

PLACE SHAPING THROUGH PARTNERSHIP WORKING

*Consultation Statement outlining the collaborative
approach to developing Shropshire's Place Plans*

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

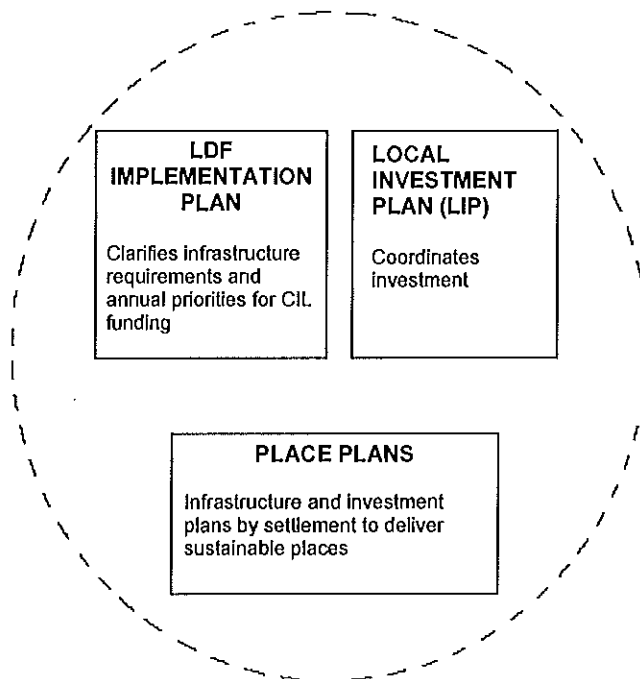
- 1.1 This statement emphasises the important role partnership working plays in delivering Shropshire's vision.
- 1.2 It provides a record of the collaborative working that has been undertaken to prepare Shropshire's Place Plans and identifies the ongoing partnership processes that are in place to ensure continued engagement and joint working with partners to coordinate actions around the delivery of sustainable places.

2.0 PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE OF THE PLACE PLANS

- 2.1 The Place Plans are part of the Council's approach to creating sustainable places and communities through locality working.
- 2.2 They outline the community priorities and infrastructure requirements within each settlement. Each Place Plan therefore forms a settlement based delivery plan, for the Council and our partners, to coordinate actions to meet local needs.
- 2.3 This place based focus supports both the bottom up approach taken nationally, in terms of encouraging local leadership, and the area approach within the LDF, aimed at delivering local services tailored to community need. The plans bring together top down priorities from public and private sector organisations with the bottom up priorities of the local community. They therefore reflect a mixture of schemes based on community aspirations, as well as identified needs from service providers and large organisations such as Shropshire Council.
- 2.4 The Place Plans form the basis for long term partnership working across Shropshire. They will be used in:
- Providing a focus for service delivery- including delivering new and innovative approaches to service provision
 - Identifying opportunities for seeking economies of scale, including service providers pooling resources, skills, and time.
 - Identifying where to seek future developer contributions and how this money should be spent at a local level.
 - Identifying opportunities to bid for external funding- eg Market Towns Revitalisation Programme
 - Establishing ongoing processes of collaborative working through relationship building and establishing a shared vision for Shropshire's settlements, what needs to be done and how it will be achieved.
 - Providing transparency to local communities on the level of investment that is being directed to their area.
- 2.5 As illustrated by the below diagram, the Place Plans are appendices to the Local Development Framework Implementation Plan and are therefore important in assisting the delivery of Shropshire's development strategy.
- 2.6 On an annual basis, the LDF Implementation Plan draws information from each Place Plan in order to:

- provide an overview of the infrastructure needs of the area, to support the scale and location of growth identified in Shropshire's Core Strategy;
- enable the local authority and others to understand what is needed to implement the Core Strategy and therefore make difficult decisions on infrastructure priorities, given limited resources;
- inform decisions on the developer contributions that will be sought through Section 106 Agreements and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) respectively;
- Identify where CIL monies will be spent on an annual basis to meet infrastructure priorities.

