



# **Place Plan for Whitchurch & surrounding area**

**2015/2016**

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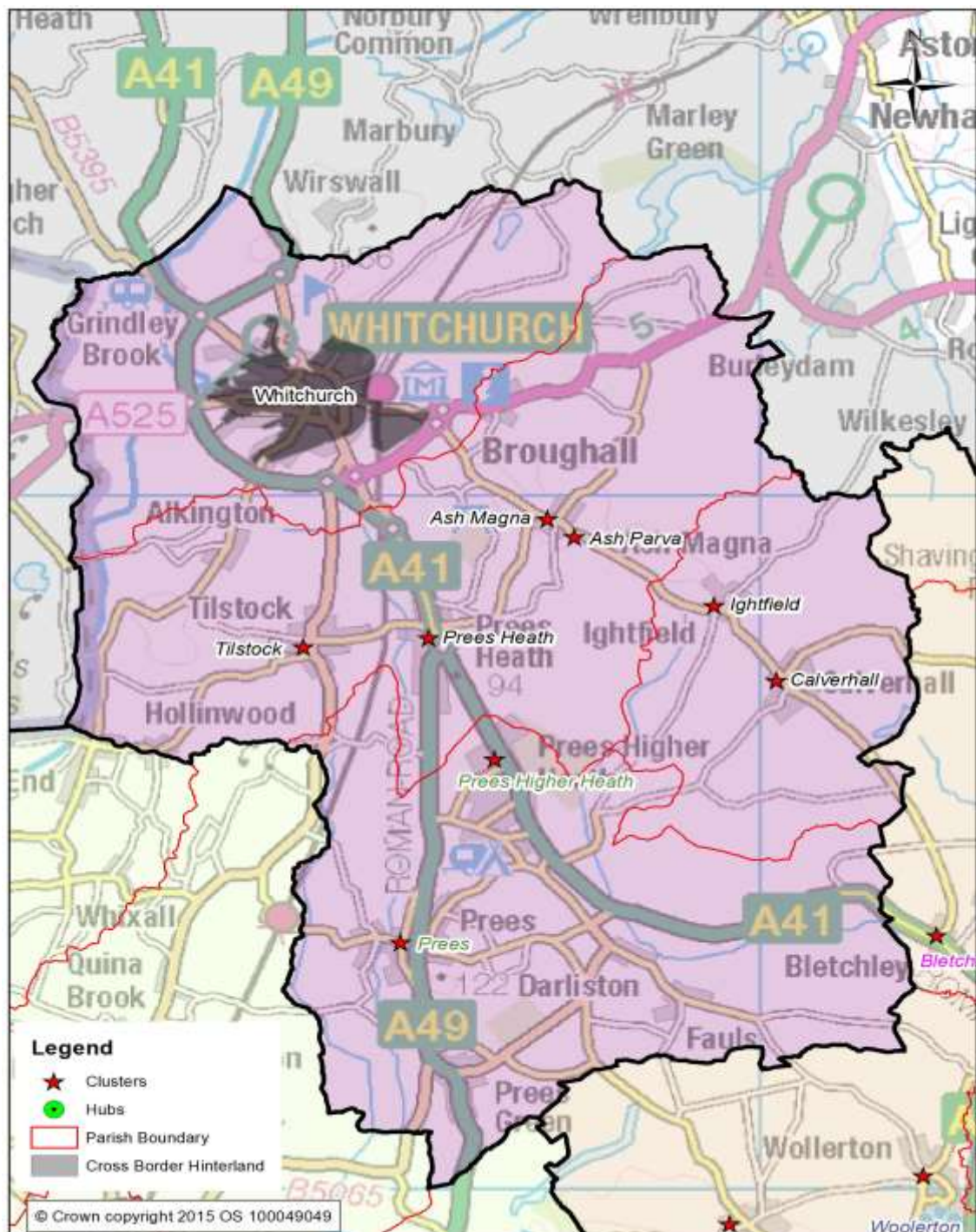
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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1. What is this document?

- 1.1.1 This document is *Whitchurch and surrounding area Place Plan*. It summarises and prioritises the local infrastructure needs which are required to support the sustainable development of the area; and identifies the wider investment needs to assist delivery of the community's vision and aspirations.
- 1.1.2 The area covered within this plan is identified within the Figure below.

Whitchurch and surrounding area Place Plan



## **1.2 What are Place Plans?**

- 1.2.1 The Place Plans are aimed at ensuring the delivery of sustainable places in Shropshire. They recognise that sustainability is based on many different factors and that what is needed to make and maintain a sustainable community in one place may differ in another. As such, the Place Plans list the priorities, needs and aspirations on a place by place basis for each of Shropshire's communities.
- 1.2.2 There are 18 Place Plans in Shropshire. Each Place Plan is based around one of Shropshire's 18 main towns and its wider hinterland, which comprises Community Hubs, Community Clusters and rural parishes within the surrounding countryside (Rural Hinterland).
- 1.2.3 The Place Plans are 'live' documents that are informed by an 'annual conversation' with Town and Parish Councils, infrastructure and service providers. As such, the Place Plans provide an up to date record of infrastructure and investment needs within an area and those priorities which should assist in providing a focus for delivery in the year ahead.

## **1.3 How are the Place Plans used?**

- 1.3.1 The Place Plans provide an important evidence base to:
- **Support delivery of Shropshire's Local Plan**- *ensuring new development is supported by the necessary infrastructure, including identifying requirements for development contributions.*
  - **Assist in informing planning decisions**- *forming a material consideration for planning applications.*
  - **Coordinate actions and inform difficult decisions**- *where future resources should be targeted, by Shropshire Council and partner organisations.*
  - **Inform local partnership working** – *ensuring an agreed set of local priorities.*
  - **Assist with external funding bids**- *providing evidence of local investment needs and priorities*
  - **Provide transparency to local communities**- *identifying where local investment is being targeted.*

## **1.4 How are the Place Plans structured?**

- 1.4.1 Each Place Plan consist of five key sections, these are:

### **1. Introduction**

The role of Place Plans and the communities covered within the Development Priorities.

### **2. Community led planning within the Place Plan area**

Summary of the community vision and priorities within the Place Plan area identified through community led plans and wider consultation work with the local community.

### **3. Development and associated infrastructure requirements**

Summary of the development plan for the area, as identified in Shropshire's Local Plan and the associated infrastructure needs and priorities required to ensure this growth is sustainable, including a plan of how these may be delivered.

#### **4. Wider investment priorities within the Place Plan area**

Summary of the identified investment needs and priorities required to support the wider sustainability of communities within the Place Plan area.

#### **5. Place Plan Profile**

Summary of key data for the Place Plan area, to provide background context to the locality and assist in informing future decision making on infrastructure and investment priorities. This is provided in Appendix B.

### **1.5 Place Plan links to planning and locality commissioning**

#### **Planning**

- 1.5.1 The Place Plans form part of Shropshire's Local Plan, outlining the infrastructure requirements which are needed to support the level and location of development, as outlined in Shropshire's adopted Core Strategy and the Site Allocations and Management of Development (SAMDev) Plan.
- 1.5.2 As Shropshire's Local Plan seeks to link new development to the provision of local community benefits, many of the policies within the Core Strategy and SAMDev Plan refer to the need to consider the local aspirations set out within the Place Plans. As such, the Place Plans are an important material consideration for planning applications.
- 1.5.3 In addition, the Place Plans provide the framework for the targeted use of developer contributions, including design, S106 and CIL. In particular, the infrastructure priorities identified within the Place Plans informs the content of the CIL Regulation 123 List, which sets out those infrastructure needs which will be delivered through the use of CIL.

*Please Note: The CIL Regulation 123 List is updated annually, and infrastructure not included within this list, can still benefit from CIL funds in the future.*

#### **Locality Commissioning**

- 1.5.4 Shropshire Council is committed to locality commissioning whereby there is a strong focus on working with local communities to find out what is important to them and ensuring local services are targeted appropriately. The Place Plans are central to Shropshire's locality commissioning approach, as they provide the local evidence base of investment needs and priorities.

### **1.6 Supporting Shropshire's economic growth and the strategic priorities of the Marches LEP**

- 1.6.1 The Marches Local Enterprise Partnership includes a number of priorities to drive strategic economic growth in Shropshire. The Place Plans help to support delivery of the LEP's economic growth priorities which are:

**Supporting Business** - We will create an exceptional business support environment for aspiring growth businesses through access to finance and incentives to innovate. We will promote the Marches as a business investment location

**Physical Infrastructure** - We will provide a compelling business investment offer with a progressive planning framework and infrastructure fit for tomorrow's business needs. This priority will include supporting the environment.

**Skills Investment** - We will support employers to develop themselves and their workforce and to provide employment opportunities for young people.

**Low Carbon Economy** - We will drive the transition to a high value, low carbon economy, maximising the opportunity in new technologies, reducing environmental costs to business and recognising our environment as an economic asset.

**Social Inclusion** - We will support socially excluded and marginalised groups by removing barriers to their participation in activities that will improve their economic well-being.

- 1.6.2 The needs at a local level for fostering enterprise, business start-up, business competitiveness and expansion, investor development, inward investment, key account management and high growth business sector development is supported through a package of free business support, a wide range of financial incentives and the provision of economic infrastructure such as business parks, industrial estates and small and medium sized work-shops and incubator office space. Information is available from Shropshire Council's Business and Enterprise Team.

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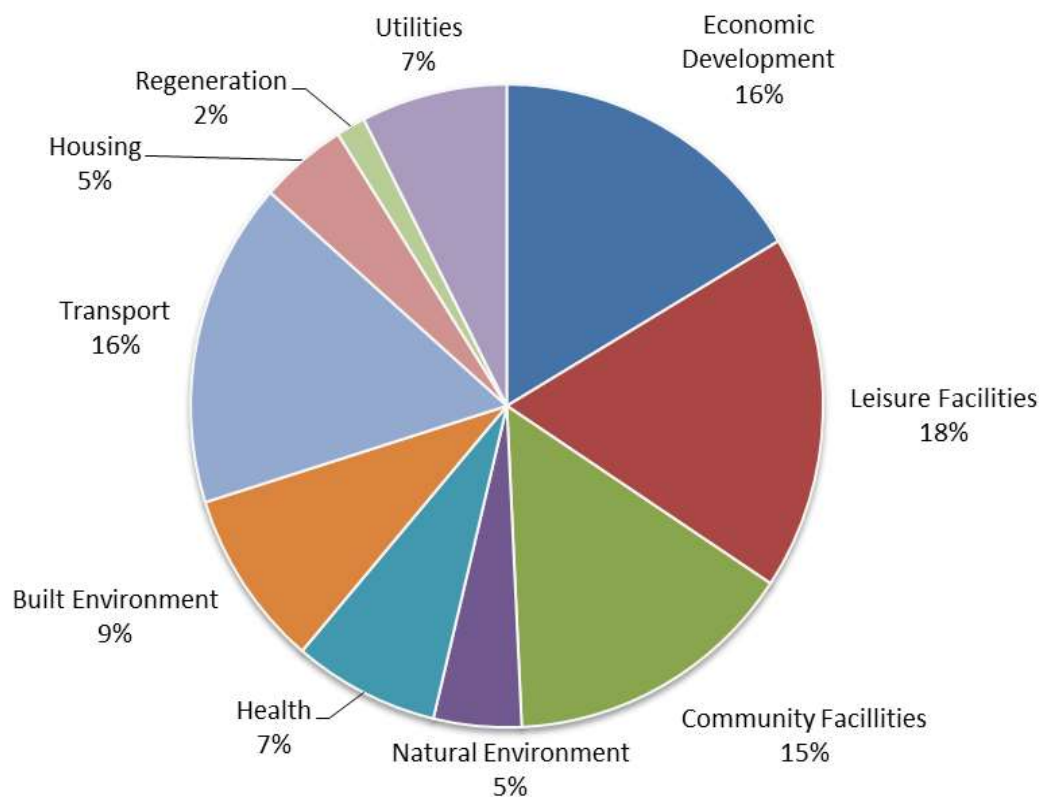
## 2. COMMUNITY LED PLANNING IN WHITCHURCH AREA

### 2.1 *Whitchurch Place Plan Area*

- 2.1.1 A number of community led plans have been developed for local communities within the Whitchurch Place Plan area. These provide a key source of information when considering infrastructure and investment needs within an area and as such are an important basis for the Place Plans.
- 2.1.2 Appendix A provides detailed information on the community's needs and priorities identified through the various community led plans; Local Joint Committees; and other community consultations that have occurred within the Place Plan area.
- 2.1.3 However, to provide a broad understanding of the areas of interest, the below overview summarises those community priorities and key areas of interest set out in detail in Appendix A. This summary has been split between:
- Whitchurch Town; and
  - Surrounding Area (including Hubs, Clusters and rural parishes).

### 2.2 *Summary of community priorities within Whitchurch Town*

Summary of community priorities - by type, identified through community consultation in Whitchurch (as identified in Appendix A).



