

Shawbury Library Needs Assessment

04 May 2016

1. Background

It is proposed, subject to a public consultation, the absence of alternative management proposals and Cabinet confirmation, to close Shawbury Library from approximately 1 August 2016.

In making this proposal, the Council has taken into account:

- The relatively low level of use at Shawbury Library and the relatively high transactional costs
- Its worsening financial position determined by central government cuts potentially resulting in services such as leisure, libraries, museums, public open spaces and support for youth activities facing significant cutbacks or in the worst case scenario - closure. For more information visit: <https://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/documents/s10607/20160127%20Cabinet%20Finance%20Strategy%20Absolute%20Final%20Document.pdf>
- Options for alternative library provision via a mobile library service, on-line services and home library services for people unable to readily get out and about

Shropshire Libraries operates through a network of 22 community libraries and 4 mobile libraries which provide access to Library Services in every market town and all parts of a very rural and sparsely populated County. The library network has been developed to reflect the needs and circumstances of communities, including the most isolated. There are four levels of service. These levels are consistent with population distribution within the County and the demographic characteristics (current and anticipated) of individual communities.

- Level 1- urban centres – Shrewsbury, Oswestry
- Level 2 - larger market towns - Bridgnorth, Ludlow, Market Drayton and Whitchurch
- Level 3 - smaller market towns and outlying rural areas - Albrighton, Bayston Hill, Bishop's Castle, Broseley, Church Stretton, Craven Arms, Ellesmere, Library at the Lantern, Shifnal and Wem.
- Level 4 - rural areas –Cleobury Mortimer, Gobowen, Highley, Much Wenlock, Pontesbury and Shawbury.

Shawbury Library is in the lowest level of provision.

The responses to public consultation on future options for the delivery of the library service and local stakeholder engagement alongside the profile and pattern of existing library use have been used in the development of this Needs Assessment together with other demographic and statistical data for the locality.

The purpose of this document is to provide an assessment of local needs in relation to library services, and to explain how the Council will meet these needs as part of its statutory duty to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service for all residents in Shawbury and surrounding rural communities who wish to make use of it. It looks at how the Council will meet the specific library requirements of children and adults under section 7(2)(a) of the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964, as well as the specific needs of individual groups: older people, Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities, people with disabilities, and workless adults.

In developing this Needs Assessment Shropshire Council has taken account of guidance issued by the department for Culture Media and Sport (December 2015). The Council has also carefully considered its duties in respect of Section 7 of the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 and the Equality Act 2010 and has sought independent legal advice to ensure that it has complied with its duties.

2. Shawbury

Introduction

Shawbury Library is located within Shawbury Village Hall within the parish of Shawbury, to the northeast of Shrewsbury.

Map 1 shows the area around Shawbury library within a 15 minute drive time. The drive time is an estimate based on main road networks, taking account of speed limits and does not take into account traffic. This drive time is considered to be an appropriate measure as it includes many of the Shawbury Library current users, without going too deeply into Shrewsbury or Wem towns (which have existing library provision). The map also shows where active users of the Library live (based on postcode data).

For the purposes of analysing the socio-economic / demographic characteristics of the 15 minute drive time area a best fit of lower layer super output areas (LSOAs) has been used. LLSOA are statistical geographies used by the Office of National Statistics to report on small area data the population average is 1,630 people.

Population

The latest 2014 mid-year population estimates from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) show that a population of 7,650 live within 15 minutes' drive time of Shawbury Library. The area covers 14,452 hectares and has a population density of 0.53 persons per hectare below the Shropshire figure of 0.96.

Table 1 shows that of the total population 1,700 (22.6%) are aged over 65 years of age, compared to 22.9% within Shropshire as a whole. The working age population represents 60.1% (4,650) of the total population, the school age population represents 11.7% (900) and the pre-school population represents 4.8% (400).

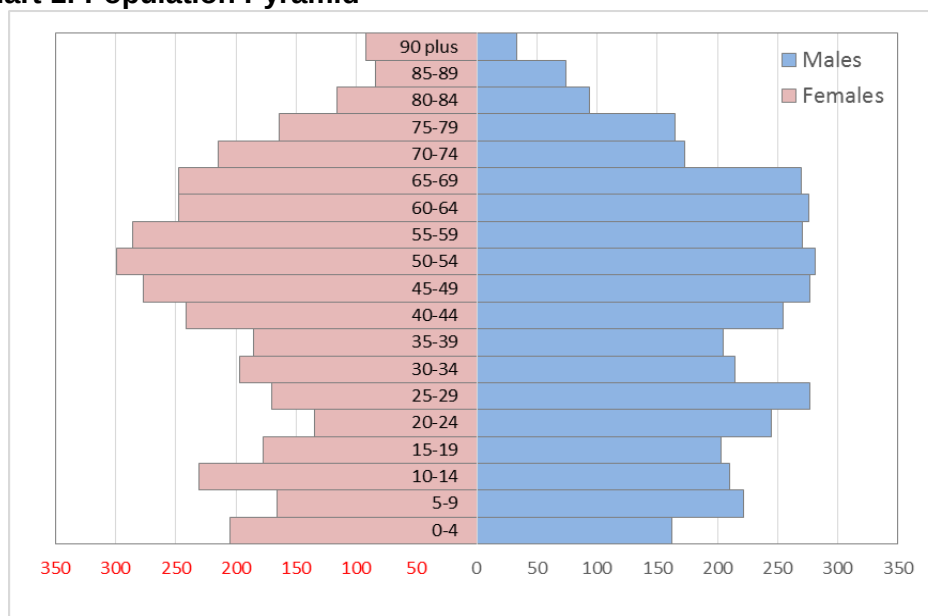
It is noteworthy that at any one time approximately 1,470 people are based at RAF Shawbury, who have access to a range of facilities on the base including a Library.

Source: Station Head Quarters, RAF Shawbury (date 07/12/2015).

Please note that the population is subject to fluctuation dependant on movement of armed forces personnel.

Chart 1 illustrates the age structure by gender for the drive time area of Shawbury Library. By comparing the female working age population groups with the males it is possible to see the impact of the location of Armed Forces in Shawbury. In the female 15 to 24 year age groups the estimates reflect young people leaving to study or find employment elsewhere which is not the case with the male age groups.

Chart 1: Population Pyramid



Source: 2014 Mid-Year Population Estimates by LSOA, Office for National Statistics.

Note: Estimates are rounded to the nearest fifty.

