



Shropshire Council
Legal and Democratic Services
Shirehall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
SY2 6ND
Date: Wednesday, 8 May 2019

Committee: Council

Date: Thursday, 16 May 2019

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
Director of Legal and Democratic Services

Ann Hartley (Chairman)
Peter Nutting (Leader)
Vince Hunt (Speaker)
Steve Charmley (Deputy
Leader)
Peter Adams
Roy Aldcroft
Clare Aspinall
Nicholas Bardsley
Joyce Barrow
Thomas Biggins
Ed Bird
Andy Boddington
Gwilym Butler
Karen Calder
Dean Carroll
Lee Chapman
Ted Clarke
Gerald Dakin
Steve Davenport
Julian Dean
Pauline Dee
David Evans
Roger Evans
Hannah Fraser
Rob Gittins

Nat Green
Kate Halliday
Simon Harris
Nigel Hartin
Nick Hignett
Richard Huffer
Tracey Huffer
Roger Hughes
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
Kevin Pardy
William Parr
Vivienne Parry
Tony Parsons
Malcolm Pate
Alexander Phillips
Lezley Picton
Ed Potter
John Price
Keith Roberts
Madge Shineton
Robert Tindall
Dave Tremellen
Kevin Turley
David Turner
David Vasmer
Claire Wild
Brian Williams
Leslie Winwood
Michael Wood
Tina Woodward
Paul Wynn

Your Committee Officer is:

Julie Fildes Committee Officer

Tel: 01743 257723

Email: julie.fildes@shropshire.gov.uk

AGENDA

1 Election of Speaker and Vice Chairman

To elect a Speaker and Vice Chairman for the ensuing year.

2 Apologies for Absence

3 Election of Chairman and Deputy Speaker

To elect a Chairman and Deputy Speaker for the ensuing year.

4 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.

5 Minutes - 28 February 2019 (Pages 1 - 14)

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 28 February 2019.

Contact: Julie Fildes Tel 01743 257723

6 Announcements

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

7 Public Questions

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

1. A petition, bearing over 1000 signatures has been received from Joanna Blackman on behalf of the eXtinction Rebellion Shrewsbury campaign group, requesting a debate under the Council's Petition Scheme. The petition requests that the Council:

- i) Declare a climate emergency and immediately halt any new policies and projects likely to make the situation worse.*
- ii) Work together with other local authorities and government to agree and implement a UK-wide plan to reduce carbon emissions to zero by 2025.*

2. A petition, bearing over 1000 signatures has been received from Kerry Owen, Area Manager of Hazles Farm Childcare, requesting a debate under the Council's Petition Scheme on the Sunflower House Day Nursery Closure.

Each petitioner will be allowed 5 minutes to outline their case, after which there may be a debate of up to a maximum of 15 minutes.

8 Returning Officer's Report (Pages 15 - 16)

Report of the Returning Officer is ATTACHED.

Contact: Claire Porter Returning Officer Tel 01743 252763

9 Constitution of Committees and the Allocation of Seats to Political Groups (Pages 17 - 22)

To agree the constitution of Committees and the allocation of seats between political groups.

Report of Director of Legal and Democratic Services. REPORT ATTACHED, Appendix 2 to the report TO FOLLOW

Contact: Claire Porter Director of Legal and Democratic Services Tel: 01743 252763

10 Scheme of Delegation

To resolve that the Responsibility for Functions, set out in Part 3 of the Constitution and the Scheme of Delegations, set out in Part 8 of the Constitutions be agreed.

Please copy and paste the links below into your browser bar to access Part 3 and 8 of the Constitution

Part 3: <http://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/documents/s18335/Part%203%20Responsibility%20for%20Functions.pdf>

Part 8: <http://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/documents/s19382/Part%208%20Delegations%20to%20Officers.pdf>

Contact: Claire Porter, Director of Legal and Democratic Services Tel 01743 252763

11 Proposed Changes to the Number of Planning Committees (Pages 23 - 32)

To consider the number of Planning Committees for Shropshire Council. REPORT ATTACHED

Contact: Mark Barrow Director of Place Tel 01743 258671

12 Shrewsbury North West Relief Road - DfT Programme Entry

To receive an update on the progress towards a recently confirmed funding offer for the Shrewsbury North West Relief Road following submission of an outline business case under the Department of Transport's Large Local Majors funding programme. REPORT TO FOLLOW

Contact: Mark Barrow Director of Place Tel. 01743 258671

13 Dates of Council Meetings 2019/20

To agree that the meetings of Council in 2019/20 will be held on the following Thursdays, commencing at 10.00am:

25 July 2019

19 September 2019

12 December 2019

27 February 2020
14 May 2020

14 Motions

The following motions have been received in accordance with Procedure Rule 16:

Motion 1

The following motion has been received from Councillor Alan Mosley on behalf of the Labour Group.

“That this Council welcomes the setting up of a task and finish group to examine the Council’s response to Climate Change following the motion adopted by Council on 13th December and we also affirm our commitment to:

- Carbon Emission Appraisals being attached to all reports,
- The designation of a Director level Carbon Champion,
- The creation of a Climate Action Partnership of stakeholders and the wider community.

However, given the conclusions of the IPCC and more recent scientific research findings we believe that Shropshire Council should be more active in its role in providing local leadership and as an organisation meeting rigorous carbon reductions targets.

Therefore, this Council declares that there is a Climate Emergency and calls upon the Cabinet to bring forward proposals within the current calendar year to ensure that all operations within the Councils control are Carbon Neutral by 2030.

Furthermore, we resolve to provide advice, support and encouragement, however possible, to county-wide public, business and charitable organisations to adopt similar policies and practices.”

Motion 2

The following motion has been received from Councillor Julian Dean and supported by Councillors Pauline Dee, Roger Evans, Andy Boddington and David Vasmer.

Since our meeting in December the UK has seen two further periods of records temperatures, in February and over Easter; the Chancellor of the Exchequer has said he would adopt the Committee on Climate Change advice to end the use of fossil fuel heating systems in new homes from 2025; thousands have joined protests and school strikes to draw our attention to the nature of the crisis we face and the Environment Secretary Michael Gove has admitted that the Government has ‘not done nearly enough’ to tackle climate change.

In the light of these continuing developments, we agree that Shropshire Council should add its voice to those of Shrewsbury and Oswestry Town Councils - amongst the 87 local authorities in the UK alone (as of end of April) - by declaring a Climate Emergency.

