

Shropshire Council
Legal and Democratic Services
Shirehall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
SY2 6ND
Date: Wednesday, 14 June 2017

Committee: Council

Date: Thursday, 22 June 2017

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: Council Chamber, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6ND

You are requested to attend the above meeting.
The Agenda is attached

Claire Porter
Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer)

Peter Nutting (Leader)	Ann Hartley (Chairman)	Kevin Pardy
Peter Adams	Nick Hignett	William Parr
Roy Aldcroft	Richard Huffer	Vivienne Parry
Clare Aspinall	Tracey Huffer	Tony Parsons
Nicholas Bardsley	Roger Hughes	Malcolm Pate
Joyce Barrow	Vince Hunt (Speaker)	Alexander Phillips
Thomas Biggins	Ioan Jones	Lezley Picton
Andy Boddington	Simon Jones	Ed Potter
Gwilym Butler	Mark Jones	John Price
Karen Calder	Jonny Keeley	Keith Roberts
Dean Carroll	Heather Kidd	Madge Shingleton
Lee Chapman	Nic Laurens	Harry Taylor
Steve Charmley	Christian Lea	Robert Tindall
Ted Clarke	Matt Lee	Dave Tremellen
Gerald Dakin	Elliott Lynch	Kevin Turley
Steve Davenport	Robert Macey	David Turner
Julian Dean	Jane MacKenzie	David Vasmer
Pauline Dee	Chris Mellings	Stuart West
David Evans	Paul Milner	Claire Wild
Roger Evans	David Minnery	Brian Williams
Hannah Fraser	Dan Morris	Leslie Winwood
Rob Gittins	Pamela Moseley	Michael Wood
Nat Green	Alan Mosley	Tina Woodward
Simon Harris	Cecilia Motley	Paul Wynn
Nigel Hartin	Peggy Mullock	

Your Committee Officer is:

Karen Nixon Committee Officer

Tel: 01743 257720

Email: karen.nixon@shropshire.gov.uk

AGENDA

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Members are reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

3 Minutes (Pages 1 - 18)

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 18 May 2017.

4 Announcements

To receive such communications as the Chairman, Speaker, Leader and Head of Paid Service may desire to lay before the Council.

5 Public Questions

To receive any questions from the public, notice of which has been given in accordance with Procedure Rule 14.

6 Questions from Members (Pages 19 - 20)

To receive any questions from Members, notice of which has been given in accordance with Procedure Rule 15.2.

7 Exclusion of the Press and Public

To resolve that in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972 and paragraph 10.4 (3) of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules, the public and press be excluded during consideration of the following item/s.

8 Shrewsbury Pitch and Putt Golf Course

An exempt report from the Director of Place and Enterprise is **TO FOLLOW**

Contact: George Candler Tel: 01743 255003

9 The Tannery, Shrewsbury - Student Accommodation

An exempt report from the Director of Place and Enterprise is **TO FOLLOW**

Contact: George Candler Tel: 01743 255003



Committee and Date

Council

22 June 2017

COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2017 in the Council Chamber, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6ND
10.00 am - 12.00 pm**

Responsible Officer: Karen Nixon
Email: karen.nixon@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 257720

Present

Councillors Peter Adams, Roy Aldcroft, Clare Aspinall, Nicholas Bardsley, Joyce Barrow, Thomas Biggins, Andy Boddington, Gwilym Butler, Karen Calder, Dean Carroll, Lee Chapman, Steve Charmley, Ted Clarke, Gerald Dakin, Steve Davenport, Julian Dean, Pauline Dee, David Evans, Roger Evans, Hannah Fraser, Rob Gittins, Nat Green, Simon Harris, Nigel Hartin, Ann Hartley, Nick Hignett, Richard Huffer, Tracey Huffer, Roger Hughes, Vince Hunt, Ioan Jones, Simon Jones, Mark Jones, Jonny Keeley, Heather Kidd, Nic Laurens, Christian Lea, Matt Lee, Elliott Lynch, Robert Macey, Jane MacKenzie, Chris Mellings, Paul Milner, David Minnery, Dan Morris, Pamela Moseley, Alan Mosley, Cecilia Motley, Peggy Mullock, Peter Nutting, Kevin Pardy, William Parr, Vivienne Parry, Tony Parsons, Malcolm Pate, Alexander Phillips, Lezley Picton, Ed Potter, John Price, Keith Roberts, Madge Shingleton, Harry Taylor, Robert Tindall, Dave Tremellen, Kevin Turley, David Turner, Stuart West, Claire Wild, Brian Williams, Leslie Winwood, Michael Wood, Tina Woodward and Paul Wynn

1 ELECTION OF SPEAKER AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

The Chairman, Mrs A Hartley, took the Chair for this item and called for nominations for the election of Speaker and Vice-Chairman of Shropshire Council.