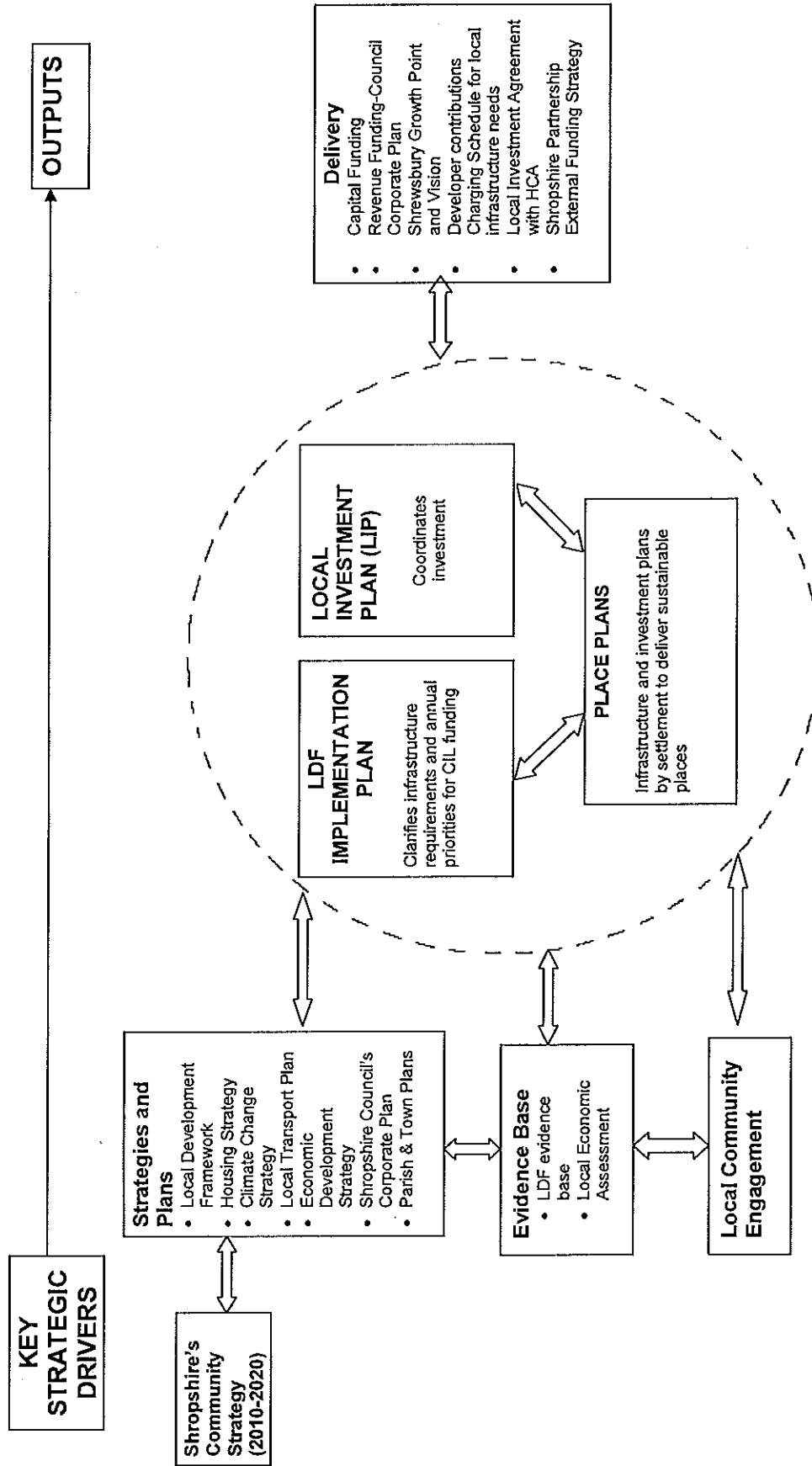
2.7 The Place Plans are also a shared set of appendices with the Local Investment Plan (LIP). The LIP forms an important part of the 'Single Conversation' with the Homes and Communities Agency, aimed at agreeing priorities for funding with local authorities and their partners. The LIP will link various funding streams and coordinate investment, including housing, regeneration and infrastructure, around a shared local vision and priorities for delivering better places.



2.8 Given that the current focus within the LDF is on the preparation of a Core Strategy, the existing Place Plans are based around the main centres for development, namely Shrewsbury, the Market Towns and key centres. However, as more is known about the aspirations for smaller settlements and the rural hinterland, through the preparation of the Site Allocations and Management of Development DPD (SAMDev), the Plans will be expanded to include infrastructure and investment requirements for places throughout Shropshire, as a whole.

2.9 The Place Plans are set within the context of a wide range of partner plans and strategies which set out key objectives and priorities for Shropshire. Combined with the findings of evidence base studies and the results of local community engagement, these partner plans and strategies have been key to informing the Place Plans, as illustrated by figure 1.

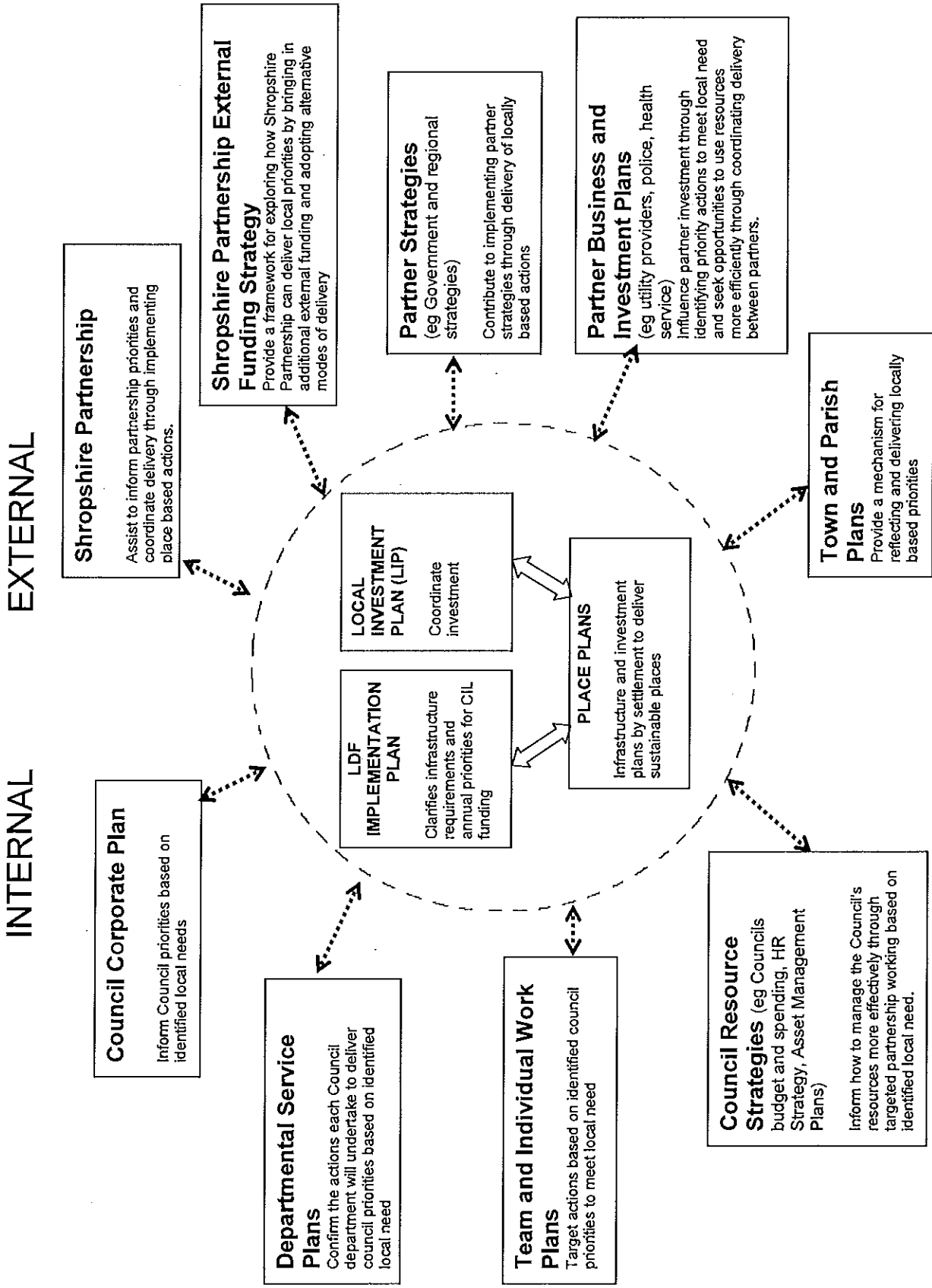
Figure 1: Overview of Infrastructure Planning in Shropshire



