

Open

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Agenda

6pm
Thursday, 13th May 2021
To be held remotely



Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Members of Committee:

Councillor S J Chambers
Councillor P Dyke
Councillor S Griffiths
Councillor A L L'Huillier
Councillor T L Onslow
Councillor D R Sheppard

Councillor N J Desmond
Councillor C Edginton-White
Councillor M J Hart
Councillor S Miah
Councillor S E N Rook

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.

1. The Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting is open to the public except for any exempt/confidential items. These items are normally discussed at the end of the meeting. Where a meeting is held remotely, "open" means available for live or subsequent viewing.
2. Members of the public will be able to hear and see the meetings by a live stream on the Council's website:

<https://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/streaming.aspx>
3. This meeting is being held remotely online and will be recorded for play back. You should be aware that the Council is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act 2018. All streamed footage is the copyright of Wyre Forest District Council.

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 the Council's 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 committee 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, Principal 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, 13th May 2021
To be held remotely
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, 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 1st April 2021.	6
5.	"How are we doing?" Q4 update (Housing and Planning) To consider a report from the Business Improvement Officer which updates members on the performance of the Council for quarter 4, from 1 st January to 31 st March 2021.	12
6.	Update from the Environment Agency – Flooding Outcomes Representatives from the Environment Agency have been invited to attend the meeting to give an update to members.	
7.	Update from Worcestershire County Council – Flooding Outcomes Representatives from Worcestershire County Council have been invited to attend the meeting to give an update to members.	

8.	Wyre Forest Health and Wellbeing Plan Update To consider a report from the Principal Health and Sustainability Officer which updates Members on work to improve health and wellbeing in Wyre Forest and to seek endorsement of the new Wyre Forest Health Action Plan 2021-22.	31
9.	Kidderminster 2040 – A Town Centre Vision To consider a report from the Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity & Place which sets out the vision for the future of Kidderminster Town Centre for the next 20 years.	<i>Report to follow</i>
10.	Work Programme To review the work programme for the current municipal year with regard to the Corporate Plan Priority, Annual Priorities and the Forward Plan.	44
11.	Press Involvement To consider any future items for scrutiny that might require publicity.	
12.	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.	
13.	Exclusion of the Press and Public To consider passing the following resolution: “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”.	

Part 2

Not open to the Press and Public

14.	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.	
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WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD REMOTELY

THURSDAY, 1ST APRIL 2021 (6PM)

Present:

Councillors: M J Hart (Chairman), S J Chambers (Vice-Chairman), N J Desmond, P Dyke, C Edginton-White, S Griffiths, A L L'Huillier, S Miah, T L Onslow, S E N Rook and D R Sheppard.

Observers

Councillors: G W Ballinger, J F Byng, R H Coleman, H E Dyke, I Hardiman, P Harrison, F M Oborski MBE, M Rayner, C Rogers and A Totty.

OS.81 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

OS.82 Appointment of Substitutes

No substitutes were appointed.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor P Dyke as a substantive member of the Committee. He had replaced Councillor M Rayner following her appointment to Cabinet.

OS.83 Declarations of Interests by Members

Councillor S Miah declared in respect of agenda item 6 – Strategic Asset Management Plan 2021-26, that he was the Chairman of the HELP Charity.

Councillor S Griffiths declared in respect of agenda item 6 – Strategic Asset Management Plan 2021-26, that she was a fundraiser for the HELP Charity.

Councillor F Oborski declared in respect of agenda item 6 – Strategic Asset Management Plan 2021-26, that she was the treasurer for the HELP Charity.

OS.84 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 4th March 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman advised that representatives from the Environment Agency, Severn Trent and Worcestershire County Council had been invited to attend the meeting to give an update on the temporary barrier at Beales Corner following the flooding in January 2021. He said that a wider update on the flooding issues would be given at

the May Committee meeting.

He welcomed the representatives from the Environment Agency; Dave Edwards, Team Leader for Flood and Coastal Risk Management, and Lindsey Sayner, Senior Engineer for Worcestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire and Gloucestershire; and from Severn Trent; Tim Smith, Flooding and Partnerships Manager and Matthew Jaynes, Wastewater Networks Manager, Worcestershire & Gloucestershire.

He advised that there was no representative from the statutory highways authority, Worcestershire County Council, as they are in the purdah period for the May elections and felt it was not appropriate to send an Officer at this time.

OS.85 Update from the Environment Agency

The Committee received an update from the Environment Agency (EA) on the investigation into the circumstances which led to the compromise of the temporary barrier at Beales Corner, Bewdley.

Dave Edwards presented the report and gave a brief summary of the roles and responsibilities of the EA. He said that in terms of flood and coastal risk management the EA had legal powers to undertake certain flood risk management works for the greater public good; they were permissive powers rather than statutory duties.

He explained that works are carried out across the country, at public expense, to reduce flood risk. This is done because of the wider economic and social case for reducing the effects of flooding. He said there was not a general right to be protected from flooding or to be protected to any particular standard when risk management works are undertaken by the EA. He added that the EA also have an incident response role and in terms of flood risk management (FRM), the EA operate their FRM Assets, and issue flood warnings where possible.

Dave Edwards explained that in January significant rain fall was experienced right across the River Severn catchment which led to rising river levels. The FRM assets were deployed at Severnside North, Severnside South and Beales Corner. On the evening of Friday 22nd January with the river levels still rising the temporary flood defence barrier at Beales Corner was, unfortunately, compromised.

He further explained that following the barrier's compromise, the EA were able to offer help and support to those affected by the flooding and they immediately commenced a review into what happened. Information had been shared with stakeholders via the EAs regular newsletter and on 27th January they were able to share a copy of the initial findings report with stakeholders. He said that the EA had also held a socially distanced Covid safe drop-in session on 28th January to update those who were present.

Lindsey Sayner gave an update on the technical side of the report. She explained that she had previously been involved in technical reviews and assessments for other temporary barrier systems such as the barriers at Iron Bridge and Stratford-upon-Avon.

She advised that on Monday 25th January the water levels had dropped low enough

Agenda Item No. 4

for the EA to see the site and they had to break a significant amount of ice to get on there. An initial findings report, attached at appendix A of the report, was issued the following day. The initial report will be backed up by a full post incident report which she was currently working on and was scheduled to be finished by late June.

She said that from the initial site visit the road surface had not only been scraped back by the barrier systems under the load, but it was also allowing water to come through the road surface. Having outlined a summary of the points that would be considered as part of the post incident full review and assured members that the EA were working closely with WCC to resolve the issues. She said whatever was happening with the road was getting worse and they had seen evidence of that. She advised that a decision had been made to pause the temporary barrier deployment until the review had been completed, as the EA did not want to do anything too quickly which would result in a further slide event and put people at further risk.

She added that in the short term the EA have created thorough plans with individual contact points with the residents, purchased some additional smaller pumps and have materials available so that if the levels are predicted to be similar to when the EA would have considered deploying the temporary barriers, that is the point they will be making communication with all those residents and helping them tailor their protection to their individual needs.

Councillor G Ballinger joined the meeting at this point, (6.36pm)

In response to concerns raised by a member in relation to the work on the temporary barriers and potential funding for a permanent barrier scheme, Dave Edwards was pleased to advise that should the temporary barriers be deployed again, there would be no bearing on the funding availability for a permanent scheme as they were completely separate from each other.