We welcome the allocation of Climate Change to the portfolio of a Cabinet member.

It is with regret that we recognise that the task and finish group recommendations are not likely to reach cabinet before late September and that this means that subsequent policies are not likely to reach full council until December, a full year since we agreed to

call for proposals on this matter. Without pre-empting any recommendations from the carbon emissions task and finish group, we urge the Cabinet to make clear to senior staff that measures and policies should be developed that duly recognise the nature of the emergency. We call on senior officers to ensure that staff are enabled to work effectively and collaboratively and with due time allocated to develop such measures and policies.

We instruct Cabinet to come forward with recommendations and targets for Council, with the intention that these are informed by the work of the task and finish group, to consider by the end of the year and that duly recognise the nature of the emergency.

Motion 3

The following motion has been received from Councillor Cecilia Motley and supported by Councillors Nick Bardsley, Gwilym Butler, Lezley Picton, Madge Shingleton and David Turner.

“This Council welcomes the recently published House of Lords Select Committee report on the Rural Economy, and in particular its call for the Government to produce a comprehensive and place-based Rural Strategy, accompanied by re-energised rural proofing.

The Rural Services Network, of which Shropshire Council is an active member, and which gave evidence to the Select Committee, has similarly produced, and is promoting amongst its membership authorities, a Template for a Rural Strategy. Furthermore Shropshire Council has undertaken to produce a County Rural Strategy, as a consequence of the motion passed by this Council on September 20th 2018.

This Council therefore requests the Leader of the Council to write to the appropriate Government Ministers to lend support to the call for a Government-wide Rural Strategy; thus adding weight to the recommendations of the House of Lords Select Committee report.”

Motion 4

The following motion has been received from Councillor Dean Carroll and supported by Councillors Rob Gittins, Peter Nutting, Nic Laurens and Cecilia Motley

This Council believes that Climate Change presents a serious threat to humanity with the potential impacts on weather systems and biodiversity being catastrophic if allowed to continue to increase unchecked. Although small contributors to the climate picture, local authorities do have an important role to play domestically in encouraging behaviour changes that will help to reduce emissions both locally and further afield. We also have responsibility for our own emissions as an organisation and a Corporate Carbon Reduction Strategy is being developed, a draft of which has recently been presented to the Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee, which is aimed at reducing the Council's carbon footprint. To further those aims a cross-party Task & Finish Group on Climate Change has been established by the Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee and an officer Working Group has been set up to drive forward our strategy for the whole county. It is planned to introduce an officer position to coordinate the Council's response to Climate Change and the sustainability agenda.

We also recognise the role that local authorities have to play in informing and influencing national Government policy. This is something Shropshire Council has taken an active lead in across a range of subjects from Fairer Funding for rural schools to support for survivors of domestic abuse. We continue to take a leading role in lobbying national

Government for positive change with a motion on today's Agenda supporting the House of Lords Select Committee's call for a Rural Strategy. Over recent months a number of other local authorities across England have passed motions declaring a 'Climate Emergency' and lobbying national Government for increased support in reducing carbon emissions.

Therefore this Council resolves to:

1. To declare a 'Climate Emergency'
2. To ask the Leader to write to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food & Rural Affairs to encourage Government be ambitious in its plans for carbon reduction targets and align with the recent thinking of the IPCC to be Carbon Neutral by 2040.
3. To support the work currently being undertaken by Shropshire Council in this field and reaffirm our support to tackling Climate Change

15 Report of the Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority (Pages 33 - 34)

To receive the report of the Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority arising from its meeting held on 24th April 2019. REPORT ATTACHED

16 Questions from Members (Pages 35 - 36)

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

17 Exclusion of the Public and Press

To resolve 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 Rules, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item.

18 Exempt Minutes (Pages 37 - 38)

To approve as a correct record the exempt minutes of the previous meeting held on 28th February 2019 attached.

Contact Julie Fildes

Tel 01743 257720



Committee and Date

Council

16th May 2016

COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 28 February 2019

In the Council Chamber, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6ND

10.30 am - 1.25 pm

Responsible Officer: Julie Fildes

Email: julie.fildes@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 257723

Present

Councillor Ann Hartley and Peter Nutting

Councillors Vince Hunt (Speaker), Steve Charmley (Deputy Leader), Peter Adams, Roy Aldcroft, Clare Aspinall, Nicholas Bardsley, Joyce Barrow, Thomas Biggins, Andy Boddington, Gwilym Butler, Dean Carroll, Lee Chapman, Ted Clarke, Steve Davenport, Julian Dean, Pauline Dee, David Evans, Roger Evans, Hannah Fraser, Rob Gittins, Nat Green, Simon Harris, Nigel Hartin, Richard Huffer, Tracey Huffer, Ioan Jones, Mark Jones, Heather Kidd, Christian Lea, Matt Lee, Robert Macey, Chris Mellings, Paul Milner, David Minnery, Dan Morris, Pamela Moseley, Alan Mosley, Peggy Mullock, William Parr, Vivienne Parry, Tony Parsons, Malcolm Pate, Alexander Phillips, Lezley Picton, Ed Potter, John Price, Madge Shingleton, Harry Taylor, Kevin Turley, David Turner, David Vasmer, Claire Wild, Brian Williams, Leslie Winwood, Michael Wood and Tina Woodward

79 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E Bird, K Calder, G Dakin, N Hignett, R Hughes, S Jones, J Keeley, E Lynch, J Mackenzie, C Motley, R Tindall, D Tremellen and P Wynn.

80 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.

Councillor M Shingleton declared that she was a Trustee of Shropshire Rural Housing Association. Councillor A Phillips declared that he had shareholdings in Circle Group PLC.

81 Minutes

RESOLVED: That subject to the addition of apologies from Councillors R Aldcroft, C Aspinall, J Barrow, P Dee, T Huffer, D Minnery, R Tindall and P Wynn to minute 59, the Minutes of the meeting held on 13th December 2018, as circulated with the agenda papers, be approved and signed as a correct record.

82 **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 13th December 2018, which had been circulated at the meeting.

