

Agenda

Cabinet

Thursday, 16 June 2016, 9.00 am
County Hall, Worcester

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کوردی سۆزانی، ننگێر ناتوانی تێبگهی له ناوهرۆکی نهم بێلگهیه و دهستت به هیچ کس ناگات که و هههنگهه یهتوه بۆت، تکلیه تملفون بکه بۆ ژماره ی 01905 765765 و داوای رینۆینی بکه. (Kurdish)

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ। ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਸ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਦਾ ਮਸ਼ਹੂਨ ਸਮਝ ਨਹੀਂ ਸਕਦੇ ਅਤੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਅਜਿਹੇ ਵਿਅਕਤੀ ਤੱਕ ਪਹੁੰਚ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੈ, ਜੋ ਇਸਦਾ ਤਰਜਮਾ ਲਈ ਅਨੁਭਵ ਕਰ ਸਕੇ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਮਦਦ ਲਈ 01905 765765 'ਤੇ ਫ਼ੋਨ ਕਰੋ। (Punjabi)

DISCLOSING INTERESTS

There are now 2 types of interests:
'Disclosable pecuniary interests' and **'other disclosable interests'**

WHAT IS A 'DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST' (DPI)?

- Any **employment**, office, trade or vocation carried on for profit or gain
- **Sponsorship** by a 3rd party of your member or election expenses
- Any **contract** for goods, services or works between the Council and you, a firm where you are a partner/director, or company in which you hold shares
- Interests in **land** in Worcestershire (including licence to occupy for a month or longer)
- **Shares** etc (with either a total nominal value above £25,000 or 1% of the total issued share capital) in companies with a place of business or land in Worcestershire.

NB Your DPIs include the interests of your spouse/partner as well as you

WHAT MUST I DO WITH A DPI?

- **Register** it within 28 days and
- **Declare** it where you have a DPI in a matter at a particular meeting
 - you must **not participate** and you **must withdraw**.

NB It is a criminal offence to participate in matters in which you have a DPI

WHAT ABOUT 'OTHER DISCLOSABLE INTERESTS'?

- No need to register them but
- You must **declare** them at a particular meeting where:
You/your family/person or body with whom you are associated have a **pecuniary interest** in or **close connection** with the matter under discussion.

WHAT ABOUT MEMBERSHIP OF ANOTHER AUTHORITY OR PUBLIC BODY?

You will not normally even need to declare this as an interest. The only exception is where the conflict of interest is so significant it is seen as likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest.

DO I HAVE TO WITHDRAW IF I HAVE A DISCLOSABLE INTEREST WHICH ISN'T A DPI?

Not normally. You must withdraw only if it:

- affects your **pecuniary interests OR** relates to a **planning or regulatory** matter
- **AND** it is seen as likely to **prejudice your judgement** of the public interest.

DON'T FORGET

- If you have a disclosable interest at a meeting you must **disclose both its existence and nature** – 'as noted/recorded' is insufficient
- **Declarations must relate to specific business** on the agenda
 - General scattergun declarations are not needed and achieve little
- Breaches of most of the **DPI provisions** are now **criminal offences** which may be referred to the police which can on conviction by a court lead to fines up to £5,000 and disqualification up to 5 years
- Formal **dispensation** in respect of interests can be sought in appropriate cases.

Cabinet

Thursday, 16 June 2016, 9.00 am, County Hall, Worcester

Membership: Mr S E Geraghty (Chairman), Mr M L Bayliss, Mr A N Blagg, Mrs S L Blagg, , Mr M J Hart, Mrs L C Hodgson, Dr K A Pollock, Mr A C Roberts and Mr J H Smith

Agenda

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1	Apologies and Declarations of Interest	
2	Public Participation Members of the public wishing to take part should notify the Head of Legal and Democratic Services in writing or by e-mail indicating both the nature and content of their proposed participation no later than 9.00am on the working day before the meeting (in this case Wednesday 15 June 2016). Further details are available on the Council's website. Enquiries can also be made through the telephone number/e-mail address listed below.	
3	Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous meeting The Minutes of the meeting of 19 May 2016 have been previously circulated	
4	Scrutiny Report: Increasing Physical Activity	1 - 28
5	Optimising the Use of Children Centre Buildings	29 - 58
6	Worcestershire Parkway Regional Interchange	59 - 68

NOTES

- **Webcasting**

Members of the Cabinet are reminded that meetings of the Cabinet are Webcast on the Internet and will be stored electronically and accessible through the Council's Website. Members of the public are informed that if they attend this meeting their images and speech may be captured by the recording equipment used for the Webcast and may also be stored electronically and accessible through the Council's Website.

Agenda produced and published by Simon Mallinson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester WR5 2NP

To obtain further information or a copy of this agenda contact Nichola Garner, Committee & Appellate Officer on Worcester (01905) 766626 or Kidderminster (01562) 822511 (Ext 6626) or minicom: Worcester (01905) 766399 email: ngarner2@worcestershire.gov.uk

All the above reports and supporting information can be accessed via the Council's website.

Date of Issue: Tuesday, 7 June 2016

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CABINET
16 JUNE 2016**SCRUTINY REPORT: INCREASING PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**

Relevant Cabinet Members

Mr M L Bayliss
Mr S E Geraghty
Mr M J Hart
Mr J H Smith

Relevant Officer

Interim Director of Public Health,

Recommendation

- 1. The Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members with Responsibility for Health and Well-Being, Transformation and Commissioning and Highways recommend that the Cabinet:**
 - (a) receives the Scrutiny Report on Increasing Physical Activity in Worcestershire, together with the response from the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Members with Responsibility for Health and Well-Being, Transformation and Commissioning and Highways; and**
 - (b) notes the Scrutiny Report's findings and recommendation and adopts the response of the Cabinet Members with Responsibility as the way forward.**

Background

2. In February 2015, the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (OSPB) discussed the Worcestershire Public Health Annual Report 2014. A main theme of the annual report was how to increase opportunities for participation in physical activity. The County Council was keen to ensure that opportunities to access sport and physical activity were available to all, and scrutiny members were also interested to find out what impact the 2012 Olympics had had on participation rates.

3. Therefore, in April 2015, the OSPB added Increasing Physical Activity to the proposed 2015 scrutiny work programme, this was subsequently approved by Council in May 2015. OSPB approved the scrutiny proposal form that detailed the terms of reference and methodology for the review at its meeting on the 8 June 2015.

Terms of Reference

4. The Terms of Reference for the scrutiny exercise were to examine and make recommendations on:
 - a. Current physical activity rates in Worcestershire;

- b. What is the County Council's role in promoting physical activity?
- c. How is the County Council working with partners to enable more people to take part in physical activity and sport?
- d. What can the County Council do to help increase physical activity rates in order to meet the Chief Medical Officer recommendations of 30 minutes a day, 5 days a week?

Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (OSPB)

5. The OSPB considered the Scrutiny Report on 25 May 2016. At that meeting they requested that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of OSPB make a number of factual changes to the report and add an additional recommendation, that additional recommendation being Recommendation 5 - The Public Health Team should facilitate regular partnership meetings to share best practice, case studies and ideas from across the County, linking this with the Action Plan for Physical Activity.

Response of the Cabinet Members

6. The scrutiny process provides for the relevant Cabinet Members with Responsibility to submit to the Cabinet a response to the Scrutiny Report's findings and recommendation to be considered alongside the Scrutiny Report.
7. The response from the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Health and Well-Being on behalf of the Cabinet is attached as Appendix 2.

Supporting Information

- Appendix 1- Scrutiny Report - Increasing Physical Activity in Worcestershire
- Appendix 2 - Response from the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Health and Well-Being on behalf of the Cabinet

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

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Specific Contact Points for this report

Alyson Grice and Samantha Morris, Overview and Scrutiny Officers, 01905 844962/844963, scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk

Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

- Agenda and minutes of the OSPB meetings on 26 February 2015, 23 April 2015, 8 June 2015 and 25 May 2016.
- [All agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website here.](#)

Scrutiny Report

Increasing Physical Activity in Worcestershire

May 2016

www.worcestershire.gov.uk

Increasing Physical Activity Scrutiny Task Group Membership

Richard Udall (Lead Scrutiny Member)

Christine Cawthorne (representing Worcester City Council)

Stuart Cross

Liz Eyre

Philip Gretton

June Griffiths (representing Bromsgrove District Council until 2 December 2015 and the County Council thereafter)

Gareth Prosser (representing Redditch Borough Council)

Graham Vickery

Officer Support

Alyson Grice and Samantha Morris, Overview and Scrutiny Officers

Further copies of this report are available from:

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Website: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/scrutiny

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Chairman's Foreword

It is a pleasure to provide a foreword to this report. On first appearance some people were surprised that I agreed to lead this scrutiny exercise. After all, I am middle aged, over weight and lacking in physical activity. However, I believe for those reasons I'm ideally suited to lead the investigation. I know the challenges, the difficulties and the disincentives of attempting any kind of physical activity.

It has been a worthwhile and rewarding investigation. We believe we have developed moderate, progressive and achievable recommendations which are affordable. Scrutiny should be more than just reviewing past policies, we believe in policy development and hope this Report will enable the Executive to consider new ideas and policy changes.

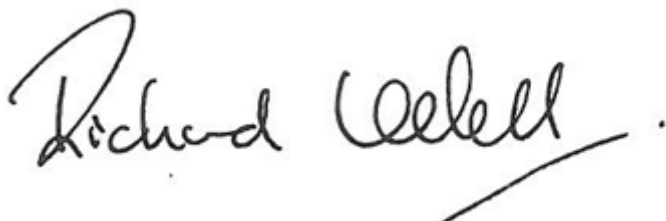
The issue of Olympic legacy was difficult for us; we received a mixed response to the questions we asked on the legacy. Some witnesses claimed it had been a success, others suggested otherwise. Clearly the benefits from the 2012 London Olympics have been felt, but more could be done to harness and promote the activity of those who are working to provide physical activity and to provide a meaningful legacy.

Many witnesses expressed frustration with the lack of support from General Practitioners and the medical profession. Sports clubs and groups are keen to help and would be willing to work with GP Practices if given the opportunity. We hope this report will bring about some change in this area.

As a County Council we also have to do more to promote physical activity among our workforce; we have provided some recommendations to encourage this to happen.

I would like to thank all the members of the Task Group; it was a pleasure to work with you. Also a big thank you to our Scrutiny Officers, who do a great job ensuring we are supported.

On a personal note, the process has encouraged me to be more active. I now have a dog and I am actively walking with my pet and trying to lose weight. I am also determined that we will organise a County Council mixed aged, mixed ability, mixed gender and no contact Touch Rugby team. You have been warned!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Udall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Cllr Richard Udall

Lead Member, Increasing Physical Activity Scrutiny Task Group

Increasing Physical Activity in Worcestershire Scrutiny Report

Background and purpose of the Scrutiny

1. In February 2015, the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (OSPB) discussed the Worcestershire Public Health Annual Report 2014. A main theme of the annual report was how to increase opportunities for participation in physical activity. The County Council was keen to ensure that opportunities to access sport and physical activity were available to all, and scrutiny members were also interested to find out what impact the 2012 Olympics had had on participation rates.
2. Therefore, in April 2015, the OSPB added Increasing Physical Activity in Worcestershire to the 2015 scrutiny work programme, which was subsequently approved by Council in May 2015.
3. The Terms of Reference for the scrutiny exercise were to examine and make recommendations on:
 - Current physical activity rates in Worcestershire;
 - What is the County Council's role in promoting physical activity?
 - How is the County Council working with partners to enable more people to take part in physical activity and sport?
 - What can the County Council do to help increase physical activity rates in order to meet the Chief Medical Officer recommendations of 30 minutes a day, 5 days and week?



Members of the Scrutiny Task Group setting out on a Health Walk in St Peters, Worcester.

Recommendations

4. In drawing up the recommendations, the Task Group has been mindful of what the County Council can and cannot influence from a Public Health perspective and that District Council colleagues have responsibility for Sports and Leisure Services.

Olympic Legacy

5. Recommendation 1: The Public Health Team should continue to work closely with the Sports Partnership Herefordshire and Worcestershire to improve participation rates and extend the Olympic legacy to everyone, maximising both the use of built and natural environment. [CMR for Health and Well-Being/Director of Public Health]

Action Plan for Physical Activity

6. Recommendation 2: We strongly suggest that the Director of Public Health lead on the preparation of a countywide inclusive and overarching Action Plan for Physical Activity, to encourage cultural change and increase physical activity across the County. The Action Plan should be published within 6 months and should include the identification of a responsible officer and focus on those who are most in need of support, for example those residents who are on benefits, **and our more elderly and very young residents**. The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel will be looking at the issue of obesity in the context of their Panel. This Action Plan should form a key part of the business of the Health and Well-being Board, which will oversee the implementation of the new Health and Well-being Strategy which has physical activity as one of its three priorities. [CMR for Health and Well-Being/Director of Public Health]

Health Partners

7. Recommendation 3: The Public Health Team should promote training for all frontline health staff to encourage them to have motivational conversations with service users to support increased physical activity. [CMR for Health and Well-Being/Director of Public Health]
8. Recommendation 4: The Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) representatives on the Health and Well-being Board should be asked to encourage GPs across the county to consider greater use of **'social prescribing'** including referring to sports and physical activity opportunities where appropriate. [CMR for Health and Well-Being/Director of Public Health]

Other partners

9. Recommendation 5: The Public Health Team should facilitate regular partnership meetings to share best practice, case studies and ideas from across the County, linking this with the Action Plan for Physical Activity. [CMR for Health and Well-Being/Director of Public Health]

Public Awareness and Recognition

10. Recommendation 6: Using the World Class Worcestershire brand, the County Council should raise the profile of elite sports men and women in the County and promote local

success in amateur sport, providing a platform to encourage greater participation. [CMR for Transformation and Commissioning/Director of Commercial and Change]

Councillors' Divisional Fund Scheme

11. Recommendation 7: County Councillors should be actively encouraged (not mandatory) to spend at least 10% of their divisional fund on encouraging participation in sport and physical activity, drawing on the support and advice of the Sports Partnership Herefordshire and Worcestershire where necessary. This should be highlighted to new Members as part of the Member Induction Programme following the 2017 Elections. [CMR for Transformation and Commissioning/Director of Commercial and Change]

Sharing Information

12. Recommendation 8: As part of the Action Plan for Physical Activity (see Recommendation 2), the County Council should consider ways to share information amongst partners and increase awareness of activities available across Worcestershire, ensuring a joined up approach. A dedicated communications officer should be responsible for this aspect of physical activity using all forms of modern communication methods. [CMR for Health and Well-Being/Director of Public Health]
13. Recommendation 9: We recommend that the CMR organises and hosts an annual summit of Health Professionals, District and County Councils, the Sports Partnership and other appropriate sporting clubs and organisations (including Scrutiny) to discuss progress, share information and ideas towards meeting the goals of increasing physical activity and to report the outcomes to Cabinet. [CMR for Health and Well-Being/Director of Public Health]

Schools

14. Recommendation 10: The Public Health Team should work with the Worcestershire Association of Governors, the Worcestershire Association of Secondary Headteachers, and representatives of Middle and Primary School Leaders in the county to highlight the importance of a quality PE offer in schools and effective use of their enhanced sports funding, and to promote opportunities available to schools for the involvement of local sporting organisations in their curriculum. [CMR for Health and Well-Being/Director of Public Health]

Employees

15. Recommendation 11: As a large employer, the County Council should do more to encourage its staff to become more physically active. [Leader of the Council/Chief Executive]

Barriers to Participation

16. Recommendation 12: As part of the development of the Action Plan for Physical Activity, the County Council should carry out a Needs Assessment to establish any 'gaps' between what is needed and what is currently provided. The Needs Assessment should also look to identify what are the barriers to taking part in physical activity. [CMR for Health and Well-Being/Director of Public Health]

17. Recommendation 13: The County Council should investigate whether better use can be made of the S106 cycle funds arising from new developments. More cycle ways could be created across the County by being more flexible with regards to the current width restrictions where formal footpaths are changed from bridleways to formal cycle way provision (where safe and appropriate to do so). The County Councils recent response to the governments cycling and walking investment strategy should be aligned with this recommendation [CMR for Highways/Director of Economy and Infrastructure]

Learning from successful practice elsewhere

18. Recommendation 14: The County Council should fully investigate successful work undertaken in other local authorities, such as Camden Council, in order to identify good practice that might be transferable to Worcestershire. [CMR for Health and Well-Being/Director of Public Health]

Making Better Use of Public Spaces

19. Recommendation 15: The County Council should look to maximise the use of **public spaces and the natural environment** by working with planning authorities to identify more local opportunities to encourage physical activity and active travel. [CMR for Health and Well-Being/Director of Public Health]

Council Decision Making

20. Recommendation 16: The practice of including a Public Health Impact Assessment in agenda reports should be extended to all County Council committees and District Councils should be encouraged to do likewise. [CMR for Transformation and Commissioning/Director of Commercial and Change/Director of Public Health]

Findings

Why should we be physically active?