3.0 IMPORTANCE OF PARTNERSHIP WORKING

- 3.1 The successful delivery of Shropshire's vision depends upon effective partnership working and strong governance.
- 3.2 Through its role in providing local leadership, the Council recognises that it is key to identifying local priorities and plays an important role in creating and being involved in a wide range of partnerships that unlock investment.
- 3.3 In preparing the Place Plans, the Council is seeking to provide a coordinated approach to the identification of local priorities and delivery of actions to meet local need. The Plans identify the contribution that each partner will make to delivering sustainable places within Shropshire and coordinates resources, ensuring that they are used efficiently, by providing a targeted and joined up way or working between a wide range of service providers:
- 3.4 The Place Plans are not intended to duplicate existing infrastructure or investment plans that are developed by individual partners. Instead, they are intended to ensure that collectively we are planning actions and tailoring funding according to local needs and taking account of future development requirements. They also provide a means by which to establish good working relationships to ensure ongoing and effective engagement with partners.
- 3.5 It is hoped that the Place Plans provide an opportunity for long term partnership working across Shropshire
- 3.6 As such, the Place Plans have the scope to provide a range of benefits, as illustrated by figure 2, both internally to Shropshire Council and externally, through more efficient service delivery which is targeted at meeting local needs.

Figure 2: Coordinating Service Delivery



4.0 SHROPSHIRE'S PLACE SHAPING PROCESSES

Early Engagement Work

- 4.1 Prior to Shropshire Council becoming a unitary authority in April 2009, initial infrastructure planning and evidence gathering was undertaken by the district authorities. Consultants Scott Wilson were engaged by Bridgnorth District Council, Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council and Shropshire County Council in 2007/8 to advise on developer contributions for infrastructure. As part of this work, a workshop for stakeholders was held on 18th February 2008, involving Severn Trent Water, the Environment Agency, Natural England, the West Midlands Regional Assembly, and the House Builders Federation, amongst others.
- 4.2 Further consultation on infrastructure needs was undertaken in 2008/9 to inform a proposed Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on infrastructure contributions. This focused on contributions towards public open space, education and transport, and correspondingly involved engagement with officers from Shropshire County Council's Education and Strategic Highways directorates, and officers from the Districts Councils' Parks and Recreation departments, along with those Town Councils with a responsibility for parks and open space. Although the SPD was abandoned, in light of declining viability in the face of the emerging 'credit crunch', the results of this early engagement work were used to inform the development of a Shropshire Regeneration Prospectus by the new unitary authority.

Initial draft Regeneration Prospectus

- 4.3 An initial draft Regeneration Prospectus for Shropshire was prepared in November 2009. It was aimed at identifying key issues and opportunities where investment would have the greatest impact and contribute to regional and local regeneration. As such, it was envisaged that this would form the basis of the 'Single Conversation' with the Homes and Communities Agency and Advantage West Midlands and become the 'Local Investment Plan' for the Shropshire sub-region.
- 4.4 A revised version of a Shropshire Regeneration Prospectus was then published alongside the Core Strategy Final Plan in February 2010 and made available at principal and area Council offices, on the Council website, within local libraries and Community Information Points across Shropshire from 15th February 2010 until 29th March 2010. Specific comments were received from Albrighton Parish Council whilst Other Town and Parish Councils made more general comments. All these have been included in the place making appendices.
- 4.5 The scope of the February 2010 Prospectus was extended to cover infrastructure requirements as well as investment programmes. It therefore became a single document, with two main roles:
- Providing the Local Investment Plan- as part of the Single Conversation with the Homes and Communities Agency
 - Acting as the Local Development Framework Implementation Plan- outlining the key infrastructure requirements needed to

support local regeneration and the scale of growth outlined in the Core Strategy.

- 4.6 Within this draft Regeneration Prospectus, infrastructure and investment requirements for Shropshire were structured, around Shrewsbury, the Market Towns and the Rural Areas and according to whether they were considered to be critical, priority or key to supporting local regeneration and meeting the needs of future development. A traffic light system was used to reflect progress in terms of the delivery of each infrastructure and investment scheme.
- 4.7 This draft Regeneration Prospectus was informed by a wide range of evidence gathering and consultation with partner organisations.
- 4.8 A good deal of information on infrastructure requirements had been gathered by the former district authorities, prior to Shropshire Council becoming a unitary authority (see early engagement work above). In addition, some of the Local Development Framework evidence base studies, such as the draft Water Cycle Study report, provided important information on the infrastructure needed to support the proposed level of development within the Core Strategy.
- 4.9 A number of comments on infrastructure requirements were also submitted to the Council as part of the consultation on the Core Strategy Policy Directions document in August 2009, from organisations below, and were used to inform the draft Regeneration Prospectus.
- Scottish Power Manweb
 - United Utilities
 - Severn Trent Water
 - Welsh Water
 - National Grid
 - Highways Agency
 - The Coal Authority
 - West Mercia Police
- 4.10 Whilst this internal evidence gathering provided a useful baseline, it was recognised that further targeted consultation was required with service and infrastructure providers across Shropshire, to gain an up to date picture of infrastructure and investment needs. In November 2009, each of the organisations listed in Appendix 1 were consulted to outline the purpose of the Regeneration Prospectus and to seek input into identifying Shropshire's infrastructure and investment requirements. An additional reminder was sent to these contacts in December 2009 which emphasised the importance of reflecting partner infrastructure and investment requirements within the Regeneration Prospectus.
- 4.11 Through this consultation exercise, written responses were received from the following partners:

- Shropshire Council- with involvement of officers from Education, Strategic Highways and Traffic, Passenger Transport, Transportation, Housing, Economic Development, Leisure and Outdoor Recreation, External Funding
- PCT Estates
- Shropshire Council and Shropshire County PCT
- West Mercia Police
- National Grid
- Shropshire Fire Service
- Environment Agency
- Welsh Water
- United Utilities
- BT

4.12 In addition, a meeting was held with Scottish Power Manweb on the 15 December 2009, to discuss future infrastructure requirements in relation to energy provision. They were asked to identify whether there were likely to be any capacity issues in relation to the level of development outlined in the Core Strategy, which would result in a requirement for infrastructure upgrades or additional infrastructure provision.

4.13 Ongoing discussions also took place with Severn Trent Water as part of work on the Shropshire Water Cycle Study, which was a partnership project overseen by a steering group comprising the Environment Agency, Severn Trent Water, Welsh Water, Natural England and Shropshire Council. As part of this work, Severn Trent Water has been provided with different drafts of the Regeneration Prospectus as it has evolved and been asked to provide information on future infrastructure upgrades and provision to address the water treatment and network capacity constraints identified by the Water Cycle Study. Ongoing correspondence between Severn Trent Water and Shropshire Council, as part of the Water Cycle Study, has sought to confirm that the necessary infrastructure will be put in place in a timely manner to meet the development needs outlined in the Core Strategy. Given the strategic nature of the Core Strategy, Severn Trent Water consider it is too early in the development process to have certainty about development locations and therefore it has not been possible at this stage to gain detailed information on specific infrastructure schemes. However, Severn Trent Water has provided the Council with a statement of support, confirming that in terms of water infrastructure provision the level and location of development proposed in the Core Strategy is deliverable within the timescales proposed. A copy of this statement of support is provided in Appendix 2. In addition, the Council has undertaken some initial masterplanning work with the agents and landowners of the sites likely to form sustainable urban extensions to Shrewsbury and Oswestry. As this masterplanning work provides greater certainty about future strategic development locations, the agents have been able to gain confirmation that the identified water infrastructure constraint in Oswestry will be addressed through a capital investment programme within the Severn Trent AMP5 period (2010-2015).

- 4.14 Ongoing discussions have also taken place between the Highways Agency and Shropshire Council. Since the publication of the Core Strategy Final Plan, there has been further progress with regard to transport infrastructure requirements, relating to the A5 at Oswestry and Shrewsbury. The Council and the Highways Agency have explored potential transport interventions to ensure that the strategic road network can accommodate the development planned up to 2026. For Shrewsbury, potential junction improvements have been identified and costed, while for Oswestry options are under investigation. In both cases, further work is to be carried out, linked to the preparation of the Site Allocations and Management of Development DPD. The Council and the Highways Agency have therefore signed a Memorandum of Understanding to show commitment to the completion of this work and longer term collaborative working to ensure delivery. A draft copy of this MOU is provided in Appendix 3.
- 4.15 Further targeted consultation was undertaken with Registered Social Landlords (RSL) in February 2010. Those RSLs that are active within Shropshire were asked for their input into the Regeneration Prospectus, with Housing Plus and Bromford Group returning comments.
- 4.16 Given that the Regeneration Prospectus is, in part, intended to form the Local Investment Plan for Shropshire, the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) has naturally been involved in its preparation. Meetings with the HCA to discuss the Prospectus were held on 10th February and 5th March 2010, and contributed to the restructuring of the draft Regeneration Prospectus, as outlined below.

Review of draft Regeneration Prospectus and Development of a Place Based Approach

- 4.17 An internal review of the Regeneration Prospectus was undertaken following consultation on the Core Strategy Final Plan, at the end of March 2010. Whilst it was felt that the principle of linking the Local Investment Plan and Local Infrastructure Plan provided a joined up approach to service delivery within Shropshire, a clearer distinction needed to be made between:
- i) the infrastructure required to support the Local Development Framework,
 - ii) the investment opportunities for Shropshire through partnership working with the HCA
 - iii) the local community needs and aspirations identified within community documents such as Parish Plans.
- 4.18 The draft Regeneration Prospectus was therefore restructured into its current form, with a separate LDF Implementation Plan and Local Investment Plan, and a set of Place Plans which both documents share, as outlined in the introduction in paragraph 2.
- 4.19 To ensure the Core Strategy infrastructure requirements are fully identified and planned for, the LDF Implementation Plan and supporting Place Plans were circulated for further consultation with infrastructure and service providers between April and May 2010. Key contacts within each of the organisations listed in Appendix 1, were reintroduced to the documents and

invited to provide updates on infrastructure requirements or proposed infrastructure schemes.

4.20 Through this consultation, responses have been received from:

- Shropshire Council- with involvement of officers from Highways and Transportation, Rail Transport, IT, Culture and Leisure, Leisure and Outdoor Recreation, Drainage, Housing Services, Housing Enabling and Implementation, Arts and Heritage, Economic Development, Community Working, Education
- West Mercia Police
- Sport England
- National Grid
- Welsh Water
- Shropshire Wildlife Trust
- CTC
- Shropshire County PCT Trust
- Scottish Power Manweb
- Central Networks

4.21 Following this written consultation, a number of subsequent meetings were requested from partners, to discuss specific infrastructure requirements.

4.22 On 26 April 2010, the Council met with Shropshire Wildlife Trust to discuss green infrastructure needs within Shropshire. Following the meeting, Shropshire Wildlife Trust was provided with a complete set of the place based appendices to circulate amongst the local wildlife officers, throughout Shropshire, for their input on green infrastructure needs in particular locations.

