle, with number 1 being the most important.

- 1) Alignment** – delivery of ambitions and priorities for growth **(1)**
- 2) Sustainability** – environment and community as integral assets for growth **(3)**
- 3) Objectivity** – facilitate and accommodate objectively assessed needs **(9)**
- 4) Longevity** – 20 year time period **(14)**
- 5) Inclusivity** – improved quality of life for all responding to the market across the GBSLEP **(8)**
- 6) Consensus** – assist in identifying sustainable locations beyond the conurbation **(4)**
- 7) Global Connectivity** – benefits of Birmingham's international standing **(12)**
- 8) Diversity** – celebrating diversity of the area's population and places **(10)**
- 9) Existing Opportunities** – maximise opportunities from existing infrastructure **(5)**
- 10) Recycling of Land** – commitment to recycling of land and property for development but recognition that green belt boundary review will be required **(6)**

- 11)Environmental Impact** – adaptation to climate change **(7)**
- 12)Context** – setting a context for individual Development Plans **(2)**
- 13)Evolution** – annual refresh for an up to date plan **(13)**
- 14)Cross LEP working** – working with adjoining LEPs and local authorities **(4)**

As a general point, it is considered that Principles 6) Consensus and 14) Cross LEP working are very similar and could be merged under one principle. These have therefore been given the same score for importance. With regard to principle 14 Cross LEP working, there are likely to be a number of issues arising from the current draft plan for the North Worcestershire districts (Wyre Forest, Bromsgrove and Redditch). These districts are members of both the Worcestershire LEP and the GBSLEP. Unless co-ordination between the two LEPs is successfully maintained, contradictory demands and constraints could be placed on our local planning authorities, policy development and direction and other strategies such as infrastructure and economic growth plans. It will therefore be essential for the development of the Spatial Framework to continue to fully explore and consult on this principle.

Principles 4) and 13) are perhaps more technical issues for the plan than overarching principles that inform its content and are therefore more difficult to compare to the other principles.

With regard to principle 12 (Setting a context for individual Development Plans), this is considered to be central to the Plan's status and therefore it is has been given a high score with regard to its order of importance. The District Council would welcome clarity as to the envisaged status of the Spatial Plan for Recovery and Growth; and its position within the planning system. It is considered that this needs to be made much clearer in the next iteration of the Plan to assist with Duty to Co-operate requirements.

5. Taken as a whole do you support the strategic objectives we have identified to meet the economic, social and environmental needs of the GBSLEP?

Generally all the strategic objectives are supported and they are all sound, although they are currently rather generic in nature and in order to develop sense of place they should perhaps be made a little more locally specific to the GBSLEP area. It is considered that they need to be listed within the plan itself as they are rather difficult to interpret in their current diagram format.

6. Taken as a whole do you support the strategic policies we have identified to meet the economic, social and environmental needs of the GBSLEP?

Yes. Although as above, these need to be made much clearer within the Plan. The diagram is rather complex for stakeholders and Members of the Public to interpret and therefore it may make it more difficult to engage with its vision. These policies are central to the Framework. There is also currently a tendency towards the use of jargon which needs to be made easier for a wider audience to interpret and understand.

Consideration should also be given to focussing these policies in the next stage of the framework to provide further guidance for individual Development Plans and future directions of growth.

As a general point policies should be developed subject to the evidence base and they also need to be subject to Sustainability Appraisal. Therefore we would expect to see a fine tuning of these policies in the next stage of the Plan. Key to this will be the relationship between economic and housing growth across the LEP area.

7. Ten possible ways to accommodate further growth (would like you to indicate whether you think each way of accommodating growth be used more, less or about the same as in current plans.)

Firstly it is assumed that “further growth” refers to the need to accommodate some of Birmingham’s housing needs outside of the city boundary. It will be very important to define what is meant by “further growth” within the Spatial Plan.

The District Council finds it difficult to comment on these points as each one needs to be informed by an evidence base and sustainability appraisal. We have however made some very general initial points below under each area.