It was proposed by Mr R Evans and seconded by Mr R Huffer that Mr N Hartin be elected Speaker and Vice-Chairman of Shropshire Council for the 2017/18 municipal year.

It was then proposed by Mr P Nutting and seconded by Mr S Charmley that Mr V Hunt be elected Speaker and Vice-Chairman of Shropshire Council for the 2017/18 municipal year.

On being put to the vote, it was agreed by the majority and duly

RESOLVED: That Mr V Hunt be elected Speaker and Vice-Chairman of the Council to hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council scheduled to be held on 17 May 2018.

The Speaker then took the Chair and subscribed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office before being invested with the badge of office. He thanked the members for

the honour of electing him and pledged to perform his duties to the best of his ability.

The Chief Executive then informed Council that he had just received the formal resignation of the Chairman and Deputy Speaker Mrs A Hartley with immediate effect, thus enabling her to remain in the Chamber and vote in the event of her nomination for the office of Chairman and Deputy Speaker.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Mr D Vasmer.

3 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND DEPUTY SPEAKER

It was proposed by Mr P Nutting and seconded by Mr S Charmley that Mrs A Hartley be elected as Chairman and Deputy Speaker of the Council for the 2017/18 municipal year.

There were no other nominations.

RESOLVED: That Mrs A Hartley be elected Chairman and Deputy Speaker of the Council and hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council scheduled to be held on 17 May 2017.

The Chairman and Deputy Speaker then subscribed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was invested with Chairman's badge of office. She thanked the Council for the honour it had bestowed on her and indicated how proud and humbled she was to be the Chairman of Shropshire Council.

The Chairman welcomed all newly elected Councillors. It was great to have new enthusiasm and she looked forward to new impetus. She reminded all Members that they had all been voted for by their local communities and that they were all of equal importance. In conclusion, the Chairman also mentioned the hardworking staff of the Council, who were all part of the jigsaw. She looked forward to working in partnership with all in future, for the good of Shropshire.

4 DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Members were reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

5 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2017, as circulated with the agenda papers, be approved and signed as a correct record.

6 RETURN OF ELECTION OF SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLORS

The report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, as Returning Officer, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes, was received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted and that Council records its appreciation of the services of the following Councillors not returned by the electorate:

Name

Peter Cherrington

Duncan Kerr

Council had already recorded its appreciation of the services of the following former Councillors who decided not to seek re-election, at an informal meeting of Council on 10th March 2017; Andrew Bannerman, Tim Barker, Tudor Bebb, Vernon Bushell, John Cadwallader, Ann Chebsey, Andrew Davies, John Everall, John Hurst-Knight, Jean Jones, Miles Kenny, Amy Liebich, David Lloyd, Mal Price, David Roberts, John Tandy and Arthur Walpole.

7 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman's Engagements

The Chairman referred Members to the list of official engagements carried out by herself and the Speaker since the last meeting of the Council on 23rd February 2017, which had been circulated at the meeting.

8 ELECTION OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

It was proposed by Mr S Charmley and seconded by Ms L Picton that Mr Peter Nutting be elected Leader of the Council to serve until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2021.

RESOLVED: That Mr Peter Nutting be duly elected Leader of the Council to hold office until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2021.

The Leader subscribed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and then thanked the Council for the honour. He then referred to two main themes he would be championing during his office:

- Economic Development of the County– especially in the market towns
- Valuing Council staff

He also confirmed that the existing three Planning Committees would remain; North, Central and South Planning Committees and their role strengthened. In

respect of Scrutiny, he envisaged two main Scrutiny Committees; one for Health matters and one for Performance.

The Leader spoke about making the most of opportunities such as the planned high speed rail link; HS2, which would be coming close to the County – he suggested more work could be done on this and the possible business opportunities that might arise. He also spoke of looking in more detail at recent Grammar School proposals and what this might mean for Shropshire.