4.23 On 4 May 2010, the Council met with BT to discuss future broadband in terms of next generation access and requirements within Shropshire.

4.24 On 18 May 2010, the Council met with the PCT to identify future health service needs across Shropshire and to discuss ongoing work on assessing how existing assets may be used more efficiently.

4.25 On 19 May 2010, the Council met with the Recreation Officer from the Environment Agency to discuss recreation and green infrastructure requirements within Shropshire. Through this meeting, other relevant officers within the Environment Agency were identified and consulted.

4.26 On 27th May 2010, the Council met with Arriva to identify public transport needs both within Shrewsbury and in relation to bus services from the town to surrounding settlements.

4.27 On 21st June, the Council met with representatives from West Mercia Police, to discuss the requirement for a new divisional headquarters in Shrewsbury and the additional police infrastructure requirements for the market towns and key centres.

- 4.28 On 22nd June, the Council met with representatives from the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust, the Department of Health and the planning consultant representing the Secretary of State for Health regarding land at Shrewsbury Hospital. This meeting explored what surplus health and care facilities there currently are and whether there are any health and care infrastructure requirements for the future.
- 4.29 On 5th July, the Council met with representatives from the Highways Agency to discuss the ongoing evidence base work and the specific highway infrastructure schemes that would be required to support the development strategy proposed. Following the meeting, the Highways Agency was provided with up to date copies of the LDF Implementation Plan and the place based appendices to provide information on the specific infrastructure requirements, including the necessary timing for provision.
- 4.30 On 15th July, an internal meeting was held with officers from Development Services to identify funds that are currently available from developer contributions (Section 106 Agreements). Funds that have either been received and are awaiting spend on particular infrastructure schemes or which are committed for particular infrastructure schemes and are awaited from the developer have subsequently been added to the place based appendices.
- 4.31 On 20th July, the Council met with Central Networks, to discuss energy infrastructure requirements. Prior to the meeting, Central Networks were provided with indicative levels of housing and employment land to assist with modelling and identifying whether there are likely to be any future capacity constraints in light of future growth. At the meeting Central Networks were able to confirm that investment will be targeted to improve energy infrastructure within Shropshire as part of the 2010-2015 business planning cycle. Central Networks have been asked to provide additional information on these schemes and any future requirements.
- 4.32 In addition to this written consultation and subsequent one to one meetings, an overview of the Regeneration Prospectus was presented to the Shropshire Registered Social Landlord (RSL) Forum, comprising Chief Executives of all the RSLs active in Shropshire, on 12th April. The RSL Development Sub-Group, comprising development officers for RSLs active in Shropshire, was also briefed at their meeting on 23rd April. These meetings paved the way for more detailed consultation with RSLs on the inclusion of specific housing schemes within the place based appendices. To provide encouragement and assistance to RSLs in contributing to the place based appendices, a drop-in workshop session for RSLs took place on the 8th June.
- 4.33 Furthermore, a Local Infrastructure and Investment Workshop was held on 27th July at Shrewsbury Town Football Club. Over 80 representatives from partner organisations, including utility providers, emergency services, local businesses and community and voluntary groups were invited (see list in Appendix 1). The event provided an introduction to the Place Plans, with a workshop session focused on identifying any infrastructure or investment requirements within the areas covered by the Plans and any partner assets or

investment opportunities that may be of interest for future partnership working. The following partners attended and contributed to the workshop:

- Shropshire Council- with involvement of officers from: Leisure and Recreation, Adult Social Care, Environmental Maintenance, Children and Young People's Services, Economic Development, Community Working, Performance and Partnerships, Shrewsbury Growth Point, Local Strategic Partnership, Housing, Property Services, Development Management
- Association of Local Councils,
- Young Enterprise,
- Community Council for Shropshire,
- Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership,
- Pre School Learning Alliance,
- Shrewsbury Chamber of Commerce
- Environment Agency
- Shropshire Community Recycling
- Shrewsbury Tourism Association
- The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Hospital Orthopaedic and District Hospital NHS Trust
- Marches Energy Agency
- Women in Rural Enterprise
- Scottish Power
- Arriva Midlands
- Shops in Loop
- Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service
- Citizens Advice Bureau
- Federation of Small Businesses
- Highways Agency
- Business Enterprise Support Limited
- Shropshire Wildlife Trust
- NHS Foundation Trust
- Voluntary Community Sectors Board
- West Mercia Police
- Morris Property
- Defence Estates- Ops North
- Skills Funding Agency
- Through the Door to Healthy Living
- North Shropshire Tourism Ltd
- English Heritage
- Natural England
- METNet
- Dyke Yaxley

4.34 The Place Plans were published on the Council's website as part of the evidence base for the Core Strategy (EV9) and formed an important part of the discussion at the examination, particularly in relation to implementation of the development strategy.

Autumn 2010 Consultation and Update of Place Plans

- 4.35 Whilst the 27th July workshop provided a useful insight into the needs of local infrastructure and service providers, it was decided that community aspirations also needed to be identified in order to support the Council's bottom up approach to delivering sustainable places. A workshop was therefore held for the town and parish councils from the 18 market towns and key centres on the 20th September 2010. Over 75 representatives from the town and parish councils, and local members from Shropshire Council attended the event to identify local investment and infrastructure priorities (see list in Appendix 1).
- 4.36 Written feedback from the workshop event was provided to the 18 town and parish councils on the 18th October 2010, in addition to an updated copy of the relevant Place Plan. Each town and parish council was thanked for their input to date and asked to review their Place Plan and provide any additional comments. Each rural parish and Shropshire Council Local Member was also provided with a copy of the feedback from the workshop event, for their information, along with the latest version of the Place Plan for their locality.
- 4.37 To continue the development of the Place Plans, a further email was sent to all the infrastructure and service providers that had previously been invited to the 27th July 2010 workshop event. These emails were sent between 19th- 25th October 2010 and partners were requested to provide comments and updates on any additional infrastructure requirements within Shropshire. Additional reminders were sent in December 2010 and January 2011, in readiness for publishing the Place Plans on the Council's website in April 2011. Comments were received from the following:
- Shropshire Council – with involvement of officers from: Housing Services, Landlord Services, Arts and Heritage, Community Action Officers, Education, Extended Schools, Housing Enabling, Highways and Transportation, Conservation and the Historic Environment, Natural Environment, Library Services, Economic Development, Leisure and Outdoor Recreation
 - British Waterways
 - Coal Authority
 - English Heritage
 - Highways Agency
 - MOD
 - PCT
 - West Mercia Police
 - Shropshire Fire Service
- 4.38 In addition, email reminders were sent around to the 18 town and parish councils, seeking their input. Comments were received from the following:
- Bishops Castle Town Council
 - Broseley Town Council
 - Shrewsbury Town Council
 - Church Stretton Town Council
 - Much Wenlock Town Council