New Year's Honours 2019

The Chairman reported that the following Shropshire residents had been awarded honours in the Queen's New Year's Honours List 2019 and advised that she had written to each of the recipients to congratulate them on their achievement:

Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE)

Miss Wendy Nicolson

For services in nursing for children and young people. (Market Drayton)

Medallist of the Order of the British Empire (BEM)

Mr William Bowen

For a lifetime of involvement in volunteering in the church. (Oswestry)

Mrs Joan Kerry

For services in the community in Clun. (Craven Arms)

Mr Charles Pearson

For services to policing. (Church Stretton)

Lord Lieutenant

The Chairman welcomed the Lord Lieutenant for Shropshire, Mrs Anna Turner JP, who was observing from the public gallery, and congratulated her on her recent appointment to the Lieutenancy.

83 **Public Questions**

The Speaker advised that one public question had been received in accordance with revised Procedure Rules and reminded that supplementary questions were no longer permitted.

Mr Mulloy was present at the meeting and asked two questions, a verbal response was supplied. A copy of the questions and answer provided at the meeting is included with the formal record of the meeting.

84 **Members' Allowances**

It was proposed by The Leader, Councillor P Nutting and seconded by the Deputy Leader, Councillor S Charmley, that the report of the Director of Legal and

Democratic Services on Members' Allowances, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein be received and agreed.

Members noted that all Members of the Independent Remuneration Panel had resigned, and difficulties had been encountered in recruiting new Members to the panel.

RESOLVED: That, subject to the child and dependent carers allowance being amended to read as follows, the current Members' Allowances Scheme attached at appendix 1 be approved:

A child or dependant carers allowance of up to the current minimum wage, subject to a maximum of £2,500 per member per annum, will be paid towards the costs of child or dependants care, on evidence being supplied of the amount claimed having been incurred in employing a carer to look after a child or dependant who is a member of the councillor's family and living with the councillor and who cannot be left alone.

85 **Financial Strategy 2019/20 - 2023/24**

It was proposed by the Leader, Councillor P Nutting and seconded by Portfolio Holder for Finance, Councillor D Minnery that the report of the Director of Finance, Governance and Assurance on the Financial Strategy 2019/20 to 2023/24, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes, and the recommendations contained therein be received and agreed.

Members noted a lack of information from Government on funding provision after the fourth year of the current Financial Settlement. This was accompanied by uncertainties over the impact of the Fair Funding Formula and the Comprehensive Spending Review.

Members expressed concern regarding the reduction of funding for Public Health Preventive Programmes, and that these reductions would lead to unintended consequences. In response to a Member's request The Leader agreed to write to the Secretary of State regarding concerns over mental health provision for children and young people.

In response to Members' concerns regarding the accuracy of the Financial Strategy and the Council's ability to deliver the savings detailed within it, the Portfolio Holder for Finance assured Members that the Financial Strategy would be delivered, but as with all budgets the delivery would be affected by future events which may alter details set out in the Financial Strategy. The Leader observed that the Council continued to be ambitious and that it was prudent that funds be added to reserves.

On being put to a recorded vote the proposition was carried by 40 Members voting in favour, 19 against and 1 abstention, as follows:

FOR (40)

Cllrs Adams, Aldcroft, Aspinall, Bardsley, Barrow, Biggins, Butler, Carroll, Chapman, Charmley, Davenport, Dee, D Evans, Gittings, Harris, Hartley, Hunt, M T Jones,

Laurens, Lea, Lee, Macy, Milner, Minnery, Morris, Mullock, Nutting, Parr, Pate, Phillips, Picton, Price, Potter, Roberts, Shineton, Turner, Wild, Williams, Winwood, Woodward.

AGAINST (19)

Cllrs Clarke, Dean, R Evans, Fraser, Green, Hartin, R Huffer, T Huffer, I Jones, Kidd, Mellings, Moseley, Mosley, Pardy, Parry, Parsons, Taylor, Turley, Vasmer.

ABSTAIN (1)

Cllr Boddington

RESOLVED:

- i) That the 2019/20 budget of £593.080m outlined in the Budget Book at Appendix 7, including the savings proposals outlined at Appendix 4 be approved.
- ii) That the changes required to the 2019/20 budget as a result of the Provisional and Final Local Government Settlement and revised business rates and collection fund estimates be noted.
- iii) That the revised funding gap for the years 2020/21 to 2023/34 be noted.
- iv) That the continued use of the Policy for Flexibility around the use of Capital Receipts be noted.
- v) That the Statement of Chief Financial Officer on the Robustness of the Estimates and Adequacy of Reserves 2018-24 as set out in Appendix 9, noting the Council's general fund balance over this period be agreed.
- vi) That the Pay and Rewards Policy for all Council staff for 2019/20 as set out in Appendix 11 be agreed.

86 Council Tax Resolution 2019/20

It was proposed by the Leader, Councillor P Nutting and seconded by Portfolio Holder for Finance, Councillor D Minnery, that the report of the Director of Finance, Governance and Assurance on Council Tax Resolution 2019/20, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

On being put to a recorded vote the position was carried with 56 Members voting in favour, 0 against and 2 abstentions as follows:

FOR (56)

Cllrs Adams, Aldcroft, Aspinall, Bardsley, Barrow, Biggins, Boddington, Butler, Carroll, Chapman, Charmley, Clarke, Dee, D Evans, R Evans, H Fraser, Green, Harris, Hartley, R Huffer, T Huffer, Hunt, I Jones, M T Jones, Kidd, Laurens, Lea, Lee, Macy, Mellings, Milner, Minnery, Morris, Moseley, Mosley, Mullock, Nutting,

Pardy, Parr, Parry, Parsons, Pate, Phillips, Picton, Price, Potter, Roberts, Shingleton, Taylor, Turner, Vasmer, Wild, Williams, Winwood, and Woodward.

AGAINST (0)

ABSTENTIONS (2)

Cllrs Dean and Hartin.

RESOLVED:

- i) That a 3.99% Council Tax rise resulting in a basic amount of council tax for a Band D property of £1,388.23 in the billing authority's area, calculated in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (section 44) and the Local Government (Structural Changes) (Further Financial Provisions and Amendment) Regulations 2008 be approved.
- ii) That in accordance with the provisions of Section 40 (2) of the 1992 Act, the amount of Council Tax calculated for each category of dwelling in the billing authority's area to be approved as follows:

Property Band	2019/20 Charge £
A	925.49
B	1,079.74
C	1,233.98
D	1,388.23
E	1,696.72
F	2,005.22
G	2,313.72
H	2,776.46

- iii) That a total precept of £154,426,844 be levied.
- iv) That the formal council tax resolution as set out in Appendix 1 to determine the levels of Council Tax for Shropshire Council for 2019/20 be approved.