In conclusion, he stated that Shropshire was a great place to live, he was proud of the County. However, he wanted more investment for Shropshire in order for it to move forward and flourish.

9 APPOINTMENT OF CABINET MEMBERS, DEPUTY CABINET MEMBERS AND THEIR PORTFOLIOS

It was proposed by the Leader, Mr P Nutting, and seconded by Mr S Charmley that the report, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the appointment of Cabinet Members and the allocation of titles and remits of portfolios, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be noted.
- b) That the appointment of Deputy Cabinet Members and the allocation of titles and remits of portfolios, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be noted.
 - (i) That the continuation of the discharge of the functions of the Council in relation to West Mercia Energy through the West Mercia Energy Joint Committee and the West Mercia Energy Audit Committee be noted and the Council's Executive Member representatives be noted, namely Councillor Nicholas Laurens and Councillor Robert Macey serving on the Joint Committee.
 - (ii) That the continuation of the discharge of functions through the Health and Well-Being Board be noted and the Council's Executive representatives be noted, namely:
 - Portfolio Holder for Children's Services and Education – Nicholas Bardsley
 - Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, Housing and Health – Lee Chapman
 - Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture – Lezley Picton

10 CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES AND THE ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO POLITICAL GROUPS

It was proposed by the Leader, Mr P Nutting, and seconded by Mrs E A Hartley that the report, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

RESOLVED: That subject to removing Mr M Pate from the Pensions Committee and replacing with Mr T Biggins, the constitution of committees and the allocation of seats to each of the political groups be confirmed as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 to the report for the 2017/18 municipal year and namely;

HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (10)

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
1. Karen Calder 2. Paul Milner 3. Gerald Dakin 4. Roy Aldcroft 5. Simon Harris 6. Paul Wynn	1. Pam Mosley	1. Tracey Huffer 2. Heather Kidd	1. Madge Shingleton
TOTAL - 6	TOTAL - 1	TOTAL - 2	TOTAL - 1

Substitutes

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
1. Elliott Lynch 2. Keith Roberts 3. 4. 5. 6.	1. J Mackenzie	1. Viv Parry 2. TBC	1.
TOTAL - 6	TOTAL - 1	TOTAL - 2	TOTAL - 1

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (10)

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
1. Claire Wild 2. Gwilym Butler 3. Karen Calder	1. A Mosley	1. Roger Evans 2. Hannah Fraser	1. Dave Tremellen

4. Peggy Mullock 5. Cecilia Motley 6. Stuart West			
TOTAL – 6	TOTAL - 1	TOTAL - 2	TOTAL - 1

Substitutes

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
1. Dan Morris 2. Les Winwood 3. 4. 5. 6.	1. H Taylor	1. Heather Kidd 2. Andy Boddington	1
TOTAL – 6	TOTAL - 1	TOTAL - 2	TOTAL - 1

ENVIRONMENT AND SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (10)

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
1. Cecilia Motley 2. Roger Hughes 3. Keith Roberts 4. Rob Gittins 5. Les Winwood 6. Nick Hignett 7. Tina Woodward	1. T Clarke	1. Andy Boddington 2. Viv Parry	-
TOTAL - 7	TOTAL - 1	TOTAL - 2	TOTAL - 0

Substitutes

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
1. Roy Aldcroft 2. 3. 4. 5.	1. I Jones	1. Nigel Hartin 2. Nat Green	-

6.			
7.			
TOTAL - 7	TOTAL - 1	TOTAL - 2	TOTAL - 0

ENTERPRISE AND GROWTH (10)

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
1. Gwilym Butler 2. William Parr 3. Elliott Lynch 4. Rob Gittins 5. Dan Morris 6. Paul Wynn 7. Simon Harris.	1. H Taylor	1. Jonny Keeley	1. Julian Dean
TOTAL - 7	TOTAL - 1	TOTAL - 1	TOTAL - 1

Substitutes

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
1. Paul Milner 2. Dean Carroll 3. 4. 5. 6. 7.	1. T Parsons	1. Andy Boddington	1. Pauline Dee
TOTAL - 7	TOTAL - 1	TOTAL - 1	TOTAL - 1

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (10)

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
1. Peggy Mullock 2. Clare Aspinall 3. Elliott Lynch 4. Ed Potter 5. John Price 6. Matt Lee	1. K Pardy	1. Nigel Hartin	1. Kevin Turley