Map 1

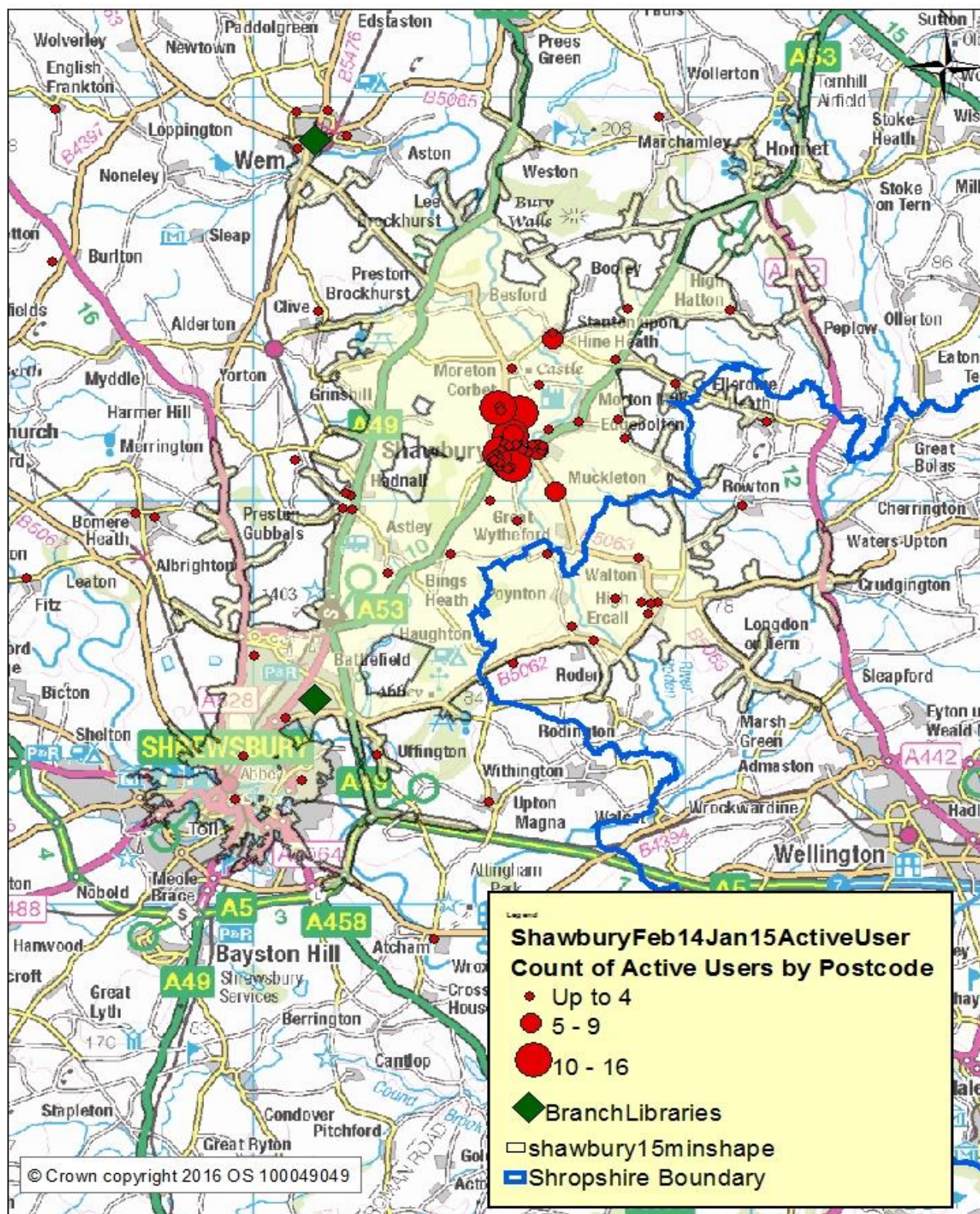


Table 1: Population by Age Group

	Estimates	Percentage of Total Population	Shropshire Comparison
0-4	350	4.8%	5.0%
5-9	400	5.1%	5.3%
10-14	450	5.8%	5.3%
15-19	400	5.0%	5.8%
20-24	400	5.0%	5.2%
25-29	450	5.8%	5.4%
30-34	400	5.4%	5.1%
35-39	400	5.1%	5.1%
40-44	500	6.5%	6.5%
45-49	550	7.2%	7.6%
50-54	600	7.6%	7.6%
55-59	550	7.3%	6.7%
60-64	500	6.9%	6.6%
65-69	500	6.8%	7.1%
70-74	400	5.1%	5.5%
75-79	350	4.3%	4.2%
80-84	200	2.7%	3.1%
85-89	150	2.1%	1.8%
90 plus	150	1.6%	1.1%
Total	7,650	100.0%	100.0%

Source: 2014 Mid-Year Population Estimates by LSOA, Office for National Statistics.

Note: Estimates are rounded to the nearest fifty and so may not sum exactly.

Population Diversity

The population of the area is predominantly White British (7,357, 96.7%). Mixed and other ethnic groups make up 1.5% (213) of the total population. The mixed and other ethnic group population is lower than Shropshire as a whole at 2.0%. The largest ethnic group population is Asian / Asian British with over 56% of this group identifying themselves as Indian / Indian British. Table 2 provides a more detailed breakdown by ethnic group.

In the area, there were 9 households who stated that there were no people in the household who had English as a main language (English or Welsh in Wales). In 34 households at least one but not all people aged 16 and over in household had English as a main language (English or Welsh in Wales).

Within the Shawbury drive time area 73.4% identified themselves as having a religion, higher than Shropshire as a whole at 69.9%. 67 people (0.9% of the population) worshipped a non-Christian religion, with 32 identifying 'other religion' and 12 identifying 'Hindu' as their religion.

Table 2: Ethnic Group

	Numbers	Percentage of Total Population	Shropshire Comparison
All People	7,612	100.0	100.0
White - British	7,357	96.7	95.4
White - Irish	36	0.5	0.5
White - Gypsy or Irish Traveller	4	0.1	0.1
White - Other	102	1.3	2.0
Mixed - White and Black Caribbean	10	0.1	0.2
Mixed - White and Black African	8	0.1	0.1
Mixed - White and Asian	20	0.3	0.2
Mixed - White and Other Mixed	7	0.1	0.2
Asian or Asian British - Indian	31	0.4	0.2
Asian or Asian British - Pakistani	4	0.1	0.1
Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi	0	0.0	0.1
Asian or Asian British - Chinese	14	0.2	0.3
Asian or Asian British - Other Asian	6	0.1	0.3
Black or Black British - Caribbean	2	0.0	0.1
Black or Black British - African	4	0.1	0.1
Black or Black British - Other Black	2	0.0	0.0
Arab	3	0.0	0.1
Any other Ethnic Group	2	0.0	0.1

Source: 2011 Census (ONS)

Health and Wellbeing

Shawbury Medical Practice has a patient register of 3,695, well below the Shropshire and national average of patients per GP Practice. The life expectancy of patients is 82.0 years for females and 80.7 years for males. This compares with 83.4 years for females and 79.5 years for males within Shropshire.

Shawbury Practice has a greater number of people over the ages of 65, 75 and 85 compared to national averages. The number of people registered at the surgery who are 65 years and over is 24.7%, 75 plus is 11.9% and 85 plus is 4.2%. This is compared to 17.1%, 7.8% and 2.3% respectively for England as a whole.

The proportion of patients with a long-standing health conditions is 52.1% compared to 54.7% for Shropshire and 54.0% nationally. There are 24.4% of patients with caring responsibilities in the GP catchment area, compared with 20.4% in Shropshire and 18.2% nationally.

Source: General GP Practice Profiles: <http://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/general-practice/data>

Table 3 provides health and wellbeing related information on residents within the 15 minute drive time area of Shawbury Library. It is very useful as it provides residents own perception of their general health, whether they are providing unpaid care and if they consider themselves to have a long-term health problem or disability.

In the area 1,427 residents (18.8% of the population) identified that they had a long-term health problem or disability, compared with 20.6% for Shropshire as a whole and 17.6% nationally. 691 residents were limited a lot by their condition or disability representing 9.1% of the total population.

The drive time area includes 902 residents who provide voluntary care (7.2% of the population) compared with 6.1% in Shropshire and 6.6% nationally. Particularly in need of support are the 190 residents providing 50 or more hours a week in care.

Table 3: Health and provision of unpaid care

	Numbers	Percentage of Total Population	Shropshire Comparison
All People	7,612	100.0	100.0
People with long-term health problem or disability;			
Limited a lot	691	9.1	8.4
Limited a little	736	9.7	10.2
Not limited	6,185	81.3	81.4
General Health(1)			
Very Good Health	3,756	49.3	46.5
Good Health	2,452	32.2	34.9
Fair Health	958	12.6	13.5
Bad Health	348	4.6	3.9
Very Bad Health	98	1.3	1.1
People who do not provide unpaid care(2)	6,710	4.6	3.9
1 to 19 hours a week	599	1.3	1.1
20 to 49 hours a week	113	4.6	3.9
50 or more hours a week	190	1.3	1.1
(1)General health refers to health over the 12 months prior to Census day (27th March 2011).			
(2)Provision of unpaid care: looking after, giving help or support to family members, friends, neighbours and others because of long-term, physical or Mental ill health or disability or problems relating to old age.			

Source: 2011 Census (ONS).

Housing and Households

Table 4 shows that 2,968 households live in the 15 minute drive time area of Shawbury Library. There are on average 2.4 persons per household. The percentage of pensioner households (25.3%) is the same as Shropshire but much lower than the national level (20.7%).

There were 117 lone-parent households with dependent children making up 3.5% of all households. This is the same level as nationally but slightly higher than Shropshire as a whole.