87 Fees and Charges for 2019/20

Councillor N Green left the chamber.

It was proposed by the Leader Councillor P Nutting and seconded by Portfolio Holder for Finance, Councillor D Minnery that the report of the Director of Finance, Governance and Assurance, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes, and the recommendations contained therein be received and agreed.

In response to a Member's question regarding reductions to the Minimum Income Guarantee, the Portfolio Holder for Adult Services, Health, Social Housing, Councillor L Chapman, advised that this was a means tested benefit and the adjustments made to it would not disadvantage the most vulnerable residents.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the breakdown of the total income for 2018/19 and 2019/20 and in particular that the proposed 2019/20 charges for discretionary services represent only £39.703m of the £79.244m of income derived from Fees and Charges be noted.
- ii) That the charges for 2019/20 as detailed in Appendix 3 to be implemented 1 April 2019, recognising that managers have proposed varying policies for 2019/20 be approved.
- iii) That as previously agreed, any changes to fees and charges proposed by Shropshire Community Leisure Trust Ltd. in relation to the outsourced leisure facilities will only be referred to cabinet and council for approval if the proposed increases exceed Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the preceding November be noted.
- iv) That subject to restrictions or exemptions identified in the Welfare Reform and Work Bill it be agreed that
 - a. Social Housing rents for 2019/20 are reduced by 1% from 1st April 2019.
 - b. Affordable rents for 2019/20 are reduced by 1% from 1st April 2019.
 - c. Shared Ownership rents continue to be set at 2.75% of the outstanding capital value of the home at the time of sale and thereafter increased each April in accordance with the terms specified in the lease agreements.
 - d. That service charges continue to be set on the basis of actual cost.

88 Capital Strategy 2019/20 - 2023/24

Councillor N Green returned to the Chamber.

It was proposed by the Leader, Councillor P Nutting and seconded by the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Councillor D Minnery, that the report of the Director of Finance, Governance and Assurance on the Capital Strategy 2019/20-2023/24, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes, and the recommendations contained therein be received and agreed.

In response to a Member's question on the acquisition of LED street lighting, the Leader confirmed that an application for grant funding had been completed.

The Leader confirmed that revenue had been received from the recently purchased shopping centres in Shrewsbury which had contributed to the provision of Council Services.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the adoption of the Capital Strategy 2019/20 - 2023/24 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report be agreed.
- ii) That the revised Capital Programme as set out in the report and detailed at Section 7 and Appendix B to the Capital Strategy be agreed.

89 Treasury Strategy 2019/20

It was proposed by Portfolio Holder for Finance, Councillor D Minnery and seconded by the Leader, Councillor P Nutting that the report of the Director of Finance, Governance and Assurance on the Treasury Strategy 2019/20, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Councillor D Minnery, observed that this was not an investment strategy and performance had exceeded expectations.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the Treasury Strategy for 2019/20 be approved.
- ii) That the Prudential Indicators, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, be approved in accordance with the Local Government Act 2003.
- iii) That the Investment Strategy, set out in Appendix 2 of the report, be approved in accordance with the CLG Guidance on Local Government Investments.
- iv) That the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement, as set out in Appendix 3 of the report, be approved.
- v) That the Section 151 Officer be authorised to exercise the borrowing powers contained in Section 3 of the Local Government Act 2003 and to manage the Council's debt portfolio in accordance with the Treasury Strategy.
- vi) That the Section 151 Officer be authorised to use other Foreign Banks which meet Link's creditworthiness policy as required.

90 Financial Rules Update

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Councillor D Minnery and seconded by the Leader, Councillor P Nutting that the report of the Director of Finance, Governance and Assurance on the Financial Rules Update, a copy of which is attached to the signed Minutes and the recommendations contained therein be received and agreed.

RESOLVED: That the adjustments to the Financial Rules as set out in Appendix A of the report be endorsed.

91 Shropshire Council Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan

It was proposed by the Leader, Councillor P Nutting and seconded by the Deputy Leader, Councillor S Charmley, that the report of the Chief Executive on the Shropshire Council Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes, and the recommendations contained therein be received and agreed.

In response to a Member's question, the Leader confirmed that Group Leaders would be invited to attend the review visit by the Inspectors, anticipated for September 2019.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the Corporate Peer Challenge action plan be endorsed; and
- ii) That the Performance Management Scrutiny Committee monitor progress of the delivery of the action plan.

92 Addressing Unmet Housing Need - Outline Business Case to Establish a Wholly Owned Local Housing Company

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing Development, Councillor R Macy and seconded by the Deputy Portfolio Holder for Housing, Councillor D Carroll, that the report of the Director of Place on Addressing Unmet Housing Need – Establishment of a Wholly Owned Local Housing Company, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein be received and agreed.

Members noted the work of the Housing Need Task and Finish Group.

Areas highlighted by Members included the need for rural affordable housing; the importance of accurate data when assessing housing need; the need for partnership working with larger landowners and town/parish councils; and concerns over delays in delivery caused by the planning process. The Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing Development reassured Members that these issues had been considered.

In response to a Member's question the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing Development confirmed the intention to favour local companies where appropriate.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the Business Case (Appendix B) to establish a Local Housing Company as a wholly owned Company Limited by Shares be approved.

- ii) That a sub-committee known as the Housing Supervisory Board with a politically balanced membership comprising nine Elected Members be established and delegate its functions as the Shareholder in the Local Housing Company to the Housing Supervisory Board in order to provide oversight of the company's actions and performance on behalf of the Council as sole shareholder and delegate authority to the Executive Director of Place, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning & Housing Development, to draw up the terms of reference of the sub-committee in accordance with the governance arrangements set out in the report.
- iii) That the Executive Director of Place, in consultation with the Director of Legal & Democratic Services; Director of Finance, Governance & Assurance; and Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing Development, be authorised to determine and approve the appropriate Articles of Association for the company, the Shareholder Agreement between the Council and the company, the Reserved Matters, registration with Companies House, detailed Council governance structures in accordance with the governance arrangements laid out in this report and other such matters and agreements as required, to enable the establishment and ongoing operation of the Local Housing Company.
- iv) That the Chief Executive in consultation with the Executive Director of Place, Director of Legal & Democratic Services and Portfolio Holder for Planning & Housing Development, be authorised to appoint the Directors of the Local Housing Company to include an external recruitment and employment by the Council if required.
- v) That the Director of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to sign, on the Council's behalf, any documents and resolutions to implement the recommendations approved by Council.
- vi) That the naming and branding of the Local Housing Company be delegated to the Executive Director of Place in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning & Housing Development.
- vii) That the Business Plan (Appendix C) modelling two initial development sites noting that detailed Development Appraisals, funding arrangements and land transfers will be the subject of separate reports to enable the Local Housing Company to develop houses on Council owned land be approved.
- viii) That an initial unsecured loan of £250,000 to the Local Housing Company be authorised to provide funding for operating and set up costs, with authority delegated to the Director of Finance, Governance & Assurance to agree the terms of the loan in consultation with the Executive Director of Place.