7. Christian Lea			
TOTAL - 7	TOTAL - 1	TOTAL - 1	TOTAL - 1

Substitutes

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
1. Rob Gittins 2. Dean Carroll 3. 4. 5. 6. 7.	1. J Mackenzie	1. Hannah Fraser	1. Julian Dean
TOTAL - 7	TOTAL - 1	TOTAL - 1	TOTAL - 1

PENSIONS COMMITTEE (4)

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
1. Brian Williams 2. Thomas Biggins 3. Michael Wood	-	1. Roger Evans	-
TOTAL - 3	TOTAL - 0	TOTAL - 1	TOTAL - 0

Substitutes

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
1. 2. 3.	-	1. TBC	-
TOTAL - 3	TOTAL - 0	TOTAL - 1	TOTAL - 0

AUDIT COMMITTEE (5)

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
1. Peter Adams 2. Brian Williams 3. Michael Wood	1. I Jones	1. Chris Mellings	-
TOTAL - 3	TOTAL - 1	TOTAL - 1	TOTAL - 0

Substitutes

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
1. Dean Carroll 2. Gerald Dakin 3.	1. P Moseley	1. Roger Evans	-
TOTAL - 3	TOTAL - 1	TOTAL - 1	TOTAL - 0

STRATEGIC LICENSING COMMITTEE (15)

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
1. Keith Roberts 2. Simon Jones 3. Peter Adams 4. Dean Carroll 5. Roy Aldcroft 6. David Evans 7. Paul Milner 8. Ed Potter 9. Stuart West 10. Mark Jones	1. K Pardy 2. H Taylor	1. David Vasmer 2. Viv Parry	1. Dave Tremellen
TOTAL - 10	TOTAL - 2	TOTAL - 2	TOTAL - 1

Substitutes

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent

1. Robert Tindall 2. Matt Lee 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10.	1. P Moseley 2. T Clarke	1. Nigel Hartin 2. Richard Huffer	1. Pauline Dee
TOTAL - 10	TOTAL - 2	TOTAL - 2	TOTAL - 1

STANDARDS (9)

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
1. Dean Carroll 2. Joyce Barrow 3. David Evans 4. Vince Hunt 5. Peter Adams 6. Brian Williams	1. T Parsons	1. Chris Mellings	1. Kevin Turley
TOTAL - 6	TOTAL - 1	TOTAL - 1	TOTAL - 1

Substitutes

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6.	1. T Clarke	1. Roger Evans	1. Pauline Dee
TOTAL - 6	TOTAL - 1	TOTAL - 1	TOTAL - 1

CENTRAL PLANNING COMMITTEE (11)

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
1. Ed Potter 2. Nick Hignett 3. Alex Phillips 4. Dean Carroll 5. Keith Roberts	1. T Clarke 2. K Pardy 3. P Moseley 4. T Parsons	1. Nat Green 2. David Vasmer	-
TOTAL - 5	TOTAL - 4	TOTAL - 2	TOTAL - 0

Substitutes

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
1. Peter Adams 2. 3. 4. 5.	1. A Mosley 2. I Jones 3. H Taylor 4. J Mackenzie	1. Roger Evans 2. Hannah Fraser	-
TOTAL - 5	TOTAL - 4	TOTAL - 2	TOTAL - 0

SOUTH PLANNING COMMITTEE (11)

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
1. David Evans 2. William Parr 3. Tina Woodward 4. David Turner 5. Robert Tindall 6. Gwilym Butler 7. Simon Harris	-	1. Andy Boddington 2. Nigel Hartin 3. Richard Huffer	1. Madge Shingleton
TOTAL - 7	TOTAL - 0	TOTAL - 3	TOTAL - 1

Substitutes

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
1. Cecilia Motley 2. Michael Wood 3. 4. 5. 6. 7.	-	1. Jonny Keeley 2. Heather Kidd 3. Viv Parry	1. Kevin Turley
TOTAL - 7	TOTAL - 0	TOTAL - 3	TOTAL - 1

NORTH PLANNORTH PLANNING COMMITTEE (11)

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
1. Paul Wynn 2. Roger Hughes 3. Simon Jones 4. Gerald Dakin 5. Vince Hunt 6. Roy Aldcroft 7. Clare Aspinall 8. Peggy Mullock 9. Paul Milner 10. Rob Gittins	-	-	1. Pauline Dee
TOTAL - 10	TOTAL - 0	TOTAL - 0	TOTAL - 1