Table 4: Households

Table 4: Households	Numbers	Percentage of Total Households	Shropshire Comparison
Total Households	2,968	100.0	100.0
Average Household Size	2.4	XXX	XXX
One person households	678	22.8	28.9
Pensioner	378	12.7	13.9
Other	300	10.1	15.0
All pensioner households	752	25.3	25.3
Married couple households	1,320	44.5	36.4
With no children	536	18.1	14.9
With dependent children(1)	581	19.6	15.3
With non-dependent children only	203	6.8	6.2
Cohabiting couple households	242	8.2	10.0
With no children	140	4.7	5.4
With dependent children(1)	91	3.1	4.2
With non-dependent children	11	0.4	0.4
(1) In 2011 a dependent child is a person in a household aged 0-15 (whether or not in a family) or a person aged 16-18 who is a full-time student and in a family With parent(s).			
Other households			
With dependent children	147	5.0	5.2
Student households	49	1.7	1.8
Other pensioner	0	0.0	0.0
households	14	0.5	0.4
Other	84	2.8	3.0
Lone parent households	221	7.4	8.5
All children non-dependent	104	3.5	3.3
With dependent children	117	3.5	3.3
For the 2011 census, "lone parents in employment" includes lone parents who are self-employed.			

Source: 2011 Census (ONS)

Table 5 shows that 11.6% of households live in social rented accommodation supplied by either the local authority (1.8%) or from social landlords (9.8%). This represents 344 households and compares with 13.5% within Shropshire and 17.7% nationally. Overall 67.6% live in owner occupied accommodation with over half owning their property outright. This may reflect the older age structure within the area.

Table 5: Tenure

	Numbers	Percentage of Total Households	Shropshire Comparison
Total Households	2,968	100.0	100.0
No. of households who are:-			
Owner Occupiers	2,006	67.6	69.8
owns outright	1,057	35.6	38.6
owns with a mortgage or loan	932	31.4	30.6
shared ownership	17	0.6	0.6
Rent Privately	555	18.7	15.0
Social rent from a local authority	54	1.8	5.0
Social rent from registered social landlord / other	290	9.8	8.5
Live rent free	63	2.1	1.8

Source: 2011 Census (ONS)

Deprivation, rural isolation, distance from services and Broadband coverage

The area is predominantly rural but is within reasonable proximity to urban centres of Shrewsbury, Wem and Wellington. All of the area is classed as rural village dispersed and Shawbury is classed as rural town and fringe (2011 Rural Urban Classification).

Map 2 uses The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2015 to rank the lower layer super output areas (LLSOAs) around the Shawbury area. All the LLSOA's are within the 5th, 7th and 8th decile (1 being the most deprived, 10 being the least).

Map 3 uses sub-domain measures for The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) to show the geographical boundaries to services:

Road distance to post office.

Road distance to primary school.

Road distance to supermarket or general store.

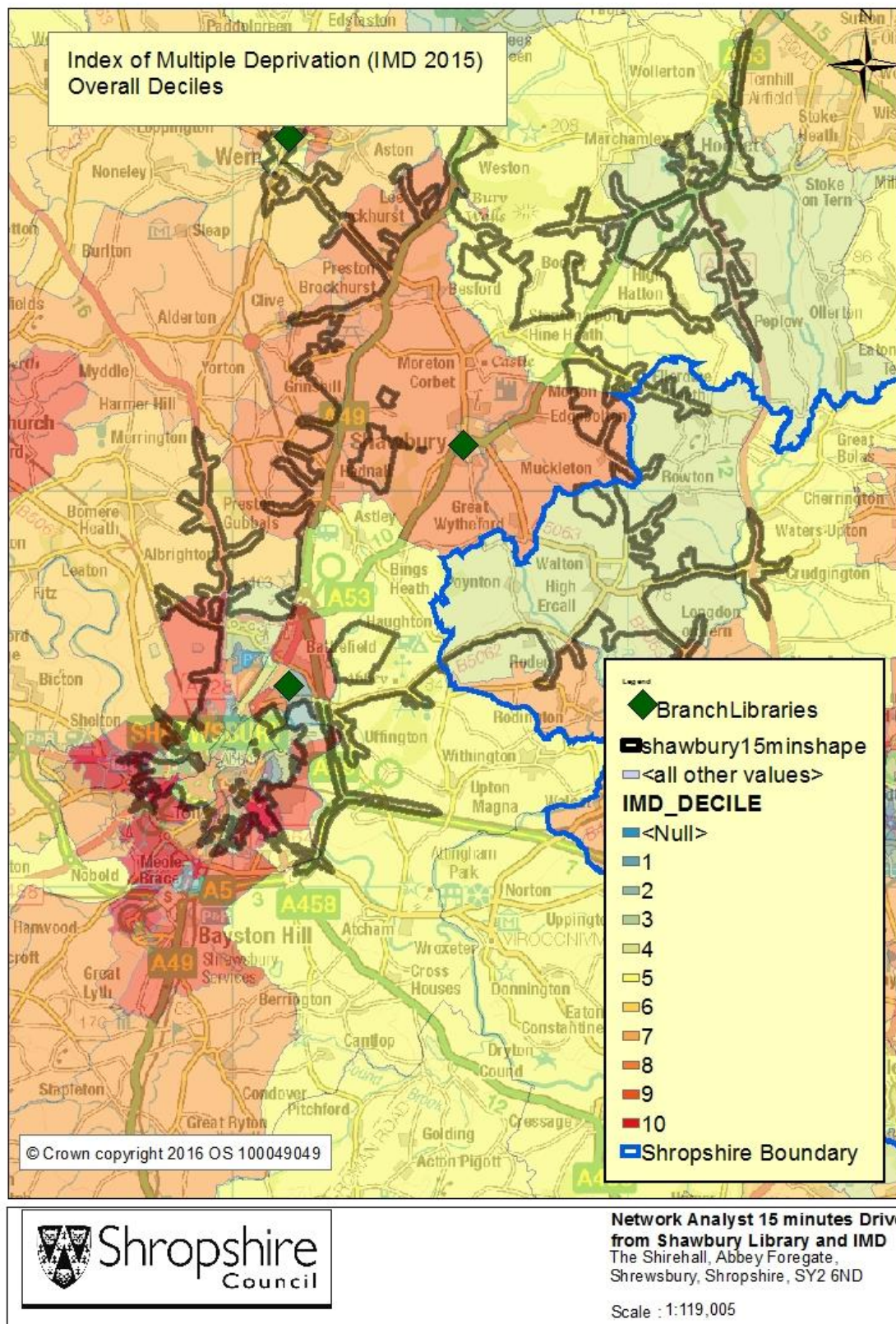
Road distance to GP.

This shows that the LLSOAs around Shawbury area are within the most deprived nationally in terms of geographical boundaries to services. All the LLSOA's with the exception of Shawbury itself are within the 1st decile, i.e. the most deprived nationally.