21. It was clear from the start of the scrutiny exercise that the health benefits of increasing physical activity are massive. Over time, relatively small changes can be hugely beneficial to individuals of all ages in terms of both mental and physical health. The Council's Interim Director of Public Health told the Task Group that if an obese person started to meet the Chief Medical Officer's recommendation for physical activity, they would straight away halve their heart risk. (For adults aged 18 to 65 the Chief Medical Officer recommends that individuals are physically active for 30 minutes on at least 5 days per week).

22. The Task Group heard that physical inactivity causes 6-10% of all deaths from major cardio-vascular diseases (such as coronary heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and breast and colon cancers), as well as weight gain, decrease in muscle mass, and strength and balance problems.

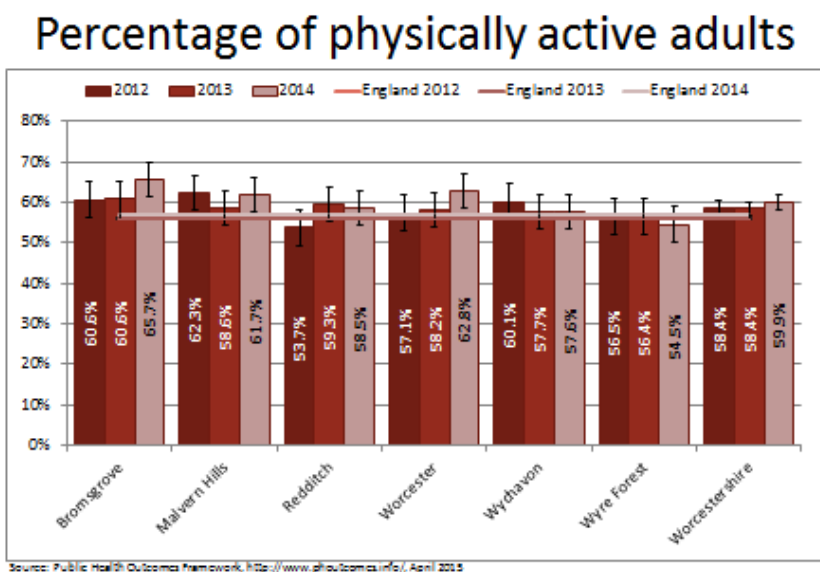
23. It is also clear that throughout the County there is a huge range of activity aimed at encouraging residents to become more physically active. As well as opportunities to take part in organised sports there are chances to participate in less formal activities

such as walking in one of the Council's country parks or rambling in the Worcestershire countryside. The Task Group recognises the vital role played by the Community and Voluntary Sector in providing opportunities for sport and physical activity in the County.

24. Over many years, people throughout the country have become increasingly sedentary and sport participation rates have declined. It is a challenge to all Local Authorities and health professionals to encourage residents to become more physically active. Although much can be done to improve the situation, it is also important to acknowledge that what is really needed is a change of culture, whereby it becomes more commonplace for people to take every opportunity to be more active. Achieving this change of culture is an ongoing process and could take many years.
25. The Scrutiny Task Group welcomed the Government's recently published *Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation*. Members were very pleased to see the enhanced profile that the Government is giving to increasing physical activity.

The current situation in Worcestershire

26. The Task Group heard that levels of physical activity in the County are low, making Worcestershire typical of the rest of the country. These low levels relate to all ages and socio-economic groups.
27. The table below shows the percentage of physically active adults for the County as a whole and broken down by District Council, and includes a comparison with figures for England.



Olympic Legacy

28. At the start of the scrutiny exercise, the Task Group was keen to explore whether the 2012 London Olympics had resulted in a legacy of increased participation in Worcestershire. We heard conflicting evidence on this issue. The majority of people we spoke to did not feel that there had been a significant Olympic legacy in the County.

29. However, the view of the Partnership Director of the Sports Partnership Herefordshire and Worcestershire was that closer inspection showed that participation rates had gone up since 2012 and, through lottery funded Sports England projects, the County had benefitted from a number of 'big ticket' items, such as the refurbishment of the Dolphin Centre in Bromsgrove, the Wyre Forest Leisure Centre, the University of Worcester Arena and the new Worcester swimming pool. In addition, over £2 million had been invested via Sport England through legacy funds into local sports clubs and there had been an increase in opportunities for young people to try new sports and activities.
30. The Task Group acknowledged that Worcestershire's stock of sporting facilities had been enhanced since 2012 as a result of Olympic legacy projects. However, these facilities, although welcome, did not reach everyone and participation rates had not risen as much as might have been anticipated. Members felt that it was not too late to harness the enthusiasm generated following the London Olympics and, given the proximity of the Rio Olympics in 2016 and the inevitable enhanced public interest in sporting activity, there was now a further opportunity to create an Olympic legacy of increased levels of physical activity in the County.

Recommendation 1

The Public Health Team should continue to work closely with the Sports Partnership Herefordshire and Worcestershire to improve participation rates and extend the Olympic legacy to everyone, maximising both the use of built and natural environment. [CMR for Health and Well-Being/Director of Public Health]

Action Plan for Physical Activity

31. The Task Group recognised that, during the scrutiny exercise, the Health and Well-being Board agreed its new Health and Well-Being Strategy 2016-19 and Members very much welcomed the fact that 'Being active all through your life' was identified as one of 3 priorities for the Strategy. As part of the scrutiny, Members heard about many projects that the County Council supported with the aim of increasing residents' levels of physical activity.
32. However, Members felt that, to support attempts to encourage cultural change in the County, an overarching Action Plan for Physical Activity should be drawn up to pull together the many activities and raise the profile of ongoing work.
33. Members were impressed with the work undertaken by Camden Council which focused in particular on those residents in receipt of benefits. The Task Group heard that, as well as improving their health, increasing levels of physical activity meant those residents were more likely to return to employment.

Recommendation 2

We strongly suggest that the Director of Public Health lead on the preparation of a countywide inclusive and overarching Action Plan for Physical Activity, to encourage cultural change and increase physical activity across the County. The Action Plan should be published within 6 months and should include the identification of a responsible officer and focus on those who are most in need of support, for example those residents who are on benefits, and our more elderly and very young residents. The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel will be looking at the issue of obesity in the context of their

Panel. This Action Plan should form a key part of the business of the Health and Well-being Board, which will oversee the implementation of the new Health and Well-being Strategy which has physical activity as one of its three priorities. [CMR for Health and Well-Being/Director of Public Health]

Health Partners

34. It was clear from our discussions that health partners have an important role to play in emphasising the importance of being more active in relation to health issues and in signposting patients to opportunities to be more physically active.
35. Frontline staff working for the County Council and other health partners throughout the County have countless contacts with residents every day, and the Task Group saw these informal, every day contacts as an ideal opportunity to promote the benefits of increasing physical activity and encourage residents to make the first step. Members heard about the Health Tracks programme which was skilling staff to have difficult conversations with patients but felt there was a need for further training to encourage greater consistency across the County.

Recommendation 3

The Public Health Team should promote training for all frontline health staff to encourage them to have motivational conversations with service users to support increased physical activity. [CMR for Health and Well-Being/Director of Public Health]

36. During discussions with representatives of Worcestershire's CCGs, Members heard that there was lots of variation across the County in relation to levels of 'social prescribing' (prescribing physical activity as an alternative to drugs or other therapy). This was despite evidence that only a small increase in the amount of walking sustained over a long period could have significant health benefits. We heard that a pilot was being run in Bromsgrove, Redditch and Malvern, but elsewhere in Worcestershire practice was variable.
37. A number of organisations, including the Ramblers Association, the organisers of Health Walks and the Worcester Warriors Community Foundation told the Task Group that they had had difficulty in engaging with GPs and other NHS services, even with something as simple as having information leaflets available in GP surgeries. Encouraging greater use of social prescribing would go some way to improve links with organisations supporting increased physical activity. The Task Group was told that the use of social prescribing was more developed elsewhere in the country and health professionals in Worcestershire should be encouraged to learn from good practice elsewhere.

Recommendation 4

*The Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) representatives on the Health and Well-being Board should be asked to encourage GPs across the county to consider greater use of '**social prescribing**' including referring to sports and physical activity opportunities where appropriate. [CMR for Health and Well-Being/Director of Public Health]*

Other partners

38. As the scrutiny exercise went on it became clear that, although there was a great deal of sporting and other physical activity going on across the County, there was a lack of coordination between clubs and few opportunities for clubs to learn from each other and share best practice. Discussions with the Head of Worcester Warriors Community Foundation and the Cricket Development Director of Worcestershire Cricket confirmed that communication was an issue across sports.
39. Although there was some coordination at District Council level and the Sports Partnership organised club forums and published a regular newsletter, the Task Group felt that there was scope for further work to pull together activities across Worcestershire. Partnership working will be key to ensuring initiatives are sustainable.

Recommendation 5

The Public Health Team should facilitate regular partnership meetings to share best practice, case studies and ideas from across the County, linking this with the Action Plan for Physical Activity. [CMR for Health and Well-Being/Director of Public Health]

Public Awareness and Recognition

40. It was clear to Task Group Members that Worcestershire has many successful sports men and women. However, the County did not always make the most of its successful elite athletes and recognise their achievements. Increased publicity for local success could be used to promote and encourage physical activity amongst the wider population. For example, Members heard that Worcester RFC – Ladies Team currently had 7 international players including 2 from Wales and 1 from Scotland, something that was not widely known.

Recommendation 6

Using the World Class Worcestershire brand, the County Council should raise the profile of elite sports men and women in the County and promote local success in amateur sport, providing a platform to encourage greater participation. [CMR for Transformation and Commissioning/Director of Commercial and Change]

Councillors' Divisional Fund Scheme

41. The Scrutiny Task Group felt that the Councillors' Divisional Fund had further potential to support activities aimed at promoting increased physical activity in the County. The Worcestershire Councillors' Divisional Fund (WCDF) was created to enable local members to access money to help local initiatives and support 'good works' which play an important role in promoting the economic, social and environmental well-being of communities within Worcestershire. Each of the 57 members of the Council has an allocation of £10,000 (per financial year) to spend on locally-determined initiatives within their Divisions. They have reasonable discretion as to how to spend their allocation, as long as they are lawful for the Council, rational and are properly recorded.
42. Although it was acknowledged that many Members already used their Divisional Fund to support sporting activities, the Task Group also recognised that there would be a new

intake of Members following the 2017 local council elections, who may welcome some guidance as to appropriate use of divisional fund money. The Task Group is grateful to the Partnership Director of the Sports Partnership Herefordshire and Worcestershire who confirmed that the Sports Partnership would be prepared to advise Members on suitable organisations in local divisions.

Recommendation 7

County Councillors should be actively encouraged (not mandatory) to spend at least 10% of their divisional fund on encouraging participation in sport and physical activity, drawing on the support and advice of the Sports Partnership Herefordshire and Worcestershire where necessary. This should be highlighted to new Members as part of the Member Induction Programme following the 2017 Elections. [CMR for Transformation and Commissioning/Director of Commercial and Change]

Sharing Information

43. Members felt that the County Council could have an important role in coordinating the many organised activities taking place across Worcestershire and sharing information about what is going on in the County. Sports clubs are often run on a small scale by volunteers and do not have the capacity or expertise to market themselves and broaden their 'catchment'.

Recommendation 8

As part of the Action Plan for Physical Activity (see Recommendation 2), the County Council should consider ways to share information amongst partners and increase awareness of activities available across Worcestershire, ensuring a joined up approach. A dedicated communications officer should be responsible for this aspect of physical activity using all forms of modern communication methods. [CMR for Health and Well-Being/Director of Public Health]

Recommendation 9

We recommend that the CMR organises and hosts an annual summit of Health Professionals, District and County Councils, the Sports Partnership and other appropriate sporting clubs and organisations (including Scrutiny) to discuss progress, share information and ideas towards meeting the goals of increasing physical activity and to report the outcomes to Cabinet. [CMR for Health and Well-Being/Director of Public Health]

Schools

44. Members felt strongly that it was especially important to encourage children and young people to become physically active in order to establish good habits for life. On several occasions, Members were told that sports clubs had had difficulty in engaging with schools to offer their services. Although the Task Group acknowledged that schools have many pressures on their staff and curriculum time, Members were concerned that schools were missing out on exciting opportunities for their pupils to work with local sporting organisations.

45. Given the recent growth in the number of academies and ongoing changes in the Local Authority's relationship with schools, it was suggested to the Task Group that communication with schools should be via phase and other associations.

Recommendation 10

The Public Health Team should work with the Worcestershire Association of Governors, the Worcestershire Association of Secondary Headteachers, and representatives of Middle and Primary School Leaders in the county to highlight the importance of a quality PE offer in schools and effective use of their enhanced sports funding, and to promote opportunities available to schools for the involvement of local sporting organisations in their curriculum. [CMR for Health and Well-Being/Director of Public Health]

The County Council's role as an employer

46. The representatives of the CCGs suggested to the Task Group that large employers in the County should lead by example and encourage and facilitate staff to be more physically active. For example, the CCGs had set up a Staff Council which was looking to improve the health and well-being of employees and was offering woodland walks for staff.
47. The Task Group believes that, as a large responsible employer, the County Council could undertake workplace campaigning to encourage staff to get more physically active. Members heard from the Director of Public Health that this need not mean additional cost for the Council as many activities would be free of charge, ie supporting staff to take a break from their desks at lunchtime, placing posters at lift doors reminding staff to use the stairs if possible, and encouraging walks around the campus (particularly for those based at County Hall). The Council could also consider promoting in the workplace activities offered by local sports clubs. Members felt that employees playing sport together would improve staff morale and productivity as well as enhancing an individual's well-being.

Recommendation 11

As a large employer, the County Council should do more to encourage its staff to become more physically active. [Leader of the Council/Chief Executive]

Barriers to Participation

48. As the scrutiny exercise progressed Members saw that for many people 'barriers' exist which prevent them from becoming physically active. These might be transport, cost, access to facilities or the intimidating nature of formal sports facilities to those making the first steps to become more active. The Task Group felt that it would be a valuable exercise to undertake a formal Needs Assessment to establish current provision and any gaps, looking to identify what the barriers might be to increasing levels of physical activity.