93 **Annual Report of the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor M Shinton, Vice Chair of the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and seconded by Councillor C Wild, that the Annual Report of the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny

Committee, a copy of which is attached to the signed Minutes be received and agreed.

Councillor M Shingleton presented the report and outlined the work undertaken by the Committee.

The Portfolio Holder for Adult Services, Health and Social Housing, Councillor L Chapman, thanked the Committee for the vast amount of work they had completed.

RESOLVED:

That the Annual Report of the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted and approved.

94 Portfolio Holder Report for Corporate Plan, Financial Strategy and Risk Management

It was proposed by the Leader, Councillor P Nutting, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Plan, Financial Strategy and Risk Management, and seconded by the Deputy Leader, S Charmley, that the Annual Report, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes be received.

RESOLVED:

That the content of the Annual Report for Corporate Plan, Financial Strategy and Risk Management be noted and approved.

95 Appointments to Committees

It was proposed by the Speaker, Councillor V Hunt, and seconded by the Chairman, Councillor A Hartley, that the changes to committee memberships be considered and agreed.

RESOLVED:

Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor J Mackenzie replaces Councillor P Moseley as a full Member of the Committee.

Councillor P Moseley replaces Councillor J Mackenzie as a substitute Member of Committee.

Performance Management Scrutiny Committee

Councillor J Barrow replaces Councillor G Butler as a full Member of the Committee.

Place Overview Committee

Councillor J Barrow replaces Councillor G Butler as a full Member of the Committee.

People Overview Committee

Councillor D Vasmer replaces Councillor H Fraser as a full Member of the Committee.

Councillor R Evans replaces Councillor D Vasmer a substitute Member of the Committee.

South Planning Committee

Councillor C Motley replaces Councillor G Butler as a full Member of the Committee.
Councillor G Butler replaces Councillor C Motley as a substitute Member of the Committee.

Strategic Licensing Committee

Councillor C Aspinall replaces Councillor E Lynch as a full Member of the Committee.
Councillor E Lynch replaces Councillor C Aspinall as a substitute Member of the Committee.
Councillor P Moseley replaces Councillor H Taylor as a full Member of the Committee.
Councillor H Taylor replaces Councillor P Moseley as a substitute Member of the Committee.

96 **Motions**

- a) The following motion has been received from Councillor Andy Boddington and supported by Councillors Roger Evans, Chris Mellings and Tracey Huffer.

The recent government recently announced a Future High Streets. After discussions within councils and with MHCLG, it became clear that most rural market towns are unlikely to benefit from the scheme. This is not because these towns are thriving. Many are struggling. But the criteria issued by MHCLG tips applications towards failed town centres in larger towns and cities.

The Future High Streets fund has nevertheless created a desire for public sector intervention to boost and maintain the viability of high streets across Shropshire. Even those high streets that are currently regarded as successful could decline quickly in the face of challenges of online shopping and, should one occur, a recession.

Every market town in Shropshire has different needs. Some have derelict buildings. In others, the quality of the public realm is poor. Several need to improve sustainable transport infrastructure to increase footfall.

This motion instructs the council leader to appoint a task and finish group with the following terms of reference:

To examine the case for and feasibility of a market towns vitalisation fund for Shropshire.

To identify the level of budget required to meet identified need, using finance from capital reserves or borrowing as appropriate.

To ensure the fund is open to all towns and large villages in the unitary area that have a recognisable high street, not just those considered to be a market town in planning policy.

To report back to cabinet and council in May 2019.

The Leader, Councillor P Nutting observed that while he supported the sentiment of the Motion, its ambitions were already being undertaken by the Portfolio Holder for Community and Place Planning.

RESOLVED:

That the Notice of Motion be not supported.

b) The following motion has been received from Councillor Heather Kidd and supported by Councillors Chris Mellings, David Vasmer, Roger Evans, Nigel Hartin and Andy Boddington.

This council instructs the chief executive to make the following changes to planning procedures to ensure that the council maintains best practice in decision-making, openness and transparency:

If the town/parish council and the local member both object or support an application, stating material planning considerations, the application should be automatically referred to the appropriate planning committee if it differs to the planning officers' recommendation.

Call ins by members should be formally recorded on the planning portal.

Where the town/parish council and local member disagree, officers must give five working days' notice to the local member before the application is considered by the chair and vice chair of the planning committee to allow comment. The member should receive the planning officer report at the same time.

Notes on that decision should be sent to the local member.

RESOLVED:

That the Notice of Motion be not supported.

97 Questions from Members

The Speaker advised that one question had been received in accordance with Procedure Rule 15. A copy of the report containing the detailed question, its formal response is attached to the signed minutes.

Received from Councillor N Laurens and answered by Councillor N Bardsley, the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People, in relation to Secondary School League Tables for Performance.

98 Report of the Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority

It was proposed by Councillor K Roberts and seconded Councillor Peter Adams that the report of the Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes, be received and noted.

RESOLVED: That the report of the Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority be noted.

99 Exclusion of the Public and Press

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 from the meeting during consideration of the following item.

100 Growth of Residential Children's Services for Shropshire Council

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People, Councillor N Bardsley and seconded by the Deputy Portfolio Holder for Education, Councillor E Potter, that the confidential report from the Director of Children’s Services on the Growth of Residential Children’s Service for Shropshire Council, which is attached to the signed minutes, and the recommendations contained therein be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

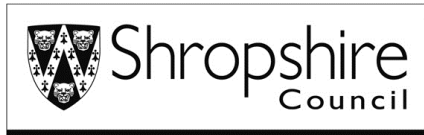
That the four exempt recommendations be approved as detailed in the exempt report.