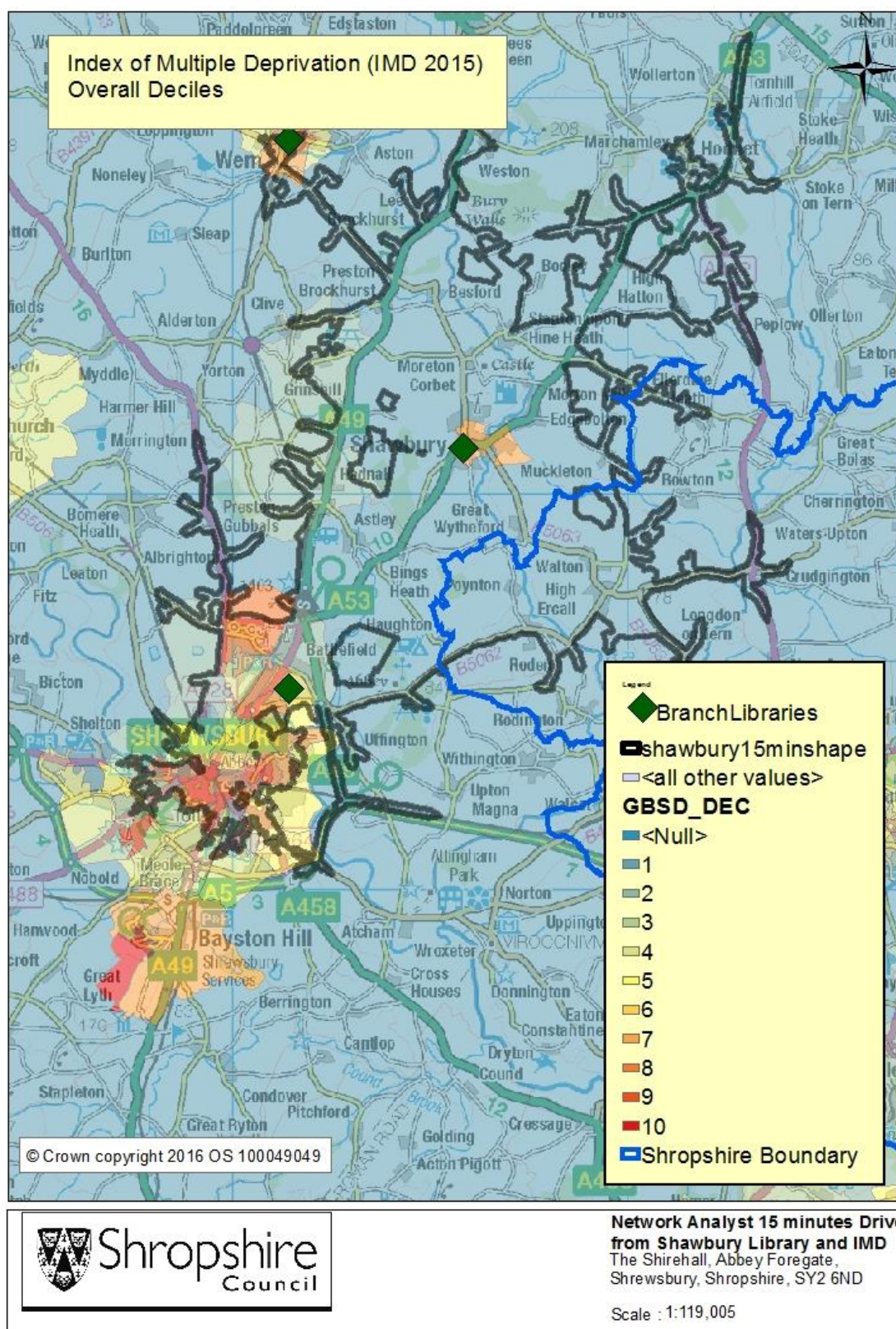
Source- 2011 Rural Urban Classification – prepared by Sheffield University on behalf of a central government working group. <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/geography/products/area-classifications/2011-rural-urban/index.html>

Source- English Indices of Deprivation 2015, Communities and Local Government (CLG) <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2015>

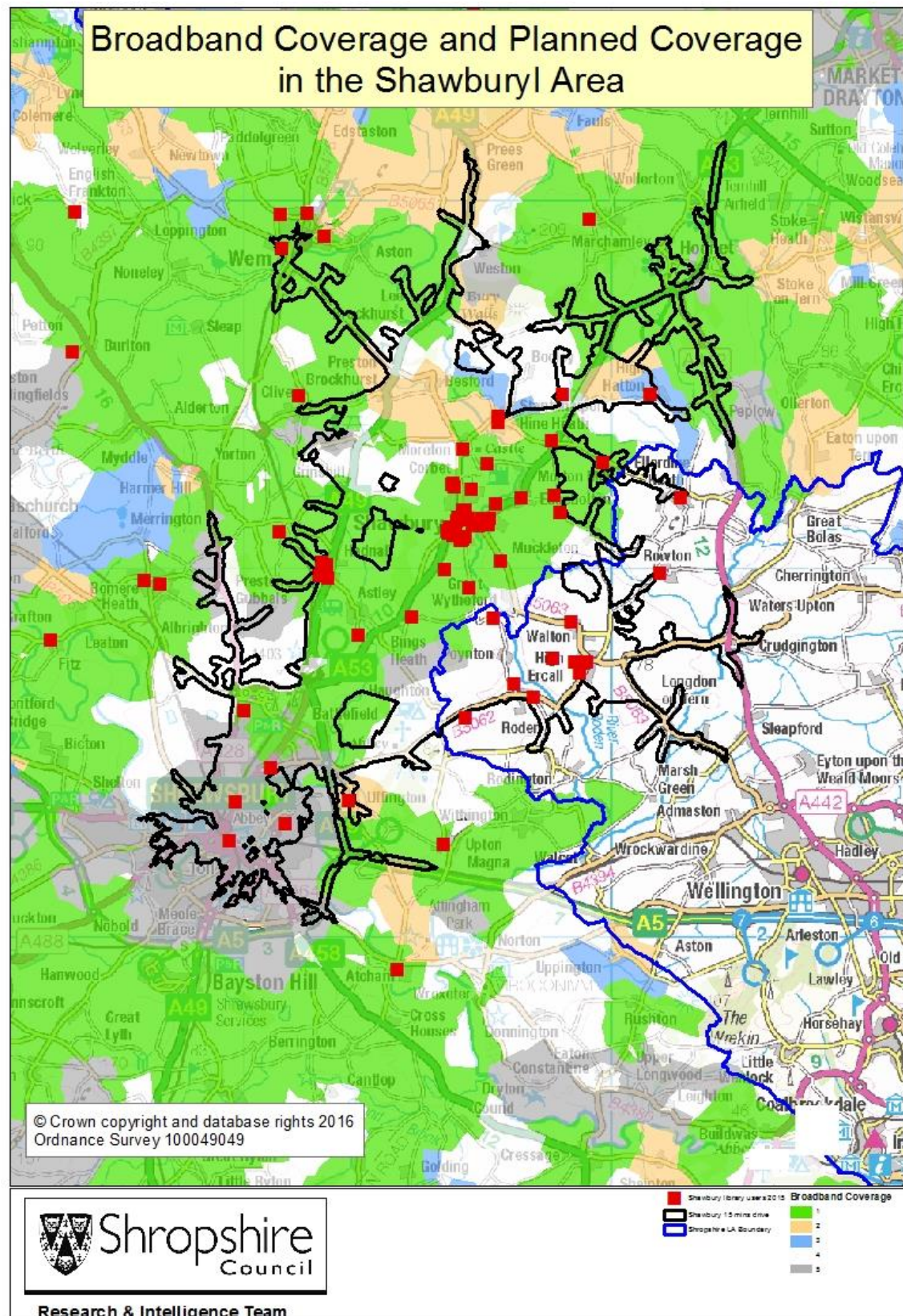
Map 2



Map 3



Map 4



Map 4 shows that within the 15 minute drive time around Shawbury Library, the majority of postcodes, where library users live, are green (phase 1) and that most premises are expected to have access to a fibre broadband service by the end of 2016. There are pockets which are shown as beige, which should have fibre access between now and the end of 2018. There are further areas shown as blue or white, where fibre services may come later.

The map shows projected coverage across post code areas (in Shropshire Council area) and is not intended to be accurate down to premise level. It is important to note that not all premises in an area where fibre technology has or will be deployed will necessarily benefit from an up-lift in speed.

connecting.shropshire@shropshire.gov.uk
<http://connectingshropshire.co.uk/>

Transport

Table 6 shows that 92.4% of households have access to at least one car in the drive time area compared with only 74.3% nationally and 84.2% in Shropshire. Only 108 people (1.9% of those aged 16-74 years) choose to travel to work by public transport. In the area 2,610 people (49.5% of journeys) travel to work by car.

Table 6: Cars and Vans

	Number of Households	Percentage of Total Households	Shropshire Comparison
All Households	2,968	100.0	100.0
No Car	225	7.6	15.8
One Car	1,152	38.8	42.2
Two Cars	1,122	37.8	30.8
Three Cars	326	11.0	7.9
Four or More Cars	143	4.8	3.3
All Cars and Vans in the Area (2)	5,011	XXX	XXX
1. Includes any company car or van if available for private use 2. 'All cars or vans in the area' includes only those cars and vans owned by, Or available for use by, households. This count is not exact as households with more than 10 cars or vans are Counted as having 10 cars or vans.			
Table T01 Journey to Work	Number in Employment	Percentage of People Aged 16-74	Shropshire Comparison
All People Aged 16-74	5,570	100.0	100.0
People Who Work Mainly at or From Home	360	6.5	5.6
Underground; Metro; Light Rail; Tram	7	0.1	0.1
Train	48	0.9	0.8
Bus; Mini Bus or Coach	53	1.0	1.3
Taxi or Minicab	8	0.1	0.3
Motorcycle; Scooter; Moped	25	0.4	0.4
Driving a Car or Van	2,610	46.9	44.0
Passenger in a Car or Van	146	2.6	3.5
Bicycle	188	3.4	2.0
On Foot	506	9.1	8.9
Other	36	0.6	0.5
All People Not in Employment	1,583	28.4	32.7
Public Transport (1)	108	1.9	2.2
Motor Vehicle (2)	2,789	50.1	48.1
1. Includes Train, Underground; metro; light rail; tram, bus; Mini Bus or coach 2. Includes Motorcycle; Scooter; moped, Driving a car or van, Passenger in a car or van, Taxi or minicab			

Source: 2011 Census (ONS).