Recommendation 12

As part of the development of the Action Plan for Physical Activity, the County Council should carry out a Needs Assessment to establish any 'gaps' between what is needed and what is currently provided. The Needs Assessment should also look to identify what are the

barriers to taking part in physical activity. [CMR for Health and Well-Being/Director of Public Health]

49. The Task Group also discussed Section 106 money which is paid by developers to support infrastructure around new developments. Some of this money is specifically allocated to enhance cycling provision and Members would wish to encourage better use of this money in the future. Members also heard examples of the County Council being inflexible when requests were made to change a footway to a cycle way. Given the Council's commitment via the Health and Well Being Strategy to encouraging everyone to be more active, Members felt that greater flexibility in relation to the bureaucracy involved would be helpful.

Recommendation 13

The County Council should investigate whether better use can be made of the S106 cycle funds arising from new developments. More cycle ways could be created across the County by being more flexible with regards to the current width restrictions where formal footpaths are changed from bridleways to formal cycle way provision (where safe and appropriate to do so). The County Councils recent response to the governments cycling and walking investment strategy should be aligned with this recommendation. [CMR for Highways/Director of Economy and Infrastructure]

Learning from successful practice elsewhere

50. Towards the end of the scrutiny exercise, Members held a conference call with representatives of Camden Council and Suffolk County Council. These Councils were selected as they had both undertaken innovative work to encourage their residents to become more physically active and had seen participation rates rise as a result.
51. Members were very impressed by the ambitious projects carried out in both Camden and Suffolk, such as the 'Golden Mile' initiative in Lowestoft which was seen as a safe, simple and accessible way to get all ages walking, and Camden's targeting of those on benefits, offering free or subsidised gym membership on a 'use it or lose it' basis. Throughout the country, there are countless initiatives that Councils are running in order to improve their residents' health and it is clear that Worcestershire would benefit from investigating what other Councils do and looking to learn from their experiences.

Recommendation 14

The County Council should fully investigate successful work undertaken in other local authorities, such as Camden Council, in order to identify good practice that might be transferable to Worcestershire. [CMR for Health and Well-Being/Director of Public Health]

Making better use of public spaces

52. It is clear that there are many ways in which the County Council can influence local residents to be more active. What underpins a sporting nation is a culture of physical activity, with walking and green spaces at its heart, one of these is in relation to public space around the County and the relationship between planning decisions and encouraging physical activity and active travel. Members felt that better liaison between different Council services could result in a more activity friendly public space for the future and the development of place based solutions.

Recommendation 15

*The County Council should look to maximise the **use of public spaces and the natural environment** by working with planning authorities to identify more local opportunities to encourage physical activity and active travel. [CMR for Health and Well-Being/Director of Public Health]*

Council Decision Making

53. From May 2016, all agenda reports for Council and Cabinet meetings will include a Public Health Impact Assessment to advise Members on the health impact of the proposals under discussion. The Task Group very much welcomed this development and would wish to see it extended to all Council Committees.

Recommendation 16

The practice of including a Public Health Impact Assessment in agenda reports should be extended to all County Council committees and District Councils should be encouraged to do likewise. [CMR for Transformation and Commissioning/Director of Commercial and Change/Director of Public Health]

Methodology

54. The Scrutiny Task Group comprised cross-party volunteers from Overview and Scrutiny Panels. In addition, to reflect the fact that sports, leisure and park facilities are district council functions, all 6 District Councils in Worcestershire were asked to nominate a representative to work with their County colleagues and provide the District Council perspective. Throughout the exercise and in drawing up recommendations, all Members were mindful of what the County Council could influence.
55. In summary, evidence has been gathered from a wide variety of sources including the Interim Director of Public Health, Sports Partnership Herefordshire and Worcestershire, Worcester Rugby Club – Ladies, Worcestershire Cricket Board, Worcester Warriors Community Trust, the Countryside Service, Worcester Ramblers Association, South Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group, Wyre Forest, Redditch and Bromsgrove CCG, Worcestershire's Youth Cabinet and the Leisure Services at all 6 District Councils.
56. In addition the Task Group went on a Health Walk starting from St Peters Baptist Church, Worcester and held a conference call with representatives of Camden Council and Suffolk County Council
57. The Task Group members also considered relevant publications and reports, including:
 - House of Commons Health Select Committee report on the impact of physical activity and diet on health and Government Response July 2015
 - A means to an end – increasing participation in sport and physical activity. A report from Overview and Scrutiny Birmingham City Council February 2015
 - Promoting Sporting Participation Redditch Borough Council May 2012
 - Youth Provision Task Group Bromsgrove District Council June 2013
 - Leisure Provision Task Group Bromsgrove District Council September 2014
 - Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation HM Government December 2015

Appendix 1 Schedule of Activity

Date	Event
30 July 2015	Scrutiny Task Group Meeting with Frances Howie, Interim Director of Public Health, Directorate of Adult Services and Health
3 September 2015	Scrutiny Task Group Meeting with Steve Brewster, Chief Executive Officer of Sports Partnership Herefordshire and Worcestershire
18 September	Scrutiny Task Group went on a Health Walk starting from St Peters Baptist Church, Eden Close, St Peters Drive, Worcester WR5 3TZ
16 October 2015	Scrutiny Task Group Meeting with: David Guest, Worcester Rugby Club – Ladies Tom Hill, Worcestershire Cricket Board Carol Hart, Worcester Warriors Community Trust
21 October 2015	Scrutiny Task Group Meeting with: Rachel Datlen, Countryside Greenspace Manager Phil Coulson, Team Leader, Maintenance and Communities Cliff Dimond, Chairman of Worcester Ramblers Association
9 November 2015	Task Group Meeting with: David Mehaffey, Director of Strategy, South Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Emily Godfrey, Strategic Planning Manager, Wyre Forest, Redditch and Bromsgrove CCG
18 November 2015	Councillor Stuart Cross attended the Youth Cabinet on behalf of the Task Group
7 December 2015	Task Group Meeting with: Hannah Cox, Contracts Manager- Worcester City Council John Godwin, Head of Service, Leisure & Cultural Services Bromsgrove District & Redditch Borough Councils Jem Teal, Wychavon District Council Dale Evans, Wyre Forest District Council Ed Dursley, Projects Manager
15 December 2015	Conference Call between representatives of the Task Group and Nigel Robinson, Head of Sport and Physical Activity, Camden Council and Adam Baker, Most Active County Project Manager, Suffolk County Council
31 March 2016	Task Group Meeting with Marcus Hart, Cabinet Member for Health and Well Being, Frances Howie, Interim Director of Public Health and Steve Brewster, Partnership Director, Sports Partnership Herefordshire and Worcestershire

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Response of Cllr John Smith, Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Health and Well-being to Scrutiny Task Group Report on Increasing Physical Activity in Worcestershire on behalf of the Cabinet of Worcestershire County Council.

I welcome the interest of the Scrutiny Task Group in increasing physical activity in Worcestershire. As chair of the Health and Well-being Board, I am well aware of the importance of physical activity to general health and well-being, including its key role in promoting mental health. Indeed, the Board has recently agreed that increasing physical activity should be one of its three priority areas for the 2016-2021 period, recognising that this is essential to achieve the Board's vision that residents are healthier, live longer and have a better quality of life – especially those communities and groups with the poorest outcomes.

Many of the recommendations of the Task Group relate to areas of work which are already in progress, and I can assure the Task Group that this work will continue to be driven forward and reported in to the Health and Well-being Board through the Health Improvement Group. Others are not ones that I would agree with, and reasons for this are clearly set out below in my individual response to each recommendation.

Olympic Legacy

1. **Recommendation 1:** The Public Health Team should continue to work closely with the Sports Partnership Herefordshire and Worcestershire to improve participation rates and extend the Olympic legacy to everyone, maximising both the use of built and natural environment. [CMR for Health and Well-Being/Director of Public Health]

Response: This is accepted and in progress. The interim Director of Public Health, as vice-chair of the Sports Partnership, will ensure that Olympic legacy work continues through the Partnership.

Action Plan for Physical Activity

2. **Recommendation 2:** We strongly suggest that the Director of Public Health lead on the preparation of a countywide inclusive and overarching Action Plan for Physical Activity, to encourage cultural change and increase physical activity across the County. The Action Plan should be published within 6 months and should include the identification of a responsible officer and focus on those who are most in need of support, for example those residents who are on benefits, **and our more elderly and very young residents**. The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel will be looking at the issue of obesity in the context of their Panel. This Action Plan should form a key part of the business of the Health and Well-being Board, which will oversee the implementation of the new Health and Well-being Strategy which has physical activity as one of its three priorities. [CMR for Health and Well-Being/Director of Public Health]

Response: This is accepted and in progress. Since increasing physical activity is one of the three priorities of the Health and Well-being Strategy, an action plan will be drawn up and reported through the Health Improvement Group to the Health and Well-being Board. The first stakeholder event to take this forward takes place on 9th June, and has attracted a good level of interest..

Health Partners

3. **Recommendation 3:** The Public Health Team should promote training for all frontline health staff to encourage them to have motivational conversations with service users to support increased physical activity. [CMR for Health and Well-Being/Director of Public Health]

Response: This is accepted and in progress through the Health Chats training offered by the public health team to front line staff across the system. We are already delivering more 'train the trainer sessions' to scale up to reach higher numbers of NHS staff.

4. **Recommendation 4:** The Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) representatives on the Health and Well-being Board should be asked to encourage GPs across the county to consider greater use of '**social prescribing**' including referring to sports and physical activity opportunities where appropriate. [CMR for Health and Well-Being/Director of Public Health]

Response: this is accepted and in progress and we are making sure that social prescribing includes links to sports and physical activities through the Sports Partnership website.

Other partners

5. **Recommendation 5:** The Public Health Team should facilitate regular partnership meetings to share best practice, case studies and ideas from across the County, linking this with the Action Plan for Physical Activity. [CMR for Health and Well-Being/Director of Public Health]

Response: this is accepted and in progress.

Public Awareness and Recognition

6. Recommendation 6: Using the World Class Worcestershire brand, the County Council should raise the profile of elite sports men and women in the County and promote local success in amateur sport, providing a platform to encourage greater participation. [CMR for Transformation and Commissioning/Director of Commercial and Change]

Response: this is accepted by the CMR for Transformation and Commissioning/Director of Commercial and Change.

Councillors' Divisional Fund Scheme

7. **Recommendation 7:** County Councillors should be actively encouraged (not mandatory) to spend at least 10% of their divisional fund on encouraging participation in sport and physical activity, drawing on the support and advice of the Sports Partnership Herefordshire and Worcestershire where necessary. This should be highlighted to new Members as part of the Member Induction Programme following the 2017 Elections. [CMR for Transformation and Commissioning/Director of Commercial and Change]

Response: this is not accepted. CMR for Transformation and Commissioning does not consider that it is appropriate for himself or for Cabinet to dictate to County Councillors how they should spend their divisional funds. Decisions about these funds rest with Councillors and are based on their own assessment of local priorities.

Sharing Information

8. **Recommendation 8:** As part of the Action Plan for Physical Activity (see Recommendation 2), the County Council should consider ways to share information amongst partners and increase awareness of activities available across Worcestershire, ensuring a joined up approach. A dedicated communications officer should be responsible for this aspect of physical activity using all forms of modern communication methods. [CMR for Health and Well-Being/Director of Public Health]

Response: The CMR for Health and Well-being accepts that we will continue and strengthen a joint approach to increasing awareness of available activities. However, it is not possible or appropriate to provide a dedicated communications officer to this task.

9. **Recommendation 9:** We recommend that the CMR organises and hosts an annual summit of Health Professionals, District and County Councils, the Sports Partnership and other appropriate sporting clubs and organisations (including Scrutiny) to discuss progress, share information and ideas towards meeting the goals of increasing physical activity and to report the outcomes to Cabinet. [CMR for Health and Well-Being/Director of Public Health]

Response: We note this recommendation and will consider it as part of the forward planning of events associated with the three priorities of the Health and Well-being Strategy.

Schools

10. **Recommendation 10:** The Public Health Team should work with the Worcestershire Association of Governors, the Worcestershire Association of Secondary Headteachers, and representatives of Middle and Primary School Leaders in the county to highlight the importance of a quality PE offer in schools and effective use of their enhanced sports funding, and to promote opportunities available to schools for the involvement of local sporting organisations in their curriculum. [CMR for Health and Well-Being/Director of Public Health]

Response: CMR for Health and Well-being will make sure that the public health team links to education partners to ensure they are aware of on-line resources which can assist in implementing this recommendation.

Employees

11. **Recommendation 11:** As a large employer, the County Council should do more to encourage its staff to become more physically active. [Leader of the Council/Chief Executive]

Response: This is accepted and work is in progress. Workplace Well-being Week at the start of June included a number of physical activities including a table tennis marathon in the Council chamber.

Barriers to Participation

12. **Recommendation 12:** As part of the development of the Action Plan for Physical Activity, the County Council should carry out a Needs Assessment to establish any 'gaps' between what is needed and what is currently provided. The Needs Assessment should also look to identify what are the barriers to taking part in physical activity. [CMR for Health and Well-Being/Director of Public Health]

Response: this is accepted and will form part of the work behind the development of the Action Plan.

13. **Recommendation 13:** The County Council should investigate whether better use can be made of the S106 cycle funds arising from new developments. More cycle ways could be created across the County by being more flexible with regards to the current width restrictions where formal footpaths are changed from bridleways to formal cycle way provision (where safe and appropriate to do so). The County Councils recent response to the governments cycling and walking investment strategy should be aligned with this recommendation [CMR for Highways/Director of Economy and Infrastructure]

Response: this is accepted.

Learning from successful practice elsewhere

14. **Recommendation 14:** The County Council should fully investigate successful work undertaken in other local authorities, such as Camden Council, in order to identify good practice that might be transferable to Worcestershire. [CMR for Health and Well-Being/Director of Public Health]

Response: the County council will continue to identify examples of good practice with sound evidence of effectiveness that might increase physical activity levels in Worcestershire, and will carefully consider their local applicability.

Making Better Use of Public Spaces

15. **Recommendation 15:** The County Council should look to maximise the use of **public spaces and the natural environment** by working with planning authorities to identify more local opportunities to encourage physical activity and active travel. [CMR for Health and Well-Being/Director of Public Health]

Response: this is accepted and is in progress through the work of the public health team which includes an officer seconded to it from Planning. Three workshops linking health to planning have already been held.

Council Decision Making

16. **Recommendation 16:** The practice of including a Public Health Impact Assessment in agenda reports should be extended to all County Council committees and District Councils should be encouraged to do likewise. [CMR for Transformation and Commissioning/Director of Commercial and Change/Director of Public Health]

Response: the HIA is currently being introduced for use in Council and Cabinet meetings and this will be evaluated before consideration of any extension. The County Council is able to share an HIA toolkit and method with those District Councils who want to develop this approach.

Councillor John Smith
June 2016

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CABINET
16 JUNE 2016**THE PROVISION OF EFFECTIVE PREVENTION SERVICES
FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE INCLUDING
OPTIMISING THE USE OF CHILDREN'S CENTRE
BUILDINGS**

Relevant Cabinet Members

Mr M Bayliss

Mr J Smith

Relevant Officers

Director of Children, Families and Communities

Interim Director of Public Health

Recommendation

1. **The Cabinet Members with Responsibility for Children & Families and Health and Wellbeing recommend that Cabinet:**
 - a) **notes the outcome of the procurement process for the integrated 0-19 prevention service set out in paragraph 3 of the report**
 - b) **approves the future plans for delivering effective prevention services, within the financial parameters set out in the report (particularly paragraphs 4 to 8 and 35 to 38) and the medium term financial plan, subject to any required consultation as set out in the report;**
 - c) **authorises consultation on change of use for those children's centre buildings where there is likely to be significant change as outlined in paragraph 26 (b) and Appendix 2;**
 - d) **approves the proposals for the future use of children centre buildings where consultation is not required as outlined in paragraph 26 (c) and Appendix 2;**
 - e) **notes the summary of impact of the proposals for the future use of buildings as outlined in paragraphs 27 to 31 and the need for further equality impact analyses to inform the final decisions in respect of the proposed changes outlined in paragraph 40;**
 - f) **delegates the final decisions for the use of children's centre buildings, where consultation is required, to the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families, having regard to the outcomes of those consultations and equality impact analyses; and**
 - g) **authorises the Director of Children, Families and Communities and the Interim Director of Public Health to take all necessary steps within their respective**

responsibilities to give effect to the above including varying and/or extending the existing contracts of the district-based early help providers and public health nursing functions, and authorises the Director of Commercial and Change to agree appropriate terms for the future use of children's centre buildings.