Signed (Chairman)

Date:

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Agenda Item 8



<u>Committee and date</u>
Council
16 May 2019

<u>Item</u>
Public

RETURNING OFFICER'S REPORT

Responsible Officer Claire Porter

Email: claire.porter@shropshire.gov.uk

Telephone: (01743) 252763

I, Claire Porter, the Returning Officer for the Shropshire Council area, do hereby certify that the person named below was elected as Councillor for the Belle Vue Division of the Shropshire Council area:

<u>Electoral Division</u>	<u>Name and Address</u>	<u>Description</u>
Belle Vue	Mary Kate Halliday 14 Greyfriars Road Shrewsbury Shropshire SY3 7EP	Labour

Dated this 25th day of April 2019

Claire Porter
Returning Officer
The Shirehall
Abbey Foregate
SHREWSBURY
SY2 6ND

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Committee and date

Council

16 May 2019

CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES AND THE ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO POLITICAL GROUPS

Responsible Officer Claire Porter

Email: claire.porter@shropshire.gov.uk

Telephone: (01743) 252763

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report deals with the overall constitution of committees, the overall entitlement of seats for each of the political groups and the proportionate allocation of seats between the groups across all committees.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Council confirms the constitution of committees and the allocation of seats to each of the political groups for the 2019/20 municipal year and the allocation of seats between the political groups, as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 to this report.

REPORT

3.0 Local Government and Housing Act 1989

- 3.1 The provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 require the Council to review the representation of each political group on committees, panels etc. at each annual meeting or as soon as practicable after that meeting. The regulations require that all Scrutiny, Standing and Regulatory Committees are politically balanced across the total number of committee places. Subject to that overriding requirement, each committee must also be politically balanced, as far as it is reasonably practicable.
- 3.2 The Executive (Cabinet) is not subject to the political balance rules.
- 3.3 Advisory Committees and other ad hoc bodies and groups are not subject to the political balance rules either, but traditionally political proportionality has been applied to them outside the overall aggregate balance referred to in paragraph 2.1 above.

4.0 Constitution of Committees

- 4.1 The Council is requested to approve the overall constitution of committees.
- 4.2 This requires 83 seats to be allocated proportionately across all committees and the Council is requested to approve the overall constitution as set out below:

<u>Committee Name</u>	<u>Seats per Committee</u>
Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee	10
Performance Management Scrutiny Committee	10
Communities Overview Committee	10
Place Overview Committee	10
People Overview Committee	10
Pensions Committee	4
Audit Committee	5
Strategic Licensing Committee	15
Standards Committee	9
Total	<u>83</u>

5.0 Allocation of Seats

- 5.1 The Council is required to approve the allocation of seats to the political groups for the coming year.
- 5.2 The maximum number of seats available to each group within the political balance rules will be:

<u>Group Name</u>	<u>Seats per Group</u>
Conservatives	54
Liberal Democrats	13
Labour	8
Independent	6
Unaligned Members	2
Total	<u>83</u>

- 5.3 The proportionate allocation of seats to the political groups across all committees is set out in Appendix 1 and the proposed allocation of these totals to individual members, in accordance with the wishes of the respective Group Leaders, is set out in Appendix 2 to this report (To Follow).
- 5.4 The Council is entitled to 11 seats on the Shropshire and Wrekin Combined Fire Authority. Under the present arrangements, the Conservative Group is entitled to 7 seats, the Liberal Democrat Group 2 seats, the Labour Group 1 seat and the Independent Group 1 seat.

5.5 The proposed allocation of seats meets the legal requirements, however, should the Council wish, it is possible to agree allocations which are not strictly politically balanced if no Member dissents.

6.0 Appointment of Area Planning Committees

6.1 With regard to the allocation of seats on the area based Planning Committees (North, South and Central – 11 members of each) the Constitution requires members to be drawn from each of the individual areas, North, South and Central and for this reason the political balance rules have been disapplied. However, it has been agreed by Council that in order to recognise the local representation of each of the areas, the members of each of the Area Planning Committees will reflect the political balance of each local area.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information) Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and Regulations made thereunder.
Human Rights Act Appraisal The contents of this report are compatible with the provisions of the Human Rights act 1998.
Environmental Appraisal: Not Applicable
Risk Management Appraisal The Council is obliged to ensure that the membership of committees and related bodies is proportionate to individual group membership.
Community / Consultations Appraisal Not Applicable
Cabinet member: TBA
Local Members: All
Appendices Appendix 1 – Constitution of Committees and Allocation of Seats to Political Groups Appendix 2 – Proposed Allocation of Seats to Political Groups (To Follow)

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ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO POLITICAL GROUPS

Composition of the Council	Cons	Lab	Lib Dem	Ind	Total
	48	7	12	5	74*

* including 1 unaligned Labour Member

* also including 1 unaligned Conservative Member

SCRUTINY

Health and Adult Social Care O&S	6	1	2	1	10
Performance Management Scrutiny	6	1	2	1	10
Communities Overview	7	1	2	0	10
Place Overview	7	1	1	1	10
People Overview	6	1	1	1	10*

* Including 1 unaligned Conservative Member

STANDING AND REGULATORY

Pensions Committee	3	0	1	0	4
Audit Committee	3	0	1	0	5*
Standards	6	1	1	1	9
Strategic Licensing Committee	10	2	2	1	15
Aggregate No Seats Required	54	8	13	6	83

* Including 1 unaligned Labour Member

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<u>Committee and Date</u>
Council
16 th May 2019

<u>Item</u>
Public

Proposed Changes to the number of Planning Committees

Responsible Officer Mark Barrow, Executive Director Place
e-mail: mark.barrow@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 258916

1. Summary

A report to consider the number and functions of Planning Committees for Shropshire Council.