Map 5 and Table 7 show that Shawbury is served by a main bus route from Hanley to Shrewsbury with bus stops at Battlefield and Harlescott, from there the Lantern Library can be accessed by changing buses or on foot. There is a bus route from Shrewsbury to Whitchurch calling at Wem, the connection for this bus is Battlefield. There are regular buses from Harlescott and Harlescott Park and Ride to Shrewsbury centre. Some of the more rurally located users would have to travel to access bus stops and routes.

Map 5

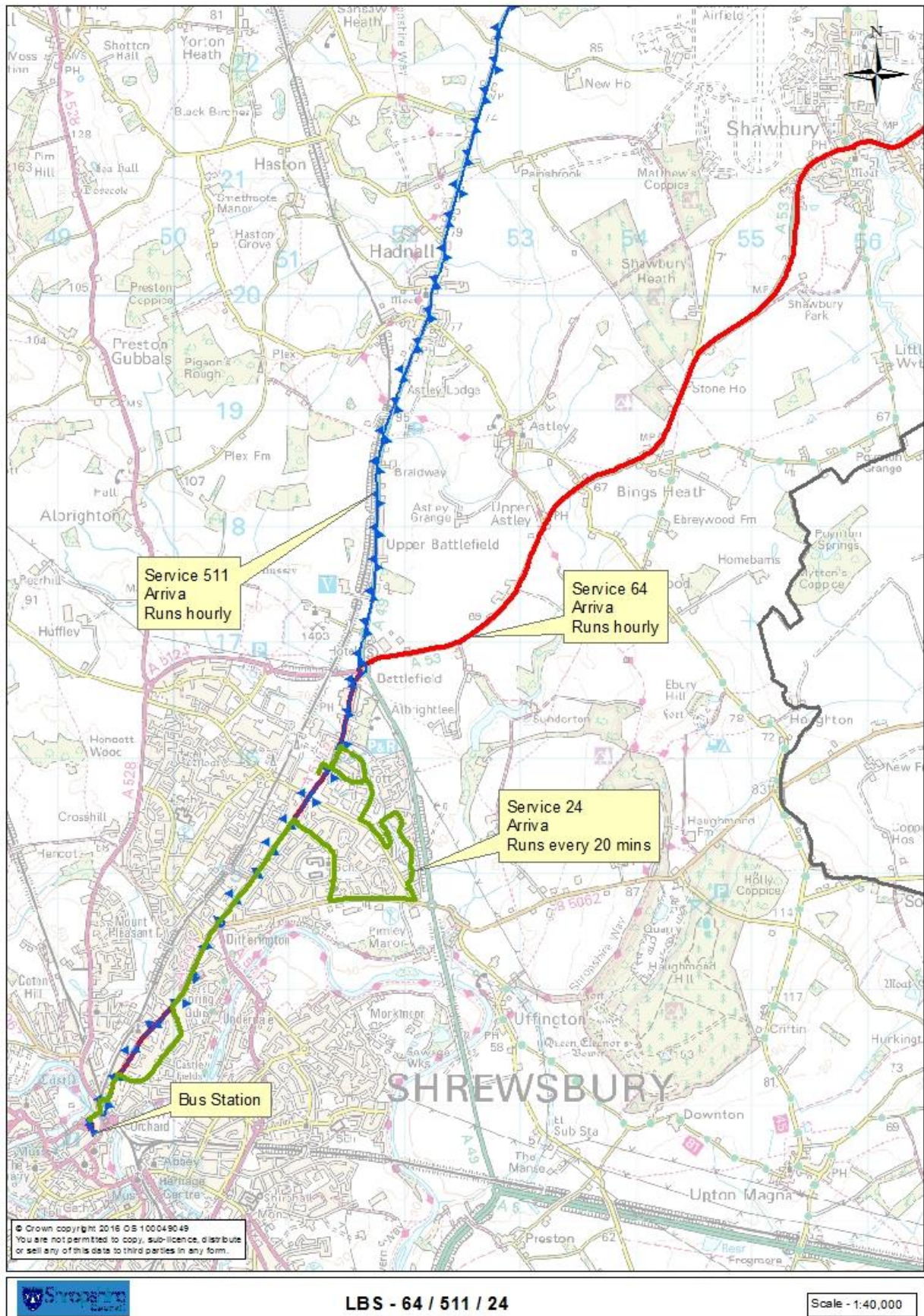


Table 7: Bus Routes

Bus	Route	Frequency
64	Hanley to Shrewsbury	Runs hourly
511	Shrewsbury to Whitchurch	Runs hourly
24	Bus Station to Harlescott	Runs every 10 minutes

Education and Qualifications

Table 8 shows that 30.4% of the Shawbury population have level 4 or above qualifications compared with 27.5% in Shropshire and 27.4% in England. 20.7% of the population (aged over 16) have no formal qualifications which compares with the County average of 22.5%.

Table 8: Qualifications and Students

	Numbers Total	Percentage of People Aged 16 and over	Shropshire Comparison
All People Aged 16 and over	6,328	100.0	100.0
No Qualifications	1,308	20.7	22.5
Highest Qualification Attained Level 1(1)	745	11.8	13.1
Highest Qualification Attained Level 2(2)	1,037	16.4	16.8
Apprenticeship	253	4.0	3.7
Highest Qualification Attained Level 3(3)	805	12.7	12.2
Highest Qualification Attained Level 4/5(4)	1,921	30.4	27.5
Other Qualifications/Level Unknown	259	4.1	4.2
Total Number of Full-time Students and School Children:			
Aged 16-17	126	XXX	XXX
Aged 18 and Over	115	XXX	XXX
Number of Full-time Students Aged 18 and over:			
Economically Active in Employment	57	49.6	40.3
Economically Active Unemployed	7	6.1	5.3
Economically Inactive	50	43.5	53.9
1. 1+ 'O' level passes, 1+ CSE/GCSE any grades, NVQ level 1, Foundation GNVQ. 2. 5+ 'O' level passes, 5+ CSEs (grade 1's), 5+GCSEs (grades A-C), School Certificate, 1+'A' levels/AS levels, NVQ level 2, Intermediate GNVQ. 3. 2+'A' levels, 4+ AS levels, Higher School Certificate, NVQ level 3, Advanced GNVQ. 4. First degree, Higher degree, NVQ levels 4 and 5, HNC, HND, Qualified Teacher Status, Qualified Medical Doctor, Qualified Dentist, Qualified Nurse, Midwife, Health Visitor.			

Source: 2011 Census (ONS).

Employment

1.7% of the population were unemployed, less than the County wide average of 3.3%. This will be influenced by the presence of RAF Shawbury. In May 2015, the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) had 310 working age clients, within the area approximately 6.5% of the population aged 16-64.

Source: Nomis uses the **working-age client group** data set for counts of the number of working-age people who are claiming one or more key DWP benefits - a figure often used as a proxy for worklessness.

Table 9: Economic Activity

	Numbers			Percentage of People Aged 16-74	Shropshire Comparison
	Male	Female	Total		
All People Aged 16-74	2,897	2,673	5,570	100.0	100.0
Economically Active	2,568	1,699	4,267	76.6	72.4
Employees Part-time (1)	129	618	747	13.4	15.5
Employees Full-time (2)	1,541	852	2,393	43.0	37.1
Self-employed	532	227	759	13.6	12.7
Unemployed	55	41	96	1.7	3.3
Full-time Student	44	62	106	1.9	2.3
Economically Inactive	596	873	1,469	26.4	29.0
Retired	396	517	913	16.4	16.9
Student (3)	76	65	141	2.5	3.9
Looking after home/family	16	176	192	3.4	3.4
Permanently sick/disabled	78	76	154	2.8	3.2
Other	30	39	69	1.2	1.6
1. 30 Hours or less a week					
2. 31 Hours or more a week					
3. In 2001 Students have been counted at their term-time address					

Source: 2011 Census (ONS).