2.2.1 The above summary can be broken down into the following key headlines:

### **Transport**

#### LJC

- ❖ Road safety, speeding and HGVs
- ❖ Rural transport and parking
- ❖ Highways

#### Whitchurch

(Whitchurch Town & Parish Plan 2011)

To ensure that all transport services meet the needs of all Whitchurch residents:

- Develop a Local Transport Strategy for Whitchurch
- Encourage the provider of the town bus service to include more areas of Whitchurch
- Lobby for better bus connections between Whitchurch and other towns
- Work with local train companies to improve the frequency and regularity of both north and southbound stopping at Whitchurch
- Improve access for all to both station platforms
- Maintain free car parking
- Make better provision for more car parking spaces, especially for all-day use and for residents living in the town centre
- Feasibility of completing a circular by-pass
- Speed reduction measures in the town centre
- Create new cycle routes
- Improve quality of road and pavement surfaces

(Place Plan)

- Bus infrastructure
- Improve signage – way markers, mile posts and street signs

### **Heritage**

#### Whitchurch

(Whitchurch Town & Parish Plan 2011)

To ensure that the practical needs of all town centre users are met

- Provide historical and building information for visitors and residents

To ensure that the Heritage Centre develops as a high quality and fully functional town museum

- Town Museum in Heritage Centre
- Local artefacts are accessible

To protect, maintain and celebrate the unique built environment of Whitchurch

- Improve the historic town in line with best practice
- Survey condition of historic buildings
- Identify those that need maintenance and identify funding
- Civic Society

(Place Plan)

- Production of a list of locally important buildings
- Old Rectory – identified as a building at risk
- Heritage Centre



## **Communication**

### Whitchurch, Whitchurch Rural, Prees Parish & Ightfield & Calverhall

(Place Plan)

- Faster broadband

### Whitchurch

(Whitchurch Town & Parish Plan 2011)

To improve the coordination of, and access to, community information and events

- Create and maintain a new high quality website for Whitchurch, Shropshire with links to all other relevant web-sites
- Expertise and good practice in events organisation are being shared
- Community information about services, contact details and events is well coordinated and up to date
- A range of special events takes place throughout the year

## **Education**

### LJC

- ❖ Academy status for Sir John Talbot's School
- ❖ Increase places for Whitchurch Infant & Junior Schools

### Whitchurch

(Whitchurch Town & Parish Plan 2011)

To ensure that there is the best possible educational provision for children, young people and the adults in the town

- Learning 'campus' for Whitchurch
- Better adult education opportunities, including vocational, academic and leisure courses
- Support Beechtree Community Centre with regard to community education
- Support Brownlow Community Centre to improve the building to enable it to be offered as a venue for community learning

(Place Plan)

- Review of secondary and primary school places to meet local needs

## **Community Crime and Safety**

### LJC

- ❖ Road safety, speeding and HGVs
- ❖ Police and community safety

### Whitchurch

(Whitchurch Town & Parish Plan 2011)

To ensure Whitchurch remains a safe place to live in

- Maintain a high positive profile for the local Police
- Increase the numbers of Police 'on the beat'
- Concern regarding the levels of ASB
- Improve access to community safety information
- CCTV

(Place Plan)

- Retention of building for Safer Neighbourhood Team/Police

## **Culture, Sports and Leisure**

### LJC

- ❖ Allotments

### Whitchurch

(Whitchurch Town & Parish Plan 2011)

To improve the infrastructure for sports, culture and the arts to offer opportunities for all

- Improvements to the swimming pool, including a new children's pool
- Develop the Civic Centre for multi-purpose use
- Purpose built Arts Centre, including space for a theatre/cinema
- Improve facilities for team sports
- Increased provision of sport & exercise, and arts & crafts activities
- Provide a skateboarding/BMX site

(Place Plan)

- Skate Park

## **Economy and tourism**

### Whitchurch

(Whitchurch Town & Parish Plan 2011)

To ensure that the fabric and appearance of the town centre is of the highest possible quality

- The town centre is regularly cleaned
- Reduce fouling
- Identify owners of run-down properties
- Britain in Bloom contender

To sustain and further develop a thriving market town centre

- Encourage new business start-ups within the town centre
- Promote 'Shop Local'
- Provide access to marketing, employment and training
- Review town rents and business rates
- Develop markets within the town, including the Friday and Farmers' Markets
- Work with partners to attract full-time employment to the town
- Develop a business park
- Encourage links between SJT & local businesses
- Imaginative schemes to use empty properties
- Develop a thriving night-time and weekend economy

(Place Plan)

- Provision of small business units within sites identified for industrial development (SAMDev)
- Adoption programme for Council-owned employment sites
- Shop front redecoration scheme

## Environment

### LJC

#### ❖ Allotments

### Whitchurch

(Whitchurch Town & Parish Plan 2011)

- Develop the canal towards the town
- Improvements to the canal and Country Park

To ensure the maintenance, improvement and protection of the natural environment and access to it

- Develop a cohesive and sustainable Environmental Strategy
- Ensure views of groups & individuals associated with protection of the environment are taken into consideration in planning decisions
- Support for Meres & Mosses Landscape Partnership
- Develop more green corridors to support wildlife
- Increase the planting of trees and hedges to support wildlife
- Engage with farming community on environmental friendly approaches
- Improve appearance of approaches to the town, including roundabouts and industrial estates.
- Anti-litter campaign

To increase the usage and appreciation of the natural environment by residents and visitors

- Improve footpaths and maintain Rights of Way
- Produce a footpath map of the Parish
- Develop and distribute literature to encourage exploration of wildlife areas along the canal
- Walkers are Welcome festival

To ensure the demand for allotment space is met

- Shropshire Council to meet its statutory obligation to provide allotment space to meet demand

To ensure that all parks in Whitchurch are developed and maintained to a high standard

- Provide lighting, litter and dog waste bins in all the parks and replace and provide more if necessary
- Better signage in parks

To expand the use of the parks to include all of the community

- Increase multi-generational activities
- Organise events in the Parks
- Additional facilities for all users, particularly younger people
- Community involvement in building facilities

(Place Plan)

- Flood risk assessment
- Urban landscape character assessment
- Parish habitat mapping – MMLP
- Community Tree Scheme
- Street Scene improvements
- Protect water vole habitats
- Enhancements of MMLP

## **Children and young people**

### **LJC**

- ❖ Youth opportunities and facilities

### **Whitchurch**

(Whitchurch Town & Parish Plan 2011)

To provide an improved range of formal and informal opportunities and facilities to better meet the needs of young people

- MUGA
- Youth Café/meeting place
- Art, music and drama activities
- Green spaces for informal games
- Computer and media activities
- Climbing wall and other outdoor activities
- Skate boarding, roller blading and BMX facilities
- Summers activities and play schemes
- Increase young people involvement in clubs and societies

Recent consultations regarding Shropshire Council delivered Youth Services demonstrated local need for the retention of Centre NE

(Place Plan)

- Improve Sports Hall and Swimming Pool
- Skate park
- Green spaces
- Recreational facilities for young people
- Youth Café
- BMX bike track

## **Health and well-being**

### **Whitchurch**

(Whitchurch Town & Parish Plan 2011)

To ensure that all the needs of older people are met within Whitchurch

- Continued and improved provision of medical facilities and services for the elderly
- Respite care

To ensure that medical and care services for the whole community are retained and developed through Whitchurch community hospital and GP practices

- Retain and develop Whitchurch Community Hospital
- Telemedicine
- More clinics to be held at the Community Hospital
- Local delivery of care and treatment, inc palliative and end of life care at home

## **Development**

SAMDev document – public consultations held in 2013

### Whitchurch

(Place Plan)

- Affordable housing provision
- Housing for vulnerable people
- Aids and adaptations for social housing tenants
- Empty homes back into use
- Extra care housing
- Maintain access to mortgage rescue scheme

(Whitchurch Town & Parish Plan 2011)

To ensure that future development of the town meets the housing, employment and social needs of the community while ensuring that local and global environmental issues are respected

- Deliver a local vision for growth and development of the town to meet housing need, expand employment opportunities and protect the environment.
- Affordable starter homes
- Sheltered and extra care housing
- As number of homes increases ensure provision is made for the additional demands on services and infrastructure
- Ensure that planning takes into consideration the retention of open green space and wildlife habitats in Whitchurch

## **Infrastructure**

### Whitchurch

(Whitchurch Town & Parish Plan 2011)

To ensure that the fabric and appearance of the Town Centre is of the highest possibility quality

- Upgrade and maintain the appearance of the town centre
- Shropshire Council to use planning powers to enforce improvements to run-down properties

To ensure that the practical needs of all town centre users are met

- Improve access to buildings and pavements for wheelchairs and pushchairs
- Ensure that public toilets remain available, provide additional public toilets if feasible
- Review town centre signage
- Proper provision made on services and infrastructure for the number of houses being built
- Supply of electricity to industrial units
- Faster broadband
- Increase provision of serviced land
- Improve street lighting

(Place Plan)

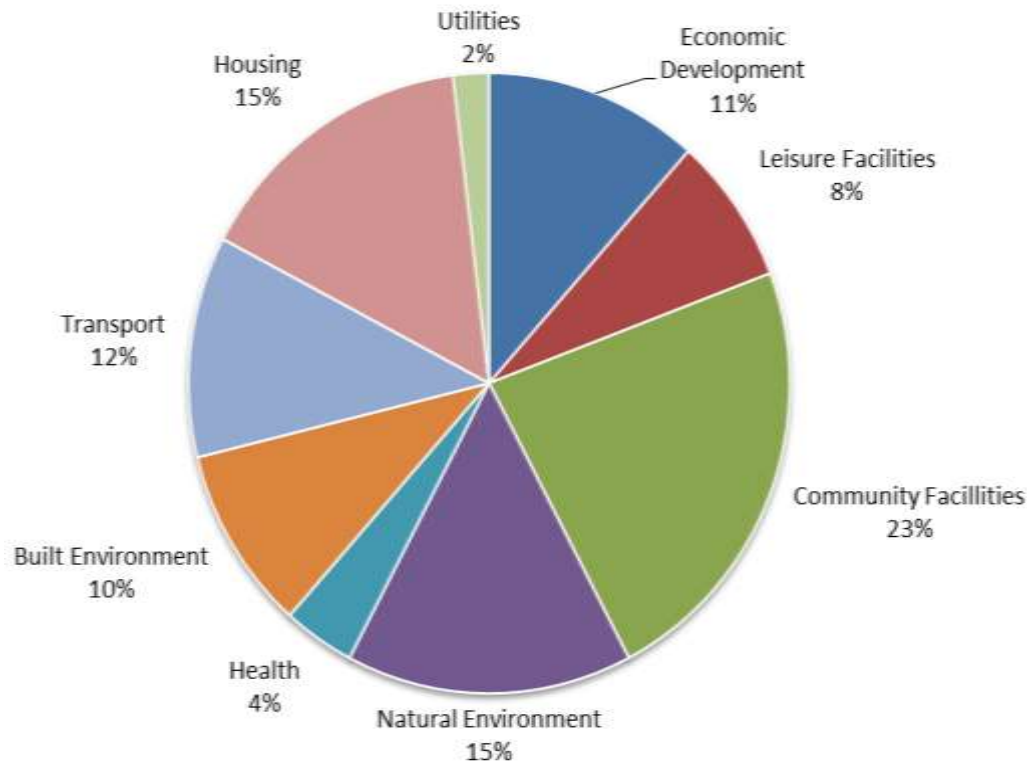
- Upgrade to sewerage network
- Upgrade to waste water treatment works
- Electricity upgrade to reinforce supply to Whitchurch

(Whitchurch Community Toolkit 2011)

- ❖ Ensure train station is compliant with EU regulations on access for all
- ❖ Photovoltaic cells on public buildings
- ❖ Issues with electricity in the town

## 2.3 Summary of community priorities within the surrounding area

Summary of community priorities - by type, identified through community consultation in Whitchurch's surrounding area (as identified in Appendix A).



2.3.1 The above summary can be broken down into the following key headlines:

### **Community Crime and Safety**

#### Prees Parish

(Parish Council minutes)

- Improve Police presence in the Parish
- Monitor ASB related to alcohol in the centre of the village

(Prees Parish Action Plan 2006)

- Raise the profile of the Police & CSOs within the Parish
- Establish effective Neighbourhood Watch/Farm Watch schemes

#### Whitchurch Rural

(Tilstock & Ash Parish Plan 2013)

- Neighbourhood Watch
- Smartwater – erect related signs
- Farmwatch
- Involve Police in the community
- Ensure that Tilstock & Ash remain a safe place to live
- Ensure the local farming community remain vigilant to crime
- Ensure local community awareness of anti-dog fouling campaign
- Ensure local community awareness of recycling services to prevent fly-tipping

#### Ightfield & Calverhall

Does not have a Parish Plan and no details in the Place Plan

## **Transport**

### **Prees Parish**

#### **(Place Plan)**

- Improved public transport
- Speed reduction measures
- Cycle way linking Prees Parish to Whitchurch
- Cycle way linking Higher Heath to Prees
- Provide footpaths from Prees to Prees Railway station
- Improve conditions of pavements

#### **(Prees Parish Action Plan 2006)**

- Reduce the impact of HGVs passing through the Parish
- Improve parking facilities in Prees
- Speed reduction measures in Prees Green, Faults & Higher Heath
- Improve the conditions of pavements and street lights – Prees village and Higher Heath
- Improve public transport throughout the Parish
- Improve access and conditions of public footpaths, gates, stiles and signs throughout the Parish

#### **(Parish Council minutes)**

- Improve road safety and parking around Prees Primary School
- Improve condition of road surfaces

### **Whitchurch Rural Parish**

#### **(Tilstock & Ash Parish Plan 2013)**

- Extend and improve cycle ways
- Extend public transport provision
- Speed reduction measures

#### **(Parish Council minutes)**

- Improve visibility at junctions

#### **(Place Plan)**

- Provision of road crossing outside Tilstock Primary School

### **Ightfield & Calverhall Parish**

#### **(Place Plan)**

- Provision of safe walkway between Ightfield and Calverhall
- Speed monitoring
- Provision of road management, ie, speed activated signage & weight restrictions
- Improved local transport
- Upgrade of passing places