Tim Smith outlined Severn Trent's roles and responsibilities which included what they do as part of the multi-agency plan at Beales Corner during incident mode. He said Severn Trent managed the sewer network and sewer flooding and was one of many key organisations involved in flood risk management. He explained that during events when the temporary barriers are deployed Severn Trent undertake temporary pumping of the surface water systems and foul pumping station which is on the riverside.

Matthew Jeynes spoke about the purpose of the pumps and the workings of the non-return valves. He explained that when the temporary pumps were deployed, the pump station at Beales Corner is switched off as it not as effective as it normally would be due to the level of the river and the ingress. He said the temporary pumps not only do the job of the pump station by protecting properties from sewer flooding, they also protect properties that are at risk of flooding directly from the river when the barriers are over topped or in the case of a no barrier situation, and a number of properties that are further away.

He further explained that in January, to try and protect as many properties as they could, a decision was taken to keep the temporary pumps in place and operating for as long as possible with the risk that they could incur some damage which they did when the river overtopped. He said four of the pumps had been catastrophically

destroyed because of the event, which unfortunately resulted in a spillage of fuel as they are not designed to work underwater. However, if the pumps had been switched off and removed before the barriers were compromised, the properties would have been contaminated with sewage.

In conclusion, Tim Smith said that he hoped the updates had conveyed a real sense of commitment from both the agencies and outlined the issues they had to grapple with and the dynamic decision making during a flooding event. He said that it was right and proper that the EA carry out the investigation and during this interim position when the temporary barriers will not be deployed reliance will be on the property flood resilience. He said Severn Trent would not be able to deploy temporary pumps as there would be no defenced area for them to be positioned.

The Chairman thanked the agencies for giving their time to attend the meeting and for the written and verbal updates.

Agreed: The update be noted.

OS.86

**A Strategy for Enabling Business Growth and Enterprise
2021-26**

The Committee considered a report from the Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity & Place which set out the proposals to update and adopt a Strategy for Enabling Business Growth and Enterprise 2021-26.

The Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity & Place presented the report and advised that the authority adopted a similar strategy in 2016. He explained that the general approach and aspirations were still current but it had been refreshed to ensure it was up to current standards. He said It still remained an important document as it sets out how the Council expects to deliver against the corporate strategy and corporate priorities around economic growth, and hoped members recognised that it was a very important part of what the authority was doing going forward.

The Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity & Place outlined the key issues of the report and happy to report that good progress was being made with the development of the industrial units opposite Aldi on the Silverwoods site. He said it was the Council's first and to date, only development loan fund proposal and was really good news that it is going ahead. He said the double benefit for the Council was that the authority are going to be purchasing six of the industrial units that will be known as Forest Industrial Estate. This will add to the Council's portfolio of properties and demonstrated good local leadership as the market for good quality industrial units was really picking up at the moment,

The Committee discussed the report and welcomed the news that Barton Firtop Engineering Co. were relocating to Wyre Forest. Members thanked the Corporate Director and his team for the work they had done in promoting business growth within the District over many years and for the securing the relocation of Barton Firtop.

A member suggested that since 2016 a climate emergency had been declared and the authority had taken steps to address the issues. It was suggested that additions be made to the objectives and principles within the strategy to include reference to the green growth agenda and the promotion of Council's expectation of net zero carbon emissions.

Agreed: Recommend to Cabinet that the Strategy for Enabling Business Growth & Enterprise 2021-26 is agreed, subject to the Green Business Growth agenda being included within the Enterprise and Business Growth Ambitions on page 52 of the report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

OS.87

Strategic Facilities Asset Management Plan 2021-26

The Committee considered a report from the Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity & Place which set out the proposals to update and adopt a Strategic Asset Management Plan (SF&) 2021-26. The report also included the management and marketing plan for tenancies at Wyre Forest House.

The Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity & Place presented the report. He explained that the plan was about how the authority manages its operational buildings. He said it was a refresh of a previous strategy and important in terms of making sure the buildings were healthy and safe for Managers to deliver their services from. He was pleased to advise that despite the pandemic, the authority was beginning to see more interest in the vacant space at Wyre Forest House.

Agreed: Recommend to Cabinet that the Strategic Facilities and Asset Management Plan 2021-26 is agreed.

At 7.42pm, the Committee agreed unanimously to suspend Council Procedure Rule (Standing Orders) 1.1 (iii) to allow the meeting to continue past 8pm.

OS.88

Strategic Asset Management Plan 2021-26

The Committee considered a report from the Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity & Place which set out the proposals to update and adopt a Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP) 2021-26.

The Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity & Place presented the report and explained that it was a refresh of the same document that the authority adopted 5 years ago and was heavily related to the business growth and enterprise strategy.

He added that in 2013-2014 the authority reviewed its assets and started to take a different view in relation them. They were not just there to be disposed of for capital receipt, it was more about how they could be used both in terms of supporting the economic regeneration of the district and also in terms of revenue generation as well.

He further explained that a number of things have happened since the original strategy was adopted, such as; the development of the Evergreen Investment Fund whereby when an asset is disposed of for capital receipt the capital receipt is ring fenced with a view to it being recycled back into economic regeneration and

revenue generating opportunities; the Capital Portfolio Fund which is aimed at supporting our economic growth across a wider geography using the Local Enterprise Partnerships' geography; working with PSP which is all about how we can better utilise the assets that we have. He added that it was a developing document and it is a very important part of what we want to agree going forward, as it was all about the development of the Council's asset base and using that asset base to improve the economic prospects within the District.

The Committee discussed the report. It was suggested that whilst it was important the authority maximised the assets to their full potential, there was also a community aspect to a number of the assets and formed part of the history of the area. It was important that the document reflected the assets were not just used for commercial purposes, they were part of and used by the community.

Agreed: Recommend to Cabinet that the Strategic Asset Management Plan 2021-26 and accompanying Disposal Strategy 2021 is agreed, with the inclusion of comments referencing the community benefit to be derived from some assets rather than simply their financial yield.

OS.89 Press Involvement

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

OS.90 Exempt Information

Decision: 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 items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of "Exempt Information" as defined in paragraphs 2, 6 and 7 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

OS.91 Strategic Asset Management Plan 2021-26: Appendix 2 – Property Disposal Strategy 2021

The Committee considered the confidential disposal strategy. The document is reviewed on an annual basis and covers areas such as the retention, redevelopment and disposal options of the Assets.

Councillors S Miah, S Griffiths and F Oborski declared there interests at this point.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8.18pm.

The full meeting is available for viewing on the Council's website
<https://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/53298>

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Briefing Paper

Report of: Rhiannon Foxall, Business Improvement Officer
Date: Thursday 13th May 2021
Open

How Are We Doing? Performance Update

1. Summary

- 1.1 To update Members on the performance of the Council for Quarter 4 (from 1st January 2021 to 31st March 2021).

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 2019-23.
- 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 the [exception report](#) (reported from 2020/21 and 2021/22 Programme of Projects)
- 3.2 **Appendix 2** is a detailed report of performance against our purpose of [‘Planning’](#) (reported from 2020/21 Wyre Forest Forward Programme of Projects)
- 3.3 **Appendix 3** is a detailed report of performance against our purpose of [‘Housing’](#) (reported from 2020/21 Wyre Forest Forward Programme of Projects)
- 3.4 **Appendix 4** is the [Capital Projects](#) report (reported from 2021/22 Programme of Projects)

4. Key Achievements/Issues

- 4.1 **Removal of measure LE053** – Number of requests for pre-application advice

Following the full implementation of the new planning system, the data for pre-application numbers is combined with other figures and is no longer providing a meaningful data capture. It is considered that the number of actual formal applications provide a better more realistic understanding of Development Management targets and workload.