Context: effective prevention services

2. Children and Families are a key area of focus in Worcestershire County Council's Corporate Plan. The Council recognises that demand for services for children, young people and families has been increasing, and wishes to strengthen its approach to prevention, identifying and dealing with problems at the earliest possible stage.
3. In November 2015, Cabinet agreed a new approach for children and families, based on investing in an integrated prevention service for 0-19s. An evidence based service specification was prepared and a full needs assessment was completed. An invitation to tender was published in March 2016, and no compliant bids were received.
4. Feedback from some potential providers supported the vision of the service but expressed concern about the level of transformational change required to bring the current services into line with the specification and vision. Current services include health visiting, school nursing, the Family Nurse Partnership, and some of the provision delivered by the Early Help providers. The Council remains committed to commissioning an integrated evidence-based 0-19 prevention service, using the £9.5 million Public Health Ring-fenced Grant funding as agreed in November 2015 by Cabinet. The Council also wishes to ensure that the lack of bids does not present risk for those families who are currently in receipt of services.
5. The Council therefore intends to move towards the integrated service, within the available budget envelope, as soon as possible and will vary, extend, align or integrate the existing contracts of the Early Help providers and the public health nursing services by 1 October 2016 up to 31 March 2019. This allows a two year period to work with existing providers to co-produce and transform services, working towards integration and achievement of the vision of the service specification during the lifetime of the extended contracts. The next procurement exercise would commence in time for a new service to be in place from 1 April 2019.
6. This will be on the condition of re-negotiating contracts, by 1 October 2016, in accordance with the available budgets ie £3million for Early Help Contracts (of which £1.5million is the PHRFG contribution for prevention service) and a further £8 million for Public Health Nursing Contracts. The development and integration of the prevention service will be taken forward through working in collaboration with existing providers through a Transformation Board approach led by Public Health.
7. In practice, this will mean the Early Help providers will be commissioned to provide evidence-based parenting support that will be predominantly focussed in areas of disadvantage as specified within the service specification. This support will be aligned with the Public Health nursing functions (which include parenting support) and emotional well-being service provided by the Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust and Family Nurse Partnership. All providers will be required to work together to develop the

prevention service, improve outcomes, remove duplication and/or repetition and determine integrated service pathways.

8. In addition to providing parenting support, the four Early Help providers will also be commissioned to deliver targeted family support and support to those young people who are at risk of becoming not in education, employment or training with the remainder of the contract value (£1.5 million) for the same contract length. The specification for these aspects will be developed through co-design with commissioners and providers and agreed as part of the contract negotiations.

Children's Centres in Worcestershire

9. In Worcestershire, the Council currently commissions four district-based providers (known as Early Help Providers) to deliver the 'core purpose' of children's centres across the six districts of Worcestershire. The core purpose, as defined in the statutory guidance, is to improve outcomes for young children and their families and reduce inequalities between families in greatest need and their peers in:

- child development and school readiness;
- parenting aspirations and parenting skills; and
- child and family health and life chances.

Children's centre services can be provided either at a centre, as a virtual service via the internet for example, or by providing advice and assistance to parents in accessing services elsewhere. Statutory guidance is that children's centres are as much about making appropriate and integrated services available, as they are about providing premises in particular geographical areas.

10. To meet this core purpose the Early Help providers are expected to work in partnership with other providers e.g. early years educators, job centre plus and community health services. Their current responsibilities also include the management (running costs and minor internal repairs) of 32 Worcestershire County Council-owned buildings, all of which are used as a staff administrative base and/or a facility to deliver a range of services to the public from. It is estimated that the running costs (i.e. utility cost) of all 32 buildings equates to £250-£300k per year.

11. In November 2015 Cabinet agreed to formally consult with a wide range of stakeholders on the future use of children's centres buildings throughout Worcestershire. This consultation builds on a previous decision made by Cabinet in September 2012 to maximise the use of these buildings for wider Council services e.g. Social Care, Behaviour Support, School Basic Needs. The intention of the consultation was to establish views regarding the use of current buildings and what other potential uses there might be for buildings. Alternative options included use by schools, use by communities, and use by other services or potentially closure where no alternative use can be identified.

12. A summary of the results of the consultation (which ran from 26 November to 31 January 2016) is attached as Appendix 1. Over 2,000 responses to the consultation were received. The majority of responses were from existing service users who, as expected, continued to be supportive of the current approach. However, the consultation also generated a number of ideas about how these buildings can be used to

better support families and communities, although there was a limited response to the suggestion that children's centres buildings could be used by the wider community. Further clarification has since been sought from organisations submitting proposals and comments, including head teachers of schools with children's centre buildings on their site, and current service providers (including early help and childcare providers, social care and family support) in order to inform the proposals within this report.

Delivering sufficient good quality early years' education places

13. The Council has a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient early years and childcare places to meet the needs of families in the county. This includes the sufficiency of places for children accessing places through Nursery Education Funding, a universal entitlement for three and four year olds and available to 2085 disadvantaged two year olds. The Department for Education and Ofsted pay particular attention to the availability of places and the take up of Nursery Education Funding.

14. Data from the spring term 2016 demonstrates that 97% of three and four year olds were accessing a funded place and 72% of eligible two year olds. Whilst the take up of two year old places is broadly similar to that in other local authority areas, increased take up is required as research shows that good quality early years education can significantly improve outcomes for children and providing two year old funding will have a significant impact in terms of narrowing the gap for disadvantaged children.

15. Managing the early years market is challenging, particularly given that a large proportion of settings are privately run, and it is difficult to manage both the sufficiency duty and the increase in places for funded children. This will become more challenging in 2017 when the entitlement for many three and four year olds will increase from 15 hours per week to 30, and there will be a need to support the expansion and creation of new places across the county. In addition we need to ensure the quality of settings containing eligible 2 year old funded places to maximise the benefits of that good quality pre-school education can provide for these children.

16. Many buildings currently used by children's centres are ideal for early years and childcare services as they were created and designed with young children and their families in mind, and because they are located in well-populated areas where early years' places are needed. Also, they are all located on school sites and / or near existing early years' provision and would therefore offer an excellent opportunity to expand existing provision.

Optimising the use of children's centre buildings

17. Children's centre buildings are one of many community assets where early childhood support and activities can be located and are not the only vehicle for delivering the children's centre core purpose. However, as an important community asset every effort should be made to ensure they are used to their full potential by the communities they are located in. This is likely to mean service provision will need to flex and change over time in accordance with local need.

18. There is no requirement for the integrated 0-19 prevention service to deliver from existing children's centre buildings. Other community assets will be utilised, and of

course much of the service (intensive home visiting or digital advice and information) does not rely on buildings at all. Not all children's centre buildings are located in areas of high need and so a variety of solutions can be developed.

19. In considering the proposed future use of the Council-owned children's centre buildings, the following categories of use have been considered:

- Continued use to deliver early childhood services (i.e. the children's centre statutory duty) by a range of providers including schools, childcare providers or family support providers.
- Use by school for normal provision i.e. to meet basic need
- Use for other service provision e.g. community library, health base, base for family contact
- Closure/disposal.

20. A centre by centre review has been carried out taking into account how each centre is currently used (they are all used differently), their location, feedback from the previous consultation and further discussions with schools, community groups and existing providers. Consideration has also been given to which organisation would be the most appropriate lease holder where centres will be used by a number of providers/organisation.

Consultation on changes to children's centres

21. Under section 5D of the Childcare Act 2006, Local Authorities must ensure there is consultation before:

- opening a new children's centre;
- making a significant change to the range and nature of services provided through a children's centre and / or how they are delivered, including significant changes to services provided through linked sites; and
- closing a children's centre; or reducing the services provided to such an extent that it no longer meets the statutory definition of a Sure Start children's centre.

22. Children's Centre Statutory guidance April 2013 (included in background papers) clarifies the expectations on local authorities (or a third party acting on the authority's behalf) around whom and when to consult regarding changes to children centres.

23. There are no proposals to formally close or reduce the services to extent that the statutory definition is no longer met. However, the proposals outlined in paragraph 26(b) would result in a 'significant change' from how the centre is currently used therefore a formal consultation will be carried out.

24. There is no national definition of 'significant change' when considering when consultation would be required. There is also a wide and varied use of centres so the impact of proposed changes will differ between centres. Therefore, a centre by centre approach has been taken based to assess the impact of the proposed changes on service users.

25. If approved, consultation on the proposals would start on 24 June 2016 and run for six weeks up to 5 August 2016 with the intention of decisions made ahead of the new

school term starting in September 2016. The Council will lead the consultation working closely with schools, existing providers and/or the new main provider of services. The consultation will be centre-specific and focus mainly on collecting views from service users on the proposals. Wherever possible, face to face consultation with service users will be held ahead of the start of school holidays to maximise attendance. School governing bodies and children's centre advisory boards will also be pro-actively targeted to seek view and confirm support for the proposals. There will also be the opportunity for wider stakeholders to feed in views about the centre specific proposals using an online survey.

Proposals for future use of buildings

26. The proposals for each building are detailed in Appendix 2 (spreadsheet).

In summary they are:

- a) Worcestershire County Council, unlike other local authorities, remains committed to using these buildings for their core purpose to deliver early childhood services from and / or wider services that meet local need. Therefore there are no recommendations for the closure or disposal of buildings.
- b) As explained in paragraphs 23 to 24 formal consultation will be required for 17 buildings as the proposals for future use are considered to be significantly different to the services currently delivered from them as follows:

Centre	Proposed change of use	Proposed lease holder
Conkers at Hagley Primary School - Bromsgrove	Transfer to school for mixed use including increased childcare, before and after school provision and health provision	School
Tulip Tree at Catshill First School – Bromsgrove	Transfer to school for mixed use including support for children open to social care and health provision	School
Sunny Fields at Charford First School - Bromsgrove	Transfer to school to extend nursery provision and to release space for before and after school provision, parenting support and health provision	School
Riverboats at Upton upon Severn Primary School – Malvern Hills	Transfer to school to deliver early years provision along with health and wider early help services	School
Cherry Trees at Batchley First School - Redditch	Transfer to school for mixed use including early years provision	School
Maple Trees at Roman Way First School – Redditch	Transfer to school for mixed use including childcare and health provision	School
Maple Trees at Tenacres First School – Redditch	Transfer to school to deliver a fully operational nursery including increased early education provision.	School
Oaktrees at Oakhill First School –	Transfer to school for nurture and health provision and to support work with families	School

Centre	Proposed change of use	Proposed lease holder
Redditch	(social care and family support)	
Woodlands at Woodrow First School - Redditch	Transfer to school for mixed use including parenting support, nurture and additional support for 3 - 9 year olds and health provision	School
Bluebell Wood at Perrywood Primary – Worcester City	Transfer to school for a range of provision including health, nursery and a potential safeguarding team base	School
Lavender at Oasis Academy – Worcester City	Transfer to school for mixed use including 2 year old funded provision, before and after school activities and support for parents	School
Applevale and Broadway First School – Wychavon	Transfer to school to deliver provision for parental engagement, joint work with the existing childcare provider and a space for community use.	School
Rainbow at St Mary's School – Wyre Forest	Transfer to childcare provider with access for health and other providers	Childcare provider
Chestnuts at Franche First School – Wyre Forest	Transfer to the school to deliver early education provision and continued offer of health related provision	School
Treetops at Birchen Coppice School – Wyre Forest	Develop a shared use between school, early help provider and childcare provision with the school being the lease holder	School
Half Crown Wood at Stourport Primary – Wyre Forest	Transfer to school to deliver increased early education provision	School
Riverside at Bewdley Primary School – Wyre Forest	Transfer to the school to deliver extended nursery provision along with continued use for other providers including health	School

c) Proposals for use of buildings where formal consultation is not required

Centre	Proposals for future use	Proposed lease holder
Pear Tree Sidemoor - Bromsgrove	Continued use by parenting and family support providers and childcare provision	Parenting and Family Support provider
Sunshine Poolbrook Centre – Malvern Hills	Continued use by parenting and family support providers and childcare provision	Parenting and Family Support provider
Sunshine The Grove Primary School – Malvern Hills	Continued use by parenting and family support providers	Parenting and Family Support provider
Hollytrees at St Stephen's First School - Redditch	Continued use by parenting and family support providers and childcare provision	Parenting and Family Support provider
Hollytrees at St George's First School - Redditch	Formal transfer to school in line with current usage which will result in an increase in childcare places	School

Centre	Proposals for future use	Proposed lease holder
Oaktrees and St Luke's First School – Redditch	Formal transfer to childcare provider to maintain and increase childcare provision	Childcare provider
Buttercup at Fairfield Centre – Worcester City	Continued use by parenting and family support providers including health and childcare provision	Parenting and Family Support provider
Saffron at Stanley Road Primary School – Worcester City	Continued use by parenting and family support providers including health provision	Parenting and Family Support provider
Tudor Way at Dines Green Primary School – Worcester City	Continued and expanded use by parenting and family support providers including childcare and social care provision	Parenting and Family Support provider
Blossomvale at Abbeypark First School - Wychavon	Continued use by parenting and family support providers including a base for family support	Parenting and Family Support provider
Greenwood at Wychbold First School	Currently used as an office space only – transfer to school to meet basic need and make available for multi-agency use	School
Orchard vale at Evesham Nursery School – Wychavon	Continued mixed use including parenting, family support, health and increased use for childcare provision	Nursery school or Parenting and Family Support provider
WANDS at Westlands First School - Wychavon	Continued and expanded use by parenting and family support providers including childcare, family support and potential community library	Parenting and Family Support provider
Halfcrown wood at St Bartholomew's Primary School – Wyre Forest	Continued use by parenting and family support providers	Parenting and Family Support provider
Brookside at Comberton Primary School – Wyre Forest	Continued use by parenting and family support providers including a base for family support	Parenting and Family Support provider

Impact of proposals for the future use of buildings

27. All of the proposals continue to meet the statutory definition of Sure Start children's centre.

28. Proposed uses would result in increased childcare provision in at least 11 buildings (see paragraphs 13 to 16 above regarding the need for additional early years and childcare places)

29. Proposed uses would result in the transfer of leases to schools and/or childcare providers in 20 cases.

30. The proposals would lead to increased use of the buildings (longer hours and/or wider range of providers) for early childhood services in the majority of buildings. As indicated in the detail in Appendix 2 there will also be a change to the mix of provision which may include a reduction in the range/variety of early childhood services in all buildings compared to current provision. An example would be a building currently used by a range of providers to deliver a mix of sessions and childcare/early years provision which may revert to predominantly childcare/early years provision with a weekly health-related session.

31. These proposals would be expected to lead to changes for parenting and family support providers, at a district level, as follows:

District	Changes
Bromsgrove	Proposals would result in provision from one standalone centre by the current provider as well as delivery in other community venues including buildings transferred to schools. Currently four children's centre buildings are leased to the current provider.
Malvern Hills	Proposals would result in provision from two of the three centres currently leased to the provider, and other community venues including one building leased to the school. An additional base is currently rented by the provider and this is also under review.
Redditch	Proposals would result in provision from one centre leased to the provider, and other community venues including at least one building leased to a school. Currently five main centre buildings and three outreach sites are leased to the provider. The provider also has access to a range of other buildings in the area from which to deliver services.
Worcester City	Proposals would result in provision from three of the five centres currently leased to the provider, and other community venues. This level of provision reflects the needs of the provider for bases to support service delivery across the district.
Wychavon	Proposals would result in provision from three of the five centres currently leased to the provider, and other community venues. This level of provision reflects the needs of the provider for bases to support service delivery across the district.
Wyre Forest	Proposals would result in provision from two centres leased to the provider, and other community venues including at least one building leased to a school. Currently six main centre buildings and one outreach sites are leased to the provider. The provider has access to other buildings in the area from which to deliver services.