## **Education**

### **Prees Parish**

#### **(Place Plan)**

- Review of primary schools places in light of new housing development

### **Whitchurch Rural**

#### **(Tilstock & Ash Parish Plan 2013)**

- Provide dedicated childcare facilities/preschool education

### **Ightfield & Calverhall**

#### **(no Community Led Plan exists)**

## Children and Young People

### Prees

(Place Plan)

- More public open space
- Increase play facilities for both young and older children
- Provision of before and after-school childcare

(Prees Parish Action Plan 2006)

- Encourage involvement of young people in projects
- Improve access of young people to local facilities
- Provide facilities for young people in Higher Hath as a condition of development planning approval
- Provide IT facilities (ie, Internet Café)
- Hold annual/bi-annual meeting with young people
- Better access to public transport throughout the Parish
- A meeting place for young people
- A dedicated project for young people, ie, sports or drama group
- Activities for children, ie, Scouts & Guides, Youth Club
- Toddler play area and adventure playground at Higher Heath/Manor Place
- Improve awareness and access to a variety of children's activity groups
- Help for families – particularly families with young children

### Whitchurch Rural

(Place Plan)

- Young peoples' activity club

(Tilstock & Ash Parish Plan 2013)

- Provide dedicated childcare facilities/preschool education
- Provide dedicated young people's activities

### Ightfield & Calverhall

(no Community Led Plan exists)

## Communication

### Whitchurch Rural

(Tilstock & Ash Parish Plan 2013)

- Improve coordination and access to community information and representatives
- Investigate the possibility of improving communication methods
- Coordinate all local facilities to improve use

### Ightfield & Calverhall

(Place Plan)

- Installation of signage for visitors

## Health and Wellbeing

### Prees

(Place Plan)

- Replacement Doctors surgery and pharmacy

(Parish Councils Minutes)

- Continued support for retained fire station in Prees

### Whitchurch Rural

(Tilstock & Ash Parish Plan 2013)

- Prescription delivery service

### Ightfield & Calverhall

(no Community Led Plan and no information found in the Place Plan)



## **Culture Sport and Leisure**

### Prees Parish

(Place Plan)

- More play areas across the Parish

(Parish Council minutes)

- Support provision of Clubs for all ages
- Maintain youth shelter on Prees Recreation field
- Provide youth shelters elsewhere in the Parish
- Review future of Pavillion in Higher Heath play area and maintenance requirements

(Prees Parish Acton Plan 2006)

- Improved access to local sporting facilities

### Whitchurch Rural

(Tilstock and Ash Parish Plan 2013)

- Extend programme of activities in Parish
- Improvement of recreational facilities

### Ightfield & Calverhall

(no Community Led Plan completed & nothing relating to this in the Place Plan)

- 

## **Economy and Tourism**

### Prees

(Prees Parish Acton Plan 2006)

- Encourage farming and related industries
- Encourage small retail outlets (eg Post Office and general stores)
- Home-based and other small businesses
- Countryside sports
- Leisures facilities (eg restaurants, B&B and campsites)
- Office units for small businesses
- Distribution (eg warehousing and transport)
- Large retail outlets (eg supermarkets, DIY chains)

### Whitchurch Rural

(Tilstock & Ash Parish Plan 2013)

- Support the creation of jobs in the area

(Parish Council Mins)

- Develop Prees Heath for visitors

(Place Plan)

- Support small rural businesses
- Community shop in Tilstock

### Ightfield & Calverhall

(no Community Led Plan and no information in Place Plan)

## Environment

### Prees Parish

#### (Place Plan)

- Allotments
- Review locations for graveyard extension
- Review of footpaths, inc improvements of signage and styles
- Identification of flood risk

#### (Parish Council minutes)

- Continued maintenance of war memorial

#### (Prees Parish Action Plan 2006)

- Take forward environmental projects
- Reduce litter, dog fouling and graffiti

### Whitchurch Rural

#### (Tilstock & Ash Parish Plan)

- Control of fly-tipping
- Maintenance improvements of footpaths
- Conservation of natural environment
- Maintenance and creation of wildlife habitats
- Reduction of litter
- Improved local recycling

#### (Place Plan)

- Community orchards
- Community tree scheme
- Allotments

### Ightfield & Calverhall

#### (Place Plan)

- Establish a circular walk around village
- Community tree scheme
- Allotments

## Development

### Prees

#### (Place Plan)

- Provision of affordable housing
- Developer contributions for affordable housing
- Housing for vulnerable people

#### (Prees Parish Action Plan 2006)

- Sheltered housing (eg warden assisted)
- Association Housing (subsidised)
- Starter homes (affordable to first-time buyers)
- Family homes
- Large homes

### Whitchurch Rural

#### (Tilstock & Ash Parish Plan 2013)

- Affordable starter homes

### Ightfield & Calverhall

#### (Place Plan)

- Affordable housing

## **Heritage**

### Prees

(Place Plan)

- Restoration of listed and derelict buildings around the parish
- On-going improved image of buildings

(Prees Parish Action Plan 2006)

- Expedite the restoration of listed buildings within the Square, Prees
- Form volunteer group to identify historic, unoccupied and “at risk” buildings that require restoration

### Whitchurch Rural

(Parish Council minutes)

- Support WW1 educational facility on Prees Heath

## **Infrastructure**

### Prees

(Place Plan)

- Urgent upgrade of sewerage system throughout Prees
- Surface water drainage in Moreton Street, Prees
- Provision of parking at Prees School
- Improve street lighting
- Improve community facilities
- Improve childrens’ play facilities

(Prees Parish Action Plan 2006)

- Restore and repair empty buildings
- Improve the appearance of buildings generally
- Sandford by-pass (A41)

### Whitchurch Rural

(Tilstock & Ash Parish Plan 2013)

- Ensure that as number of homes increases utility provision is adequate
- Sewerage (especially Tilstock)
- Maintain bus shelters

### Ightfield & Calverhall

(Place Plan)

- Upgrade to sewage treatment works
- Upgrade to electricity network
- Assessment of drainage issues

### **3. DEVELOPMENT AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS**

#### **3.1 Vision to guide development in the Whitchurch Place Plan Area**

- 3.1.1 Shropshire's Core Strategy (March 2011) sets out the strategic vision and objectives to guide development and growth for the period 2006-2026. This includes a vision for *Whitchurch (Policy CS3)* and the surrounding *Hubs, Clusters (Policy CS4)* and *Rural Hinterland (Policy CS5)*, as follows:

**WHITCHURCH TOWN (Core Strategy Policy CS3)**

*Whitchurch will have substantial development, recognising its accessible location on the highway and rail network, maintaining and enhancing its vibrant town centre and balancing business and housing development.*

**COMMUNITY HUBS (Core Strategy Policy CS4)**

*Community Hubs will have development that helps to rebalance rural communities by providing facilities, economic development or housing for local needs that is of a scale appropriate to the settlement.*

**COMMUNITY CLUSTERS (Core Strategy Policy CS4)**

*Community Clusters are comprised of two or more smaller settlements, where the combined settlements offer a range of services contributing to a sustainable community. Community Clusters will have development that helps to rebalance rural communities by providing facilities, economic development or housing for local needs that is of a scale appropriate to the settlement.*

**RURAL HINTERLAND (CORE STRATEGY POLICY CS5)**

*New development will be strictly controlled in accordance with national planning policies protecting the countryside and Green Belt. Subject to further controls over development that apply to the Green Belt, development proposals on appropriate sites which maintain and enhance countryside vitality and character will be permitted where they improve the sustainability of rural communities by bringing local economic and community benefits.*

- 3.1.2 Within the Whitchurch Place Plan area, there was only one a Cluster which had completed a Community Led Plan:

**Community Clusters**

- Prees and Prees Higher Heath

- 3.1.1 All remaining settlements within the Place Plan area form part of the Rural Hinterland.
- 3.1.2 Detailed proposals to deliver the strategic vision within the Core Strategy are contained within the Site Allocations and Management of Development (SAMDev) document which together with the Core Strategy forms Shropshire's Local Plan for 2006-2026.

3.1.3 The SAMDev Plan sets out the following detailed development policies for the Whitchurch Place Plan area:

Settlement	Housing guideline	Employment guideline	Allocations
<b>Market Town</b>			
Whitchurch	1,200 dwellings	26 hectares	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land at Tilstock Road (500 dwellings).</li> <li>• Land at Mount Farm (100 dwellings).</li> <li>• Land at Alport Road (60 dwellings).</li> <li>• Land West of Oaklands Farm (60 dwellings).</li> <li>• Land North of Mill Park (13 dwellings).</li> <li>• Land at Oaklands Farm (8.5 hectares of employment land).</li> <li>• Land at Heath Road (11 hectares of employment land).</li> </ul>
<b>Community Clusters</b>			
Prees and Prees Higher Heath	100 Dwellings	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land West of Shrewsbury Street (30 dwellings).</li> <li>• Land Moreton Street (40 dwellings).</li> </ul>

### 3.2 Associated Infrastructure Requirements

- 3.2.1 To ensure new development is sustainable, it is important that it is supported by the necessary infrastructure.
- 3.2.2 The below table details the infrastructure requirements which have been identified as needed to support the level and location of development for the Whitchurch Place Plan, as set out above. These infrastructure requirements have been identified through:
- Annual Place Plan ‘conversation’ with Town and Parish Councils and Shropshire Council elected Members.
  - Annual Place Plan ‘conversation’ with local infrastructure and service providers.
  - Discussions with stakeholders regarding specific development sites.
- 3.2.3 Whilst it is important that the Place Plan sets out all known infrastructure requirements, it is vital that these are prioritised in order to provide a focus for delivery.
- 3.2.4 Core Strategy Policy CS9 (Infrastructure Contributions) provides the framework for prioritising infrastructure requirements, as follows:

- 1. Critical Infrastructure:** the essentials without which development cannot take place, such as utilities, water management and safe access.
- 2. Priority Infrastructure:** that which has been identified by the community as a particular priority at that point in time.
- 3. Key Infrastructure:** all other infrastructure not included in the previous two categories.

- 3.2.5 The below table also sets out the recommended mechanism for delivery, taking into account the roles and responsibilities of delivery partners and the regulations governing the use of different funding streams, including developer contributions.
- 3.2.6 However, whilst the Place Plan provide a framework for delivery, enabling the coordination of resources around an agreed set of priorities, it is important to recognise that not all the infrastructure items listed below may be deliverable at a particular point in time.
- 3.2.7 For infrastructure items to be delivered through the use of CIL funding (in full or part), it would usually be identified within the annual CIL Regulation 123 List.

# Whitchurch Town – Development related infrastructure requirements

Infrastructure Requirement	Level of Priority	Delivery Partner(s)	Timing of Delivery	Potential Cost / Funds Secured	Potential Funding		Notes
					Wider Sources	Developer Contributions	
WHITCHURCH TOWN AND PARISH							
HOUSING AND COHESIVE, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES							
Affordable housing provision	PRIORITY	Shropshire Council, Homes and Communities Agency, Registered Providers	Ongoing	N/A	N/A	Section 106	Within Shropshire, it is the Council's aspiration that all developments contribute to a sustainable mix of dwelling types, sizes and tenures. This will be either through on-site provision or payment of a sum to be used for provision of affordable housing.
ECONOMIC INVESTMENT AND OPPORTUNITY							
Facilitation of ICT/broadband technologies	KEY	Shropshire Council, Private sector delivery partner, Town and Parish Councils Commercial Broadband Infrastructure Providers		Initially £16.4 million. £8.2million secured from BDUK. £8.2 million secured from Shropshire Council.		CIL (Local)	The Connecting Shropshire aims to provide a minimum of 2 Mbps to all of Shropshire and as much superfast broadband as possible. The project will deliver to those communities that are not going to get either basic broadband or superfast broadband under the private sector rollout. This is a community priority for many towns, villages and rural areas of Shropshire.
Employment land provision	KEY	Shropshire Council, Developers					Investment required for provision of infrastructure for employment sites at Land at Oaklands Farm for B2 and B8 use and Land at Heath Road (ELR) Gateway Business Pak - B1 use. 11 acres
SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE							
Review of primary school places to ensure sufficient provision	PRIORITY	Shropshire Council	2020-2026	£4.5 million	LA Capital Programme, Developers (provision of land)	CIL (Local)	An updated assessment of the effect on primary school places locally has been made based on proposed levels of development. This indicates that consideration needs to be given to the provision of a significant number

Infrastructure Requirement	Level of Priority	Delivery Partner(s)	Timing of Delivery	Potential Cost / Funds Secured	Potential Funding		Notes
					Wider Sources	Developer Contributions	
							of additional primary school places in the town within the plan period, as a result of the lack of sufficient capacity to cater for the forecast increase in pupil numbers. A site for the enhancement of education provision is currently being negotiated with a developer of land to the south of the town. Requirement to 2026 based on current anticipated year-on-year housing yield, but dependent upon developers' actual timescales: 5no. classbases plus infrastructure for a new school (should this be the agreed way forward) in 2020/2021.
Review of secondary school places to ensure sufficient provision	PRIORITY	Shropshire Council	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	An updated assessment of the effect on secondary school places locally has been made based on proposed levels of development with delivery spread evenly over the remaining Plan period. This currently indicates that capacity will exist in the town overall to meet the demand.
Indoor leisure facilities/ Incorporation of sports hall and swimming pool	KEY	Shropshire Council, Whitchurch Town Council			Shropshire Council capital programme/ developer contributions	Neighbourhood Fund, CIL (Local)	Consider options for co-location and improvements to sports hall and swimming pool Whitchurch Town Council supports the continued provision of indoor leisure facilities within the town. They also support the upgrade or provision of a new swimming pool. Sports facilities are to be designed to a minimum playing standard of 'fit for purpose' depending on the terminology of the various national governing sporting bodies and Sport England Guidance.
On-site open space provision and maintenance to meet site design requirements and standards.	PRIORITY	Developers, Shropshire Council	Dependent on development	N/A		On-site design, Section 106	On-site design standards are identified within the Open Space Interim Planning Guidance (IPG) (Jan 2012) and Policy MD2 of the SAMDev Plan (not yet adopted).
Provision and	PRIORITY	Shropshire	Dependent on	N/A	Sport England,	Neighbourhood	Provision to meet assessed need.