5. Options

- 5.1 That the progress in performance for quarter 4 be noted.

6. Consultation

- 6.1 Leader of the Council
6.2 Corporate Leadership Team

7. Related Decisions

- 7.1 None.

8. Relevant Council Policies/Strategies

- 8.1 Wyre Forest District Council Corporate Plan 2019 – 2023.

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 – Exception report
12.2 Appendix 2 – Full 'Planning' report
12.3 Appendix 3 – Full 'Housing' report
12.4 Appendix 4 – Capital Projects report

13. Background Papers

Corporate Plan action information is available on the Council's Performance Management System, Pentana Performance. 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 20/21 55

We support our people and enable them to work well

25%



Due Date	Managed By	Latest Note	Latest Note Date
31-Mar-2021	Corporate Leadership Team; Rachael Simpson	Induction and onboarding Work continues on this project but timescales have slipped due to resources being diverted as a result of responding to the Pandemic. This will project will continue into the 2021/22 programme.	23-Apr-2021

Make good development happen

WFF 20/21 31

Lion Fields

0%



Due Date	Managed By	Latest Note	Latest Note Date
31-Mar-2024	Mike Parker	This action has been replaced with updated version of project (WFF 21/22 89 and WFF 21/29 90) as the projects have now developed as a result of the Future High Streets Fund Programme	30-Apr-2021

Support me to run a successful business

WFF 21/22 82

Erection of industrial units former Frencro site



Due Date	Managed By	Latest Note	Latest Note Date
31-Aug-2020	Mike Parker	Continued failure of contractor to finish scheme has resulted in the Council implementing the necessary clauses within the contract to terminate the contract and gain direct control of the sub contractors to complete the scheme. There is likely to be a continued a short hiatus of activity until the Council can take overall control of completion of the works.	26-Apr-2021

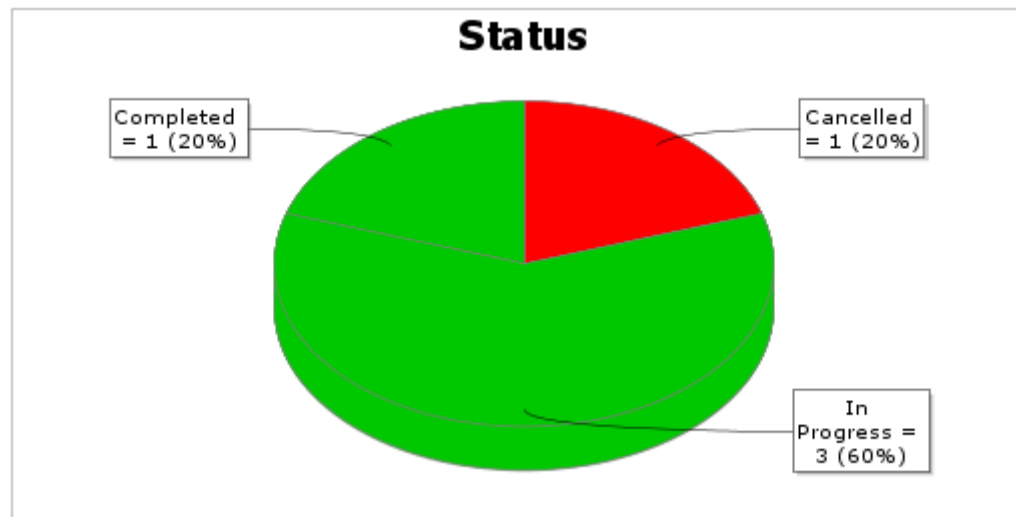
MAKE GOOD DEVELOPMENT HAPPEN

This report details the progress we have made against our purpose of 'make good development happen'.



Actions

Listed below is the progress against our current major projects that support the delivery of our purpose of 'make good development happen'



WFF 20/21 30

Stourport Canal Basins


25%



Due Date	Managed By	Latest Note	Latest Note Date
31-Oct-2021	Mike Parker	February meeting of Planning Committee agreed further temporary use of car park for a four year period.	23-Feb-2021

WFF 20/21 31 Lion Fields 

Due Date	Managed By	Latest Note	Latest Note Date
31-Mar-2024	Mike Parker	This action has been replaced with updated version of project (WFF 21/22 89 and WFF 21/29 90) as the projects have now developed as a result of the Future High Streets Fund Programme	30-Apr-2021

WFF 20/21 37 Review Local Development Framework including provision for significant housing growth 

Due Date	Managed By	Latest Note	Latest Note Date
31-Mar-2022	Mike Parker	A brief letter from Inspector has now been received containing less detail than expected however, the Local Plans Team are currently working on draft main modifications which will be shared with the Inspector as soon as complete with a view to summer 2021 presentation to Members for approval to consult during autumn 2021.	23-Mar-2021

WFF 20/21 70 Investment in income generation through asset development 

Due Date	Managed By	Latest Note	Latest Note Date
31-Mar-2022	Mike Parker	Temporary policy still remains to considering district purchases only. No new potential acquisitions under consideration at present.	01-Mar-2021

WFF 20/21 71 Delivery of Kidderminster Railway Station 

Due Date	Managed By	Latest Note	Latest Note Date
30-Jun-2020	Mike Parker	Ticket offices works complete and entry into service began in June.	24-Jun-2020

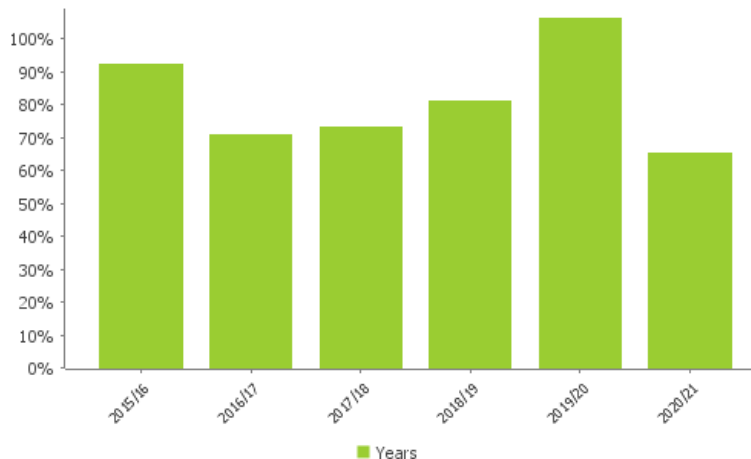
Measures

As a way of measuring the progress with our purpose, we collect key data to monitor trends and patterns. This data not only helps us to understand the impact of the work that we are doing but it also assists with decision making at a corporate level. The latest available data is detailed below:

LA049 Percentage of dwellings completed compared to the annual expected figure

Aim to
Maximise

LA049 Percentage of dwellings completed compared to the annual expected figure



Current
Value

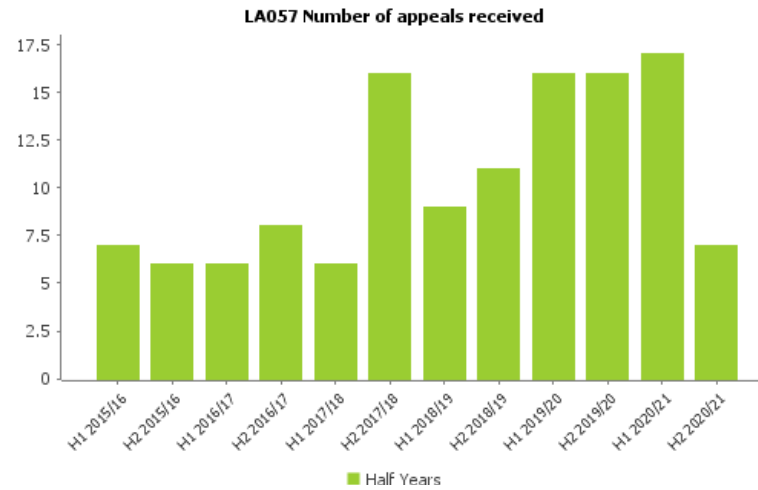
65%



Managed By Kate Bailey

LA057 Number of appeals received

Aim to
Minimise



Current
Value

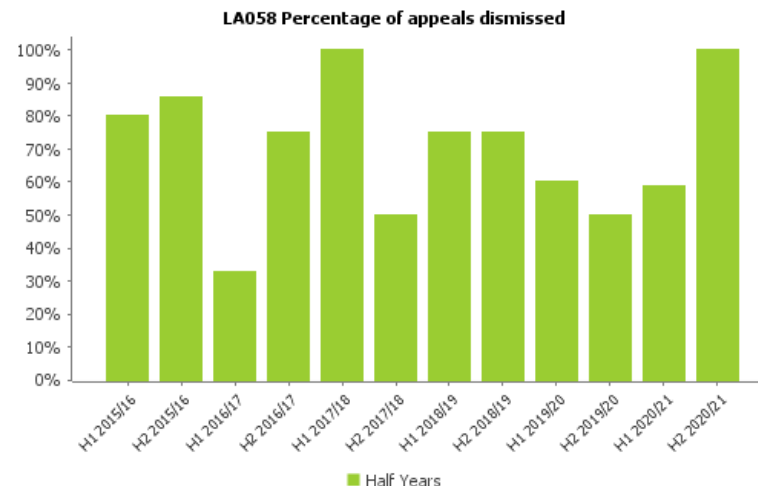
24



Managed By Paul Round

LA058 Percentage of appeals dismissed

Aim to
Maximise



Current
Value

100%

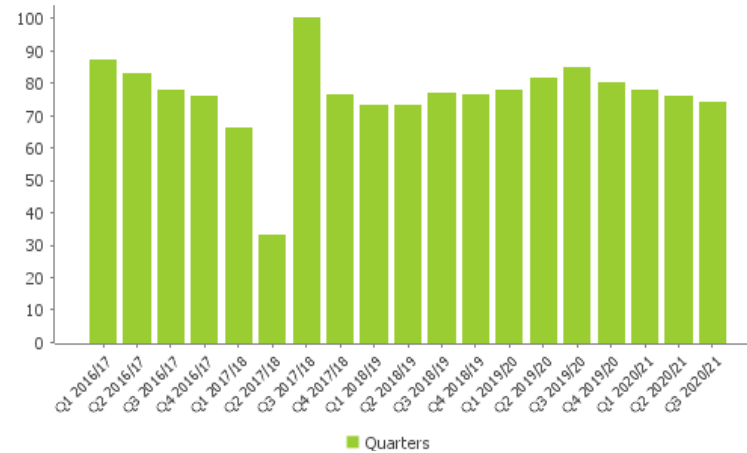


Managed By Paul Round

LA051a Percentage of major applications determined on time over a 2 year rolling period

Aim to
Maximise

LA051a Percentage of major applications determined on time over a 2 year rolling period



Current
Value

74

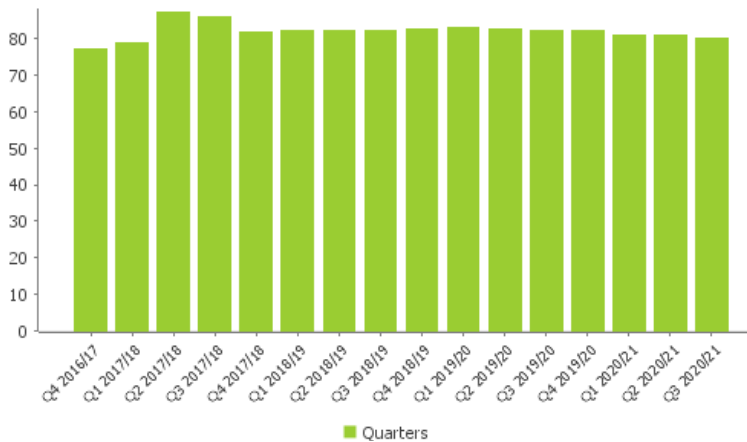


Managed By Paul Round

LA051b Percentage of non-major applications determined on time over a 2 year rolling period

Aim to
Maximise

LA051b Percentage of non-major applications determined on time over a 2 year rolling period



Current
Value

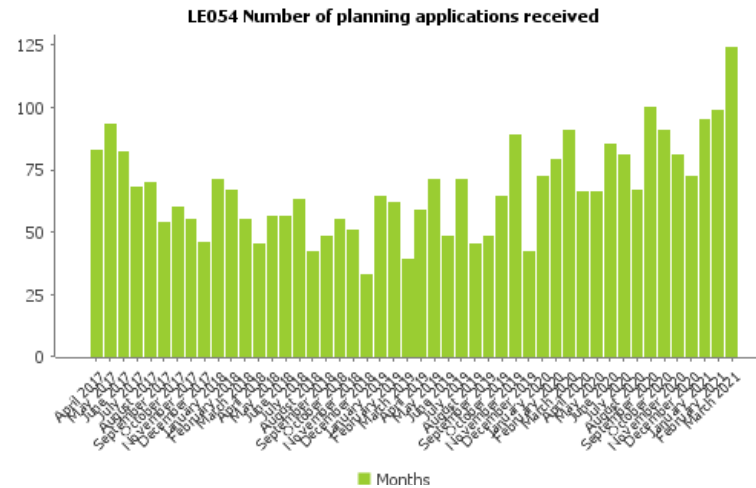
80



Managed By Paul Round

LE054 Number of planning applications received

Aim to
Maximise



Current
Value

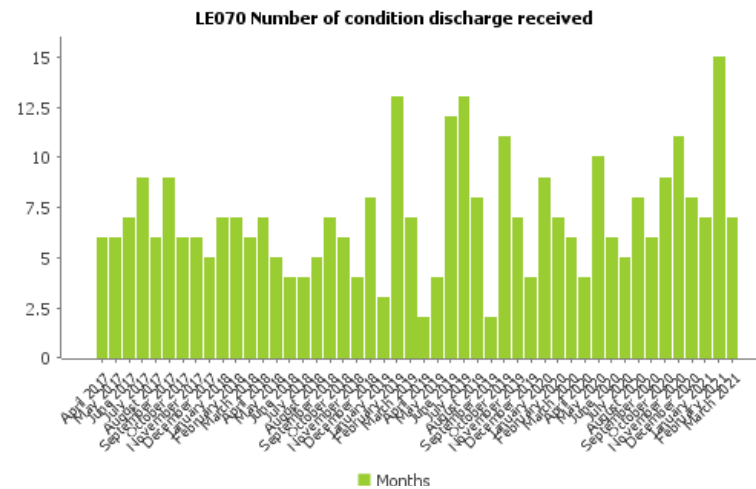
124



Managed By Paul Round

LE070 Number of condition discharge received

Aim to
Maximise



Current
Value

7



Managed By Paul Round

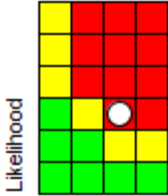

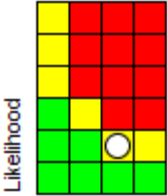

Cross cutting measures

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

LA034	Area of new commercial floor space completed through development
LA039	Number of affordable new homes completed

Risks

The below risk(s) has been identified as part of our Corporate Risk Register. All of the actions and measures detailed in this report aim to mitigate this risk(s) as well as drive forward our purpose of 'make good development happen'.