Summary

- An area was selected based on a 15 minute drive time from Shawbury Library. Users of the library as of December 2014 live throughout the 15 minute area, the majority of which live in Shawbury itself. It is estimated from this, 15 minute calculation, that Wem and The Lantern Libraries can be accessed by car using the road network.
- Best fit data has been used from the 2011 census to build up a profile of the 15 minute drive time area.

Population

- The latest 2014 mid-year population estimates from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) show that a population of 7,650 live within 15 minutes' drive time of Shawbury Library. The area covers 14,452 hectares and has a population density of 0.53 persons per hectare below the Shropshire figure of 0.96. The average age of the area is 43 years. It is noteworthy that at any one time approximately 1,470 people are based at RAF Shawbury, who have access to a range of facilities on the base including a Library.

- The population of the area is predominantly White British (299,874, 98.5%) with mixed and other ethnic groups making up 113 (1.5%) of the total population. The mixed and other ethnic group population is lower than Shropshire as a whole at 2.0%. The largest ethnic group population is Asian / Asian British with over 56% of this group identifying themselves as Indian / Indian British.
- Of the total population 1,700 (22.6%) are aged over 65 years of age, compared to 22.9% within Shropshire as a whole. The working age population represents 60.1% (4,650) of the total population, the school age population represents 11.7% (900) and the pre-school population represents 4.8% (400).

Health

- Shawbury Practice has a greater number of people over the ages of 65, 75 and 85 compared to national averages. The number of people registered at the surgery who are 65 years and over is 24.7%, 75 plus is 11.9% and 85 plus is 4.2%. This is compared to 17.1%, 7.8% and 2.3% respectively for England as a whole.
- The proportion of patients with a long-standing health conditions is 52.1% compared to 54.7% for Shropshire and 54.0% nationally. There are 24.4% of patients with caring responsibilities in the GP catchment area, compared with 20.4% in Shropshire and 18.2% nationally.
- In the area 1,427 residents (18.8% of the population) identified that they had a long-term health problem or disability, compared with 20.6% for Shropshire as a whole and 17.6% nationally. 691 residents were limited a lot by their condition or disability representing 9.1% of the total population.
- The drive time area includes 902 residents who provide voluntary care (7.2% of the population) compared with 6.1% in Shropshire and 6.6% nationally. Particularly in need of support are the 190 residents providing 50 or more hours a week in care.

Housing and Households

- The number of households in the area was 2,968 and the average household size was 2.4. 25.8% of households were pensioner households.
- In 2011, 11.6% of households lived in social rented accommodation either provided by the local authority or a social landlord.

Deprivation, rural isolation and Broadband

- The area is predominantly rural but is in reasonable proximity to urban centres of Shrewsbury, Wem, and Wellington.
- The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 (IMD) shows a low level of overall deprivation across the 15 minute drive time area.
- In terms of the IMD sub-domain 'Geographic Access to Services', Shawbury rural areas are amongst the most deprived nationally in terms of distance to the nearest

post office, GP, supermarket or primary school. This is the case for much of the rural areas in Shropshire.

- Most premises are expected to have access to fibre broadband service by the end of 2016. There are pockets, which should have fibre access between now and the end of 2018.
- There are a few areas where fibre services may come later.
- According to the 2011 Census, 92.4% of households did have access to at least one car.
- 49.5% of journeys to work are made by car and only 1.9% by public transport.
- Shawbury is served by a main bus route from Hanley to Shrewsbury (64) with bus stops at Battlefield and Harlescott, from there the Lantern Library can be accessed by changing buses or on foot. There is a bus route from Shrewsbury to Whitchurch (511) calling at Wem, the connection for this bus is Battlefield. There are regular buses from Harlescott (24) and Harlescott Park and Ride to Shrewsbury centre. Some of the more rurally located users would have to travel to access bus stops and routes.

Education and Employment

- Table 8 shows that there is a higher than average basic skills level. 30.4% of the Shawbury population have level 4 or above qualifications compared with 27.5% in Shropshire and 27.4% in England. 20.7% of the population (aged over 16) have no formal qualifications which compares with the County average of 22.5%.
- 1.7% of the population were unemployed, less than the County wide average of 3.3% at the time of the 2011 Census. This is influenced by the presence of RAF Shawbury.
- Levels of worklessness in terms of the number of people claiming one or more benefits is low at approximately 6.5% of the population.

3. Shawbury Library

Background

The Library is housed in Shawbury Village Hall. Shropshire Council manages the library under a 35 year part – repairing lease with the Shawbury Village Hall Committee.

There are 2 members of staff – both permanent – and extra cover is provided from Market Drayton Library.

Further details of the library and its services are provided below:

Library opening hours	Monday 12:00 - 16:00 Tuesday Closed Wednesday 14:00 - 18:00 Thursday Closed Friday 12:00 - 16:00 Saturday 10:00 - 13:00 Total = 15 hours
Parking	Parking in circa 25 adjacent parking spaces
Access to IT / computers	Public computers available free to library members One-to-one adult computer and tablet lessons with trained volunteers
Summary of library services	• free membership for all • the lending of adult books, audio books, large print books and DVDs • a children's library area and range of books for children from age 0 upwards • a collection of books for teenagers • local history resources • regular exchange of books with other libraries • request service - obtaining books from other libraries requested by customers • free access to public computers for library members; internet access and printing • trained staff to issue and return books, answer enquiries, help people to choose books and use computers • online services on the Library Service website for use 24/7 • events such as rhyme times for pre-school children once a month, holiday activities for children during the school holidays and occasional class visits from the primary school. • information and advice on other services, local groups, etc.
Volunteers to support the service	1 volunteer for the Home Library Service

Shawbury Library Usage

There were 276 active users at the end of March 2016 and an average of 268 users during 2015/16. The table below based on the period Feb 2014 to January 2015 shows that the majority of active borrowers are from the Shawbury parish followed by Ercall Magna and Stanton upon Hine Heath.

Parish Name	Number of Active Users	Percentage of Resident Population who are active users	Percentage of Household Population who are active users
Shawbury	188	6.5%	7.3%
Ercall Magna	18	3.1%	3.1%
Stanton upon Hine Heath	17	1.0%	1.1%
Hadnall	9	1.3%	1.3%
Wem Urban	7	0.1%	0.1%
Shrewsbury	5	n/a	n/a
Moreton Corbet and Lee Brockhurst	3	1.0%	1.0%
Pimhill	3	0.1%	0.1%

Details of library usage measured by the number of visits, the number of active borrowers, computer time used, the total number of loans and the number of requests is described below for the past five years. By way of comparison this is compared with the overall picture for Shropshire.

Shawbury Library	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	% change over 5yrs	% change from 14/15 to 15/16
VISITS	7,325	7,460	6,284	4,579	3,937	-46%	-14%
ACTIVE BORROWERS*	305	278	289	286	268	-12%	-6%
COMPUTER TIME USED (MINS)	63,888	70,440	54,738	42,756	26,513	-59%	-38%
TOTAL LOANS	8,679	7,624	7,857	8,138	5,253	-39%	-35%
REQUESTS	372	328	328	294	278	-25%	-5%

Shropshire Libraries Totals	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	% change over 5yrs	% change from 14/15 to 15/16
VISITS	1,388,579	1,340,186	1,286,582	1,078,927	1,042,707	-25%	-3%
ACTIVE BORROWERS*	50,752	47,634	44,286	41,564	41,639	-18%	0%
COMPUTER TIME USED (MINS)	6,238,920	5,824,934	6,026,964	5,504,397	4,773,696	-23%	-13%
TOTAL LOANS	1,385,091	1,274,871	1,197,643	1,080,888	963,019	-30%	-11%
REQUESTS	87,715	87,281	80,217	80,930	74,068	-16%	-8%

* The number of active borrowers is the average of all the monthly figures over the year. The figure is the total number of people that have been 'seen' by one of the library systems over the previous 12 months (borrowed/returned/requested a book or other item, used a PC in the library, logged in to the online catalogue, borrowed an e-book or logged in to an e-resource).

The table below further shows performance at Shawbury library in 2015/16 for the total number of visits, the total number of loans and the number of active borrowers compared to other libraries within Shropshire. For each measure the branches are shown in descending order.