Infrastructure Requirement	Level of Priority	Delivery Partner(s)	Timing of Delivery	Potential Cost / Funds Secured	Potential Funding		Notes
					Wider Sources	Developer Contributions	
<p>maintenance of facilities and equipment for sport, recreation and leisure. This includes but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outdoor sports facilities.</li> <li>• Recreational facilities for children.</li> <li>• Allotments.</li> </ul>		Council, Town and Parish Councils	development		Fields in Trust	Fund, CIL (Local)	<p>The Playing Pitch Strategy has identified that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whitchurch should have a minimum of 1 multi-pitch site providing for competition and training, with good quality on-site changing and toilet provision, appropriate for, and accessible to, all user types.</li> <li>• The Playing Pitch Strategy has identified the Whitchurch Rugby and Hockey club as a multi pitch site with community use. Maintenance of high quality and improvements to accessibility should be the priority.</li> <li>• There are other playing pitches in Whitchurch which are single pitches with community use. This includes Sir John Talbot Sports Centre; and Whitchurch Cricket Club. Investment should improve quality and accessibility and where possible, quantity.</li> <li>• The Playing Pitch Strategy has identified a lack of mini soccer pitches in Whitchurch.</li> </ul> <p>The Town Council has identified the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update equipment in the Queensway Recreation Park; Deermoss Park; Blackmore Grove play area; and Edgeley Gardens.</li> </ul> <p>Whitchurch Town and Parish Plan has identified a specific need for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Skate Park in Jubilee Park</li> <li>• Provision of social activities for young people such as a Youth Café/meeting place.</li> <li>• Provision of allotments – whilst there is a site at Queensway, there remains a waiting list for 130 more plots.</li> </ul>



Infrastructure Requirement	Level of Priority	Delivery Partner(s)	Timing of Delivery	Potential Cost / Funds Secured	Potential Funding		Notes
					Wider Sources	Developer Contributions	
Business Plan/Feasibility of provision of 3g AGP within hub site at Sir John Talbot Sports Centre	PRIORITY	Shropshire Council, Energize, Whitchurch Town Council, Marches Academy Trust, Local football clubs, FA			Sport England PPF	CIL (Local), Neighbourhood Fund	
New development to include additional cricket pitch & new football pitches at land at Tilstock Road.	PRIORITY	Shropshire Council, Energize, Whitchurch Town Council, Marches Academy Trust, England Hockey			Sport England PPF/IFF	Developer contributions, S106, CIL (Local), Neighbourhood Fund	
Provision of skate park/BMX/bike track facilities	PRIORITY	Shropshire Council, West Murcia Police, Youth Provision	Ongoing			Neighbourhood Fund, CIL (Local)	Land identified at White Meadow for use as a bike track. Project is progressing. Queensway Recreation Area identified locally as an area for improvement and a site for a bike track. Whitchurch Town Council supports the provision of skate park/BMX facilities at a suitable location within the town.
Provision of a youth café	PRIORITY	Shropshire Council, Job Centre Plus	Ongoing			Neighbourhood Fund, CIL (Local)	A gap in provision and limited social activities for young people aged 16-20 has been identified.
Enhancement and increased provision of MUGA's within the	KEY	Whitchurch Town Council,	Ongoing			Section 106, Neighbourhood	Whitchurch Town Council supports the enhancement and increased provision of MUGA's within the town.

Infrastructure Requirement	Level of Priority	Delivery Partner(s)	Timing of Delivery	Potential Cost / Funds Secured	Potential Funding		Notes
					Wider Sources	Developer Contributions	
town.		Shropshire Council				Fund, CIL (Local)	
Improvements to Whitchurch Rugby and Hockey club.	PRIORITY	Shropshire Council, Whitchurch Town Council, Whitchurch Rugby and Hockey club, Energize (Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin County Sports Partnership), Sport England		£40,000 for access and car parking, £50,000 for floodlight, £350,000 for changing facilities, Funding Secured £65,000	Sport England	Neighbourhood Fund, CIL (Local)	The Playing Pitch Strategy has identified the Whitchurch Rugby and Hockey club as a multi pitch site with community use. Maintenance of high quality and improvements to accessibility should be the priority. The Playing Pitch Strategy has identified the need to provide new/improved access and car parking; floodlights; and changing facilities.
Expansion and improvement of Whitchurch Cricket Club	PRIORITY	Shropshire Council, Whitchurch Town Council, Whitchurch Rugby and Hockey club, Energize (Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin County Sports Partnership), Sport England		£400,000		Neighbourhood Fund, CIL (Local)	The Playing Pitch Strategy has identified Whitchurch Cricket Club as a single pitch site. There is a need for another ground, new machinery, and renovation/construction of a new pavilion.
Provision of a joint community medical centre.	KEY	NHS England, Shropshire Council, Whitchurch Town Council			NHS England	Neighbourhood Fund, CIL (Local)	Whitchurch Town Council supports the provision of a joint community centre for all GP's to work within.
<b>ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE</b>							
Electricity upgrades to reinforce supply at Whitchurch	CRITICAL	Scottish Power Manweb	2021	£25 million	Scottish Power Investment Programme- EN1	Direct developer funding- if development lead ahead of EN1	In response to existing limited capacity in the existing 33kV circuits in the Whitchurch area to provide additional supplies, SP Manweb is proposing a major investment of around £25M to install a new 132kV circuit from Oswestry Grid Substation to Wem. This would involve a new circuit over about 15km and an extension

Infrastructure Requirement	Level of Priority	Delivery Partner(s)	Timing of Delivery	Potential Cost / Funds Secured	Potential Funding		Notes
					Wider Sources	Developer Contributions	
							of the existing substation at Wem to accommodate a new transformer. This would increase capacity on the 33kV circuits in and around the Whitchurch area.
Malpas to North Whitchurch 132kV electricity rebuild	CRITICAL	Scottish Power Manweb	2020		Scottish Power Investment Programme- EN1	Direct developer funding- if development lead ahead of EN1	Rebuilding of the existing tee-off circuit from the Wrexham-Crewe 132kV circuit at Bradley Green into North Whitchurch. The replacement of the existing circuit will also result in an increase in capacity for the Whitchurch area.
Upgrade Whitchurch wastewater treatment works	CRITICAL	Severn Trent Water	2020-2025		Severn Trent Water (AMP7)	S106	<p>Severn Trent Water- Whilst there is hydraulic capacity at present, there may be a need for investment to increase capacity in the 2020-2025 AMP period.</p> <p>Welsh Water- Improvements will be required which would need to be funded through an Asset Management Plan or potentially earlier through developer contributions. Hydraulic modelling will be required for some of the large development sites. No investment likely to be needed in AMP 6 (2015-2020) to serve forecast growth; sufficient lead in time to plan AMP7 investment (2020-2025).</p> <p>No deterioration targets are achievable within the limits of Best Available Technology. Depending on the pace of growth a new consent may not be required until early in AMP7 (2020-2025). Welsh Water have confirmed that they are already meeting the proposed 'no deterioration' limits and could meet tighter limits as and when required. Welsh Water estimate that c750 dwellings could be accommodated at the works before investment is needed to improve treatment capacity. There are options to deliver improved treatment capacity including an additional primary tank and possibly a new</p>

Infrastructure Requirement	Level of Priority	Delivery Partner(s)	Timing of Delivery	Potential Cost / Funds Secured	Potential Funding		Notes
					Wider Sources	Developer Contributions	
							humus settlement tank, or tertiary treatment to remove additional solids. For phosphate that is a secondary dosing system on site which is not currently used and more stringent phosphate targets could therefore be achieved if required.
Sewerage network capacity	CRITICAL	Developers, Welsh Water	Dependent on development		Developers	N/A	Due to large scale of development, it is unlikely that sufficient capacity exists within the sewerage network. Hydraulic modelling of the wastewater network is required to assess whether there is capacity within the network to meet development needs.
Assessment of local flood risk	PRIORITY	Shropshire Council, Environment Agency, Severn Trent Water	Ongoing	£50,000	Flood Defence Grant in Aid	CIL (Local)	The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy has identified that a number of properties in Whitchurch may be at risk of flooding.
Production of Operational Flood Response Plan	PRIORITY	Shropshire Council Environment Agency Severn Trent Water	Ongoing	£2,000		Section 106	In accordance with the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy the operational flood response plans, produced from condition surveys of the land drainage systems, will flag who is responsible for the maintenance of the systems which serve communities. The aim is to promote community awareness of these drainage systems such that communities can be more resilient.
<b>TRANSPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY</b>							
Junction capacity, sustainability and safety improvements, where necessary, to facilitate specific development sites	CRITICAL	Shropshire Council				Section 106	To be determined as part of particular development proposals, as part of the planning application process. Could be informed by a Transport Assessment.
Transport assessment of Whitchurch Town	PRIORITY	Shropshire Council, Whitchurch				Neighbourhood Fund	Transport Assessment for Town could be undertaken to help understand the capital works that are required. As no revenue

Infrastructure Requirement	Level of Priority	Delivery Partner(s)	Timing of Delivery	Potential Cost / Funds Secured	Potential Funding		Notes
					Wider Sources	Developer Contributions	
		Town Council					budget exists for this work, the Town Council may wish to consider use of the Neighbourhood Fund which will ensure the remaining capital pots of CIL are targeted appropriately.
Local highway improvements, traffic management, parking provision and speed and safety management	PRIORITY	Shropshire Council, Developers	2011-2026	£500,000 Funding Secured: £0	Shropshire Council capital programme, LTP programme	CIL (Local)	<p>Projects identified so far include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broughall Crossroads road improvements and increased signage</li> <li>• Further projects to be identified</li> </ul> <p>The Town Council has identified the need to improve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Links to Hatton way cycle way from any new developments on south and east side</li> <li>• Improved cycle links to canal and through Jubilee Park</li> <li>• Facilities available for cycle parking.</li> <li>• Bus services to the end of Wayland Road.</li> </ul>
Improvements to railway station connectivity	KEY	Shropshire Council, Whitchurch Town Council				Neighbourhood Fund	Improve integration and connectivity of the Railway Station to the rest of the town centre and beyond, including increased wayfinding signs.

## Community Clusters – Development related infrastructure requirements

Infrastructure Requirement	Level of Priority	Delivery Partner(s)	Timing of Delivery	Potential Cost / Funds Secured	Potential Funding		Notes
					Wider Sources	Developer Contributions	
PREES AND PREES HIGHER HEATH COMMUNITY CLUSTER AND ASSOCIATED PARISHES							
HOUSING AND COHESIVE, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES							
Affordable housing provision	PRIORITY	Shropshire Council, Homes and Communities Agency, Registered Providers	Ongoing	N/A	N/A	Section 106	Within Shropshire, it is the Council's aspiration that all developments contribute to a sustainable mix of dwelling types, sizes and tenures. This will be either through on-site provision or payment of a sum to be used for provision of affordable housing.
ECONOMIC INVESTMENT AND OPPORTUNITY							
Facilitation of ICT/broadband technologies	KEY	Shropshire Council, Private sector delivery partner, Town and Parish Councils Commercial Broadband Infrastructure Providers		Initially £16.4 million. £8.2million secured from BDUK. £8.2 million secured from Shropshire Council.		CIL (Local)	The Connecting Shropshire aims to provide a minimum of 2 Mbps to all of Shropshire and as much superfast broadband as possible. The project will deliver to those communities that are not going to get either basic broadband or superfast broadband under the private sector rollout. This is a community priority for many towns, villages and rural areas of Shropshire.
SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE							
On-site open space provision and maintenance to meet site design requirements and standards.	PRIORITY	Developers, Shropshire Council	Dependent on development	N/A		On-site design, Section 106	On-site design standards are identified within the Open Space Interim Planning Guidance (IPG) (Jan 2012) and the Natural Environment Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) (to be completed).
Provision and maintenance of facilities and equipment for sport, recreation and leisure. This includes but is not limited to:	PRIORITY	Shropshire Council, Town and Parish Councils	Dependent on development	N/A	Sport England, Fields in Trust	Neighbourhood Fund, CIL (Local)	Provision to meet assessed need. Prees Parish Council have identified a need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Expand recreation provision at Prees and Higher Heath.</li><li>Provide a toddler play area at Manor</li></ul>

Infrastructure Requirement	Level of Priority	Delivery Partner(s)	Timing of Delivery	Potential Cost / Funds Secured	Potential Funding		Notes
					Wider Sources	Developer Contributions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outdoor sports facilities.</li> <li>Recreational facilities for children.</li> <li>Allotments.</li> </ul>							Place. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extend the adventure playground at Higher Heath.</li> <li>Provide allotment space within the village</li> <li>Identified community priority for provision of additional recreation/play areas in Prees (land needs to be identified and purchased) and improvement of recreation facilities in Higher Heath.</li> </ul>
Provision of further burial space	KEY	Prees Parish Council					The Parish Council has been notified of the need to find further burial space within the parish
Provision of community facilities	KEY	Prees Parish Council, Shropshire Council				Neighbourhood Fund, CIL (Local)	The Parish Council has identified the need to provide further community leisure facilities within the Parish.
Review of primary school places to ensure sufficient provision	PRIORITY	Shropshire Council	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	An updated assessment of the effect on primary school places locally has been made based on proposed levels of development with delivery spread evenly over the remaining Plan period. This currently indicates that capacity will exist in the village to meet the demand
Review of secondary school places to ensure sufficient provision.	PRIORITY	Shropshire Council	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	An updated assessment of the effect on secondary school places locally has been made based on proposed levels of development with delivery spread evenly over the remaining Plan period. This currently indicates that capacity will exist in the area to meet the demand.
<b>ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE</b>							
Upgrade sewer network	PRIORITY	Severn Trent Water, Welsh Water, Developers					The Parish Council has identified the need to upgrade the sewerage system throughout Prees, particularly Moreton Street and the pumping stations in Mill Street and near Whitebrook Meadow. Further issues exist in Higher Heath and Darliston Village near the pumping station.