CORPRISK16	<p>Three year programme to end of March 2024 delivering £20.5million programme of interventions across Kidderminster Town Centre. Governance arrangements established with board overseeing programme delivery and individual project boards to oversee each specific intervention. Additional capacity to be added to NWEDR to oversee programme and project delivery. Regular liaison with MHCLG to ensure delivery in accordance with programme and specifically focussing on monitoring and evaluation. Provision made in capital programme at February Council.</p>	<p>Current Risk Matrix</p>	 <p>Impact Critical Likelihood Low</p>		<p>Target Risk Matrix</p>	 <p>Impact Critical Likelihood Very Low</p>	
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HELP ME TO HAVE ACCESS TO A GOOD QUALITY AND AFFORDABLE HOME

This report details the progress we have made against our purpose of 'help me have access to a good quality and affordable home'.



Measures

As a way of measuring the progress with our purpose, we collect key data to monitor trends and patterns. This data not only helps us to understand the impact of the work that we are doing but it also assists with decision making at a corporate level. The latest available data is detailed below:

LA033 Number of new houses completed through development

Aim to
Maximise



Current
Value

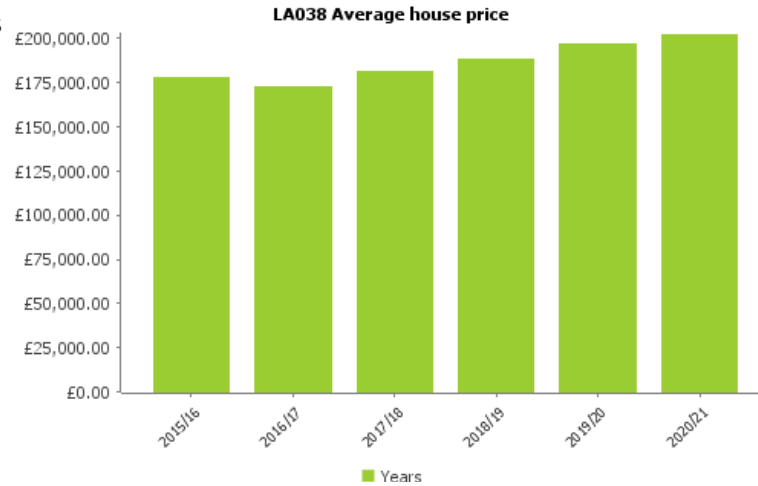
236



Managed By Kate Bailey

LA038 Average house price

Goldilocks



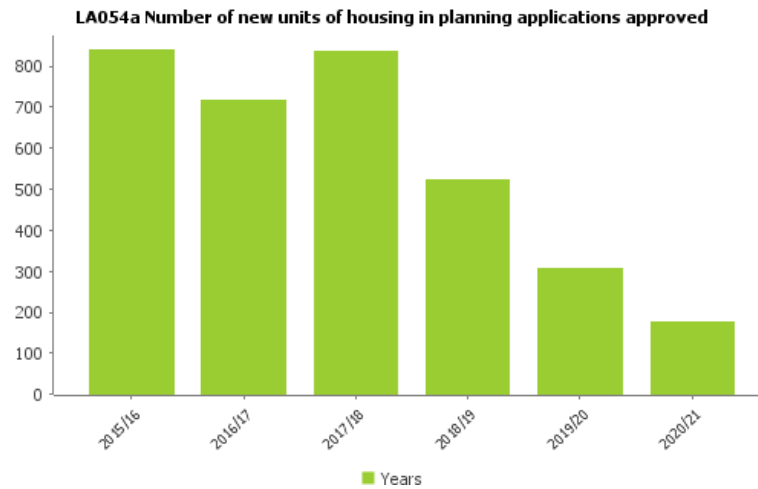
Current Value £201,362.18



Managed By Kate Bailey

LA054a Number of new units of housing in planning applications approved

Aim to Maximise



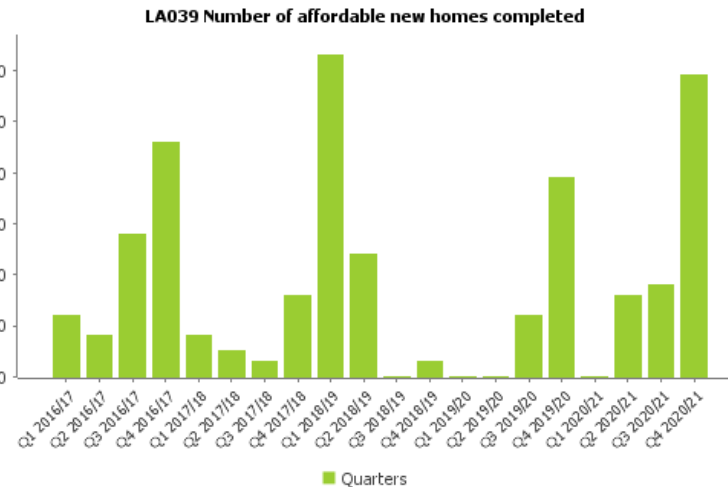
Current Value 177



Managed By Kate Bailey

LA039 Number of affordable new homes completed

Aim to Maximise



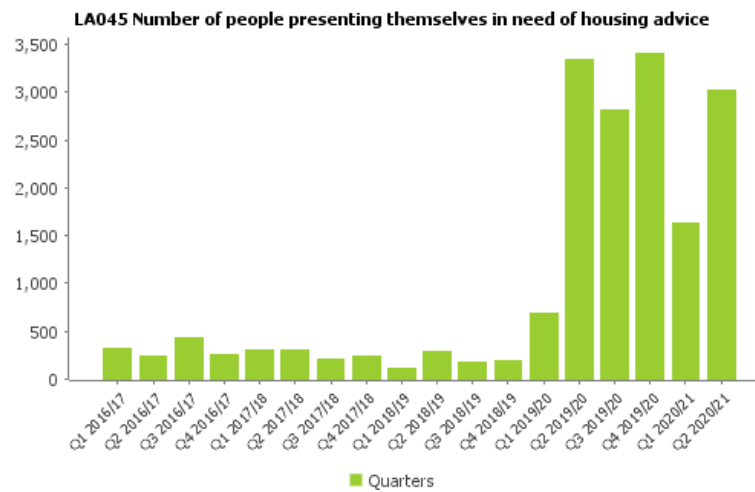
Current Value 59



Managed By Kate Bailey

LA045 Number of people presenting themselves in need of housing advice

Aim to Maximise



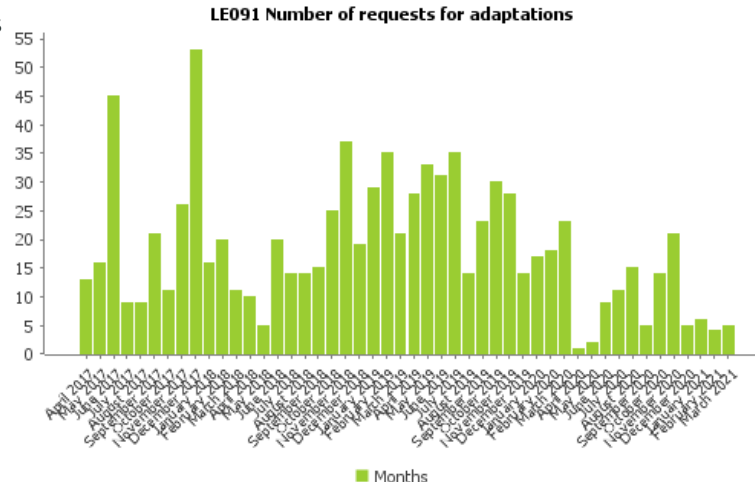
Current Value 3,017



Managed By Kate Bailey

LE091 Number of requests for adaptations

Goldilocks



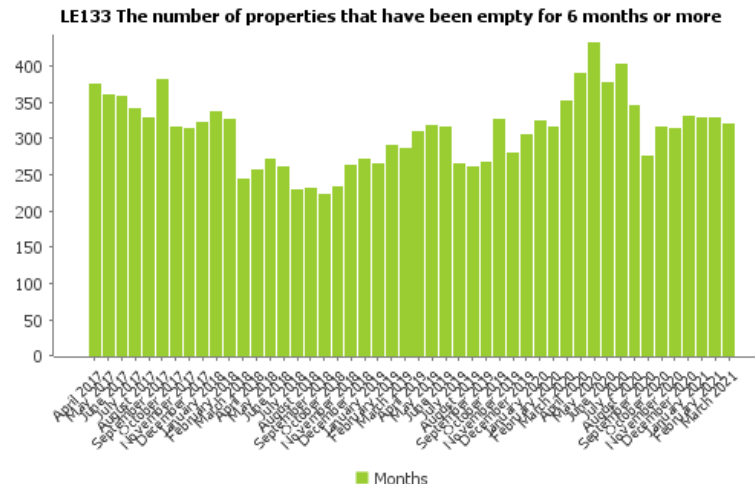
Current Value 5



Managed By Kate Bailey

LE133 The number of properties that have been empty for 6 months or more

Aim to Minimise



Current Value 320



Managed By Kate Bailey;
Mike Parker

Risks

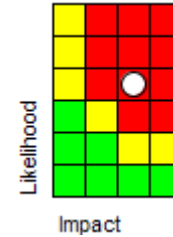
The below risk(s) has been identified as part of our Corporate Risk Register. All of the actions and measures detailed in this report aim to mitigate this risk(s) as well as drive forward our purpose of 'help me to have access to a good quality and affordable home'.

CORPRISK03

Unable to deliver good quality, affordable homes.

The need for good quality, decent and affordable homes in the district is increasing but supply relative to demand is decreasing. The risk is increased by the emerging national position regarding changes in the National Planning Policy Framework the Voluntary Right to Buy pilot in the West Midlands and the First Homes Proposals.

Current
Risk
Matrix

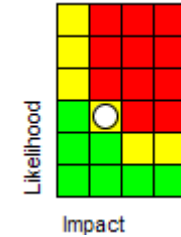


Impact Critical

Likelihood Significant



Target
Risk
Matrix



Impact Marginal

Likelihood Low



Capital Projects

This report details the progress of all of our capital projects



WFF 21/22 89.1	Bullring gateway to Kidderminster Town Centre	5%	
Due Date	Managed By	Latest Note	Latest Note Date
31-Mar-2024		Awaiting results of slab survey. Overall the Council expects to appoint programme managers by the end of May to assist in managing the overall FHSF fund and particularly to drive individual project delivery including this site which will need a new design and plan for implementation.	26-Apr-2021
WFF 21/22 89.2	Refurbishment and redevelopment of former Magistrates Court, Worcester Street	10%	
Due Date	Managed By	Latest Note	Latest Note Date
31-Mar-2024		Overall the Council expects to appoint programme managers by the end of May to assist in managing the overall FHSF fund and particularly to drive individual project delivery including this site which will need a new design and plan for implementation. Burrell Foley Fischer and David Clarke Associates continue to work on delivery of project.	26-Apr-2021