- Ludlow Town Council
- Market Drayton Town Council
- Shifnal Town Council
- Wem Town Council
- Whitchurch Town Council

- 4.39 Following ongoing discussions with local communities, a number of meetings were held at the request of individual town and parish councils. On the 3rd December a meeting was held with the clerk from Shrewsbury Town Council to discuss their local needs and aspirations. On the 11th January a meeting was held with the mayor and a town councillor from Much Wenlock Town Council to discuss the toolkit work and the links to Place Plans. On the 17th January a special parish council meeting was held in Highley Parish, at which the role of the Place Plans was discussed and views on local priorities sought. On the same evening, a Pontesbury Parish Council meeting also focused on the Place Plans and their role. On the 1st February, a meeting was held with representatives from Church Stretton Town Council to go through the Church Stretton Place Plan and identify additional needs or suggested amendments to the document. On the 3rd February, a special town council meeting was held in Ellesmere in which the role of the Place Plan was discussed and local views sought.
- 4.40 A series of internal meetings were also held with relevant departments with a key role in local infrastructure provision. On the 6th December a meeting was held with the Extended Schools Team to introduce Place Plans, this was followed by a further meeting on the 28th January to gain their input into the development of the documents. On 10th February a meeting was held with the Highways and Transportation department to discuss the links between the Place Plans and the Local Transport Plan.
- 4.41 A copy of the working draft Place Plans were made available on the Council's website between January- March to support the public consultation on the Community Infrastructure Levy Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule. An updated set of Place Plans were subsequently made available on the Council website as part of the Draft Charging Schedule consultation which was undertaken in March- April 2011.
- 4.42 As part of consultation on the CIL Charging Schedule, it was recognised that the current focus on the 18 larger settlements meant that the rural parishes were not as informed about the Place Plans. A letter was therefore sent to each town and parish council on the 18th March, to ensure all local communities were informed about the Place Plans and had the opportunity to input. The letter was supported by a short briefing note on Place Plans, how they link to work on the LDF and how the documents will be used. The note also provided contact details of the lead officer for the Place Plans and requested each local community to review their draft Plan and provide comments and updates to Shropshire Council.
- 4.43 A further letter was sent to the clerk and chair of each town and parish council at the beginning of April, as a follow on to the initial work on SAMDev. This again provided an introduction to Place Plans and provided an overview of the

main issues and community priorities that had been identified in each place to date. Town and Parish Councils were asked to review the information that had been gathered in order to refine and update the Place Plans and thereby inform future investment decisions and the use of developer contributions.

- 4.44 Following a final set of updates, the first set of Place Plans were made available on the Council's website under new Place Plan pages, on March 24th 2011. All Shropshire Council Local Council Members were notified of the new webpages in addition to the annual review process for the Place Plans, as set out in the Developer Contributions Code of Practice.

Proactive community engagement – links to Parish Plans and the Rural Toolkit approach

- 4.45 It is recognised that the Place Plans should reflect the needs and aspirations of the local community. A meeting was therefore held with the Community Council of Shropshire on 22nd March 2010 to discuss how to draw both existing and future Community, Town and Parish Plans into the process.
- 4.46 In addition, an internal meeting was held with the Community Working Team on 9th June 2010. Each Community Regeneration Officer was asked to contribute to the Place Plan for the geographical area that they cover, by adding in information on local needs and priorities as identified in community, town and parish plans or through Local Joint Committee meetings.
- 4.47 As part of work on the Local Development Framework, the Council has been proactively engaging with communities through a "rural toolkit" approach. This has involved pulling together everything the Council has been able to find out about a community, and then asking a range of people from the community to reality check the evidence through a Community Testing Event. The result is a snapshot of the community, enabling local people to consider how their community functions as a sustainable place and to identify and rank potential community benefits in order of importance. Part of the community testing event includes exploring with communities their priorities for infrastructure and investment, and the opportunities to improve sustainability. Fifteen community testing events were undertaken between March and July 2010, the outcomes of which have been fed into ongoing work on preparing the place based appendices.
- 4.47 Further community testing events were undertaken for all the market towns and key centres throughout the Autumn 2010 and early part of 2011 as an integral part of the Market Towns Revitalisation Programme. Evidence acquired has fed into the relevant Place Plan, as the mechanism for linking public expenditure to place and for recording community aspirations for an area. There is an ongoing opportunity for local communities to undertake a toolkit event and further information will be included in each relevant Place Plan as and when additional community aspirations and priorities are identified.

Sub regional role and cross border working

- 4.48 It is recognised that the Place Plans have an important role in

encouraging sub regional and cross boundary collaboration on infrastructure planning and delivery. Neighbouring local authorities were therefore consulted in May 2010, outlining the purpose of the Plans and seeking input into identifying cross border issues and infrastructure and investment needs and opportunities. The neighbouring authorities that were contacted are as follows:

- Cheshire East Council
- Cheshire West and Chester Council
- Staffordshire County Council
- Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council
- Stafford Borough Council
- South Staffordshire Council
- Telford and Wrekin Council
- Worcester City Council
- Worcestershire County Council
- Wyre Forest District Council
- Herefordshire Council
- Powys County Council
- Wrexham Council

4.49 Through this cross border working, responses have been received from:

- Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council
- Powys County Council
- Wyre Forest District Council
- South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy
- Malvern Hills District Council
- Stafford Borough Council
- Wrexham Council
- Cheshire West and Chester Council
- Cheshire East Council
- South Staffordshire Council
- Welsh Assembly Government

4.50 In terms of Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council, there is no identified requirement for shared infrastructure provision, since the main focus for growth will be within Newcastle and therefore away from the Shropshire border.