Infrastructure Requirement	Level of Priority	Delivery Partner(s)	Timing of Delivery	Potential Cost / Funds Secured	Potential Funding		Notes
					Wider Sources	Developer Contributions	
TRANSPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY							
Junction capacity, sustainability and safety improvements, where necessary, to facilitate specific development sites	CRITICAL	Shropshire Council				Section 106	To be determined as part of particular development proposals, as part of the planning application process.
Local highway improvements, including speed and safety, public realm enhancements and sustainable travel	PRIORITY	Shropshire Council				CIL (Local)	To include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Speed restrictions through Manor House Lane;</li><li>• B5065 through Lower Heath;</li><li>• minor roads through Mickley, Faults and Darliston;</li><li>• A49 through Prees Green; and</li><li>• Prees village centre.</li></ul> The Parish Council has identified a need for a cycle way on the A49 and A41 to link Prees to Higher Heath and Whitchurch.
Improve access to Prees Railway Station	KEY	Shropshire Council, Network rail, Adjacent Parish Councils				Neighbourhood Fund, CIL (Local)	Provide footpath to Prees railway station and parking/ drop off facilities.

Infrastructure Requirement	Level of Priority	Delivery Partner(s)	Timing of Delivery	Potential Cost / Funds Secured	Potential Funding		Notes
					Wider Sources	Developer Contributions	
WHITCHURCH RURAL AND IGHFIELD & CALVERHALL COMMUNITY CLUSTER AND ASSOCIATED PARISHES							
HOUSING AND COHESIVE, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES							
Affordable housing provision	PRIORITY	Shropshire Council, Homes and Communities	Ongoing	N/A	N/A	Section 106	Within Shropshire, it is the Council's aspiration that all developments contribute to a sustainable mix of dwelling types, sizes and tenures. This will be either through on-site provision or payment of a sum to be used for



Infrastructure Requirement	Level of Priority	Delivery Partner(s)	Timing of Delivery	Potential Cost / Funds Secured	Potential Funding		Notes
					Wider Sources	Developer Contributions	
		Agency, Registered Providers					provision of affordable housing. Ightfield and Whitchurch Rural Parish Councils have identified a need for affordable housing to meet the needs of the local community.
<b>ECONOMIC INVESTMENT AND OPPORTUNITY</b>							
Facilitation of ICT/broadband technologies	KEY	Shropshire Council, Private sector delivery partner, Town and Parish Councils Commercial Broadband Infrastructure Providers		Initially £16.4 million. £8.2million secured from BDUK. £8.2 million secured from Shropshire Council.		CIL (Local)	The Connecting Shropshire aims to provide a minimum of 2 Mbps to all of Shropshire and as much superfast broadband as possible. The project will deliver to those communities that are not going to get either basic broadband or superfast broadband under the private sector rollout. This is a community priority for many towns, villages and rural areas of Shropshire.
Provision of a community shop in Tilstock (Community Enterprise).	KEY	Parish Council				Neighbourhood Fund, CIL (Local)	This is a community priority.
<b>SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE</b>							
Review of primary school places to ensure sufficient provision	PRIORITY	Shropshire Council	Unknown at this time	Unknown at this time	LA Capital Programme	CIL (Local)	An assessment of the effect on school places locally has been made based on proposed levels of development with delivery spread evenly over the remaining Plan period. This currently indicates that consideration may need to be given to the provision of extra primary school places during this time span. Whitchurch Rural Parish Council support use of Tilstock School by children in surrounding villages.

Infrastructure Requirement	Level of Priority	Delivery Partner(s)	Timing of Delivery	Potential Cost / Funds Secured	Potential Funding		Notes
					Wider Sources	Developer Contributions	
Review of secondary school places to ensure sufficient provision.	PRIORITY	Shropshire Council	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	An updated assessment of the effect on secondary school places locally has been made based on proposed levels of development with delivery spread evenly over the remaining Plan period. This currently indicates that capacity will exist in the area to meet the demand.
On-site open space provision and maintenance to meet site design requirements and standards.	PRIORITY	Developers, Shropshire Council	Dependent on development	N/A		On-site design, Section 106	On-site design standards are identified within the Open Space Interim Planning Guidance (IPG) (Jan 2012) and the Natural Environment Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) (to be completed).
Provision and maintenance of facilities and equipment for sport, recreation and leisure. This includes but is not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outdoor sports facilities.</li> <li>• Recreational facilities for children.</li> <li>• Allotments.</li> </ul>	PRIORITY	Shropshire Council, Town and Parish Councils	Dependent on development	N/A	Sport England, Fields in Trust	Neighbourhood Fund, CIL (Local)	Provision to meet assessed need. Ightfield and Whitchurch Parish Councils have identified the need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide new and improved community recreation, leisure and sports facilities as a community priority.</li> <li>• Provide allotments.</li> <li>• Expand and upgrade sports facilities.</li> </ul>
<b>ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE</b>							
Assessment of local flood risk	PRIORITY	Shropshire Council, Environment Agency, Severn Trent Water	Ongoing	£5,000	Flood Defence Grant in Aid	CIL (Local)	The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy has identified that a number of properties in Ightfield may be at risk of flooding. Ightfield Parish Council has identified the need to assess the water network, drainage and floor risk of the Calverhall, Bletchley and Ightfield Heath Roads.

Infrastructure Requirement	Level of Priority	Delivery Partner(s)	Timing of Delivery	Potential Cost / Funds Secured	Potential Funding		Notes
					Wider Sources	Developer Contributions	
Production of Operational Flood Response Plan	PRIORITY	Shropshire Council, Environment Agency, Severn Trent Water	Ongoing	£3,000		Section 106	In accordance with the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy the operational flood response plans, produced from condition surveys of the land drainage systems, will flag who is responsible for the maintenance of the systems which serve communities. The aim is to promote community awareness of these drainage systems such that communities can be more resilient.
Upgrade to sewage treatment works	CRITICAL	United Utilities, Environment Agency			United Utilities		Ightfield and Whitchurch Parish Councils have identified the need to upgrade sewerage network, particularly where required to accommodate new development
Community Orchards	KEY	Shropshire Council, Developers				Neighbourhood Fund	Whitchurch Rural Parish Council identified a wish to develop community orchards (fruit trees) in the area.
Assessment of drainage issues	PRIORITY					Neighbourhood Fund	Ightfield Parish Council highlighted a need for an assessment of drainage in connection with the flooding of the Calverhall Road.
Upgrade to electricity network	CRITICAL	Scottish Power			Scottish Power		Ightfield Parish Council has identified the need for upgrading the electricity network.
<b>TRANSPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY</b>							
Upgrade Passing Places	PRIORITY	Shropshire Council				Neighbourhood Fund	Ightfield Parish Council identified a need to upgrade passing places in order to enable safe usage for all vehicles, during poor weather and flooding.
Junction capacity, sustainability and safety improvements, where necessary, to facilitate specific development sites	CRITICAL	Shropshire Council				Section 106	To be determined as part of particular development proposals, as part of the planning application process.
Local highway improvements, including speed and safety, public realm enhancements and sustainable travel	PRIORITY	Shropshire Council, Parish Councils				CIL (Local)	To include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speed Monitoring in villages.</li> <li>• Speed reduction measures including speed activated signs.</li> <li>• Weight restrictions through Ash and Tilstock.</li> </ul>

Infrastructure Requirement	Level of Priority	Delivery Partner(s)	Timing of Delivery	Potential Cost / Funds Secured	Potential Funding		Notes
					Wider Sources	Developer Contributions	
							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision of a crossing outside Tilstock school.</li> <li>Provision of new pavement on south side of Tilstock School to take parked cars off the highway,</li> <li>Provision of raised pedestrian crossing outside Tilstock School</li> <li>Upgrade passing places with hardstanding to enable safe usage during poor weather.</li> <li>Maintenance of pavements</li> </ul> Ightfield & Whitchurch Rural Parish Council has identified a need for improvements to the local transport network.
Ightfield circular walk with interpretation boards	KEY	Parish Council				Neighbourhood Fund	Identified community priority. Circular walk with interpretation boards and waymarkers.
Provision of signage and interpretation boards	KEY	Parish Council				Neighbourhood Fund	Ightfield and Whitchurch Rural Parish Council's both identified a need to additional signage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Along the main roads to identify local attractions e.g. pub;</li> <li>To illustrate the Jubilee Circular Walk; and</li> <li>To illustrate the circular walk between Ightfield and Calverhall (at Ightfield playground).</li> </ul>
Safe walkway between Ightfield and Calverhall	PRIORITY	Shropshire Council, Parish Councils				CIL (Local)	Identified community priority. The Parish Council wishes to promote Ightfield and Calverhall as visitor destinations, embracing the diversity of the different areas and endeavouring to join the villages by virtue of a circular walk and/or safe walkway between them.

## 4. WIDER INVESTMENT PRIORITIES IN WHITCHURCH PLACE PLAN AREA

- 4.1.1 In addition to the infrastructure considered vital for the achievement of the vision for Whitchurch and consequently the Shropshire Development Strategy, there is also a significant range of wider investment priorities that have been identified for Whitchurch, which would support the wider sustainability of the communities within the Place Plan area.
- 4.1.2 The table below sets out these investment priorities which would support the wider sustainability of the communities within the Place Plan area.

### Whitchurch Town – Wider investment priorities

Investment Requirement	Level of Priority	Delivery Partner(s)	Timing of Delivery	Potential Cost / Funds Secured	Potential Funding		Notes
					Wider Sources	Developer Contributions	
WHITCHURCH TOWN AND PARISH							
HOUSING AND COHESIVE, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES							
Housing for vulnerable people	KEY	Shropshire Council, Registered Providers, Specialist Care Providers, Voluntary Sector, local communities, schools and colleges, West Murcia Police, Whitchurch Town Council	Ongoing	Scheme Dependent	Home and Communities Agency, Shropshire Council capital programme		Includes provision to support sustainable independent living for vulnerable people including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>sustainable living at home</li><li>access to work</li><li>education and training and community inclusion</li></ul> Integrated preventative service provision with a Pathway approach to access and retain accommodation. Target groups include: older people, young people, people with learning disabilities, mental health needs, people at risk of homelessness, domestic violence, gypsies and travellers, offenders, substance misusers.
Improving and adapting existing housing – includes	KEY	Shropshire Council,	Ongoing	Scheme Dependent*	Private sector		Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>energy efficiency to reduce carbon</li></ul>

Investment Requirement	Level of Priority	Delivery Partner(s)	Timing of Delivery	Potential Cost / Funds Secured	Potential Funding		Notes
					Wider Sources	Developer Contributions	
regeneration		Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing, Registered Providers, Home owners, Keep Shropshire Warm, Developers, Shropshire Home Improvement Agency,			funding		<p>emissions and tackle fuel poverty;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• upgrading social housing to meet the Decent Homes standard;</li> <li>• adaptations to meet changing needs, including disabled facilities grants.</li> </ul> <p>Shropshire Council works with the Shropshire branch of the National Landlord's Association to encourage improvements to privately rented housing focusing on issues such as fuel efficiency, tenancy agreements, local housing allowance, invisible ink security marking, condensation problems and legislation. As at march 2015 the 'Decent Homes' standard has been met on all ST&amp;RH managed Council housing stock.</p> <p>The Disabled Facilities Grant for aids and adaptations is available for any house to a maximum of £30,000 for each application based on means testing following an assessment process.</p>
Aids and adaptations for social housing tenants	KEY	Shropshire Council Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing	Ongoing		Shropshire Council		Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing manage the Council's housing stock and the procedures for aids and adaptations of Council properties. Procedures are in place for applications by tenants for minor and major adaptation requirements.
Bringing empty homes back into use – includes affordable housing provision	KEY	Shropshire Council, Registered Providers, Property Owners, Whitchurch Town	2015-2017	Scheme Dependent	Empty Homes: New Homes Bonus	Section 106	<p>During the period of 2010-2013 the figures for empty homes returned to use through Shropshire Council involvement across the County were: 2010/11 – 65; Year 2 2011/12 – 94; 2012/13 – 74.</p> <p>£250,000 funding in 2015/16. A new Empty Homes Strategy covering the period 2014-17</p>