WFF 21/22 89.3	Town Centre connectivity infrastructure	5%	
Due Date	Managed By	Latest Note	Latest Note Date

31-Mar-2024

Overall the Council expects to appoint programme managers by the end of May to assist in managing the overall FHSF fund and particularly to drive individual project delivery including this site which will need a new design and plan for implementation. Council continues to pursue strategic acquisitions and has reached heads of terms agreement on a number and is progressing positive discussion on others which should enable key properties to be acquired as proposed.

26-Apr-2021

Listed below are actions that will become capital projects in the future

WFF 21/22 90	Former Glades Leisure Centre
WFF 21/22 93	Redevelopment of Castle Road car park
WFF 21/22 96	Redevelopment of land at Radford Avenue



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Briefing Paper

Report of: Jenny Moreton
Principal Health and Sustainability Officer
Date: Thursday 13th May 2021

Open

Wyre Forest Health and Wellbeing Plan Update

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report is to update Members on work to improve health and wellbeing in Wyre Forest and to seek endorsement of the new Wyre Forest Health Action Plan 2021-22

2. Background

- 2.1 The Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Board oversees local health commissioning and leads on the strategic planning and co-ordination of local health services. The Board developed the Worcestershire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016 - 2021, which established priorities for this period, based on the findings of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. Public Health is a County Council function and WFDC works closely with the Public Health team ensuring the District Council makes a contribution to improving the health of its residents.
- 2.2 The Wyre Forest Health and Wellbeing Stakeholder Forum (HWSF), includes representatives from a range of organisations and develops and delivers the Health and Wellbeing Plan. Progress on delivery is also reported to the Worcestershire Health Improvement Group, a sub-group of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 2.3 Within the District Council, delivery of this work is usually carried out by the Public Health Practitioner for Wyre Forest and the Health and Sustainability team in Strategic Housing Services.

3. Key Issues

- 3.1 Improving the health and wellbeing of residents in Wyre Forest remains a key area of work. The latest Public Health England data for Wyre Forest shows that there are some indicators that are significantly worse than the national or regional average including smoking in pregnancy, breastfeeding rate and dementia diagnosis. Whilst indicators for Obese Children and Excess Weight in Adults are currently not significantly different to England average, local values are still concerning. In Wyre

Forest 21% of Year 6 children (10-11 year olds) are obese and 62.7% of adults are carrying excess weight.

- 3.2 The Wyre Forest Health and Wellbeing Plan aims to tackle these issues as well as the Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Board's current priorities to keep everyone physically active, prevent alcohol harm and maintain good mental health and wellbeing.
- 3.3 Delivery of the 2019-20 Wyre Forest Health and Wellbeing Plan was different to originally anticipated as a result of the covid pandemic. As detailed below, some actions were carried out as planned, some were carried out albeit in an alternative way, some will be carried forward into the new plan and some additional covid-related actions were carried out.
- 3.4 In addition, the Public Health Practitioner was seconded from her current role to work solely on Covid related works from March 2020 and so tasks that would have been undertaken by the postholder haven't been completed and the post remains on secondment to the Local Outbreak Response Team.