Legal, Financial and HR Implications

32. Cabinet's attention is specifically drawn to the various legal duties imposed by the Childcare Act 2006 as amended, summarised concerning children's centres in the statutory guidance linked as a background paper. The Council has a duty to improve the well-being of young children in its area and secure early childhood services are provided in an integrated manner calculated to facilitate access to them and maximise their benefit to parents and young children, including as far as reasonably practicable sufficient provision of children's centres to meet local need and consideration of whether early childhood services should be provided through them.

33. Lease agreements are in place between Worcestershire County Council and Early Help/Childcare Providers for the use of the 32 buildings. All leases will be reviewed to ensure they reflect the agreed use. Where changes are proposed these leases will need to end by mutual agreement and then be re-instated with the new provider including where the school is taking over the use of the facility. All new leases will need to have built in flexibility to continue to ensure service provision is able to flex and change over time in accordance with local need. Leases will also stipulate the need to continue to brand centres as Sure Start children's centres. Leases are being used to continue to protect children's centre buildings as important community assets as well as mitigating the risk of financial clawback if centres close or no longer meet the statutory definition (all centres where there has been a capital investment are subject to financial clawback from the Department for Education). Leases will also apply where schools convert to academy status as the children's centre building is ring fenced and therefore out of scope of transfer.

34. There are no HR implications for staff employed by Worcestershire County Council. However, the four early help providers will be expected to review and adjust their staffing structures and levels in line with changes to their contract expectations and use of buildings.

35. The original values of the six 0-19 early help contracts equated to £8.5million in August 2013. These contracts were reduced across 2012-2016 by £4million and savings were phased in through using a reserve from the Early Intervention Grant to 'cashflow' the necessary budget reductions.

36. Further savings of £1.5million by early help providers will need to be delivered for 2017/18 with the implementation of integrated 0-19 prevention service with a reduced annual budget of £3million (£1.5m base budgets and £1.5m Public Health Grant). The implementation of integrated 0-19 prevention services will need to be delivered in this reduced budget envelope and providers will need to transform their services to bring the cost in line with a £3million annual budget.

37. Further savings of 10% by Public Health Nursing providers will need to be delivered by 17/18 due to reductions in the PHRFG as detailed in July 2015 Cabinet paper.

38. The optimisation of children's centre buildings will ensure that utility costs can be continued to be picked up by the new lease holder, and avoid a further burden on local authority budgets. An annual sum of £250k is retained for property maintenance and ensure to ensure the Council's asset is preserved.

Privacy and Public Health Impact Assessments

39. The proposals support the need to significantly shift resources to focus on delivery in disadvantaged communities and to those at risk to tackle the inequalities in outcomes between those communities and those that are more advantaged. A full PHIA has not been completed.

Equality and Diversity Implications

40. An equality impact assessment (see background papers) was carried out in respect of the initial redesign and 'considerable potential positive impact' for Protected groups

was identified. However, the potential impact of proposals listed in paragraph 26 (b) will need to be individually assessed for each of the centres in order that local usage and other relevant factors can be taken into account. This individual centre by centre assessment will be carried out prior to the final decision on the use of the buildings and taking into account the outcome of the formal consultation on the proposed changes.

Supporting Information

- Appendix 1 – Children's Centre Building Consultation
- Appendix 2 – Detailed spreadsheet on proposed future use of children's centre buildings

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Director of Children, Families and Communities and the Interim Director of Public Health) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

- Children's Centre Statutory Guidance
- Equality impact assessment
- [http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/downloads/file/6506/2015_early_help_needs_a
ssessment](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/downloads/file/6506/2015_early_help_needs_assessment)

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Worcestershire County Council Directorate of Children, Families and Communities Children's Centre Buildings Summary Report

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Background information

Early Help services for children and young people in Worcestershire include those services currently delivered in and from a number of Children's Centre buildings.

A recent Early Help Needs Assessment made a number of recommendations to improve key outcomes for children and young people:

- Redesign the approach to 0-19 prevention and early help to include universal provision but with greater resources targeted at those at risk or where problems have emerged (often referred to as a progressive universal approach)
- Fully commission and implement the local Healthy Child Programme (HCP) led by midwifery, health visiting and school nursing and preventive interventions such as parenting, support and building family and community resilience, avoiding duplication and ensuring appropriate skill mix.
- Review, identify and commission only evidence-based interventions consistently across the county and in accordance with NICE guidance
- Ensure a renewed focus in early years provision on maternal mental health, secure attachment, nutrition and exercise, language & communication, high quality early years education and childcare to improve school readiness
- Review local provision for supporting parenting, promoting resilience and good emotional health & well-being and for the prevention of young people who are not in education, employment or training
- Focus Children's Centres on disadvantaged areas, making use of a "virtual" service in more advantaged areas
- Develop a new workforce approach, to work in a more integrated way in support of the 'whole family' and with other services to collectively reduce dependency and empower parents, and
- Review and implement an effective digital advice and information service to parents and families

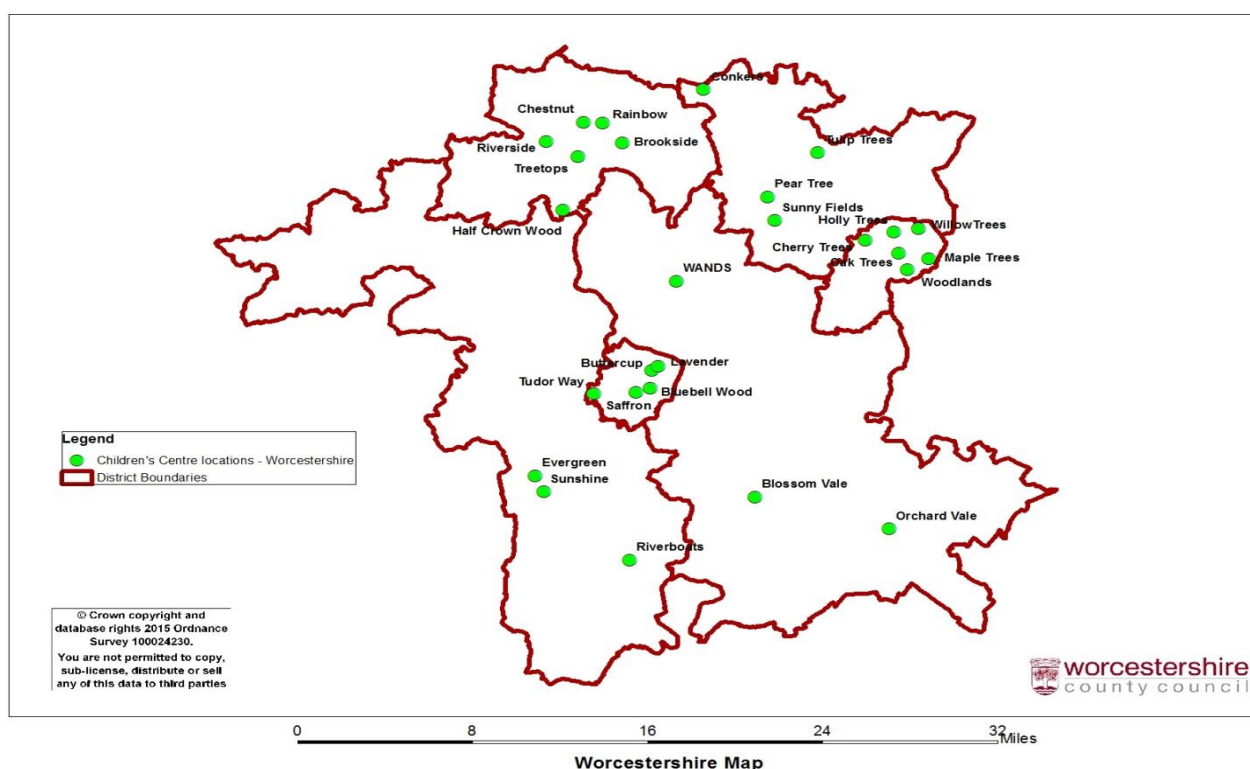
Implementing these recommendations, so as to improve outcomes for children and young people, and make the best use of the money available, will include commissioning a new 0-19 integrated prevention service (Starting Well)

[The full assessment can be accessed here](#)

Worcestershire's Children Centre and Children Centre buildings

There are 29 designated Children's Centres across Worcestershire. Services are delivered through a variety of venues including 34 dedicated children's centre buildings, community halls, libraries and individual family homes. 32 of the 34 dedicated children's centre buildings are owned by Worcestershire County Council.

The main sites are shown on the map below:



District	Children's Centres (including outreach buildings)
Bromsgrove	Conkers, Pear Tree, Sunny Fields. Tulip Trees
Malvern	Riverboats, Sunshine (Poolbrook), Sunshine (The Grove Primary School)
Redditch	Cherry Trees, Holly Trees (St. George's First School), Holly Trees (St. Stephen's First School), Maple Trees (Ten Acres First School), Maple Trees (Roman Way First School), Oak Trees (Oak Hill First School), Oak Trees (St. Luke's First School), Woodlands
Worcester City	Bluebell Wood, Buttercup, Lavender, Saffron, Tudor Way
Wychavon	Apple Vale, Orchard Vale/Spring Vale, Blossom Vale, Greenwood, WANDS
Wyre Forest	Rainbow, Chestnut, Tree Tops, Half Crown Wood (St. Bartholomew's Primary School), Half Crown Wood (Stourport Primary School), Riverside, Brookside

Use of Children's Centre Buildings

Worcestershire County Council has already made the decision (following consultation in 2012) to maximise the use of these buildings, including proposals to use Children's Centre buildings more flexibly across the age ranges (0-19) and maximising the use of buildings for wider Council services e.g. Social Care, Behaviour Support, School Basic Needs.

This decision was in line with the statutory definition of a Children's Centre as "a place or group of places managed by or on behalf of the local authority with a view to ensuring that early childhood services are made available in an integrated way..."

Early childhood services are defined as:

- Early years provision (early education and childcare);
- Social services functions of the local authority relating to young children, parents and prospective parents;
- Health services relating to young children, parents and prospective parents;
- Training and employment services to assist parents or prospective parents; and
- Information and advice services for parents and prospective parents

Services can be provided either at a centre, as a virtual service via the internet for example, or by providing advice and assistance to parents in accessing services elsewhere.

Children's Centre Building Consultation

Worcestershire County Council, in line with its statutory responsibilities, launched a consultation on 26th November 2015 running to the 29th January 2016 to seek the views on the future use of Children's Centre buildings. This consultation aimed to determine, on a building by building basis, how these important community assets can be best used in order to provide the right support to those that need it most. All current buildings were included in the consultation. All options were welcomed and included

- Use for the delivery of integrated 0-19 service (Starting Well),
- use by schools, communities or other services,
- or potentially closure where no suitable use can be identified.

The consultation was promoted widely across the county through a variety of channels. This included the Council website, local press and via social media (including paid targeted Facebook advertising). Information and website links was also shared with potential providers for the Starting Well service, health colleagues, schools and Positive Activities providers as well as through the Health and Well-being Board and County Councillors. Early Help Providers (who manage Children's Centres) did a lot to promote the consultation themselves including displaying posters, hosting face-to-face feedback sessions and providing information to parents via activity sessions, their website and their social media pages.

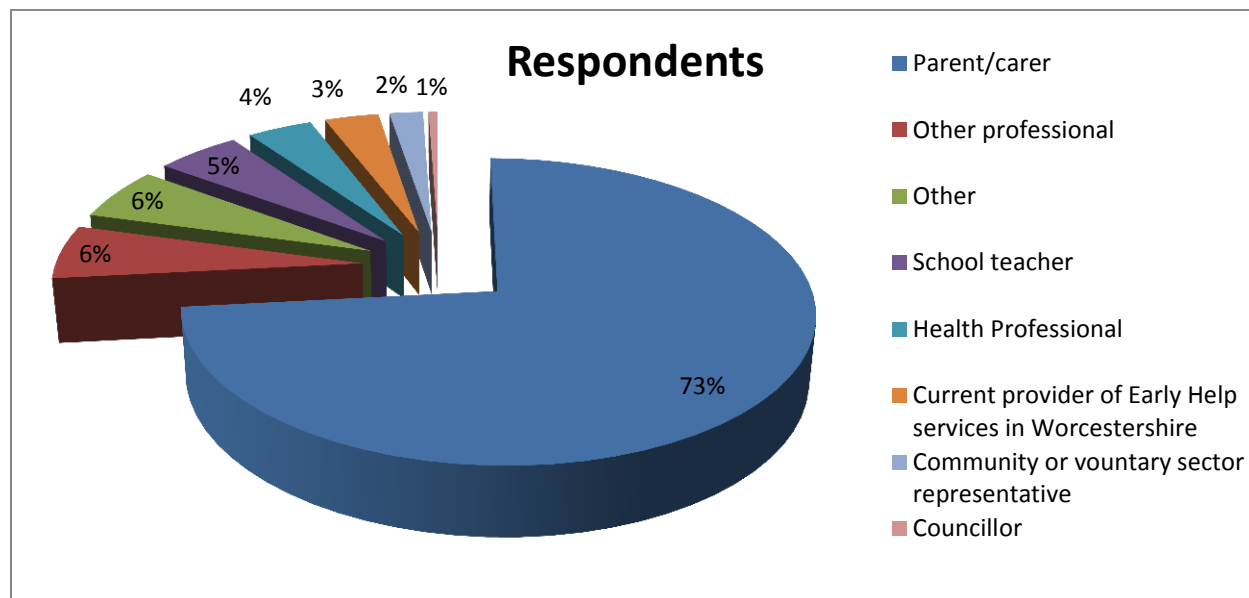
The consultation asked the following questions:

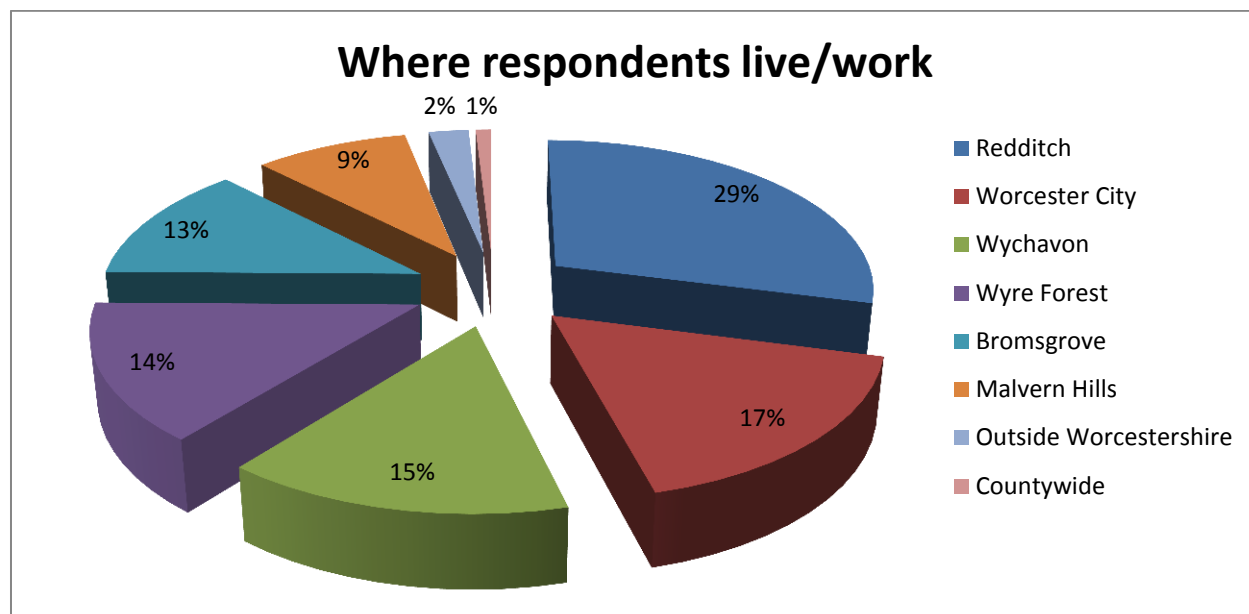
1. What is your interest in Children's Centre buildings? – options were school teacher; parent/carer; Health professional; other professional; current provider of Early Help services in Worcestershire; Councillor; Community or Voluntary Sector representative; other (with an option to specify)
2. Where do you live work? – options included all six districts in Worcestershire; countywide; outside of Worcestershire
3. In general, how do you think that current early help buildings should be used in the future? – respondents could add free text to comment
4. Would you like to comment on the potential use of any specific building(s)? – respondents could select from the list of children's centre buildings used by current Early Help Providers and a list of ways in which the building could be used in the future
5. Please include any additional comments you have here - respondents could add free text to comment

Summary of the consultation responses

There were over 2000 responses (2171 on-line) to the survey. The majority of responses were from parents and carers, making up nearly three quarters of the respondents, and most of these will have been current service users surveyed during engagement sessions and by the current service providers.