Investment Requirement	Level of Priority	Delivery Partner(s)	Timing of Delivery	Potential Cost / Funds Secured	Potential Funding		Notes
					Wider Sources	Developer Contributions	
		Council					has been adopted covering all of Shropshire. Empty homes action zones have been designated in Market Drayton and Oswestry.
Extra Care Housing	KEY	Shropshire Council, Registered Providers, Care Providers, Voluntary Sector, Local Communities	2015-2018	Scheme Dependent	Developer led		Locations to be determined. To include Market Town and Rural Area provision. Funding proposals being developed. Extra Care Housing provision targeted towards older people, especially frail older people, with planned provision for respite facilities and housing for people with disabilities.
<b>ECONOMIC INVESTMENT AND OPPORTUNITY</b>							
White Lion Meadow Car Park redevelopment including Tesco Store	KEY	Shropshire Council, Developers	Aspirational	N/A	Joint venture with private sector		Tesco has expressed interest in redeveloping supermarket. Leisure Services team have recognised the potential for a new swimming pool linked to any supermarket expansion. Historic Environment Team have recognised the need to identify opportunities for heritage led regeneration around the existing Tesco and swimming pool site.
Provision of small business units.	KEY	Shropshire Council, Developers	Ongoing			On site design.	Encourage land identified for industrial development for the provision of small business units, where appropriate.
Adoption programme for council owned employment sites	KEY	Shropshire Council	2010-2014	£1million Funding secured: £0	Shropshire Council capital programme		Whitchurch Business Park identified for adoption.
Shop Front Redecoration Scheme	KEY	Shropshire Council, Whitchurch Town Council	Ongoing	£50,000	Developer contributions	£10,000 Mary Portas funding secured for town, £2,000 allocated for Shop Front Grant Scheme - COMPLETED	Secure further funding for basic shop front repairs and redecoration to improve the appearance of the streetscene.
Market events at the	KEY	Whitchurch	Ongoing			Neighbourhood	Redecoration of the hall completed and Food

Investment Requirement	Level of Priority	Delivery Partner(s)	Timing of Delivery	Potential Cost / Funds Secured	Potential Funding		Notes
					Wider Sources	Developer Contributions	
Market Hall		Town Council				Fund	and Drink Fair in May 2014, which will continue and may be twice a year.
Provision of more market stalls	KEY	Whitchurch Town Council				Neighbourhood Fund	Identified community priority.
District heating network	KEY	Shropshire Council, Developers	ongoing	£25,000 across the whole project	Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC)		DECC Heat Network Delivery Unit (HNDU) funding secured for feasibility work into potential for district heating solutions on residential schemes. This includes the approved Tilstock Road site. Work ongoing.
<b>SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE</b>							
Whitchurch police station	KEY	West Mercia Police, West Midlands Ambulance Service, Developers, Shropshire Council	2015-2020	£300,000	West Mercia Police funds		West Mercia Police are in the process of moving to new premises. However, if planned new development is delivered in Whitchurch, it will be necessary to expand the capacity of the joint station. This will be determined through the Site Allocations and Management of Development DPD. Whitchurch Town Council supports the retention of a sufficient police presence in the town, proportional to its population.
Review of Children's Centre services	PRIORITY	Shropshire Council	Dependent upon developers' timescales	Dependent upon extent and location of development	Private sector financed	Neighbourhood Fund, CIL (Local)	<p>A children's centre is defined by law as a place or group of places:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Managed by, or on behalf of, an English local authority, with a view to securing that early childhood services are made available in an integrated manner through which early childhood services are made available – either by provision of services on site, or by the provision of advice and assistance in gaining access to services elsewhere</li> <li>• At which (some) activities for young children are provided on site.</li> </ul> <p>Children's Centre services are delivered throughout Shropshire. Residential development creates the following impact on</p>



Investment Requirement	Level of Priority	Delivery Partner(s)	Timing of Delivery	Potential Cost / Funds Secured	Potential Funding		Notes
					Wider Sources	Developer Contributions	
							<p>children's centres:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A higher volume of parents and carers accessing provision in what tend to be relatively small spaces, resulting in the potential of further investment required to increase space.</li> <li>• Where the children's centre services are delivered in part of an existing school building, increasing demand for school places can result in conversion of this space back into a Primary School.</li> </ul> <p>Facilities must therefore be reviewed and sufficient provision made available to support expected development.</p> <p>Whitchurch has a Children's Centre (Surestart Centre) at the Whitchurch Infant School – currently there are issues with capacity and Whitchurch Infant School are working with Whitchurch Junior School to secure a new site to erect new premises</p>
Whitchurch Civic Centre	KEY	Whitchurch Town Council			Shropshire Council Capital Programme	Neighbourhood Fund	Whitchurch Town Council has identified the need to enhance facilities at the Civic Centre.
Whitchurch Heritage Centre	KEY	Whitchurch Town Council, Shropshire Council	Ongoing		Shropshire Council Capital programme		Whitchurch Town Council supports the maintenance of the Heritage Centre building to provide an accredited Museum facility within the Town.
Retention of Bradbury Day Centre	KEY	Shropshire Council, Whitchurch	Ongoing				Whitchurch Town Council supports the retention of the Bradbury Day Centre as an elderly day care centre. Bradbury Day Centre is now run by not for profit organisation –

Investment Requirement	Level of Priority	Delivery Partner(s)	Timing of Delivery	Potential Cost / Funds Secured	Potential Funding		Notes
					Wider Sources	Developer Contributions	
		Town Council					Community Priority identified in the Town Plan
Retention of Brownlow Community Centre	KEY	Whitchurch Town Council			Grant donations, Community fundraising	Neighbourhood Fund	Community priority identified in the Town Plan.
Beechtree Community Centre	KEY	Shropshire Council, Public Health, Whitchurch Town Council			Grants donations, community fundraising	Neighbourhood Fund	Community priority – this is the local Healthy Living Centre for north of the county
Maintain Centre North East as a Youth Facility	PRIORITY	Shropshire Council	On-going				Community priority. Youth Commissioning process – local Members are working with young people and community to secure building for on-going use by young people, possibly through joint use with commercial enterprise
CCTV in Whitchurch	KEY	Shropshire Council, Whitchurch Town Council, Network Rail	Aspirational		Shropshire Council capital programme	Neighbourhood Fund	New cameras are being fitted in the Town Centre and Parks. Whitchurch Town Council supports the further provision of CCTV at:Whitchurch Station •
Additional pitch space, increased car parking & long term upgrade of changing at Whitchurch Rugby & Hockey Club	KEY	Shropshire Council, Energize, Whitchurch Town Council, Whitchurch Rugby & Hockey Club, RFU		c £140K: £40,000 for access and car parking, £50,000 for floodlight, £350,000 for changing facilities,	SE Inspired Facility Fund (£65k). SE Playing Pitch Fund	CIL (Local), Neighbourhood Fund	
Purchase of 2nd ground, new machinery and	KEY	Shropshire Council,		c. £400k	Sport England PPF	Developer contributions,	

Investment Requirement	Level of Priority	Delivery Partner(s)	Timing of Delivery	Potential Cost / Funds Secured	Potential Funding		Notes
					Wider Sources	Developer Contributions	
renovation of current pavilion or, preferably, rebuild at Whitchurch Cricket Club		Energize, Whitchurch Town Council, Whitchurch Cricket Club, ECB				S106, CIL (Local), Neighbourhood Fund	
Renewal of parts/upgrade of sand based AGP in next 2 years at Sir John Talbot Sports Centre	KEY	Shropshire Council, Energize, Whitchurch Town Council, Marches Academy Trust, England Hockey			Sport England PPF/IFF	CIL (Local), Neighbourhood Fund	
<b>ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE</b>							
Enhancement and awareness of Meres and Mosses landscape	KEY	Shropshire Wildlife Trust, Landscape Partnership	2010-2015	£1.42million, Funding secured: £1.42 million	Lottery Funding		Conserving and restoring habitat, increasing participation, local awareness, access and learning, training and skills. This is a targeted programme and not a grant bidding scheme. Focus is not on the market town but on areas outside national sites.
Parish habitat mapping	KEY	Shropshire Council	2011-2013	C£8,400 per parish.	LEADER, Regional Development Fund	Neighbourhood Fund	Facilitate parish habitat mapping and biodiversity infrastructure and enhancement projects through the 'Your Natural Heritage' project. This project is tied to the Cheshire Northern Marches LEADER Project Area.
Urban Landscape Character Assessment	KEY	Shropshire Council	Aspirational	C£4,600	Developer contributions	Neighbourhood Fund	Undertake an Urban Landscape Character Assessment of Whitchurch.
Survey of important views in and out of Whitchurch.	KEY	Shropshire Council, Shropshire Way and Outdoor	Ongoing				Fundamental/important town views in and out to be surveyed. Introduce accessible public areas such as walkways, promenades, seating facilities, viewing platforms.

Investment Requirement	Level of Priority	Delivery Partner(s)	Timing of Delivery	Potential Cost / Funds Secured	Potential Funding		Notes
					Wider Sources	Developer Contributions	
		Recreation, Town TeamP3 Group and Whitchurch Walkers					
Production of list of Locally Important Buildings.	KEY	Shropshire Council, Whitchurch Town Council, English Heritage, Whitchurch Historical and Archaeological Society	Ongoing				Local Listing Initiatives supported by English Heritage. Undertake public consultation exercise to create list of 'Buildings of Local Architectural or Historic Interest' (non-statutory list) List would identify local heritage assets that are valued by local community but not statutorily listed that would be afforded some degree of protection in the planning system. Involves survey work, preparation of report to Cabinet, publication of list, promotion of list. The Town Council have identified a need to update the Conservation Area, along with a management plan.
The Old Rectory	KEY	Owner, Shropshire Council			Shropshire Council	Neighbourhood Fund	Identified as a building at risk within the Whitchurch Conservation Area. Urgent works were enforced to make roof watertight and arrest structural movement. The service wing remains in very poor condition. Good potential for sustainable re-use. The property has recently changed hands and Section 106 contributions have been secured. The new owner is exploring options for residential reuse. This building is on JCEB list and regular updates are received.
Streetscene improvements	KEY	Shropshire Council, Whitchurch Town Council	Ongoing		Shropshire Council	Neighbourhood Fund	Survey to establish where modern railings should be replaced with more traditional design, plus condition survey of existing historic railings and programme of repair where necessary. Identify opportunities to improve visual amenity of town centre through landscaping. Survey all streets for existing signage,

Investment Requirement	Level of Priority	Delivery Partner(s)	Timing of Delivery	Potential Cost / Funds Secured	Potential Funding		Notes
					Wider Sources	Developer Contributions	
							replace, repair or introduce where necessary. Whitchurch Town Council supports the provision of lighting and litter/dog waste bins within the town.
Shropshire Community Archaeological Fund	KEY					Neighbourhood Fund	Opportunity for the development of a fund in support of targeted community-led archaeology projects.
Community Tree Scheme	KEY	Shropshire Council, Developers	Ongoing	C£2640 per ha planted with tree whips. C£260 per new street tree. £5000 to be shared throughout the council and provision of 10,000 trees	Shropshire Council Highways, Maelar Forest Nurseries, Whitchurch		Run an extensive Community Tree Scheme to provide opportunities to enhance the natural environment of the area. Costs include planting, stakes, tree guards and watering to establish trees over first 3 years.
Identify key water vole habitat corridors enhancement opportunities	KEY	Whitchurch Community Water Vole Group, Shropshire Council, Mammal Group	Ongoing	£15,000, Funding secured: £0	Shropshire Ecological Data Network	Neighbourhood Fund	Whitchurch is notable for its population of water voles. It is therefore important that the network of watercourses and associated green space is maintained and enhanced
Conserve and restore habitat	KEY	Landowners, Shropshire Council, Whitchurch Town Council	Ongoing			Neighbourhood Fund	Community priority identified in the Town Plan.
<b>TRANSPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY</b>							
Installation of historic finger posts, waymarkers, milestones, mileposts and	KEY	Shropshire Council/ Town Team	Ongoing			Neighbourhood Fund	Survey of existing conditions and research into lost features. Repair or reinstate where necessary. Community priority identified in

Investment Requirement	Level of Priority	Delivery Partner(s)	Timing of Delivery	Potential Cost / Funds Secured	Potential Funding		Notes
					Wider Sources	Developer Contributions	
street signs.							the Town Plan.
Improvement of car parks	KEY	Shropshire Council	ongoing			Neighbourhood Fund	Identify opportunities to improve the visual amenity of car parks in the historic town centre. Increase provision of wayfinding signs and landscaping.
Improvements of rail services from Shrewsbury to Manchester, including additional stops at Wem and Whitchurch	KEY	Arriva Trains Wales, CASPA	Aspirational				Ensure hourly stops continue to be made at Wem and Whitchurch by the express service to enable a commuting service on the Shrewsbury and Manchester line.
Sandstone trail	KEY	Shropshire Council, Cheshire West and Chester Council, Relevant Town Councils					Maintenance of the sandstone trail is a community priority identified in the Town Plan.
Maintain access to the Country Park	KEY	Shropshire Council, Whitchurch Walkers, P3 Group and Shropshire Wildlife Trust (Whitchurch branch) Whitchurch Town Council				Neighbourhood Fund	Community priority identified in the Town Plan.
Various rights of way improvements to create new circular walks - removal of stiles and replacement of gates and enhanced directional signage to ensure easier	KEY	Shropshire Council, Whitchurch Walkers, P3 Group and Whitchurch Wildlife Trust	2011-2026	£56,170	LTP funding	Neighbourhood Fund	Replacing 151 existing stiles with gates for easier access improvements to the Rights of Way network and providing 78 new directional signposts Creation and enhancement of routes to create new circular walks and promotion of 'health walks' and support to Walking for Health