Delivery of the Wyre Forest Health and Wellbeing Plan 2019-20

3.4 Good Mental Health and Wellbeing throughout life

3.4.1 Volunteering.

The plan included an action to promote the use and uptake of volunteering as a means to live well and improve health and wellbeing. Unfortunately, the two planned Volunteer Fairs had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. However, Wyre Forest District Council did assist in the Worcestershire Here2help scheme set up to support people during the pandemic by promoting voluntary opportunities, encouraging sign up and linking local registered volunteers and organisations. This work is ongoing and will be built on going forward. 183 Wyre Forest residents registered as volunteers with Here 2 Help in 2020/21. During this period, 813 requests for help were received through the scheme from Wyre Forest residents. These requests included assistance with accessing food and supplies, health/medication and mental health and wellbeing.

3.4.2 Dementia Friendly Communities.

The national Dementia Action Week 2020, when much of the activity was planned to take place, was cancelled due to the pandemic. Whilst the usual face to face Dementia Friends sessions are currently on hold, free virtual information sessions (lasting around 45 minutes) are going ahead. Further details and booking information can be found on the [Dementia Friends](#) website. Advice on supporting people living with dementia at home during self-isolation is available via the Herefordshire & Worcestershire [Dementia Wellbeing Service](#) and

there is further advice and support for those affected by dementia during the pandemic on the [Alzheimer's UK website](#).

3.4.3 Suicide Prevention Activity.

A Wyre Forest Suicide Prevention steering group has been set up and the first meeting was held in February 2021. The overall aim of the group is to develop and deliver local plans that contribute to the Worcestershire Suicide Prevention Plan.

Papyrus, a young suicide prevention charity, has delivered two suicide prevention training courses on behalf of WFDC. The first course took place at Wyre Forest House in January 2020 and was attended by 30 members of staff from WFDC and partner organisations. This included front line staff who may come into contact with more at-risk groups. A further course (held online due to the pandemic) was attended by 20 WFDC councillors in February 2021.

3.4.4 Social Isolation and Loneliness

The 'People Like Us' (PLUS) service is designed to combat loneliness and encourage social connections between Worcestershire adults and their communities. Commissioned by Worcestershire County Council, in Wyre Forest the scheme is delivered by Simply Limitless and is open to anyone aged 18+ who is registered with a GP in Worcestershire and is experiencing significant loneliness. It builds on the work of the previous 'Reconnections' service, which focussed on those aged 50+, recognising that loneliness can significantly affect the mental health of all age groups. Through the scheme, people are matched with a volunteer or caseworker dependant on complex needs who will support them to attend activities, build confidence and being greater support. To date, more than 245 Wyre Forest residents have been accepted onto the scheme.

The annual Showcase of Services for Older People event, usually held at Kidderminster Town Hall, was unable to go ahead in the usual way in 2020. An alternative online event was held instead, with a week of promotion of services via newsletters, social media and short video clips from a range of providers.

3.4.5 Mental Health Advice and Awareness

Awareness raising over the past year has had to be carried out primarily online, for example through sharing of information about national campaigns such as Time to Talk Day and World Mental Health Day. New resources produced by WFDC have included leaflets about Wellbeing and Emotional Support groups and Wellbeing support available to help people during the pandemic which have been distributed through various organisations.

3.5 Obesity and Being Active at Every Age

Much of the activity planned under this theme was unable to go ahead due to the pandemic and with staff resources diverted to other priorities

as a result. Activity during the pandemic has seen the development of the Ready Steady Worcestershire scheme, set up to provide and promote food and activity support available, particularly to more vulnerable families, during the school holidays. WFDC is a partner on the steering group for this county-wide project. Through the scheme, funding has been disseminated to local community organisations to help feed families and provide activity resources and other support. The [Ready Steady Worcestershire](#) website includes an online map of available support as well as resources such as online physical activity ideas and recipe cards.

- 3.6** In addition to Ready Steady Worcestershire, officers provided funding both directly and through the VCS from funding passported through Worcestershire County Council. Initial funding focused primarily on providing food to families with dependent children from a DEFRA grant and £55k was distributed to the VCS. The Council then received a further allocation for the Covid Winter Grant from DWP of which approximately £95k has been distributed to the VCS aimed at families with dependent children and other at risks groups.

Local Priorities

3.7 Thermal Comfort

One of the priorities for the Private Sector Housing team is to undertake works to properties in order to improve thermal comfort and with the aim of reducing associated respiratory illness. During the 2019/20 financial year, a total of 37 grants (totalling £116k) were awarded for heating and insulation works by the team. Referrals have been taken in 2020/21 and will be completed when covid restrictions are lifted.

WFDC continues to work with not-for-profit organisation Act on Energy to tackle fuel poverty locally. Whilst the usual face to face advice hasn't been able to go ahead over the last year, their free advice line (0800 988 2881) has been exceptionally busy. Act on Energy recently launched their Heat 4Health project which aims to support people with health conditions exacerbated by the cold (such as respiratory, circulatory, neurological or mental health needs) to keep warm affordably in their homes. Patients of health and care professionals and residents who could be prevented from their health conditions becoming exacerbated by the cold, can be referred (with the patient's permission) to an Act on Energy Heat 4 Health Outreach worker for support and advice.

3.8 Homeless Prevention

Members will be aware that Local Housing Authorities were asked to take "everyone in" that was either rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping during the Covid lockdowns. The Council has provided emergency accommodation for over 100 people and has found housing

solutions for many of these with only 6 currently in emergency accommodation waiting for offers. With evictions and repossession suspended for much of the year we have seen a decline in the number of approaches for these reasons but overall numbers approaching remains high due to parents, family and friends asking people to leave, domestic abuse and people leaving institutions. In the first three quarters of 2020/21 we prevented (or relieved) homelessness for 369 households.

Wyre Forest Health Action Plan 2021-22

- 3.9** The updated Wyre Forest Health Action Plan (Appendix 2) reflects the priorities of the current Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Strategy:
- improving mental health and well-being
 - increasing physical activity
 - reducing the harm caused by alcohol.

It also reflects additional local priorities.

- 3.10** The Joint Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Strategy is currently being updated and is expected to be published by the end of 2021. This will be reflected in the next update of the Wyre Forest Health and Wellbeing Plan.

4. Options

- 4.1** The committee may wish to:

- Recommend to Cabinet that the Wyre Forest Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Health Action Plan 2021-22, as attached at Appendix 1, is approved.
- Put forward alternative or additional proposals to recommend to Cabinet.

5. Consultation

- 5.1** Wyre Forest Health and Wellbeing Stakeholder partners

6. Related Decisions

- 6.1** Not applicable

7. Relevant Council Policies/Strategies

- 7.1** Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2021

8. Implications

- 8.1** Resources: Projects are funded from within existing resources.