Substitutes

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
1. Mark Jones 2. Ann Hartley 3. Joyce Barrow 4. 5. 6.	-	-	1. Julian Dean

7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
TOTAL - 10	TOTAL - 0	TOTAL - 0	TOTAL - 1

SHROPSHIRE AND TELFORD AND WREKIN FIRE AUTHORITY (11)

Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent
1. Keith Roberts 2. David Minnery 3. Peter Adams 4. Paul Wynn 5. John Price 6. Paul Milner 7. Alex Phillips	1. K Pardy	1. Nigel Hartin 2. Chris Mellings	1. Pauline Dee
TOTAL - 7	TOTAL - 1	TOTAL - 2	TOTAL - 1

11 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES, COMMITTEES AND OTHER GROUPS

It was proposed by the Leader, Mr P Nutting, and seconded by Mr D Carroll that the report and the updated Appendix 1 to the report, copies of which are attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed, subject to the following:

RESOLVED:

(a) That urgent appointments to the outside bodies, committees and groups set out in Appendix 1 to the report be as follows:

Outside Body	Required Representation	Representatives
County Council Network Council	Up to 4 Members	Peter Nutting Steve Charmley Cecilia Motley Roger Evans

Outside Body	Required Representation	Representatives
Local Government Association	Up to 4 Members (5 votes available)	Peter Nutting Steve Charmley Roger Evans Pauline Dee
Local Strategic Partnership Leaders Board	1 – Leader	Peter Nutting
Political Structures Monitoring Group	9 - Members	Karen Calder Dean Carroll Ann Hartley David Minnery Peter Nutting Michael Wood Roger Evans Pauline Dee Alan Mosley
SPARSE (Rural Services Network)	4 (2 as observers)	Cecilia Motley Gwilym Butler <u>Observer</u> Heather Kidd
Strategic Advisory Group	2 - Members 2 – Alternates	Nic Laurens Robert Macey <u>Alternates</u>
West Midlands Employers	1 – Leader of Cabinet or Portfolio Holder	Peter Nutting
West Mercia Police and Crime Panel	4 – Members 4 – Alternates	Michael Wood Gerald Dakin Roger Evans Kevin Turley <u>Alternates</u> Keith Roberts

Outside Body	Required Representation	Representatives
Counties Furniture Group Board	1 - Member	Lee Chapman
Board of Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing Limited	3 – Council Board Members (Currently 2 Members and 1 Officer)	Robert Macey Elliott Lynch

(b) That a small Working Group comprising Group Leaders or their nominated representatives be established with delegated powers to appoint to the remaining outside bodies, committees and groups, and that any bodies where agreement cannot be reached by the Group be referred back to Council for decision.

(c) That the Chief Executive in consultation with appropriate Group Leaders be authorised to agree any other appointment that may be necessary as a matter of urgency.

12 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON

It was proposed by The Speaker, Mr V Hunt and seconded by the Chairman, Mrs A Hartley, that the report, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendation contained therein, be received and agreed.

RESOLVED: That Mr Tim Griffiths be appointed as Independent Person for a period of five years.

13 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION - PART 8 - DELEGATIONS TO OFFICERS

It was moved by the Speaker, seconded by the Chairman and duly

RESOLVED: That the updated Part 8 of the Councils Constitution – Delegations to Officers - as outlined within the report and set out in Appendix 1 be approved.

14 ICT DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME BUSINESS CASE

It was proposed by the Speaker Mr V Hunt and seconded by the Chairman Mrs A Hartley that the report of the Head of Human Resources and Development be approved.

An amendment was proposed by Mr R Evans and seconded by Mr a Boddington which read;

'The Council requests that the Performance Management Scrutiny Committee carry out a full review of the costs of the Digital Transformation Programme to identify any savings that could be made. This review will be reported to the 20th July 2017 Council meeting'

On being put to the vote the report and the additional amendment were approved.