4.51 In relation to Powys County Council the need for new waste infrastructure has been identified, both in terms of organic treatment (Anaerobic Digestion) and residual waste technology. However, there is no indication at this stage of where these will be and what sort of capacity such infrastructure will have. Powys County Council is currently working with Ceredigion which means that the infrastructure could be located in the Mid Wales region, which would limit the opportunity to work with Shropshire. In addition, the issue of electricity infrastructure was raised in relation to the development of a 440kv power line to take windfarm electricity from mid-Wales to the national grid from 2015 onwards. This electricity line will cross Shropshire. The need for highway improvements, particularly the A458 and A483, was also raised as an important issue.

- 4.52 Wyre Forest District Council highlighted cross boundary issues in relation to schemes already identified in the Regeneration Prospectus; namely the Severn Valley Railway and the Severn Way. In addition, additional cross boundary issues were raised in terms of increased traffic flows in Bewdley as a result of any development along the South Shropshire border and the impact on the Air Quality Monitoring Area, the Wyre Forest as a tourist attraction and sustainable tourism in general, particularly in respect of the growing number of caravan parks along the South Shropshire and Wyre Forest border.
- 4.53 The South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy response and Malvern Hills District Council response raised cross border issues in relation to the towns of Tenbury and Burford which are separated by the River Severn.
- 4.54 Stafford Borough Council stated that they had no comments in relation to the Regeneration Prospectus, but that they would welcome further discussions on the aspirational scheme to investigate the potential to reopen the railway line between Wellington and Stafford.
- 4.55 Wrexham Council provided an overview of the content and structure of their Local Development Plan and highlighted that there is no requirement under Welsh legislation for a separate delivery plan. Infrastructure capacity constraints are however referenced throughout the deposit plan document. The infrastructure issues which could affect the Shropshire/Wrexham interface were identified as follows; protection of the River Dee, the capacity constraints of the A438, the railway link between Wrexham and Shrewsbury, the strategic location and size of Wrexham Industrial Estate, Kronospan and Penley Industrial Estate and the implications of the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal World Heritage Site.
- 4.56 Cheshire East Council indicated that they have only recently embarked on the process of infrastructure planning and are currently collecting baseline data and engaging with stakeholders about existing infrastructure capacity in the Borough. However, this initial consultation has not resulted in the identification of any cross border issues with Shropshire.
- 4.57 South Staffordshire Council provided a copy of their draft Infrastructure Delivery Plan, but did not highlight any cross boundary infrastructure requirements between Shropshire and South Staffordshire.
- 4.58 The Welsh Assembly Government provided details on a range of existing cross border schemes and future requirements, including improvements to the Cambrian and Heart of Wales rail lines, the A483 and A458, tourism, leisure and transport opportunities with the Montgomeryshire Canal and additional grid connections to link windfarms with the national grid.

5.0 NEXT STEPS

Ongoing engagement through preparation of the Site Allocations and Management of Development (SAMDev) DPD

- 5.1 As needs and priorities change over time, it is important to respond to changing circumstances. The Place Plans are therefore 'living' documents which will take account of these changes as they come forward. As such, they provide an ongoing process by which to align the priorities, programmes and investment streams of many partner organisations.
- 5.2 As the current versions of the Place Plans focus on the infrastructure requirements to support the Core Strategy, they outline the infrastructure requirements for Shrewsbury, the Market Towns and key centres (Oswestry, Whitchurch, Wem, Ellesmere, Market Drayton, Minsterley/Pontebury, Ludlow, Bishops Castle, Church Stretton, Cleobury Mortimer, Craven Arms, Bridgnorth, Albrighton, Broseley, Highley, Much Wenlock and Shifnal)
- 5.3 It is, however, recognised that the Place Plans will need to be reviewed and updated to reflect additional infrastructure requirements and investment opportunities for sites allocated for particular uses in the SAMDev DPD. Taking into account the infrastructure and investment opportunities identified through consultation as part of preparing the SAMDev DPD and through further targeted consultation with service and infrastructure providers the Place Plans will be expanded to include the infrastructure requirements and investment needs of community hubs, clusters and the rural hinterland.
- 5.4 Information on community benefits ie around activities, facilities, services and infrastructure, drawn from rural toolkit events, Local Joint Committee meetings and Parish and Town Council Plans and meetings, will form part of these Place Plans and in so doing will be the formal record of the priorities and needs of local communities. It is anticipated that this information will be added to over time as part of a community led planning approach.

Annual Review Process

- 5.5 The Developer Contributions Code of Practice sets out an annual review process for the Place Plans. As part of this annual process, local communities will be asked to review and update their Place Plan to reflect the changing needs and priorities within each place. As part of this ongoing process of community engagement, each town and parish council, in agreement with the Local Member, will be asked to identify their main priorities for the year ahead. These community priorities along with the main infrastructure requirements for delivering Shropshire's development strategy will be added to the LDF Implementation Plan as the annual framework for developer contributions and in particular the use of Community Infrastructure Levy funds in the forthcoming year.

6.0 MONITORING OF PROGRESS

- 6.1 Monitoring is key to the Place Plans. It provides a means of ensuring that existing needs are met and that changing needs and priorities are reflected.

Links to the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)

- 6.2 The principal monitoring mechanism for the LDF is the Annual Monitoring Report, which assesses the extent to which the objectives of planning policies are being met.

- 6.3 To assist, the infrastructure requirements outlined within the LDF Implementation Plan have been cross referenced with the relevant policies in the Core Strategy. Future AMRs will therefore be able to assess how the delivery of infrastructure is helping to meet particular policy objectives and ultimately deliver the vision and strategic objectives for Shropshire as set out in the Core Strategy.