8.2 The action plan requires cross-directorate and partnership working.

9. Wards affected

9.1 All

10. Appendices

10.1 Appendix 1: Wyre Forest Health Action Plan 2021-22

11. Background Papers

11.1 Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-21

Officer Contact Details:

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Title:	Principal Health & Sustainability Officer
Contact Number:	Tel: 01562 732569
Email address:	Jennifer.Moreton@wyreforestdc.gov.uk

Wyre Forest Health Action Plan 2021-2022 DRAFT

1. Good Mental Health and Wellbeing Throughout Life

Theme	Action	Lead Organisation	Target/ Performance Indicator	Notes/ Information
Mental Health Information and Awareness	Update and promote the Wyre Forest 5 Ways to Wellbeing Resources	WFDC	Resources updated by 10/5/2021	www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/5ways
	Promote Mental Health Awareness Week	WFDC	Activities/ communications during the Week.	Mental Health Awareness Week 10-16 May 2021 Theme: Nature & the Environment
	Promote World Mental Health Day	WFDC	Promotion on the day.	World Mental Health Day 10 th October 2021
	Promote Time to Talk Day	WFDC	Internal and external communications	Time to Talk Day 3 rd Feb 2022
	Promote Children's Mental Health Week	WFDC/ Starting Well Partnership	Activities/ communications during the Week.	Children's Mental Health Week takes place in February 2022
	Signposting to Mental Health support, advice and information	Onside/ WFDC	Information collated / published	See appendix for details of Mental Health resources
	Mental Health First Aid Training	WCC/WFDC	Courses held/ numbers attending (target: 20).	https://mhfaengland.org

	Regular inclusion of Mental Health and Wellbeing topics in WFDC's HWB Newsletter	WFDC	Bi-monthly newsletter published	www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/subscribe
Tackling Loneliness and Social isolation	Older People's Activity Booklet-update and disseminate.	WFDC	Updated/published by 31/12/21	www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/olderpeople
	Run an Online Showcase of Services for Older People	WFDC	Online showcase run in October 2021	
	Provide personalised support to people over 18 to reduce their feelings of loneliness and enhance their wellbeing	Simply Limitless	250	People Like Us (PLUS) https://www.simply-limitless.org/plus
	Work with partners to raise awareness of activities and services that can prevent/ alleviate loneliness in 'at risk' groups, including new mums and carers.	WFDC/ WCC		See Worcestershire Tackling Loneliness Action Plan

Agenda Item No. 8 Appendix 1

	Loneliness Awareness Training	WCC	Training developed by 31/3/2022	In development
	Tackling Loneliness Awareness Campaign	WCC/ WFDC/ partner organisations		See Worcestershire Tackling Loneliness Action Plan
Suicide Prevention	Support for and promotion of Mitch's Law.	All partners	Numbers signing online petition	https://www.change.org/p/uk-parliament-change-to-services-regarding-young-people-s-mental-health/u/25632591
	Zero Suicide Alliance Online Training	WFDC	Promote online/ in newsletter	https://www.zerosuicidealliance.com/training
	Papyrus Suicide Prevention Training	WFDC	Minimum of one training session held	https://www.papyrus-uk.org
	Provision of mental health/ suicide prevention resources in venues typically accessed by higher risk groups.	WFDC/ WCC	Resources provided in at least 5 venues	
	Co-ordination of the Wyre Forest Suicide Prevention Group	WFDC/ WCC	Regular meetings held (minimum of 4 per annum)	
Dementia Action	Dementia Action Week	Age UK/ WFDC	Local promotion during the week	Dementia Action Week 17-23 May 2021; theme 'Stand up for your loved ones.'
	Dementia Wellbeing Service	Age UK	Numbers accessing the service	https://www.ageuk.org.uk/herefordshireandworcestershire/our-services/dementia-services/dementia-wellbeing-service

Agenda Item No. 8 Appendix 1

	Dementia Friends Training	WCC/ DF Champions	Numbers trained	https://www.dementiafriends.org.uk
	Dementia Friendly Communities	Alzheimer's UK/ WCC	Provide information and signposting to organisations	https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/get-involved/dementia-friendly-communities
Volunteering	Promote volunteering opportunities and the mental health benefits Volunteer Week June 2021	WFDC/ WCC WFDC	Information collated / promoted online Promotion during the week	Volunteer Week 1-7 June 2021
Physical activity: walking	Promotion of walking opportunities- local routes and groups – and the mental health benefits.	WFDC	Information collated / promoted	

2. Obesity and Being active at every age

Theme	Action	Lead Organisation	Target/ Performance Indicator	Notes/ Information
Healthy Weight	Investigate whether WFDC should sign up to the Healthy Weight Declaration (HWD) developed by Food Active.	WCC WFDC	Decision made on WFDC signing up to the HWD and the implications of doing so.	The Healthy Weight Declaration aims to support local government to exercise their responsibility in developing and implementing policies which promote healthy weight
Planning Policy	Inclusion of health considerations in planning policies and processes.	WCC WFDC	New Local Plan to include policies on health. Wyre Forest Supplementary Planning Document on Health commenced. Health and wellbeing routinely considered as part of planning application process.	
Active Travel	Cycling and active transport -Develop local, family friendly cycle route information. Active transport included in development projects	Information produced/ promoted. Standing item on the quarterly Cycle	Wyre Forest Cycle Forum Wyre Forest Cycle Forum	

Agenda Item No. 8 Appendix 1

		Forum meeting agenda		
Healthy Eating Awareness	Adult/ Family Learning: -Link with WCC learning teams/ Parenting support/ other partners to offer/promote HWB (healthy eating) sessions and courses and ensure these are joined up with other initiatives.	Training promoted.	WFDC	

3. Reducing harm from alcohol at all ages

Theme	Action	Lead Organisation	Target/ Performance Indicator	Notes/ Information
Raising Alcohol Awareness	Supporting national campaigns (Alcohol Awareness Week/ Dry January) to raise awareness about alcohol consumption.	WFDC WCC	Awareness raising activity carried out.	Campaigns include: Dry January Go Sober for October Alcohol Awareness Week- November.

4. Additional Local Priorities

Theme	Action	Lead Organisation	Target/ Performance Indicator	Notes/ Information
Reducing Homelessness	Working with partners to prevent and relieve homelessness	WFDC	500 households prevented from becoming homeless or having homelessness relieved	
Raising thermal comfort to reduce respiratory illness	Heating and insulation improvements	WFDC Act on Energy	25 properties improved	
Developing links with the Primary Care Network	Develop ways to work with Primary Care to reduce health inequalities	WFDC/ PCN/ Onside	Mechanism in place	
Covid recovery	Local co-ordination of covid funding for food and essentials . Local co-ordination of school holiday food and activities through Ready Steady Worcestershire	WFDC/ WCC WFDC/ WCC	Numbers benefiting as a result of funding. Numbers of participants.	www.Worcestershire.gov.uk/rsw
Campaigns/ Provision of information	Local promotion of national/ county public health campaigns. Bi- monthly Health & Wellbeing Newsletter produced.	WFDC WFDC	6 campaigns promoted 6 newsletters produced	

**Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Work Programme 2021-2022**

May 2021

“How are we doing?” Q4 update (Housing and Planning)
Update from the Environment Agency – Flooding Outcomes
Update from Worcestershire County Council - Flooding Outcomes
Wyre Forest Health and Wellbeing Plan Update
Kidderminster 2040 - A Town Centre Vision

June 2021

Update on Future High Streets Programme delivery
Kidderminster Property Acquisitions – EXEMPT

July 2021

Nominations for Treasury Management Review Panel

September 2021

“How are we doing?” Q1 update
Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy
Backward Look 2020/21
Recommendations from the Fireworks Review Panel
Capital Portfolio Fund Quarterly Performance Report (Qtr ending June 2021) –
EXEMPT Appendix

November 2021

“How are we doing?” Q2 update
Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy Mid-year
Review Report 2021-22

December 2021

Update on Future High Streets Programme delivery

February 2022

“How are we doing?” Q3 update
Treasury Management Strategy 2022-23