Libraries in order of visits/loans/active borrowers

Visits 2015/16		Total loans 2015/16		Active Borrowers 2015/16	
Shrewsbury (SL)	171,998	SL	148,249	SL	10,011
Oswestry (OS)	171,925	OS	116,199	OS	5,643
Ludlow (LU)	94,346	LU	79,045	LU	3,431
Bridgnorth (BR)	84,262	BR	58,708	BR	3,104
Market Drayton (MD)	75,524	MD	52,217	MD	3,052
Whitchurch (WH)	67,600	WH	43,545	WH	2,340
Wem (WM)	44,568	CS	38,339	CS	1,488
Cleobury Mortimer (CM)	35,995	BH	32,804	WM	1,209
Church Stretton (CS)	35,487	HL	29,302	AL	1,024
Library at the Lantern (HL)	28,154	BC	27,082	EL	1,009
Bishop's Castle (BC)	27,782	EL	25,242	HL	906
Ellesmere (EL)	22,413	WM	24,895	BC	830
Highley (HY)	21,382	AL	22,302	BH	794
Shifnal (SF)	19,651	PO	17,612	ST	771
Bayston Hill (BH)	18,253	BY	14,689	SF	723
Albrighton (AL)	17,821	WK	13,879	BY	634
Broseley (BY)	14,838	SF	13,803	PO	554
Stoke Heath (ST)	12,427	ST	13,673	CM	550
Pontesbury (PO)	8,876	CM	12,443	WK	526
Much Wenlock (WK)	8,833	CA	11,829	CA	491
Gobowen (GO)	8,346	GO	10,275	HY	413
Craven Arms (CA)	6,950	SY	5,253	GO	312
Shawbury (SY)	3,937	HY	4,475	SY	268

The overall decline in key measures is a reflection of national trends. Within Shropshire, online developments mean it has now become easier to access a range of library services remotely, such as renewing and requesting items, e-magazines and e-books, and a wide selection of online reference resources. This will have had a detrimental impact on physical visits.

Despite recent local publicity on the future of Shawbury library there has been a significant decline in visits, active borrowers, computer use, loans and requests in 2015/16, all (except for requests) significantly greater than the county average.

The overall drop in computer time used is a reflection of the increase in ownership of internet devices, particularly smartphones and tablets.

Improvements to the web site will have contributed to the relatively small decline in requests. Alongside this, reductions in the book fund mean that the library service is purchasing fewer titles and relies more on customers requesting items that are not in stock. Stock selection is

therefore driven more by demand, and although supply is slightly slower it is a cost-effective approach.

Costs per loan/visit are detailed in **Appendix 1**. The cost per visit at Shawbury is £3.64 which, because of the low number of visits, makes it the most expensive in Shropshire, followed by Much Wenlock with a cost of £2.67 per visit. The cost per loan at Shawbury is £2.73, which makes it the fourth most expensive behind Oswestry, Bridgnorth and Highley. The average cost per loan/visit combined is £3.19 which also makes Shawbury the most expensive library in the county. The low level of usage directly impacts on the cost of providing a library service.

Alongside the library statistics provided above a detailed survey of library users was conducted between February and March 2016. 82 survey forms were completed and the full outcomes are presented within **Appendix 2**. Notable findings are presented below although it should be noted that this is based on a relatively small sample size:

- 57% of users visited the library by car and 41% walked
- 85% of users found it easy to get to the library
- 76% of visits were for book borrowing and 22% to use the computers
- 35% of users used the library at least once a week and 49% once or twice a month.

Summary

- Shawbury Library has limited opening hours (15 hours per week) which affects the type of use made of the library.
- The library has a low level of active library membership (268 members at March 2016) attracting 3,937 visits per year – the lowest in Shropshire. The user survey suggested that about half of users used the library about once or twice a month.
- The majority of active borrowers are from the Shawbury parish, 6.5% of resident population, followed by Ercall Magna and Stanton Upon Hine Heath.
- Book borrowing is the most popular activity for both adults and children at the library although the number of books loaned is the lowest in Shropshire.
- The use of public computers is the second most popular activity but there is only an average of 42 computer sessions per month. Library computer use has fallen by 59% over the past five years due to the increase in home computer ownership and internet connectivity.
- The survey suggested that 57% of users visited the library by car and 41% walked; and that 76% of visits were for book borrowing and 22% to use the computers.
- The cost per library visit at Shawbury is £3.64 which, because of the low number of visits, makes it the most expensive library in Shropshire.
- The cost per loan is £2.73. The average cost per loan/visit combined is £3.19 which makes Shawbury the most expensive library in the county.

4. Meeting the library needs of residents in Shawbury

Statutory responsibility

The Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 requires all first-tier English local authorities to provide “comprehensive and efficient” public library services. The terms “comprehensive and efficient” are not defined within the Act; however, broadly speaking, the Act requires library authorities to provide people who live, work or study in their area with access to books and other printed materials in line with their needs and requirements. The Act specifies that no charges should be made for the use of these services, although there are exceptions for the notification of the availability of reserved items and library overdue charges. It has been established that charges for the hire of audio-visual materials are also permitted.

Existing and anticipated library needs

Based on existing and predicted patterns of library use, this assessment shows that there is a need for the library authority to provide the following services for residents in Shawbury:

- facilities to borrow books for adults and children
- facilities to borrow media items for adults and children
- access to printed (and online) information resources
- access to public computers and the Internet

Meeting existing and anticipated library needs

The library authority expects to meet the library needs of residents in the Shawbury area using a combination of delivery methods:

- the provision of a mobile library service
- Support for the development of the Village Hall as a “Community Hub”.
- the provision of fully staffed library services from Wem, the Lantern at Sundorne Shrewsbury and Market Drayton
- the development of on-line library services
- home library services for people unable to readily get out and about

It is recognised that it will be difficult to provide on-going support for existing regular library activities such as rhyme times and holiday activities for children and occasional class visits from the primary school. The school could potentially bring children to borrow books from the mobile library and it may be possible to hold a story time event during the summer holidays but these activities might be impacted by space constraints. Options will continue to be researched, good practice elsewhere considered and ideas from the local community welcomed.

The provision of a mobile library service

Within 2 miles of Shawbury Parish there are existing fortnightly mobile library stops at Hadnall, Astley, and Muckleton.

Shawbury ward (4,666) is comparable in size to St Martins ward (4,333) Whittington ward (4,067) and Ruyton and Baschurch ward (4,174). These wards are served by a mobile library visit ranging from 1 – 2.5 hours per fortnight. St Martins is 6.3 miles from its nearest static library at Oswestry, Baschurch is 8.7 miles from Shrewsbury, Whittington is 3 miles from Oswestry.

In recognition of the fact that over 40% of visitors in a recent survey walked to the library it is proposed to introduce a weekly mobile library visit lasting 1 hour (rather than the more usual fortnightly visit). Alongside this it should be noted that car ownership in and around Shawbury is significantly above the Shropshire average.

A potential route and stop time for the mobile library visit is currently being worked up and will be subject of a separate public consultation.

The mobile library service is part of the network of Shropshire Libraries. As such it has access to the full range of materials available at the static branches. Materials can be requested from other libraries either in person or online for collection from the mobile library. The full range of digital services including e books, e magazines, newspapers and access to reference sources and information can all be accessed from a mobile library. Trained staff are available on the mobile libraries to offer support and guidance.

In summary the mobile library will provide the following services:

- the lending of books for babies, children, young people and adults in hardback, paperback and large print
- the lending of talking books on compact disc for children and adults
- access to Books on Prescription, fiction in other languages, books for readers with dyslexia and skills for life material through the request service
- access to the County stock of books, audio books, large print books and DVDs through the request service
- trained staff to issue and return book, answer enquiries and help people to choose books
- access to community information and information on council services
- occasional visits from partner organisations who use the mobile library to promote their services and to offer guidance; e.g. in 2015 these included the Alzheimer's Society, Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service and Police Community Support Officers

The mobile library is fully accessible.

Support for the development of the Village Hall as a “Community Hub”

The Village Hall Committee has confirmed that the withdrawal of the library would provide an opportunity to enhance the provision within the hall for the Shawbury community. They are keen to investigate the possibility of creating a ‘Community Hub’ which could provide a meeting area for villagers with access to IT facilities including broadband connection, desktop computers and printers. It could also be equipped with easy chairs and tea and coffee making facilities to make it an attractive environment in which villagers could meet on a daily basis. It could have displays and shelves for exhibiting printed materials and possibly a book exchange.

The provision of fully staffed library services from Wem, the Lantern at Sundorne Shrewsbury and Market Drayton

There is a library on the base at RAF Shawbury and this is used by personnel and their families. There is little use made of Shawbury library by residents of the base.