Investment Requirement	Level of Priority	Delivery Partner(s)	Timing of Delivery	Potential Cost / Funds Secured	Potential Funding		Notes
					Wider Sources	Developer Contributions	
access for all and to support 'Active Market Town' and sustainable transport initiatives							schemes. It has identified that the general condition of footpaths around Whitchurch is an issue.
Llangollen Canal Extension	KEY	British Waterways, Whitchurch Canal Trust, Shropshire Council	Aspirational	£56,170			British Waterways would wish the line of the canal extension to be protected along the line of the lapsed planning permission. British Waterways sit on the board of the Whitchurch Canal Trust and have supported their work on condition that they take responsibility for the land and water in any canal extension. The delivery issues are funding related and need to be costed. The Whitchurch Waterways Trust has advised that they are currently investigating an Option to build a canal basin. British Waterways supports the use of the canal and the proposed canal extension as a walking and cycling route. They have yet to carry out an assessment of the destinations and linkages for the route but are aware that the towpaths would benefit from upgrading along with wash wall works which would support such a towpath upgrade. There is a clear recreational need at the end of the canal with cycling into the town centre.
Improved signage to canal path and town centre	PRIORITY	Shropshire Council, Whitchurch Town Council British Waterways & Whitchurch Canal Trust				Neighbourhood Fund	Signs currently on order with Highways Authority for entrance to the Town, Parks signs have recently been cleaned. Community priority identified in the Town Plan.
General canal improvements	KEY	Whitchurch Waterways Trust, Shropshire				Historic project, still being worked on but near completion	The Whitchurch Waterway Trust, Shropshire Council Shropshire Way and Outdoor Recreation and Whitchurch Walkers are working in partnership to deliver a MTRP

Investment Requirement	Level of Priority	Delivery Partner(s)	Timing of Delivery	Potential Cost / Funds Secured	Potential Funding		Notes
					Wider Sources	Developer Contributions	
		Way					project to enhance the footpath, signage, etc from the canal into the town centre. The funding for the project include monies from Whitchurch LJC, Shropshire Way and MTRP.
Enhancing approaches to the town	KEY	Whitchurch Town Council, Shropshire Council	Ongoing			Neighbourhood Fund	Whitchurch Town Council have identified the need to ensure the approaches to the town are well maintained and where required improved and protected. In particular they support the need to explore options for enhancing appearance of traffic islands and installing additional signage.
Whitchurch Community Car Scheme	KEY	Shropshire Council, Whitchurch Town Council					Key for vulnerable & elderly people accessing hospital appointments and Dr's surgeries
North Salop Wheelers – community bus scheme	KEY	Shropshire Council, Whitchurch Town Council					Key for rurally isolated people to be able to access public transport to retain connection to key settlement

## Community Clusters – Wider investment priorities

Investment Requirement	Level of Priority	Delivery Partner(s)	Timing of Delivery	Potential Cost / Funds Secured	Potential Funding		Notes
					Wider Sources	Developer Contributions	
PREES AND PREES HIGHER HEATH COMMUNITY CLUSTER AND ASSOCIATED PARISHES							
HOUSING AND COHESIVE, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES							
Housing provision	PRIORITY	Shropshire Council, Prees Parish Council			Developer led		The Parish Council has identified the need for an appropriate small scale mix of housing to suit the needs of the local community, details to be established in a Housing Needs Survey.
Housing for vulnerable people	KEY	Shropshire Council, Registered	Ongoing	Scheme Dependent	Home and Communities Agency,		Includes provision to support sustainable independent living for vulnerable people including:



Investment Requirement	Level of Priority	Delivery Partner(s)	Timing of Delivery	Potential Cost / Funds Secured	Potential Funding		Notes
					Wider Sources	Developer Contributions	
		Providers, Specialist Care Providers, Voluntary Sector, local communities, schools and colleges, West Murcia Police, Parish Council			Shropshire Council capital programme		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sustainable living at home</li> <li>access to work</li> <li>education and training and community inclusion</li> </ul> <p>Integrated preventative service provision with a Pathway approach to access and retain accommodation. Target groups include: older people, young people, people with learning disabilities, mental health needs, people at risk of homelessness, domestic violence, gypsies and travellers, offenders, substance misusers.</p> <p>The Parish Council has identified the need for some sheltered housing (with warden presence).</p>
<b>ECONOMIC INVESTMENT AND OPPORTUNITY</b>							
Promotion of new industry and employment	KEY	Prees Parish Council, Shropshire Council			Developer Contributions		<p>Prees Parish Council supports the maintenance of a retail sector which properly serves the needs of the community. They have also stated the need to support farm related, home-based small businesses and live/work projects.</p> <p>Industrial/commercial development should be contained within preferred identified sites.</p>
<b>SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE</b>							
Review of Children's Centre services	PRIORITY	Shropshire Council	Dependent upon developers' timescales	Dependent upon extent and location of development	Private sector financed	Neighbourhood Fund, CIL (Local)	<p>A children's centre is defined by law as a place or group of places:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Managed by, or on behalf of, an English local authority, with a view to securing that early childhood services are made available in an integrated manner through which early childhood services are made available – either by provision of services on site, or by the provision of advice and assistance in gaining access to services elsewhere</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At which (some) activities for young children</li> </ul>

Investment Requirement	Level of Priority	Delivery Partner(s)	Timing of Delivery	Potential Cost / Funds Secured	Potential Funding		Notes
					Wider Sources	Developer Contributions	
							<p>are provided on site.</p> <p>Children's Centre services are delivered throughout Shropshire. Residential development creates the following impact on children's centres:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A higher volume of parents and carers accessing provision in what tend to be relatively small spaces, resulting in the potential of further investment required to increase space.</li> <li>• Where the children's centre services are delivered in part of an existing school building, increasing demand for school places can result in conversion of this space back into a Primary School.</li> </ul> <p>Facilities must therefore be reviewed and sufficient provision made available to support expected development.</p> <p>Prees have a Children's Centre provision within the Prees Primary School – this will require on-going support.</p>
New equipment to upgrade and protect outdoor facility e.g. covers and screens at Prees Cricket Club	KEY	Shropshire Council, Energize, Parish Council, Whitchurch Cricket Club, ECB			Sport England PPF		The Play Pitch Strategy has identified a need for provision of new cricket covers and sight screens.
<b>ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE</b>							
Appearance of the Parish	KEY	Prees Parish Council, Shropshire Council,				Neighbourhood Fund	Employment of a lengthsmen to improve the appearance of the cluster.

Investment Requirement	Level of Priority	Delivery Partner(s)	Timing of Delivery	Potential Cost / Funds Secured	Potential Funding		Notes
					Wider Sources	Developer Contributions	
		Neighbouring Parish Council					
Restoration of listed buildings	PRIORITY	Prees Parish Council, Shropshire Council, English Heritage				Neighbourhood Fund	The Parish Council has identified the need to expedite the restoration of the listed/derelict buildings within the Parish specifically The Square, Prees along with moribund planning issues.
Community Tree Scheme	KEY	Shropshire Council, Developers	Ongoing	C£2640 per ha planted with tree whips. C£260 per new street tree. £5000 to be shared throughout the council and provision of 10,000 trees	Shropshire Council Highways, Maelar Forest Nurseries, Whitchurch		Run an extensive Community Tree Scheme to provide opportunities to enhance the natural environment of the area. Costs include planting, stakes, tree guards and watering to establish trees over first 3 years.
<b>TRANSPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY</b>							
Traffic Survey of Prees Parish	KEY	Prees Parish Council, Volunteer and Action Groups, Shropshire Council				Neighbourhood Fund	The Parish Council has identified the need for a traffic survey across the parish.
Review road safety around Prees Primary School	KEY	Prees Parish Council, Shropshire Council, Prees Primary				Neighbourhood Fund	Prees Parish Council has identified a need to review road safety arrangements around Prees Primary School. Further discussions may be needed between the Parish Council, Shropshire Council and the school. Staff parking provision elsewhere could be a

Investment Requirement	Level of Priority	Delivery Partner(s)	Timing of Delivery	Potential Cost / Funds Secured	Potential Funding		Notes
					Wider Sources	Developer Contributions	
		School					solution.
Address traffic on the A41	KEY	Shropshire Council, Prees Parish Council					The Parish Council has identified the need to improve the safety at the junction of the B5065 with the A41 at Sanford. They have also identified the need to raise the profile and ultimately secure funds for the Sanford By-Pass.
Improvements to the condition of pavements and quality of streetlights	KEY	Shropshire Council, Prees Parish Council					The Parish Council has identified the need for improvements to take place within <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prees Village</li> <li>• Manor Place</li> <li>• Higher Heath</li> </ul>
Public Transport Improvements	KEY	Public Transport Providers, Shropshire Council, Prees Parish Council					The Parish Council has identified the need to improve the public transport particularly in Higher Heath and Prees Village, including the potential re-routing of the circular bus into the rural areas on market days.
Improve footpaths	KEY	Shropshire Council, Prees Parish Council and Voluntary Action Group.					The Parish Council has identified the need to improve footpaths – including their signage and also stiles and gates. The Parish Council have proposed joining the Parish Paths Partnership (PPP), establish a volunteer group and seek an Access Survey. When was this comment included – has this been done?
Cycle/pedestrian pathway to link Prees with Higher Heath and linking Prees to Station		Prees Parish Council, Shropshire Council					

Investment Requirement	Level of	Delivery	Timing of	Potential	Potential Funding	Notes
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	Priority	Partner(s)	Delivery	Cost / Funds Secured	Wider Sources	Developer Contributions	
<b>WHITCHURCH RURAL AND IGHFIELD &amp; CALVERHALL COMMUNITY CLUSTER AND ASSOCIATED PARISHES</b>							
<b>HOUSING AND COHESIVE, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES</b>							
Provision of an appropriate range of housing to meet local needs	PRIORITY	Shropshire Council, Parish Council, Developers, Registered Providers				On-site design	Whitchurch Rural Parish Council has identified a need for small scale developments including a mixture of houses which would suit the needs of the local community, including the provision of affordable housing which would be open to all sections of the community including the young, the elderly, those with special needs etc.
<b>ECONOMIC INVESTMENT AND OPPORTUNITY</b>							
Support small rural business	KEY					Neighbourhood Fund	Whitchurch Rural Parish Council has identified a need for encouragement of small rural business.
<b>SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE</b>							
Tilstock Bradbury Village Hall	KEY	Whitchurch Rural Parish Council, Shropshire Council, Shropshire Rural Community Council				Neighbourhood Fund	
Tilstock Bowling and Tennis Club	KEY	Whitchurch Rural Parish Council, LTA, Shropshire Council Leisure Services				Neighbourhood Fund	
Ash Village Hall	KEY	Whitchurch Rural Parish Council. Shropshire Rural Community Council				Neighbourhood Fund	
Calverhall Village Hall	KEY	Ightfield &				Neighbourhood	

Investment Requirement	Level of Priority	Delivery Partner(s)	Timing of Delivery	Potential Cost / Funds Secured	Potential Funding		Notes
					Wider Sources	Developer Contributions	
		Calverhall Parish Council				Fund	
<b>ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE</b>							
Community Tree Scheme	KEY	Shropshire Council, Developers	Ongoing	c£2640 per ha planted with tree whips, c£260 per new street tree. Funding Secured: £5,000 to be shared throughout the council and provision of 10,000 trees	Shropshire Council Highways, Maelar Forest Nurseries, Whitchurch		Run an extensive Community Tree Scheme to provide opportunities to enhance the natural environment of the area. Costs include planting, stakes, tree guards and watering to establish trees over first 3 years.
The installation of solar panels or other renewable energy sources on village halls	KEY	Whitchurch Parish Council	Ongoing				Identified through the Whitchurch and Surrounding Area LJC
<b>TRANSPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY</b>							
Retention of bus service through Tilstock	KEY	Whitchurch Rural Parish Council, Shropshire Council					
Support for North Salop Wheelers community bus scheme	KEY	Whitchurch Rural Parish Council, Prees Parish Council, Ightfield & Calverhall Parish Council,					Runs an extensive 'call and collect' community bus scheme to rural isolated areas where 'service' buses do not go

Investment Requirement	Level of Priority	Delivery Partner(s)	Timing of Delivery	Potential Cost / Funds Secured	Potential Funding		Notes
					Wider Sources	Developer Contributions	
		Shropshire Council					
Support for Whitchurch Community Car scheme	KEY	Shropshire Council, Whitchurch Town Council and all Parish Councils, NHS Trust and Doctor surgeries					Runs a community car scheme, through Shropshire Council, to enable vulnerable and isolated adults reach hospital and doctor appointments

# **APPENDIX A: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION FOR WHITCHURCH PLACE PLAN AREA**

## ***Community Led Plans***

### *Whitchurch Town and Parish Plan 2011*

The following have been identified as community needs and priorities within the Whitchurch and Town Parish Plan:

- Ensuring development meets the housing, employment and social needs of the community
- To ensure new businesses are attracted to the town and existing businesses thrive
- Develop and regenerate town as a vibrant retail experience and a tourist destination
- Ensure best possible education for all
- High quality open spaces and leisure facilities
- Improve infrastructure for sports, culture and the arts
- Improve range of opportunities and facilities for young people
- To establish a high quality multi purpose community facility
- Ensure the fabric and appearance of the town centre is of the highest possible quality
- Sustain and further develop a thriving market town
- Develop Heritage Centre as a museum
- Ensure needs of older people are met
- Retain and develop health services
- Ensure Whitchurch remains a safe place to live
- Improve access to community information and events
- Develop Canal and Country Park as a town asset
- Maintain and protect natural environment
- Ensure demand for allotment spaces are met
- Ensure transport services meet the needs of all residents

### *Prees Parish Action Plan (2006)*

The following have been taken from the Prees Parish Action Plan as identified community needs and priorities:

- Transport and road safety – traffic congestion and HGV's
- Community safety
- Appearance of the Parish
- Sandford By-Pass- A41 through Sandford
- Facilities for young people
- Employment opportunities
- Housing
- Community Identity
- Help for families – particularly families with young children

The Parish council are considering doing refresh; further updates will be available in due course.

### *Ightfield Parish Council*

No parish plan exists



### *Whitchurch Rural*

It has been advised that Whitchurch Rural are interested in writing a Parish Plan, further updates will be provided in due course.