2. Recommendations

- (1) To reduce the number of Area Planning Committees from three to two, one covering Shrewsbury town and the north, the other covering the south of the county to provide an even business split overall between the two area committees.**
- (2) To implement these changes to take effect from 1st September 2019 and review the performance of a two committee model through scrutiny in 2 years' from the date of implementation.**

REPORT

1. The Council has set a corporate objective to deliver sustainable economic growth and to be a Council that is good to do business with. The planning process is central to achieving this ambition and it is important that its process is perceived as efficient and effective from a customer perspective. An internal review of business processes within the planning department is underway currently supported by an independent team from Wolverhampton City Council. The aim is to shorten the contact time in the system from pre-application to commencement on site – to provide the right development, in the right place and quickly wherever possible.
2. While a Planning Committee will always be the environment where the most controversial and complicated applications are considered, the context has changed since the existing committee structure was established in 2009. Delegation is more effectively and consistently managed by both officers and members and now average agendas are low – with just over four cases per Committee when a Committee meets. In the last year meetings for all three Planning Committees have been cancelled when there has not been enough business to hold one.
3. The number of planning committees has been subject to scrutiny from three member-led task and finish groups in previous years. While Members have accepted recommendations to improve the planning committee process they

have to date resisted proposals to reduce the number of planning committees.

4. The reasons for looking at this again now are for efficiency and consistency. There is always a risk of inconsistency in decision taking when more than one planning committee is operating, observations based on analysis of planning committee performance indicate that there have been differences between the committees in those which defer applications or the number of overturned recommendations.
5. In 2009 prior to the three area committee system being introduced, Shropshire Council had a single interim regulatory committee that considered applications across the county drawn from members countywide. When alternatives to a three committee model have been considered previously some members have expressed concern that this would mean members taking decisions in localities they are unfamiliar with. In practice these concerns are not likely to be founded as the membership would be derived from the geography of the committee area, and a larger committee is more likely to adopt a strategic approach to the application of policy and material planning considerations.
6. The resistance from some members to reducing the number of planning committees is that it is perceived by some as not providing adequate local representation. However, the Constitution provides for a local member speaking in all cases and in any event local members cannot vote on cases in their division.
7. Maintaining three Planning Committees is a resource commitment now that exceeds what is necessary to fulfil the function effectively and efficiently and alternative models offer more consistency and less cost without making any changes to the scheme of delegation. Consequently the same number of applications would be considered by committee as at present.
8. A single committee clearly provides the best model for consistent decision taking. A two committee model carries with it more risk but nevertheless offers less scope for inconsistency than a three committee model.
9. The direct cost savings arising from a reduced committee model are difficult to specify but there would be savings generated from items including bus hire, staff time from planning services, legal & democratic services, member allowances and technical consultees who attend committees from time to time.

Options Considered

10. The alternative delivery models are for either a single planning committee or for two planning committees. Shropshire Council is unusual locally in maintaining three Committees to discharge its planning functions relative to its neighbours.
11. Herefordshire went from four Planning Committees to one in 2009. Herefordshire did so on the basis of advice from the former Audit Commission that its Committee procedures were cumbersome, inconsistent and lacking in transparency to applicants.

- 12 Most neighbouring authorities (Telford & Wrekin, South Staffs, Stafford, Newcastle under Lyme, Wyre Forest and Cheshire West and Chester) discharge their planning functions with one Planning Committee. Powys has one Planning, Taxi Licencing and Rights of Way Committee dealing with planning and other business.
- 13 There are two exceptions in neighbouring areas - Cheshire East still retains three Committees, Malvern Hills has two Committees. Cheshire East has some unique circumstances mostly around the onset of challenges of pressures on its Green Belt following the release of the NPPF. Its members seek to determine 10% of all cases, some four times more (in percentage terms) than Shropshire and its delegation rates are lower than most unitary councils. Birmingham – the largest authority in England by population has one monthly Planning Committee.

Further afield

- 14 This review has also looked at three large rural unitary authorities: Cornwall; Northumberland; and Wiltshire.
- 15 All of these run more than one Planning Committee. Cornwall has four and Wiltshire five. Northumberland has reformed its committee structure on more than one occasion since 2009 and has now reverted to a strategic committee and five area committees.

Next steps

- 16 Evidence has been considered looking back over an 18 month period at the items considered by each committee. Planning committees vary in length depending on the agenda but a manageable time frame should be no more than 4 hours. Within this time frame and based on experience over the last 8 years it is considered that a planning committee could readily deal with up to 6 to 7 agenda items.

Options Considered:

1: Two Area Planning Committees each meeting once a month – 24 meetings a year. (Recommended Option)

- 17 Represents a 33% reduction in committee time and cost, manageable for officers and members in terms of time commitment. Not achieving optimal consistency i.e. with one committee but an improvement on the current number. Unless each committee represents less than two fifths of the total area or population of the County, they will need to be politically balanced across the whole authority. The Committees will be politically balanced in accordance with the political balance of the Council as a whole.
- 18 With two monthly committees there would be capacity to consider up to 14 items a month or around 168 items a year. Over the 18 month survey period 145 planning applications were considered by the three existing Area Planning Committees in the last 12 months, there is therefore sufficient “head room” if two committees are held a month.
- 19 The proposal would be to hold two monthly committees, one covering Shrewsbury town and the north, the other covering the south of the county

with a geographic area larger than that currently covered by the South committee to provide an even business split overall between the two area committees. It may require site visits to be undertaken on a separate day where the sites are widely dispersed given the broad Geography of Shropshire. Alternatives to site visits have been considered (GoogleEarth) but there are risks with this approach and nothing is more impactful for members to have seen the site and walked it in context.

2: One Area Planning Committee meeting twice a month

- 20 Provides the best opportunity to develop a focussed group of members through training and support to achieve quality decisions. Political balance across the county. Officer resource commitment as Option 1 but member resource demands would be significant for the members involved as they would be dealing and preparing for a planning a committee every two weeks, assimilating all the resources, officer reports, stakeholder feedback and site visits. This would place significant time demands on committee members.

3 – One Area Planning Committee meeting every 3 weeks.

- 21 This would have the same consistency benefits as Option 2 but provides a greater interval between committees to reduce the impact on the members involved. Around 17 meetings a year would be achievable through this model (rather than 24 with the other two options), however agenda lengths would be a minimum of 10 items rather than 7 (the current suggested maximum) and more than double the current average agenda length. This means that unless the scheme of delegation is further revised to reduce the number of items going to committee meetings would be much longer (up to 8 hours) requiring an earlier start with site visits on a different day or shorter debates. Delegation is high and consistent with near neighbours at around 97%.