The local primary school has its own library and buys in to the School Library Service at silver level. Children from the school can borrow books and the school itself can borrow 1 topic collection of 30 items per class per term. However, class visits to the existing library currently happen weekly, and are unlikely to continue to a mobile library due to space constraints.

The nearest static branch from Shawbury is Wem Library which is 6.5 miles away. The Library at the Lantern, Sundorne Shrewsbury is 6.4 miles and Market Drayton Library is 13 miles away.

The development of on-line library services

A number of online library services are available:

- e-Books - e-Books can be downloaded free of charge. Up to 4 books can be borrowed at any one time for up to 21 days. A maximum of 4 books can be reserved at any one time
- e-Magazines - full digital copies of magazines can be downloaded free of charge
- e-Newspapers - over 2000 newspapers can be accessed, including most of the UK National papers,
- e-Community - Shropshire Community Directory is a local gateway to up-to-date information on over 3000 community groups, clubs, societies, support and self-help groups.
- Online reference - access to reference materials

Home library services for people unable to readily get out and about

Extra home library service volunteers will be recruited to support existing volunteers to select books from the mobile library and deliver them to readers unable to readily get out and about. The mobile library service may also visit people unable to readily get out and about where possible.

Actions to review and monitor the impact of the service change

Usage of alternative library service provision by Shawbury residents will be monitored and alternative service provision will be kept under review.

Alongside this the Council will continue to look at best practice elsewhere, encourage comments and ideas from local residents and actively encourage the participation of local community groups, including the Village Hall Committee, the Parish Council RAF Shawbury and the local school and the development of alternative approaches for delivering library services.

Appendix 1 Cost per visit/loan

	Controllable budget 2015/16	Visits 15/16	Total loans 2015/16	Cost per visit	Cost per loan	Avg cost
Ellesmere	£18,890	22,413	25,242	£0.84	£0.75	£0.80
Gobowen	£21,210	8,346	10,275	£2.54	£2.06	£2.30
Market Drayton	£104,570	75,524	52,217	£1.38	£2.00	£1.69
Oswestry	£320,850	171,925	116,199	£1.87	£2.76	£2.31
Shawbury	£14,340	3,937	5,253	£3.64	£2.73	£3.19
Whitchurch	£95,970	67,600	43,545	£1.42	£2.20	£1.81
Wem	£38,680	44,568	24,895	£0.87	£1.55	£1.21
Albrighton	£24,490	17,821	22,302	£1.37	£1.10	£1.24
Broseley	£22,070	14,838	14,689	£1.49	£1.50	£1.49
Bridgnorth	£162,480	84,262	58,708	£1.93	£2.77	£2.35
Highley	£23,420	21,382	4,475	£1.10	£5.23	£3.16
Shifnal	£25,410	19,651	13,803	£1.29	£1.84	£1.57
Wenlock	£23,580	8,833	13,879	£2.67	£1.70	£2.18
Bishop's Castle	£34,760	27,782	27,082	£1.25	£1.28	£1.27
Cleobury Mortimer	£29,450	35,995	12,443	£0.82	£2.37	£1.59
Ludlow	£116,060	94,346	79,045	£1.23	£1.47	£1.35
Bayston Hill	£29,310	18,253	32,804	£1.61	£0.89	£1.25
Church Stretton	£35,960	35,487	38,339	£1.01	£0.94	£0.98
Lantern	£27,960	28,154	29,302	£0.99	£0.95	£0.97
Pontesbury	£16,270	8,876	17,612	£1.83	£0.92	£1.38
Shrewsbury	£328,030	171,998	148,249	£1.91	£2.21	£2.06

Branches in order of cost (branches in the market towns provide support, cover and co-ordinate services for the smaller branches and so appear more expensive)

Ellesmere	£0.80
Lantern	£0.97
Church Stretton	£0.98
Wem	£1.21
Albrighton	£1.24
Bayston Hill	£1.25
Bishop's Castle	£1.27
Ludlow	£1.35
Pontesbury	£1.38
Broseley	£1.49
Shifnal	£1.57
Cleobury Mortimer	£1.59
Market Drayton	£1.69
Whitchurch	£1.81
Shrewsbury	£2.06
Wenlock	£2.18
Gobowen	£2.30
Oswestry	£2.31
Bridgnorth	£2.35
Highley	£3.16
Shawbury	£3.19

Appendix 2

2016 Shawbury Library User survey

Total number of completed forms = 82

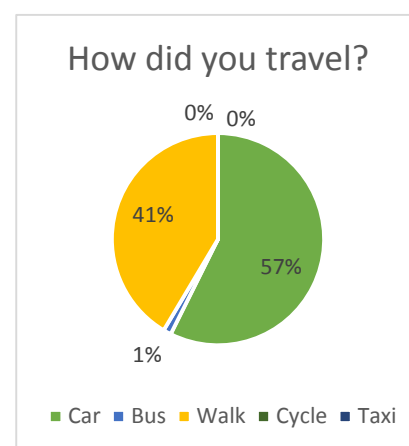
Of those surveyed

72 White British; 1 White Other; 7 Not Said

60 Female; 17 Male; 5 Not Said

13 with Physical disability; 2 with Learning Disability; 2 with Another Disability

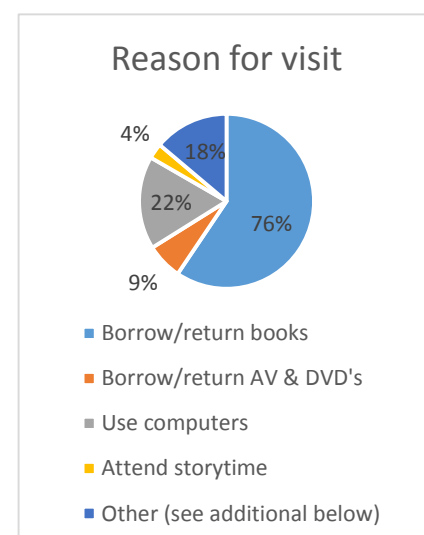
	Percentage of the total number of people	Number of people
1) How did you travel?		
Car	57%	47
Bus	1%	1
Walk	41%	34
Cycle	0%	0
Taxi	0%	0



2) How easily did you find it to get the library		
Very easy	85%	70
Quite easy	12%	10
Not very easy	1%	1
Not said	1%	1



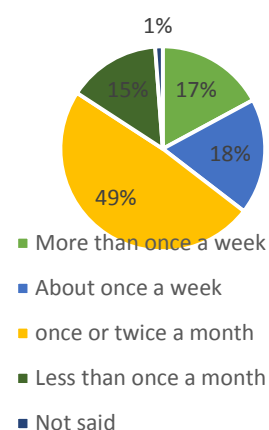
3) What are you visiting library for today?		
Borrow/return books	76%	62
Borrow/return AV & DVD's	9%	7
Use computers	22%	18
Attend storytime	4%	3
Other (see additional below)	18%	13



4) How often do you visit the library

More than once a week	17%	14
About once a week	18%	15
once or twice a month	49%	40
Less than once a month	15%	12
Not said	1%	1

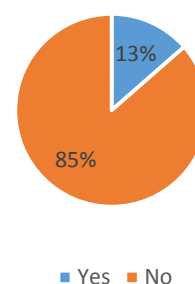
Visit how often?



5) Do you use another library/mobile library?

Yes	13%	11
No	85%	70

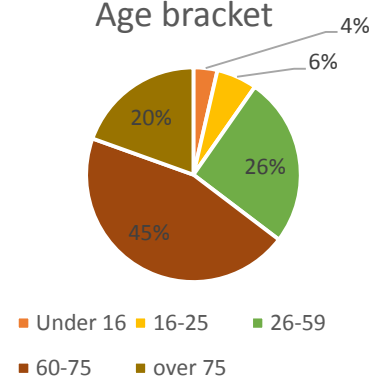
Do you use other libraries/mobile



6) Age bracket

Under 16	4%	3
16-25	6%	5
26-59	26%	21
60-75	45%	37
over 75	20%	16

Age bracket



Additional to question 3) Other - total =13

2 Computer trainees; 2 Computer trainers; 2 Use photocopier; 1 Learning; 1 School science info;
1 General info; 1 Browsing; 1 Author search; 1 Checking parish records; 1 Book club