1. Urban consolidation – there is a need to make the most of previously developed land and existing infrastructure within the GBSLEP area. It is considered that there is an immense amount of brownfield land within the Metropolitan area. Although this is subject to remediation issues, it needs to remain the focus for future sustainable development.
2. Enterprise belt including the M42 Gateway – it will be critical to maintain a balance to retain valuable employment sites which are well located in terms of the motorway network.

3. New Towns/Settlements – this is a very controversial approach, which requires substantial planning and a critical mass in order to make settlements sustainable.
4. Extend existing major urban areas – it is apparent that a Green Belt Boundary Review is likely to be required for the West Midlands area to accommodate further growth over the next 20 years, and that this may necessitate the need to implement Sustainable Urban Extensions.
5. Dispersed growth – this will need to be carefully looked at through the Sustainability Appraisal process. This could help with rural renaissance across the LEP area, but great care is needed so the urban renaissance strategy and role of the conurbation is not undermined.
6. Corridors of growth – this could present a more sustainable way to accommodate future growth, however it requires very careful planning to avoid ribbon development. Most importantly, substantial improvements will be required to rail infrastructure and public transport to avoid unnecessary car borne trip generation. The District Council is particularly concerned about the potential for ribbon development in relation to this strategy.
7. Corridors of growth – M6 Toll. Please refer to comments for 3) and 6).
8. Multi centred targeted approach (small towns outlying Birmingham) – please refer to the points set out under 5). Green Belt boundary review will also form a critical part of the evidence base to inform this approach
9. Dormitory settlements – as a general point this approach is unlikely to score well in Sustainability Appraisal terms.
10. Accommodating some of the growth elsewhere – the Cross LEP working principle is essential to this approach. However, it is difficult to see how this would meet the area's needs and bring benefits within the LEP. It could also be seen as pushing the problem out to neighbouring areas depending on defined Housing Market areas and patterns of commuting. It is considered that the linkages with the Black Country area warrant further investigation and should be fully taken into account in the development of the strategy.

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

**FEEDBACK FROM CABINET MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 2013**

**Agenda
Item No.**

DECISION

**8.2 Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy
Mid Year Review Report 2013/14**

Decision:

Recommend to Council:

- 1. The Treasury Management Mid-year Review be approved.**
- 2. The updated Prudential Indicators be approved.**

Overview & Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2013-2014

June 2013

Performance Management Quarter 4 Update (including March and annual lagging measures)

Recs from the No Surprises Protocol Review Panel

Recs from the Housing Review Panel

July 2013

Development Plan Documents (DPDs)

Scrutiny Scoping Form – Parking Enforcement

Wyre Forest House – update on the savings achieved and other matters relating to the project

Nominations for the Treasury Management Review Panel

September 2013

Affordable Housing SPD

How Are We Doing? Performance Update (Q1)

Recs from Treasury Management Panel to approve the Treasury Management Strategy

Backward Look 2012/13

West Midlands Safari and Leisure Park Planning Brief and Masterplan

October 2013

Health Action Plan update

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

Revised Local Development Scheme (Project Plan) 2013 – 2016

NNDR Relief Policy

Internal Signage Proposals

Local Letting Plan for Bromsgrove Street Foyer

November 2013

Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority – Draft Community Risk Management Plan 2014-2020

Recs from the Treasury Management Review Panel – approve the TMSS and Annual Investment Strategy Mid Yr Review Report 2013/14

December 2013

5th Annual Crime & Disorder Review
How Are We Doing? Performance Update (Q2)
Social Fund Update
Council Tax Localisation Update
SCA Proposed Levy on Large Retail Outlets
Leisure Centre Update
Recs from LDF Review Panel

19th Proposal to Transfer Services to Civica's South Worcestershire Partnership

January 2014

Review of Planning Obligations SPD – Early Consultation

Subsidised Bus Consultation (WCC)

Leisure Centre Update

February 2014

How Are We Doing? Performance Update (Q3)

Recs from the Treasury Management Review Panel – approve the TMSS Report 2014/15

Leisure Centre Update

Recs from LDF Review Panel

June 2014

How Are We Doing? Performance Update (Q4)

Leisure Centre Update