RESOLVED:

- a. That the full business case that has been developed to support the ICT Digital Transformation Programme and which details the operational and financial benefits and implications including risks be approved.
- b. That authority be delegated to the Head of Finance, Governance and Assurance (section 151) in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Support to negotiate and agree a contract with the preferred supplier identified within the Business Transformation Programme.
- c. That authority be delegated to the Head of Human Resources and Development in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Support to negotiate and agree a contract with the preferred supplier for the Customer Relationship Manager Software and the associated telephony requirement.
- d. That it be noted that future updates to the costs and savings of the IT Digital Transformation Programme would be reflected in the Council's budget and updated and monitored through the Council's regular processes (e.g. the Financial Strategy, Capital Programme and Monitoring Reports).
- e. That Performance Management Scrutiny Committee be requested by Council to carry out a full review of the costs of the Digital Transformation Programme to identify any savings that could be made. This review will be reported to the 20th July 2017 Council meeting.

15 DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

It was proposed by The Speaker and seconded by the Chairman that the programme of dates for future meetings of Shropshire Council, as set out below, be approved and that all meetings commence at 10.00 a.m.

- 20 July 2017
- 21 September 2017
- 14 December 2017
- 22 February 2018
- 17 May 2018

In addition to this, an extra Council meeting date of 22 June 2017, was agreed.

16 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, and Paragraph 10.4(3) of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules, the public and press be excluded during consideration of the following item.

17 ACQUISITION OF EMPLOYMENT SITE ON LAND NORTH OF SHREWSBURY - EXEMPT ITEM

The Council received an exempt report by the Head of Business, Enterprise and Commercial Services, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes, on the acquisition of an employment site on land north of Shrewsbury.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That the exempt report and recommendations contained therein be approved

Signed (Chairman)

Date:

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COUNCIL
22 JUNE 2017

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS AGENDA ITEM 6

MR ANDY BODDINGTON will ask the following question of the Portfolio Holder for Finance:

Business rates.

a) When will Shropshire Council begin distributing its £1,308,000 allocation for 2017/18 under the discretionary business rates relief scheme?

b) What criteria will be used for allocating the funds to businesses?"

MR DAVID MINNERY, the Portfolio Holder for Finance, will reply:

This question has been raised previously and no further update can be provided beyond that already given directly to Councillor Boddington. The previous response is provided below:-

The government announced in the March budget three additional measures to assist businesses facing large increases in their rates as a result of the 2017 revaluation. They were:

- Additional support for small businesses facing large increases as a result of the loss of small business or rural rate relief. Increases are to be limited to a maximum of £600 per year. The Government have announced that formal guidance on the operation of the additional support for small businesses scheme will follow, but not now until after the general election.
- Additional Support for pubs that have a rateable value below £100,000. Under the proposed new scheme eligible pubs will receive a £1000 discount for 2017-18. The Government announced that a consultation document on the additional support for pubs will also be issued, but not now until after the general election.
- A new discretionary relief scheme that would provide £300m to support local businesses. The government published a consultation on the proposal and design of the new discretionary relief scheme which ran to 7 April 2017. The Government also consulted on the proposed distribution methodology for the funding. Shropshire Council responded to the consultation on 7 April 2017. The Government announced on 21 April 2017 that the final allocations to local authorities will be made in accordance with the draft allocations. On 28 April 2017 notification of the amounts to be made available to Local Authorities was

issued. The maximum amount of grant for Shropshire Council for 2017-18 is actually £654,141 as the grant paid reflects the portion of overall income that would be retained under the 50% business rate retention scheme.

The Council is currently considering whether it is sensible, or even feasible, to commence design of a discretionary relief scheme when there remains uncertainty about administration of the other new reliefs. The additional discretionary relief scheme must be fair, transparent and consistently administered, but also within the agreed expenditure levels set by Government as the Council would have to fund any additional expenditure over and above this amount.

The Council, as part of its consultation response sought assurance that there will be flexibility to move funding between financial years, or even amend adopted schemes, which may be necessary due to the volatile nature of the business rate tax base, to ensure that we remain within the grant funding levels. However, the Government has not provided a response to the consultation, other than to say that they will consider whether there should be greater flexibility to transfer funds between years once they have a clearer picture of how local schemes are taking shape.

When designing an additional relief scheme it would be sensible to award all other reliefs that individual businesses are entitled to prior to awarding additional discretionary relief to qualifying businesses. That would avoid duplication and confusion and possible underspend further along the line. The Council must also take into account any state aid implications. We are liaising with our software supplier and other local authorities to help design a robust and appropriate local scheme.