

## **Amendment by the Conservative Party**

### **Council**

notes with concern the government statistics which show that Worcestershire has a rate of homelessness higher than the national average;

recognises that there has been a significant shortage of accommodation and support for vulnerable young people throughout North Worcestershire, including Wyre Forest;

values the contribution made by, amongst others, West Mercia Homes and St Basils, working in partnership with Local Authorities, to address this problem, such as the provision at Park Street, Kidderminster;

wishes to understand about the implications of Worcestershire County Council's proposal to reduce drastically, and narrow the focus of, its Supporting People budget;

notes the conclusion drawn by St Basils and West Mercia Homes that, without ongoing support from the Supporting People budget, the nearly-completed £1.6m Bromsgrove Street Kidderminster Foyer project, planned to provide nineteen units of supported accommodation, will not be able to be used for this purpose, because of insufficient revenue funding;

notes, further, the conclusion that, in total, sixty-three bedspaces across North Worcestershire will be affected;

notes that there is a real danger that the capital grant provided by the Homes and Communities Agency for the Bromsgrove Street project may be withdrawn, because the building cannot be used for its intended purpose, therefore, potentially leaving the other partners, including Wyre Forest District Council, liable for the funding gap,

notes, further, that failure to deliver this project might damage the chances of success of bids for future HCA grants,

believes that neither the Bromsgrove Street Foyer project, nor the wider provision for vulnerable young people in North Worcestershire can be allowed to founder,

urges, therefore, that joint representation with Bromsgrove District and Redditch Borough Councils be made to Worcestershire County Council, the relevant Members of Parliament and the Department for Communities and Local Government, seeking a radical revision of Worcestershire's Supporting People budget, so that homelessness prevention services, especially related to young people can be provided in Wyre Forest.