### *Tilstock and Ash Parish Plan (2013)*

- Ensure local community housing priorities, particularly affordable starter homes, are included in Shropshire Council housing planning
- Ensure that as the number of homes increases utility provision is adequate to support the new developments
- Support the creation of more jobs in the area
- Ensure that Tilstock and Ash remain a safe place to live
- Ensure information on Smartwater is distributed to the community
- Ensure signage representing Neighbourhood Watch and Smartwater is erected
- Ensure the local farming community remain vigilant to crime
- Ensure the local community knows its Police and Community Support Officers
- Ensure local community awareness of an anti-dog fouling campaign
- Ensure that the villages remain clean and tidy
- Ensure litter and dog waste bins are in prominent position for public use
- Ensure access to rural areas is maintained though signposted walking routes
- Ensure local community awareness of recycling services to prevent flytipping
- Work towards improving local recycling facilities
- Implement safer routes for cyclists by extending and improving cycleways through the Parish
- Ensure the public transport services meet the needs of the community
- Monitor vehicle speeds and implement traffic speed measures
- Work towards improving broadband provision in the Parish
- Improve coordination and access to community information and representatives
- Investigate the possibility of improving communication methods
- Coordinate all local facilities to improve use
- Coordinate a programme of all activities within the Parish
- Investigate the possibility of extending the programme of activities within the Parish
- Investigate the possibility of providing dedicated young people's activities/ club
- Investigate the possibility of providing a prescription delivery service
- Investigate the possibility of providing dedicated childcare facilities/preschool education

### ***Local Joint Committees***

Whitchurch Town, Prees and Ightfield are located within the Whitchurch and Prees Local Joint Committee Area. The following needs and priorities have been raised by the local community as part of Local Joint Committee meetings:

#### *Whitchurch and Prees Local Joint Committee*

- Road safety, speeding and HGVs
- Rural transport and parking
- Youth opportunities and facilities
- Police and community safety
- Highways
- Broadband, BT phones
- Allotments

## **Other Community Consultations**

### **Local Development Framework- Issues and Options Consultation (Jan- March 2009)**

#### *Prees Parish Council representations on the Core Strategy*

(Representation reference no CORESTRATEGY05862/00001/001)

- It is important that Shrewsbury is a strong and developing centre for the county
- Need to relate development to work opportunities

### **Local Development Framework Core Strategy – Policy Directions Consultation (August- October 2009)**

#### *Whitchurch Town Council representations on the Core Strategy*

(Representation reference no CORE STRATEGY002460/00001/006)

- Good mix of housing. It is important that the area should not be swamped with single flats and similar buildings
- Employment in the area is limited and opportunities are declining which is encouraging commuting
- Affordable sustainable housing to accommodate and encourage investment
- Existing available housing should be considered for accommodating gypsy and travelling communities to encourage greater integration into the local community
- Roads, service supplies, water and sewage services, doctors, hospitals, Police and Fire service, schools, waste management and public transport are all considered already oversubscribed.
- No provision of disabled access at the local train station

#### *Prees Parish Council representations on the Core Strategy*

(Representation reference no CORESTRATEGY002425/00001/016)

- Any housing should meet the needs of the community, particularly the age range with regard to housing mix
- Develop and encourage new business and facilitate the expansion of existing businesses on established sites
- Support farm diversification, green tourism, leisure, and home working
- There is a requirement for some housing development, greater than just infill, or the village will stagnate
- Public transport facilities are lacking and inadequate – need an integrated transport policy

### **Local Development Framework Core Strategy – Final Plan Publication (January – March 2010)**

#### *Prees Parish Council representations on the Core Strategy*

(Representation reference no CORESTRATEGY/09RSUB/002425/00002/002)

- 33% of housing designated as 'affordable' does not take into account that some rural areas will not have this level of local need for this type of accommodation
- There is no indication in the Rural Hubs and Clusters of the extra employment that will be needed to support any supposed rebalancing of the community
- Drainage and sewage infrastructure is in desperate need of upgrading in Prees and should be a prerequisite to any plans to add to the housing stock of the village.

## **Local Development Framework Site Allocations and Management of Development DPD (SAMDev) – Issues and Options Consultation (April- June 2010)**

*Prees Parish Council representations on the SAMDev for Prees, Higher Heath, Prees Green, Lower Heath, Fauls and Sandford.*

(Representation reference no SAMDEV DPD/04IOP/002425/00003)

- Small mixed housing developments to include: Private Housing, shared Equity Housing, rented Housing and affordable bungalows and sheltered housing for older people, both private and social rented.
- Improvements to the water supply, drainage and sewage disposal.
- Road maintenance
- Public open space for recreation
- Play facilities for children of all ages.
- Large scale housing development would cause imbalance, instead housing development is needed on a small and continuous scale.
- Preservation of the Conservation Area on the land surrounding the Grade 1 listed building, Prees Hall.

## **Investing in Shropshire's Future- Local Infrastructure and Investment Workshop with Whitchurch Town Council (20<sup>th</sup> September 2010)**

- Encourage more high-tech employment in the town
- Provide serviced employment land
- Electrical supply issues at Mile Bank and Waymills
- Sewer capacity issues in the town centre
- Drains on Wrexham Road
- Need for road infrastructure at Alport Road
- Provision of long term car parking in the town centre
- Railway car parking needs expanding
- Improvements to town centre facilities and enhanced selection of shops including a new supermarket
- Utilise Prees Heath for environmental education
- Prees Heath airfield

## **Whitchurch Community Toolkit Event – 11<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

The following activities, facilities, services and infrastructure were considered to be the most important community assets by the event attendees:

Activities:

- Arts and heritage events
- Walking and rambling activities
- Youth groups and clubs

Facilities:

- Parking
- Café/pub/restaurant
- Youth shelter or pod

Services:

- Shops
- Healthcare
- Learning and training opportunities

Infrastructure:

- Broadband speed and connectivity
- Regular public transport
- Tourism and heritage infrastructure

The following points were raised by members of the community as ideas for projects to revitalise the town:

Leisure:

- Make better use of our Town Park – Jubilee – an underused facility – Could have bike hire (get families into countryside), tennis courts, crazy golf. Use the shed area to have a shop/café – make funds and keep people in the park. Also make it a safer place – more busy with diverse people at different times = less vandalism! Any room for allotments on there! More use of space for teenagers – zipslides, larger climbing apparatus ie bungee climbing frames.
- Make a stronger link between town and water park.
- Roller skating on Waymills Industrial Park

Shops and services:

- Urgent need for all day parking area
- Aspects of town buildings need sprucing up to support the lovely small and individual shops
- More regular buskers on the streets
- Ensure train station is compliant with EU regulations on disabled access
- Biannual newsletter

Energy and climate change:

- Photovoltaic cells on public buildings
- Electricity issue

*The following comments were also made by two participants:*

- Blue sky thinking – showing each other that there are alternative ways to do things and in partnership - always keep it fun!
- Make use of town plan results especially regarding perceptions about safety.

Full information and feedback from the Whitchurch Toolkit event is available at:

<http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/factsfigures.nsf/open/C6BE79E370240015802577760045C7C5>



## APPENDIX B: WHITCHURCH AREA PROFILE

### ***Social & Demographic Characteristics***

*Source: 2011 Census, Office for National Statistics, © Crown Copyright 2015.*

- In 2011, there were 14,828 residents in the Whitchurch Place Plan Area, an increase of 10.7% since 2001. The population of Shropshire Unitary Authority increased over the same period by 8.1%.
- Whitchurch Place Plan Area had a slightly smaller working age (18 to 64) population (59.2%) than the Shropshire average (59.3%). The infant population (0 to 4 year olds) was slightly larger in the Place Plan Area compared to Shropshire (5.5% and 5.1% respectively). The older resident population was larger than in Shropshire, with 2.9% of residents aged 85 and over (2.7% in Shropshire).
- In the Place Plan Area in 2011, there were 4,421 families. 1.4% of these families (64 families) were concealed families, a slightly larger proportion than in Shropshire (1.3%). In the 2011 Census, each family in a household had a Family Reference Person, and in one family households, this person was also the Household Reference Person. However, a concealed family is one that lives with at least one other family and does not include the Household Reference Person, meaning that they will be 'concealed' in many household statistics. In the Whitchurch Place Plan Area, 20 concealed families (31.3%) had a Family Reference Person aged 65 and over, compared to 23.2% in Shropshire. In terms of family status, 28 concealed families (43.8%) were couple families with no children, compared to 47.8% in Shropshire.
- 97.1% of residents aged 3 and over (13,928 residents) spoke English as their main language, this is a slightly lower proportion than the Shropshire average (97.9%). The most spoken languages apart from English included Polish (246), Slovak (21) and Welsh (15). Of the 411 residents (aged 3+) who said that English was not their main language, 97 people could not speak English well and 24 people could not speak English at all.
- The 2011 Census showed that the Place Plan Area had a Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Group population of 212 (1.4%), a smaller proportion of residents than in Shropshire (2.0%). The largest broad BME group was Asian/Asian British (92 people, or 0.6%) and within this group the largest ethnic group was Other Asian (36 people, or 0.2%). Looking at 2011 Census data for detailed ethnic groups, 19 people were Filipino. After Other Asian, Indian was the largest Asian/Asian British ethnic group (20 people, or 0.1%).
- There were 15 communal establishments in the Place Plan Area. 227 people lived in communal establishments, of which 210 were residents. Close to half of people living in communal establishments were aged 85 and over (105 people or 46.3%).

### ***Business***

*Source: 2011 Census, Office for National Statistics, © Crown Copyright 2015.*

- 7,732 people (or 63.5% of the 16+ population) in the Place Plan Area were economically active, the same proportion as in Shropshire.
- Over three-tenths of households in Whitchurch Place Plan Area had no adults in employment (33.2%, compared to 33.3% in Shropshire).

- 4.4% of households had one person with a long-term health problem or disability with dependent children, compared to 3.9% in Shropshire.
- 24.1% of all residents aged 16+ were retired compared to just over a quarter of residents in Shropshire (25.4%). A larger proportion in the Place Plan Area were unemployed but available to work compared to Shropshire (3.9% and 3.3% respectively).
- 10.9% of all usual residents in Whitchurch Place Plan Area provided some form of unpaid care, a smaller proportion than the Shropshire average (11.2%). In total 385 residents in the Place Plan Area (2.6%) provided 50 or more hours of unpaid care a week, including 3 young people (0 to 15 years old) and 154 people of retirement age (65+).
- A larger proportion of residents aged 16+ had no qualifications (27.7%) compared to Shropshire (22.5%).
- Over three-tenths (33.2%) of the population aged 16+ in employment the week before the Census worked in standard occupation classifications 1-3 (managers, directors and senior officials, professional, associate professional and technical), compared to 38.8% in Shropshire.
- 38.8% of people (16+) in employment the week before the Census travelled 10km or more to work compared with 35.1% in Shropshire.

## ***Housing and Households***

*Source: 2011 Census, Office for National Statistics, © Crown Copyright 2015.*

- In 2011, there were 6,490 dwellings, including 6,247 household spaces with at least one usual resident. 248 household spaces had no usual residents (3.8%, compared to 4.4% in Shropshire).
- Over two-fifths of dwellings in the Place Plan Area were detached properties; at 40.3%, this was a higher proportion than in Shropshire (39.5%).
- The average household size in Whitchurch Place Plan Area was 2.3 people per household, the same as in Shropshire. The average number of bedrooms per household (2.9) was also the same as in Shropshire.
- There were slightly fewer one person households in Whitchurch Place Plan Area than in Shropshire (28.7% and 28.9% respectively).
- 37.7% of all Household Reference Persons (a person selected to represent a whole household in statistics) were aged 35 to 54 years old, a larger proportion than in Shropshire (36.8%).

## ***Transport & Infrastructure***

*Source unless stated: 2011 Census, Office for National Statistics, © Crown Copyright 2015.*

- A higher proportion of households (16.6%) were without a car or a van compared with the Shropshire average (15.8%).
- Almost half of 16 to 74 year olds travelled to work either as drivers or passengers in a car or van (49.2%), compared to 47.5% in Shropshire.
- Between 2012-13, there were 106,228 entries and exits to Whitchurch Railway Station (Source: Estimates of Station Usage 2012-13, collated by Steer Davies Gleave on behalf of the Office of Rail Regulation, © Copyright 2014).

## ***Natural and historic environment***

- Whitchurch is the only conservation area in the Place Plan. There are also a number of Listed Buildings (including Church of St Alkmund and the Old School House), and a Scheduled Monument (Sundial in St Alkmund's churchyard).
- There are several walking routes in the area, including Shropshire Way North 22 (Wem to Whitchurch) (<http://www.shropshirewalking.co.uk/>).
- Several cycle routes pass through the Whitchurch Place Plan Area (<http://www.travelshropshire.co.uk/cycle/cycle-routes/market-town-cycle-rides.aspx>).
- The Meres and Mosses is a post glacial area encompassing North Shropshire and South Cheshire that, because of its glacial beginnings, has a very special Ecology and Geography. It is the second largest natural area of water bodies and raised lowland bogs in the UK and is as important internationally as the Lake District and the Norfolk Broads ([www.whitchurchshropshire.org](http://www.whitchurchshropshire.org))

## ***Further information about Whitchurch available online:***

- Shropshire Council Facts and Figures: [www.shropshire.gov.uk/facts-and-figures/](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/facts-and-figures/)
- UK National Statistics:  
[www.ons.gov.uk/ons/index.html](http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/index.html) or [www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/index.html](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/index.html)
- Nomis Profiles (Labour Market statistics): [www.nomisweb.co.uk/](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/)