The charts below give further detail on the different categories of stakeholders who responded and where they lived/worked.

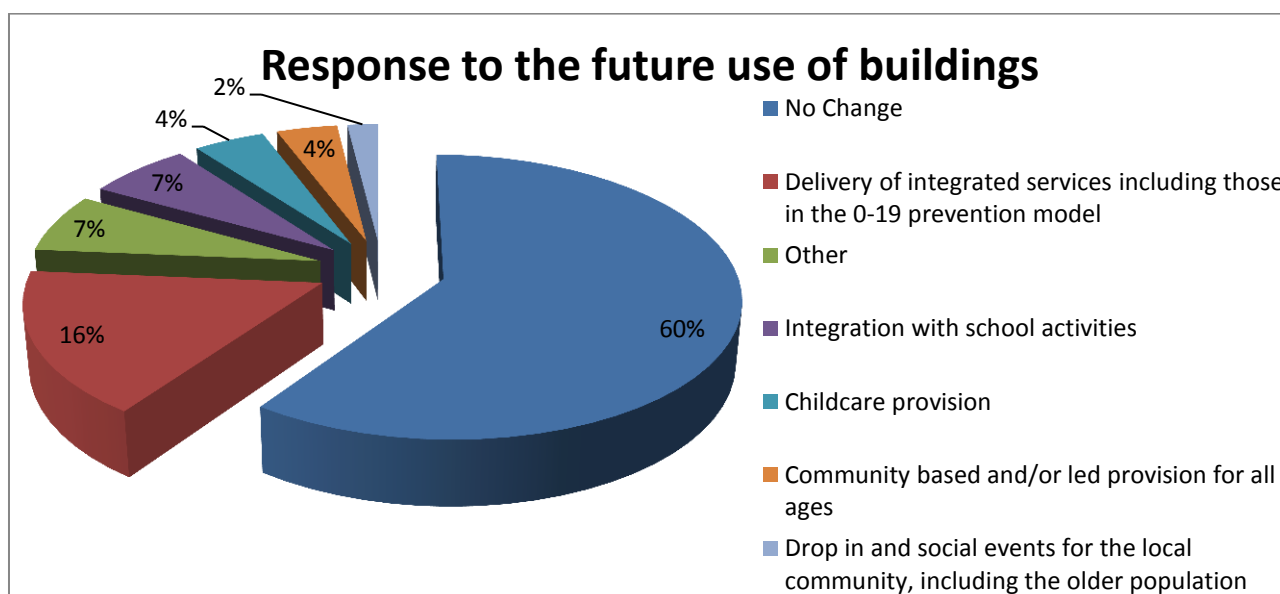




Question 4 asked respondents to select from the following options for future use of the list of children's centre buildings:

- No change
- Delivery of integrated services including those in the 0-19 prevention model
- Childcare provision
- Integration with school activities
- Community based and/or led provision for all ages
- Drop-in and social events for the local community including the older population
- Other

The chart below outlines the responses with 60% of respondents suggesting no change, 16% delivery of integrated services, including those in the 0-19 prevention model/Starting Well service and 7% integration with schools:



Worcestershire County Council Directorate of Children, Families and Communities Children's Centre Buildings Summary Report

Whilst responses were received for all the buildings/centres in the consultation, the number of responses varied from 23 to 249 reflecting both the use of the building and the efforts to promote the on-line survey at individual sites. Some responses included comments on more than one building:

Children's Centre	Number of responses
Cotton Wood - Wythall Library - non-WCC building*	23
Sunshine - The Grove Primary School	27
Teme Valley - non-WCC building*	27
Conkers - Hagley Primary School	34
Greenwood - Wychbold First School	67
Half Crown Wood - Stourport Primary School	67
Riverboats - Upton upon Severn Primary School	69
Half Crown Wood - St Bartholomew's Primary School	80
Apple Vale - Broadway First School	90
Rainbow - St Mary's Primary School	98
Sunshine - Pickersleigh Poolbrook Centre	101
Tree Tops - Birchen Coppice Primary School	105
Tudor Way - Dines Green Primary School	107
Bluebell Wood - Perry Wood Primary School	108
Riverside - Bewdley Primary School	108
Brookside - Comberton Primary School	115
Maple Trees - Ten Acres First School	121
Blossom Vale - Abbey Park First School	122
Chestnut - Franche Primary School	124
Sunny Fields - Charford First School	128
Buttercup - Fairfield Centre	132
Lavender - Oasis Academy Warndon	135
Saffron - Stanley Road Primary School	139
Evergreen - non-WCC building*	141
Holly Trees - St George's First School	143
Tulip Tree - Catshill First School	146
Oak Trees - St Luke's First School	150
Orchard Vale / Spring Vale - Evesham Nursery School	150
Pear Tree - Sidemoor (Standalone building)	170
Maple Trees - Roman Way First School	177
WANDS - Westlands First School	177
Oak Trees - Oak Hill First School	186
Holly Trees - St Stephen's First School	191
Woodlands - Woodrow First School	194
Willow Trees - Church Hill Community Centre - non-WCC* building	229
Cherry Trees - Batchley First School	249

*these centres were included for completeness to ensure that all current centre users could comment on their particular centre/site.

Proposals for alternative/additional use of Children's Centre buildings

Many respondents supported the continued delivery of Children's Centre activities (including childcare) from these buildings (60%), and the delivery of integrated services including those in the 0-19 prevention model (16% of those completing the on-line survey).

In addition, respondents proposed a wide range of potential future uses of the buildings either via the on-line survey or by direct communication with Children's Services. These proposals can be grouped into the following categories:

- Additional childcare, in particular funded places
- Specialist SEN provision for a range of age groups
- Integration with school activities/extended school provision/nurture base
- Family contact and safeguarding services including case conferences and 1:1 work with children
- Use by local community partnership/community use
- Library services
- Touchpoint/base for county council staff based in the community

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District	Children's Centre	Address	Proposed future use	Proposals require formal consultation?	Impact on delivery	Impact of proposals on lease
Bromsgrove	Conkers - Hagley Primary School	Park Road, Hagley, Stourbridge, DY9 0NS	Strong proposals from school to provide funded childcare places on site, with potential for sessional use by partners for delivery of eg health visitor/midwife sessions. School have also proposed wider use of building for the delivery of after school and holiday provision plus evening/weekend sessions	Y	Sessions such as stay and play, baby clinics and mother and toddler groups are delivered in and from this building by a mix of independent providers, parents, early help and health. Under these proposals the mix of provision will change and some sessions may stop or move to other venues. Childcare provision should increase together with before and after school provision.	Transfer to school
Bromsgrove	Pear Tree - Sidemoor (Standalone building)	Broad Street, Sidemoor, Bromsgrove, B61 8LW	Proposal to maintain the existing use of this centre for the provision of early childhood services including childcare and family support.	N	No significant change as a direct result of these proposals.	No change
Bromsgrove	Sunny Fields - Charford First School	Lyttleton Avenue, Charford, Bromsgrove, B60 3FG	Proposal to transfer to school to extend nursery provision and to release space for before and after school clubs, parenting support and health provision if needed.	Y	Sessions such as young mums stay and play, midwife clinics baby yoga etc are delivered in and from this building by a mix of independent providers, early help and health. Under these proposals the mix of provision will change and some sessions may stop or move to other venues. Childcare provision should increase and health provision could continue.	Transfer to school
Bromsgrove	Tulip Tree - Catshill First School	Gibb Lane, Catshill, Bromsgrove, B61 0JP	School has expressed an interest on using the CC to facilitate support for children open to social care and families needing support. CC would become the entrance to the school (improving security), releasing other areas for confidential meetings etc. Delivery of health related services would continue to be supported.	Y	A mix of sessions are delivered in and from this building by independent providers, early help and health. Under these proposals the mix of provision will change and some sessions may stop or move to other venues. Integration of the building into the school would allow space for better links with other professionals, parenting support, continuing health provision and before and after school provision	Transfer to school
Malvern Hills	Riverboats - Upton upon Severn Primary School	Price's Lane, Upton-upon-Severn, WR8 0LY	School are keen to use the space to deliver funded childcare places for 2 year olds, and would propose allowing ante-natal and breast feeding support to continue. Potential also for other providers (including Early Help) to use the space for delivery of early years related sessions if needed.	Y	The centre is currently closed two days a week. Under these proposals the centre should be better utilised throughout the week with an increase in 2 year old funded places being the main change. Some sessions may stop or move to other venues, health provision should remain.	Transfer to school

District	Children's Centre	Address	Proposed future use	Proposals require formal consultation?	Impact on delivery	Impact of proposals on lease
Malvern Hills	Sunshine - Pickersleigh Poolbrook Centre	Poolbrook, Bluebell Close, Malvern, WR14 3SW	No change proposed. Space is integral to the wider centre provision and serves a 30% SOA. Active health provision on site.	N	No significant change as a direct result of these proposals.	No change
Malvern Hills	Sunshine - The Grove Primary School	Pickersleigh Road, Malvern, WR14 2LU	No change proposed. The building is needed as a base for the provision of integrated 0-19 services	N	No significant change as a direct result of these proposals.	No change
Redditch	Cherry Trees - Batchley First School	Cherry Tree Walk, Batchley, Redditch, B97 6PD	Proposal to transfer to school for mixed use including community provision, parenting support, additional support for 3 - 9 year olds and health provision if needed.	Y	A mix of sessions are delivered in and from this building by independent providers, early help and health. Under these proposals the mix of provision will change and some sessions may stop or move to other venues. Integration of the building into the school will allow space for better links with other professionals, parenting support, continuing health provision and community use	Transfer to school
Redditch	Holly Trees - St Stephen's First School	Mabey Avenue, Redditch, B98 8HW	Building currently leased to RBC on a 25 year lease. Strong support to maintain childcare provision on site and a range of services for families, including early years.	N	No significant change as a direct result of these proposals.	Leased to RBC on a 25 year lease. No change
Redditch	Holly Trees - St George's First School	Stevenson Avenue, Redditch, Worcestershire, B98 8LU	School are keen to use this additional space for the provision of funded childcare places. This is an outreach site and few services are currently delivered due to the small amount of space available.	N	This is an outreach site and few services are currently delivered in the building due to the small amount of space available.	Transfer to school
Redditch	Maple Trees - Ten Acres First School	Quilbury Close, Winyates East, Redditch, B98 0PB	Strong proposal from school to expand the existing playgroup to a fully operational nursery. This is currently an outreach centre and the proposal would make more effective use of the space. Potential for sessional use by partners can be explored.	Y	A small number of sessions are delivered at this site by a mix of providers, some of which may stop or move to other venues as a result of these proposals.	Transfer to school

District	Children's Centre	Address	Proposed future use	Proposals require formal consultation?	Impact on delivery	Impact of proposals on lease
Redditch	Maple Trees - Roman Way First School	Colts Lane, Winyates West, Redditch, B98 0LH	Proposal to transfer to school for mixed use including childcare and health provision if needed.	Y	A mix of sessions are delivered in and from this building by independent providers, early help and health. Under these proposals the mix of provision will change and some sessions may stop or move to other venues. Integration of the building into the school would allow space for better links with other professionals, parenting support, continuing health provision and continuing before and after school provision	Transfer to school
Redditch	Oak Trees - Oak Hill First School	Wirehill Drive, Lodge Park, Redditch, B98 7JU	Proposal to transfer to school for mixed use including parental support and programmes, nurture groups, mentoring and wider health provision if needed,	Y	A mix of sessions are delivered in and from this building by independent providers, early help and health. Under these proposals the mix of provision will change and some sessions may stop or move to other venues. Integration of the building into the school would allow space for better links with other professionals, parenting support, continuing health provision and will maximise the use of the building	Transfer to school
Redditch	Oak Trees - St Luke's First School	Plymouth Road, Redditch, B97 4NU	Strong support for the existing childcare provider to continue to deliver provision as the main user of the site. Discussions needed on better integration with the school provision and use of the building during holidays.	N	Childcare provider will maintain and increase childcare provision at this site	Transfer to childcare provider
Redditch	Woodlands - Woodrow First School	Longdon Close, Woodrow, Redditch, B98 7UZ	Proposal to transfer to school for mixed use including community use, parenting support, additional support for 3 - 9 year olds and health provision	Y	A number of sessions are delivered at this site by early help and health, some of which may stop or move to other venues as a result of these proposals.	Transfer to school

District	Children's Centre	Address	Proposed future use	Proposals require formal consultation?	Impact on delivery	Impact of proposals on lease
Worcester City	Bluebell Wood - Perry Wood Primary School	St. Alban's Close, Worcester, WR5 1PP	School proposing to use the space for a range of uses including health related provision, expanded nursery provision, parental engagement, and to meet basic school need. Worcester South safeguarding team also need provision in this area if mixed use were to be negotiated.	Y	A number of sessions are delivered at this site by early help and health, some of which may stop or move to other venues as a result of these proposals.	Transfer to school
Worcester City	Buttercup - Fairfield Centre	Fairfield Primary School, Carnforth Drive, Worcester, WR4 9HG	This is already a mixed use CC on a wider mixed use site.	N	No significant change as a direct result of these proposals.	No change
Worcester City	Lavender - Oasis Academy Warndon	Edgeworth Close, Worcester, WR4 9PE	Proposal to transfer to school for mixed use including 2 year old funded provision, before and after school activities and support for parents	Y	A number of sessions are delivered at this site by early help and health, some of which may stop or move to other venues as a result of these proposals.	Transfer to school
Worcester City	Saffron - Stanley Road Primary School	Stanley Road, Worcester, WR5 1BD	Proposal to maintain the existing use of this centre for the provision of early childhood services including health provision if needed.	N	No significant change as a direct result of these proposals.	No change
Worcester City	Tudor Way - Dines Green Primary School	Tudor Way, Worcester, WR2 5QH	Proposal to maintain the existing mix of provision on site including nursery provision (provider has a 25 year lease), and to explore the possibility of accommodating some family contact provision.	N	No significant change as a direct result of these proposals.	No change
Wychavon	Apple Vale - Broadway First School	Lime Tree Avenue, Broadway, WR12 7BD	School have expressed interest in using the space to facilitate provision for parents, meetings with parents and joint work with playgroup (which would remain on site) prior to children joining reception, and as a space for community use/rental.	Y	A small number of sessions are delivered at this site by early help and help, some of which may stop or move to other venues as a result of these proposals	Transfer to school