Consultation on the Shropshire Regeneration Prospectus- November 2009

- Shropshire Council- with the involvement of Education, Strategic Highways and Traffic, Passenger Transport, Transportation, Environmental Maintenance, Housing Services, Community Working, Economic Development, Arts and Heritage, Leisure and Outdoor Recreation, Strategy and Development and Social Care departments.
- Severn Trent Water
- Welsh Water
- United Utilities
- National Grid
- EON/Central Networks
- Scottish Power Manweb
- Highways Agency
- Arriva Midlands
- Arriva Trains
- Network Rail
- Sustrans
- CTC
- West Mercia Police
- Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service
- West Midlands Ambulance Service
- Shropshire County PCT
- Environment Agency
- Sport England
- National Playing Fields Association
- Royal Mail
- BT
- Mono Consultants Ltd
- Defence Estates

Core Strategy Final Plan Consultation- February- March 2010

A copy of the Shropshire Regeneration Prospectus was made available at the Council's principal and area offices, on the Shropshire Council website, within local libraries and Community Information Points across Shropshire from 15th February to 29th March 2010, as part of the consultation on the Core Strategy Final Plan.

Consultation on the LDF Implementation Plan and Place Based Appendices- April-May 2010

- Shropshire Council- with the involvement of Education, Strategic Highways and Traffic, Passenger Transport, Transportation, Environmental Maintenance, Environment, Housing Services, Community Working, Economic Development, Arts and Heritage, Leisure and Outdoor Recreation, Strategy and Development, Property Services, IT, Drainage and Social Care departments.
- National Grid
- Scottish Power Manweb

- EON/Central Networks
- West Mercia Suppliers
- Severn Trent Water (via Shropshire Water Cycle Study)
- Welsh Water
- Environment Agency
- BT
- Shropshire Primary Care Trust
- Shropshire and Telford Hospital NHS Trust
- West Mercia Police
- Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service
- West Midlands Ambulance Service
- Royal Mail
- Natural England
- Shropshire Wildlife Trust
- Sport England
- Arriva Midlands
- Arriva Trains
- Network Rail
- Sustrans
- CTC
- Highways Agency
- East Cheshire Council
- Cheshire West and Chester Council
- Staffordshire County Council
- Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council
- Stafford Borough Council
- South Staffordshire Council
- Telford and Wrekin Council
- Worcester City Council
- Worcestershire County Council
- Wyre Forest District Council
- Herefordshire Council
- Powys County Council
- Wrexham Council

Invitees to the Local Infrastructure Workshop- 27th July 2010

- Central Networks
- National Grid
- Scottish Power Manweb
- Wales and West Utilities
- British Gas
- The Coal Authority
- Dwr Cymru Welsh Water
- Severn Trent Water
- United Utilities
- Environment Agency
- Forestry Commission
- Natural England

- Shropshire Wildlife Trust
- British Waterways
- The Woodland Trust
- Shropshire FWAG
- METNet
- Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership
- The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Hospital Orthopaedic and District Hospital NHS Trust
- Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS
- Shropshire PCT
- Director of Public Health, Shropshire
- Director of Joint Commissioning Shropshire Council and Shropshire County PCT
- Director of Facilities and Estates, South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
- NHS West Midlands
- British Red Cross
- Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service
- West Mercia Police
- West Midlands Ambulance Service
- Arriva Midlands
- Highways Agency
- Network Rail
- Arriva Trains Wales
- Sustrans
- CTC
- Wrexham and Shropshire Railway
- Community Based Transport
- Bishops Castle Community College
- Ludlow College
- Pontesbury Further Education Centre
- Shrewsbury College of Arts and Technology
- Ellesmere College
- Shrewsbury Sixth Form College
- Walford and North Shropshire College
- Skills Funding Agency
- Young Peoples Learning Agency
- Skills Funding Agency
- Ministry of Defence- Defence Estates
- BT
- Mobile Operators Association
- English Heritage
- National Trust
- Sport England
- Shropshire VCS Training Providers Consortium Coordinator
- Shropshire Association of Local Councils
- Community Council for Shropshire
- Friends, Families and Travellers

- West Mercia Probation Service
- Royal Mail
- Hereford Diocese
- Lichfield Diocesan Board Of Finance
- Shropshire Community Recycling Limited
- Shropshire Youth Association
- Pre School Learning Alliance
- Age Concern Shropshire Telford and Wrekin
- Citizens Advice Shropshire
- Voluntary Community Sectors Board
- Through the Door to Healthy Living
- Keep Shropshire Warm
- Home Start South Shropshire and Bridgnorth
- Home Start North Shropshire and Oswestry
- Shrewsbury Home Start
- Pathways-Shropshire Ltd
- Chair Creative Shropshire
- Rural Hub
- Shropshire Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise Ltd
- Shropshire Enterprise Partnership
- Rural Regeneration Zone
- Women in Rural Enterprise
- Young Enterprise
- Shropshire and Telford Destination Management Partnership
- Federation of Small Businesses
- Bridgnorth and District Tourism Association Ltd
- North Shropshire Tourism Ltd
- Shrewsbury Tourism Association Ltd
- South Shropshire Tourism Ltd
- Telford and Wrekin Council
- Welsh Assembly Government
- Advantage West Midlands

Attendees at the Town and Parish Council Infrastructure Event- 20th September 2010

- Ellesmere Town Council (4 representatives)
- Highley Parish Council (3 representatives)
- Ludlow Town Council (4 representatives)
- Market Drayton Town Council (8 representatives)
- Much Wenlock Town Council (3 representatives)
- Pontesbury Town Council (3 representatives)
- Oswestry Town Council (4 representatives)
- Shifnal Town Council (4 representatives)
- Shrewsbury Town Council (6 representatives)
- Wem Town Council (6 representatives)
- Whitchurch Town Council (5 representatives)
- Community Council for Shropshire
- Shropshire Council Community Action Officers