District	Children's Centre	Address	Proposed future use	Proposals require formal consultation?	Impact on delivery	Impact of proposals on lease
Wychavon	Orchard Vale / Spring Vale - Evesham Nursery School	Four Pools Lane, Evesham, s	Currently has mixed provision of early years, childcare and health provision. Additional demand for childcare places. Proposal is that mixed use continues with discussions between providers to maximise the use of the building, including evenings and weekends.	N	No significant change as a direct result of these proposals.	Possible transfer to nursery school (tbc)
Wychavon	Blossom Vale - Abbey Park First School	Abbey Road, Pershore, WR10 1DF	This is a small centre situated directly between two schools. The continued use of the centre is supported by the school, as well as a base for the linked family support worker.	N	No significant change as a direct result of these proposals.	No change
Wychavon	Greenwood - Wychbold First School	School Lane, Wychbold, Droitwich, WR9 7PU	Strong proposal from school to integrate building and to make available for professional meetings etc, and to support school's basic accomodation needs.	N	The building is currently used as an office and meeting room only. No direct impact on delivery of session based activity.	Transfer to school
Wychavon	WANDS - Westlands First School	Farmers Way, Droitwich, Worcestershire, WR9 9EQ	Proposal to maintain the existing use of this centre for the provision of early childhood services including childcare and health care provision. Explore potential for additional community use of this building (including library services) as this seems to be an identified need.	N	No significant change as a direct result of these proposals.	No change
Wyre Forest	Rainbow - St Mary's Primary School	Stoney Lane, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, DY10 2LX	Proposal to transfer the building to the current childcare provider with continued access for health and integrated 0-19 provision in order to maximise the use of the building	Y	A number of sessions are delivered at this site by early help and health, some of which may stop or move to other venues as a result of these proposals.	Transfer to childcare provider

District	Children's Centre	Address	Proposed future use	Proposals require formal consultation?	Impact on delivery	Impact of proposals on lease
Wyre Forest	Chestnut - Franche Primary School	Chestnut Grove, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, DY11 5QB	Strong proposal from school to use the rooms for unmet childcare needs (including 2 year old funded places and additional 3 year old hours), to support meetings with parents of children in childcare and for the continued delivery of health related provision on site.	Y	A number of sessions are delivered at this site by early help and health, some of which may stop or move to other venues as a result of these proposals. Childcare provision will increase.	Transfer to school
Wyre Forest	Tree Tops - Birchen Coppice Primary School	Woodbury Road, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, DY11 7JJ	This is a large centre - proposal is that discussions are held between school, childcare provider and current early help provider to ensure that the centre is fully utilised for the provision of a mixed delivery of childcare and early years services including health related services.	Y	A number of sessions are delivered at this site by early help and health, some of which may stop or move to other venues as a result of these proposals. The intention is to maximise the use of the building across school, health, childcare and early help providers.	Transfer to school
Wyre Forest	Half Crown Wood - St Bartholomew's Primary School	Princess Way, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcestershire, DY13 0EL	Strong support for this centre to continue to provide a range of services, including support from school for 0-19 services.	N	No significant change as a direct result of these proposals.	No change
Wyre Forest	Half Crown Wood - Stourport Primary School	Park Lane, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcestershire, DY13 8SH	Strong support for the expansion of current nursery provision from mornings to full days. It is currently an outreach centre with occasional use in the afternoons which could be delivered if necessary from alternative venues.	Y	A small number of sessions are delivered at this site, some of which may stop or move to other venues as a result of these proposals	Transfer to school
Wyre Forest	Riverside - Bewdley Primary School	Stourport Road, Bewdley, DY12 1BL	The centre is currently used part of the time for nursery provision and part for CC activities. Proposal is to transfer to the school for extended nursery provision with continued access for health and early help provision.	Y	A number of sessions are delivered at this site by early help and health, some of which may stop or move to other venues as a result of these proposals. The intention is to maximise the use of the building across school, health, childcare and early help provision.	Transfer to school

District	Children's Centre	Address	Proposed future use	Proposals require formal consultation?	Impact on delivery	Impact of proposals on lease
Wyre Forest	Brookside - Comberton Primary School	Borrington Road, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, DY10 3ED	Proposal to maintain the existing use of this centre for the provision of early childhood services including health provision if needed.	N	No significant change as a direct result of these proposals.	No change

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CABINET
16 JUNE 2016**WORCESTERSHIRE PARKWAY REGIONAL INTERCHANGE**

Relevant Cabinet Member

Dr K A Pollock

Relevant Officer

Director of Economy and Infrastructure

Local Member

Mr R C Adams

Recommendation

1. **The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Economy, Skills and Infrastructure recommends that Cabinet:**
 - (a) **approves the delivery of the Worcestershire Parkway Regional Interchange Railway Station as shown on the attached plan (Appendix 1) at an anticipated final cost not exceeding that set out in the attached Finance Report (Appendix 2);**
 - (b) **approves funding the scheme through funds allocated by Worcestershire Local Transport Board, borrowing and existing resources as set out in the attached Finance Report (Appendix 2);**
 - (c) **notes the exempt Finance Report (Appendix 2) and agrees the virement proposed therein (and authorises the Director of Economy and Infrastructure in consultation with the Leader to finalise the source of the virement from within existing resources) and recommends Council to approve the addition to the Capital Programme set out in that Finance Report and that the capital cash limits are updated accordingly;**
 - (d) **endorses the Finance Report (Appendix 2) and notes that the scheme can be funded from a combination of external grant funding, capital funding and from the income received through fares and car park charges;**
 - (e) **delegates the decision on the award of a Design and Build contract and any enabling work contracts that are necessary for the delivery of the scheme to the Director of Economy and Infrastructure in consultation with the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Economy, Skills and Infrastructure; and**
 - (f) **notes the proposed commercial agreements with the rail industry set out in Appendices 2 and 3, and delegates the negotiation of all final**

terms and conditions necessary to complete the scheme to the Director of Economy and Infrastructure in consultation with the Director of Commercial and Change where appropriate, and authorisation to the Director of Commercial and Change to dispose of land including assets at an undervalue where considered appropriate to do so and in accordance with s.123 Local Government Act 1972.

Background

2. The Council is committed to the delivery of a Parkway Railway Station in the triangle of land formed by the intersection of the Worcester-Paddington (Cotswolds) and Birmingham-Bristol railway lines and the B4084 near Norton.
3. The location of the station is strategically important as it will address Worcestershire's poor accessibility to and from London arising from the limited frequency and length of journey times of train services and inadequate parking capacity at existing stations on the Cotswolds Line and the poor access to the Cross Country network.
4. Poor accessibility to the rail network reduces the ability for Worcestershire to achieve economic growth due to poor access to key markets and opportunities. It also leads to increased car use for journeys which could otherwise be made by rail, with Worcestershire residents resorting to use alternative services from Birmingham International, Cheltenham and Warwick Parkway resulting in avoidable use of congested sections of the local and strategic road network.
5. The delivery of the scheme which will make a major contribution towards the Council's objective of Worcestershire being Open for Business is a priority for the Council, the Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership, the Chamber of Commerce, Members of Parliament and the Worcestershire District Councils. The scheme is aligned with key priorities, in particular in terms of economic growth, and is included in the Strategic Economic Plan which is endorsed by all the local authorities in Worcestershire, local Members of Parliament and other partners, the adopted Local Transport Plan and the Worcester Transport Strategy.
6. Although the scheme will ultimately be largely financed through the rail industry, without Worcestershire County Council's leadership, neither Network Rail nor the Train Operating Companies would be sufficiently incentivised to proactively bring the scheme forward.

Scheme Outline

7. Worcestershire Parkway will comprise a single platform on the Cotswold Line and two platforms on the Birmingham to Bristol Line that will be served by a station building which will include toilets, a booking-office and provision for journey-related retail use. Pedestrian access through the station will be via lifts and stairs.
8. Vehicular access to the station will be via a new roundabout on the B4084. The access road will lead to a 500 space car park which will include 25 spaces for visitors with disabilities (and the option to increase capacity through "decking" in the future), bus stops, a taxi rank and a drop-off area with facilities for cycle parking. The

scheme has been designed to be compatible with Sustainable Transport journey options such as walking, cycling and public transport.

9. An area of land within the development site has been allocated for flood attenuation and environmental mitigation eg creation of suitable habitat for amphibians, snakes and aquatic invertebrates.

10. Once delivered the scheme will:

- (a) Increase accessibility to markets and employment, encouraging inward investment and economic growth in Worcestershire enabling the county to achieve its target of 25,000 new jobs by 2025;
- (b) Improve access to the Cotswold Line and Cross Country rail services, meeting the suppressed demand for rail travel to support the growth of Worcestershire's economy;
- (c) Support the major growth in rail patronage that will result from Government investment in new rolling stock and improved levels of service on the Cotswold Line by 2018;
- (d) Further the Council's aim of Worcestershire being Open for Business.

Progress Report

11. Since the scheme was approved in principle by Cabinet on 18 December 2014, it has been progressing through Network Rail's Governance for Railways Investment Process (GRIP). There are 8 stages to the GRIP process, all of which must be completed. So far the scheme has reached and received approval for GRIP stage 4 (Single Option Development), other than final sign-off for signalling design. Work will commence on GRIP stage 5 (Detailed Design) once a Principal Contractor has been appointed.

12. A full detailed Planning Application was submitted to the Council's Planning and Regulatory Committee on 25 August 2015 and was approved subject to the satisfactory completion of relevant Conditions, the majority of which will be met by the Principal Contractor as part of the Detailed Design process.

13. Both Train Operating Companies, Great Western Railway and CrossCountry, have confirmed they will be able to stop their services at the new station and that they are supportive of the proposed operational and commercial arrangements. They will both be providing Letters of Support to the Department for Transport confirming their position.

14. Discussions have been held with relevant parties with a legal interest in the land it is necessary to acquire to deliver the scheme. However, in accordance with the decision made by Cabinet on 18 December 2014, a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) was made on 30 October 2015 in the event that negotiated acquisition might not be possible. Five objections to the CPO were received although they have all since been withdrawn. The CPO will be formally determined by the Secretary of State.

Future Land Ownership and Responsibilities

15. In accordance with the standard rail industry operating model, it is proposed that the land on which the station sits will be transferred to Network Rail either under a land transfer agreement or a long lease arrangement. Great Western Railway will operate and manage the station under a lease from Network Rail. These arrangements are an important part of the scheme's funding arrangements. It is proposed that the Council will retain ownership of the access road, car park and flood attenuation area and that the car park area will be leased to Great Western Railway under a commercial agreement that will contribute towards the cost of the Council's proposed borrowing. A suite of draft commercial agreements with Network Rail, Great Western Railway and the Department for Transport have been agreed in principle reflecting these arrangements (Appendix 3). It is recommended that Cabinet notes these proposed land transfer and commercial agreements, delegating final negotiations to the Director of Economy and Infrastructure in consultation with the Director of Commercial and Change. It is further recommended that the Director of Commercial and Change is authorised to dispose of land including assets at an undervalue where considered appropriate to do so and in accordance with s.123 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Finance

16. As set out in the Finance Report (Appendix 2), the anticipated final cost of the scheme is higher than the estimate reported to Cabinet in December 2014 predominantly due to higher land and utility costs and increasing the construction cost estimate to reflect current construction market prices and a proportionately higher contingency sum.

17. As further set out in the Finance Report (Appendix 2), the project is to be financed by funds allocated by the Worcestershire Local Transport Board, borrowing, possibly from the Public Works Loan Board and from capital resources. The cost of repaying the borrowing is financed by the Council taking a share of the Train Operating Companies' fare revenue and car park income generated over the 25 year borrowing repayment period. This is to be recovered as a fixed Finance Charge levied on the Train Operating Companies with the terms enshrined in a Funding Agreement between the Council and the Train Operating Companies. Because of the limited length of Train Operating Company Franchises the Funding Agreement will be the subject of a Direct Agreement between the Council and the Department for Transport which guarantees the Funding Agreement stays in force with successive franchisees for the 25 year borrowing period. The Direct Agreement will also require the Department of Transport to continue to specify the level of train services to the station that generate the increased fare revenue. The Train Operating Companies will carry the fares income and car park revenue risk and will therefore be incentivised to grow patronage at the station. The combination of the Finance Charge and Car Park Service Charge income will be sufficient to repay the borrowing (other than that required for the proposed virement) over a 25 year period and to cover the Council's long-term maintenance and renewal obligations for the parts of the station and related highway infrastructure it retains ownership of. The Finance Charge will be determined at the outset of the Agreement and fixed for the 25 year borrowing repayment period.

18. A key finance principle is therefore that the cost of building and operating Worcestershire Parkway does not require additional revenue funding from the Council during the 25 year borrowing period or beyond.

19. It is recommended that Cabinet approves the spending of the sum necessary to deliver the scheme as set out in the Finance Report (Appendix 2). It is further recommended that the Capital Programme is adjusted accordingly.

Award of Design and Build Contract

20. Following a review of cost and scope risk in August 2015, a decision was reached by the Worcestershire Parkway Project Board to pursue a Design and Build procurement option. A pre-qualification questionnaire was issued under the European Union procurement rules on 2 September 2015 which generated 8 potential tenderers. Evaluation resulted in a shortlist of 4 competent established tenderers, all with considerable experience in rail and highways infrastructure projects.

21. It is recommended that Cabinet delegates the decision on the award of the Design and Build contract following a Negotiation Process to the Director of Economy and Infrastructure in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economy, Skills and Infrastructure.

22. It is further recommended that Cabinet authorises the Director of Economy and Infrastructure in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economy, Skills and Infrastructure, to award any enabling works contracts that are necessary to complete the scheme.

Programme

23. Since the last Cabinet report in December 2014, the overall programme has been extended, primarily due to land acquisition and procurement matters and the target date for completion has therefore been moved from May 2017 to March 2018 with work starting on site in early 2017.

Privacy Impact Assessment

24. No impacts on privacy have been identified.

Public Health Impact

25. No negative impacts on Public Health have been identified.

Equality and Diversity Implications

26. An Equality Impact Assessment was completed in June 2015 (see Appendix 4). It was found that the scheme would not result in any negative impact on protected groups provided that proposed mitigation measures eg lifts, parking for less able motorists etc are implemented. The advice of protected user groups and their representatives will be sought during the finalisation of the scheme.

Supporting Information

- Appendix 1 – Scheme Plan
- Appendix 2 – Finance Report (This appendix is to follow) (This appendix is NOT FOR PUBLICATION as supporting information as it discloses information in relation to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the local authority holding that information).
- Appendix 3 – Commercial Agreements (This appendix is NOT FOR PUBLICATION as supporting information as it discloses information in relation to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the local authority holding that information).
- Appendix 4 – Equality Impact Assessment

Contact Points

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Director of Economy and Infrastructure) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

- Worcestershire Strategic Economic Plan 2014-2025 – March 2014
- Worcester Transport Strategy Phase 1 2011-2016 – 2011
- Worcestershire Local Transport Plan 3 2011-2026 - 2011
- Wychavon Local Plan 2006-2011 - 2006
- South Worcestershire Development Plan 2016-2030 - 2016
- Agenda and background papers for the meeting of the Cabinet held on 18 December 2014
- Agenda papers for the meeting of the Planning and Regulatory Committee held on 25 August 2015

GENERAL NOTES

1. ALL DIMENSIONS IN METRES UNLESS STATED OTHERWISE.
2. CONTRACTOR SHALL VERIFY DIMENSIONS AND CONDITIONS OF EXISTING CONSTRUCTION BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH HIS/HER WORK

NOTES

1. ALL DETAILS SHOWN ON THIS DRAWING ARE INDICATIVE AND NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION.
2. FOR INDICATIVE PAVEMENT TYPES REFER TO DRAWINGS 08-C-DR-0292 TO 0294.
3. FOR FORECOURT BLOCK PAVING LAYING PATTERNS REFER TO THE EXTERNAL WORKS TECHNICAL EMPLOYER'S REQUIREMENTS.
4. FOR INDICATIVE KERB AND EDGING DETAILS REFER TO DRAWING 08-C-DR-0294.
5. FOR FURTHER SOFT LANDSCAPING DETAILS REFER TO THE PLANTING PLAN, DRAWING 08-LA-DR-0233.
6. FOR FURTHER DETAILS OF THE PROW STEEL FOOTBRIDGE CULVERT REFER TO DRAWING 00-C-DR-0077.
7. FOR FURTHER DETAILS OF THE REPLACEMENT CULVERT REFER TO DRAWING 00-C-DR-0087.
8. FOR DETAILS OF THE DRAINAGE REFER TO DRAWING 06-C-DR-0015.
9. FOR DETAILS OF THE LIGHTING AND ELECTRICAL DUCTING REFER TO DRAWINGS 08-SL-C-0300 TO 0302.
10. FOR ALL RAIL REQUIREMENTS, REFER TO THE GENERAL EMPLOYER'S REQUIREMENTS AND SECTION J - CIVIL ENGINEERING.
11. NO SIGNAGE DETAILS ARE SHOWN. CONTRACTOR TO PROPOSE A SCHEME FOR ALL SIGNS WITHIN THE PLANNING APPLICATION BOUNDARY, EXCLUDING DIRECTIONAL AND ADVANCED DIRECTIONAL SIGNS ON THE ADOPTABLE HIGHWAYS.
12. ALL DIRECTIONAL AND ADVANCED DIRECTIONAL SIGNS ON THE ADOPTABLE HIGHWAYS, AND ALL ADVANCED DIRECTIONAL SIGNS OUTSIDE OF THE PLANNING APPLICATION BOUNDARY, TO BE DONE BY OTHERS.

APPENDIX 1

LEGEND

- PLANNING APPLICATION BOUNDARY
- EXTENT OF ADOPTABLE HIGHWAY
- PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY (PROW)
- ROAD RESTRAINT SYSTEM
- POST AND RAIL FENCING
- POST AND WIRE FENCING
- HIGHWAY - BITUMINOUS SURFACING (PAVEMENT TYPE 1)
- HIGHWAY - BITUMINOUS SURFACING (PAVEMENT TYPE 2)
- CAR PARK - BITUMINOUS SURFACING (PAVEMENT TYPE 9)
- FOOTWAY - BITUMINOUS SURFACING (PAVEMENT TYPE 3)
- PROW - BITUMINOUS SURFACING (PAVEMENT TYPE 4)
- FORECOURT BLOCK PAVING - RUNNING BOND - GRADED FROM GREY TO BUFF (PAVEMENT TYPE 5)
- ACCESS FOR MAINTENANCE IN FORECOURT BLOCK PAVING - HERRINGBONE BOND (PAVEMENT TYPE 7)
- ROUNDOABOUT BLOCK PAVING - HERRINGBONE BOND - CHARCOAL GREY (PAVEMENT TYPE 6)
- DISABLED PARKING BLOCK PAVING - HERRINGBONE BOND - CHARCOAL GREY (PAVEMENT TYPE 7)
- PARKING BAYS - PERMEABLE BLOCK PAVING (SEE DRAWING 06-C-DR-0025 FOR DETAILS)
- RAISED PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY - BLOCK PAVING HERRINGBONE BOND - GREY (PAVEMENT TYPE 7)
- NETWORK RAIL ACCESS (PAVEMENT TYPE 8)
- CELLULAR PAVING SYSTEM
- PROW TIMBER FOOTBRIDGE
- PROW STEEL FOOTBRIDGE
- BUILDING
- CONCRETE EDGINGS
- CONCRETE BULL-NOSED KERBS (BN)
- CONCRETE HALF-BATTER KERBS (HB2)
- CONCRETE SPLAY KERBS (SP)
- CROSSOVER KERB BLOCKS BY HANSON FORMPAVE
- LIGHTING COLUMN
- CCTV CAMERA
- PROPOSED SOFT LANDSCAPE:
 - EXISTING TREE TO BE RETAINED
 - EXISTING HEDGEROW TO BE RETAINED
 - SPECIMEN TREE PLANTING (SEE DRAWING 06-C-DR-0024 FOR TREE PIT DETAILS)
 - HEDGEROW
 - WOODLAND BELT
 - GROUND COVER
 - ORNAMENTAL PLANTING
 - GRASS VERGE
 - GRASS FOR REPTILES
 - SPECIES RICH GRASS
 - GRASS FOR WET AREAS
 - ATTENUATION BASIN
 - VEGETATION TO BE MANAGED AND SEEDED WITH SPECIES RICH GRASS
 - MARGINAL PLANTING

KEY PLAN



DATE	01/06/2016
PROJ	473946.LA.00.08
DWG	08-C-DR-0328
SHEET	1 of 1

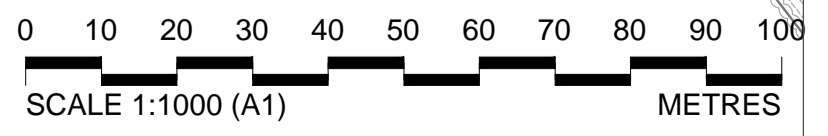
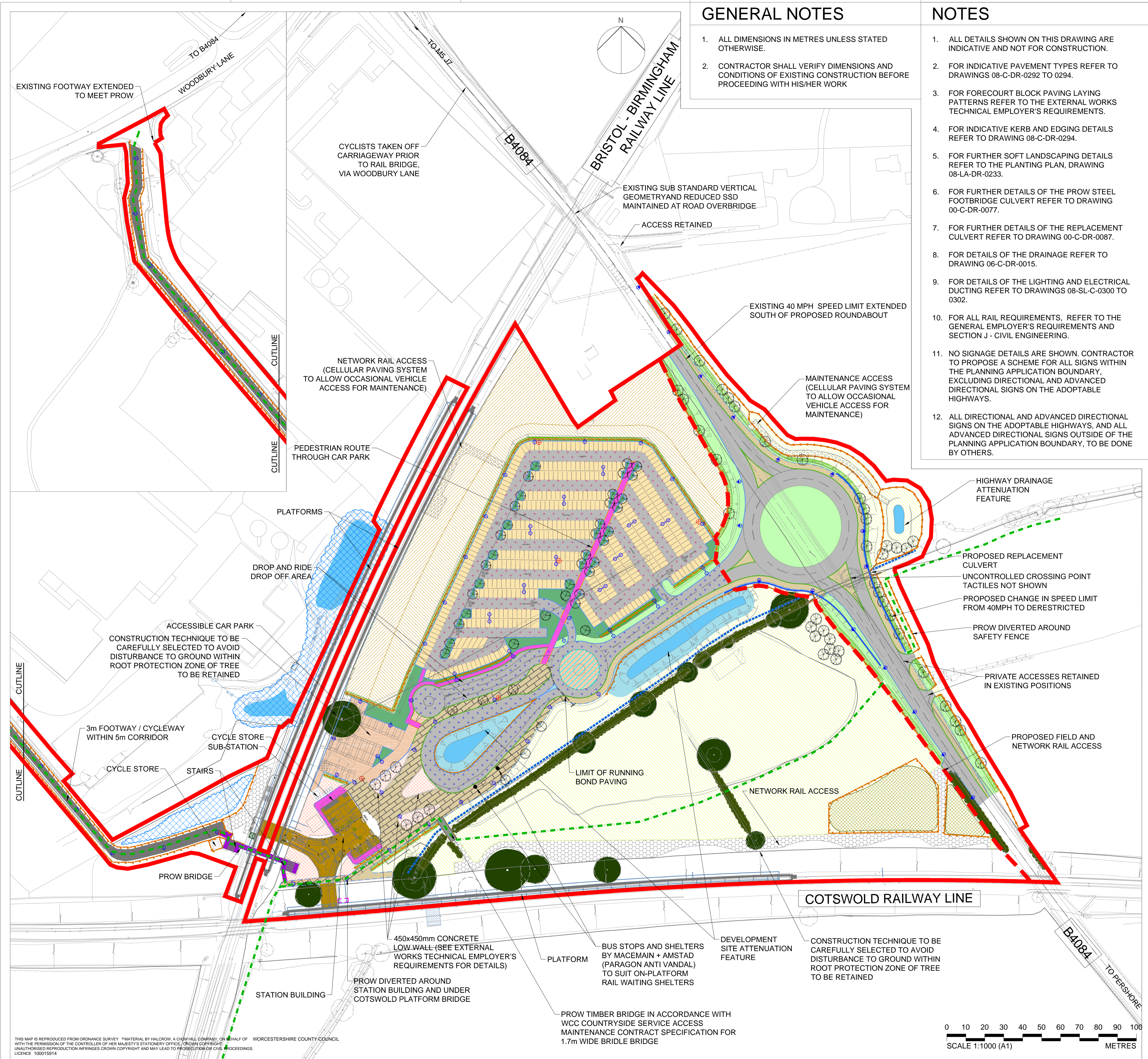
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WORCESTER WR5 2JG (01905 361 361)



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SCHEME PLAN

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WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE

Please read the brief guidance which provides essential information for anyone who is unfamiliar with the County Council Equality Impact Assessment process.

Background information:

Name:	Tom Delaney
Job Title:	Transportation Package Manager
Service area:	Transport Programming & Commissioning
Directorate:	E&I
Telephone:	01905 846419
Email address:	TDelaney@worcestershire.gov.uk
Date assessment commenced:	13/04/2015
Date assessment completed:	19/06/2015

Function, strategy, project, policy or procedure being assessed:

Name of the function, strategy, project, policy or procedure being assessed:	Worcestershire Parkway Station
Is this a new or an amended policy?	New
Does the policy form part of a wider programme which has already been screened for equality relevance?	No

Stage 1 - Please summarise the main objectives, aims and intended outcomes of this policy

Aims/Objectives:	<p>The aim of the project is to create an out of town Rail Station which will be located at the intersection of the Cotswold railway line and the Birmingham to Bristol main railway line. It will help tackle Worcestershire's exclusion from the Cross Country network (Bristol-Birmingham-North West/North East).</p> <p>Present access to national trains is only available via connections at Birmingham New Street and Cheltenham Spa. The current situation has led to increased car use for strategic journeys and overcrowded railway stations within Worcestershire.</p> <p>The project will help to increase the rail share in strategic journeys and thus follow the core principles within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), local policy agendas. Planning and design are conducted in accordance with Accessible Train Station Design for Disabled People: A Code of Practice, Ver.3</p>
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<p>Intended outcomes:</p>	<p>Worcestershire is currently not directly served by national (intercity) rail. This is a major constraint for economic growth in Worcestershire, as rail users are required to travel via Birmingham or Cheltenham Spa to access these services.</p> <p>The scheme would allow access many long distance cross country trains currently bypassing Worcester, thereby enhancing new housing developments, commercial developments, employment and economic improvements.</p> <p>The new Railway Station will help to reduce crowding on existing stations in Worcestershire by introducing a more frequent departing service and by providing an increased parking provision. The project will ensure that travelling will be more convenient for disabled people; with facilities in line with current best practice and design standards.</p>
<p>Please summarise how these outcomes will be achieved?</p>	<p>A new station is proposed on a site south east of Worcester on the B4084 Pershore road where main railway tracks Birmingham – Bristol and Cotswold railway line cross, with car parking for 500 cars.</p> <p>A transport strategy was prepared to accompany the application which amongst other things seeks to promote public transport. Three bus routes are planned to provide connection between the station and nearby towns: 166 – Worcester to Stratford Upon Avon; 550 and 551 – Worcester to Pershore and Evesham. Bus stops and drop off areas will be located as close as practicable to the building. All buses will be suitable for disabled travelers and the short distance to the station building will aid persons of reduced mobility. Furthermore, parking for disabled people is in the close vicinity of the station entrance</p> <p>The station incorporates access gates, ticket offices, lifts, toilets, station furniture, boarding aids. Ticket sales counters and machines are to be located on an obstacle-free route and their height is to be adjusted to wheelchair users. Clear signage and obstacle-free routes suitable for wheelchairs will be provided. A disabled access lift will be available to each station platform.</p> <p>Help points are to be provided for travelers, especially visually and sight impaired, to reassure them and make the journey less stressful. Clear announcements of departures, including time, platform, and destination and calling points are to help blind and partially sighted passengers find their train.</p> <p>Weather-protected Platform waiting areas, placed in areas where they will not be an obstruction to blind or partially-sighted, will provide ergonomic seats to make waiting comfortable especially for people who are unable to stand for too long.</p>



Where an existing policy is to be amended please summarise principle differences between the existing and proposed policies?	N/A

Stage 2 - Information gathering/consultation

Please give details of data and research which you will use when carrying out this assessment:	Feedback from the public consultation exercises, free text service and media responses. Consultation responses as part of the planning application process from statutory consultees and the public.
Please give details of any consultation findings you will use when carrying out this assessment:	The access arrangements have been subject to extensive consultation with WCC Highways, PROW officers, West Mercia crime reduction officers and WCC cycling officers. This has included meeting highways officers from WDC to discuss highway arrangements, traffic impacts and site usage As part of the planning application both the Health and Safety Executive and Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue were both consulted and were content with the proposals.
Do you consider these sources to be sufficient?	Yes
If this data is insufficient, please give details of further research/consultation you will carry out:	
Please summarise relevant findings from your research/consultation:	There is no negative influence on the Protected Characteristics. The possible communication problems related to disabled users have been mitigated by providing the station with appropriate facilities including dedicated parking for the disabled.



Stage 3 - Assessing the equality impact of the policy

Based on your findings, please indicate using the table below whether the policy could have an adverse, neutral or positive impact for any of the protected groups:

Protected characteristic	Adverse	Positive	Neutral
Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Marriage and civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Race	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Religion and belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Please provide details of all positive and adverse impact you have identified:	Age: Improved transport links, better access to major cities. Disability: As above, plus structures within the station to accelerate access as required for disabled people.
Where possible please include numbers likely to be affected:	Not available
Where potential adverse impact has been identified, can continuation of the proposed policy be justified?	Choose an item. If yes, please explain your reasons:
Do you consider that this policy will contribute to the achievement of the three aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty ?	Please indicate which of these aims is achieved through this policy: 1, 2, 3 Please explain how the policy contributes to achievement of any aims you have selected: See Stage 3
<p>The Public Sector Equality Duty has the following three aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010. 2. To advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant Protected Characteristic and persons who do not share it. 3. To foster good relations between persons who share a relevant Protected Characteristic and persons who do not share it. 	



Stage 4 - Action planning and time frames

Please list any actions you will take to mitigate any adverse impact you have identified:

Planned action	By who	By when	How will this be monitored
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

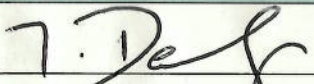


Please indicate how these actions will be taken forward as part of your team/service/directorate planning:	N/A
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Stage 5 - Monitoring & Review

How frequently will proposed action be monitored?	N/A
How frequently will intended outcomes be evaluated?	N/A
Who will be responsible for monitoring and evaluation?	N/A
How will you use the monitoring and evaluation results?	N/A

Stage 6 - Publication

Worcestershire County Council requires all assessments to be published on our website. Please send a copy of this assessment to the Corporate Equality and Diversity Team for publication.

	Signature	Date
Completing Officer:		19/06/2015
Lead Officer:		19/06/2015
Service Manager:		19/06/2015