Assessment

- 22 The table below clearly illustrates that without making any changes to the scheme of delegation the business being referred to committee for consideration could be handled by two committee meetings a month with agenda lengths in the order of 6 or 7 items. This could be dealt with by a single committee or two committees handling up to 14 items a month – the former optimal from a consistency perspective, the latter likely to be more attractive to members from a commitment/resource perspective.
- 23 In a two committee scenario Shrewsbury town would be placed in the north and additional central rural parishes added to the south to balance the number of planning applications.
- 24 This is entirely consistent with the upper limits of agendas currently considered. It will avoid the need to cancel committees and allow for more focussed and consistent officer and member support for committee items under consideration.

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 25 Planning Committee decisions are often complicated and can be controversial attracting significant stakeholder and public interest. We are

seeing increasing failure demand with the current system, not due to fault in the process but because increasingly communities and groups seek to challenge planning committee decisions. Any reduction in the number of planning committees is likely to be presented as a reduction in the democratic dividend but this is not the case as there are no plans to change the scheme of delegation.

4. Financial Implications

- 26 It is difficult to quantify specifically the financial savings to the Council that would arise from these alternative options because specific costs are not attributed to committee functions. Furthermore the changes proposed would not alter the number of items considered by planning committee, just the number of planning committees. What the proposals do achieve is to reduce pressure on a number of teams and will assist with their redesign proposals to achieve broader efficiencies to the Council. The cost savings that arise are the staff time involved, members allowances for Chairman/Vice Chairman, bus hire and room hire where appropriate.

5. Background

- 27 As set out in the context above the number of planning committees has been subject to scrutiny from three member – led task and finish groups in previous years. While Members have accepted recommendations to improve the process they have to date not supported proposals to reduce the number of planning committees. Based on the last 12 months evidence and further discussions with the Leader and Portfolio Holder, it is considered timely to review the number of planning committees as the Council continues to implement its transformational programme.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)
Report and recommendations to Scrutiny
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder) Gwilym Butler
Local Members - All
Appendices- Appendix 1 – within report body

Appendix 1**Performance of all Committees**

Month	North	Central	South	Total Agenda items
Aug-16	Cancelled	3	Cancelled	3
Sep-16	5	4	4	13
Oct-16	2	5	5	12
Nov-16	Cancelled	8	Cancelled	8
Nov-16	6	-		6
Dec-16	-	6	7	13
Jan-17	3	Cancelled	3	3
Feb-17	4	7	2	13
Mar-17	6	2	2	10
Apr-17	3	5	4	12
May-17	2	6	Cancelled	8
Jun-17	3	5	2	10
Jul-17	Cancelled	5	2	7
Aug-17	3	3	5	11
Aug – 17 (second Committee)			3	3
Sep-17	3	4	3	13
Oct-17	8	6	6	20
Nov-17	3	2	Cancelled	5
Dec-17	6	3	6	15
Jan-18	3	2	6	11
Feb-18	4	5	Cancelled	9
Mar-18	7	2	2	11
	68	83	65	216

Average cases per Committee (when it meets) = 4.15

North Committee

Month	North	OVERTURN	DEFERRAL	Total Agenda items
Aug-16	Cancelled			Cancelled
Sep-16	5			5
Oct-16	2			2
Nov-16	Cancelled			Cancelled
Nov-16	6	1		6
Dec-16	-			-
Jan-17	3			3
Feb-17	4	2	2	4
Mar-17	6			6
Apr-17	3	1		3
May-17	2			2
Jun-17	3	1		3
Jul-17	Cancelled			Cancelled
Aug-17	3	1	1	3
Sep-17	3			3
Oct-17	8			8
Nov-17	3			3
Dec-17	6			6
Jan-18	6			6
Feb-18	Cancelled			Cancelled
Mar-18	2			2
	65	6	3	65

Central Committee

Month	CENTRAL	OVERTURN	DEFERRED	Total Agenda items
Aug-16	3			3
Sep-16	4			4
Oct-16	5		3	5
Nov-16	8		3	8
Dec-16	6	1		6
Jan-17	Cancelled			Cancelled
Feb-17	7	1	2	7
Mar-17	2			2
Apr-17	5			5
May-17	6		1	6
Jun-17	5	1		5
Jul-17	5		2	5
Aug-17	3		1	3
Sep-17	4			4
Oct-17	6			6
Nov-17	2		1	2
Dec-17	3			3
Jan-18	2		1	2
Feb-18	5			5
Mar-18	2			2
	83	3	14	83

South Committee

Month	SOUTH	OVERTURN	DEFERRAL	Total Agenda items
Aug-16	Cancelled			Cancelled
Sep-16	4			4
Oct-16	4	1		4
Nov-16	Cancelled			Cancelled
Dec-16	7		2	7
Jan-17	3	1	1	3
Feb-17	2			2
Mar-17	2			2
Apr-17	5			5
May-17	Cancelled			Cancelled
Jun-17	2	1		2
Jul-17	2			2
Aug-17	5	1		5
Aug-17 (2)	3	2		3
Sep-17	3	1		3
Oct-17	6		3	6
Nov-17	Cancelled			Cancelled
Dec-17	6	2	2	6
Jan-18	3	1		3
Feb-18	4			4
Mar-18	7	2	1	7
	68	11	9	68

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Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority Chair's Report of the Meeting held on 24 April 2019

Review of Fire Authority Governance Structure

At its February 2019 meeting, the Fire Authority tasked Legal Services with further exploring the recommendations of its Strategy and Planning Working Group that there be a small reduction in Member numbers (from 17 to 15 or 13 as a minimum) and a change in the Committee structure.

The Fire Authority received and considered the report which set out the final recommendations of the Strategy and Planning Working Group. The Authority resolved that the total membership of the Fire Authority be reduced from 17 to 15, along with the adoption of a two Committee structure. This will consist of a forward-looking 'Decision-making' Committee which will have responsibility for planning and preparing, for resourcing the Service and driving change across the Authority together with a backward-looking 'holding to account' Committee which will hold to account the delivery of the Authority's decisions by auditing and checking, reviewing and giving assurances.

In addition, the Fire Authority agreed an increase in virement levels from £50,000 to £100,000 which will allow officers to make operational decisions without unnecessary recourse to the Fire Authority. The Fire Authority also agreed that Hearings related to appeals involving disciplinary issues be delegated to the Chief Fire Officer as the Head of Paid Service, rather than being heard by a panel of the Fire Authority as is currently the case. Any appeal against a decision made by the Chief Fire Officer will still be open to escalation through a neutral employment tribunal.

Further reports setting out the specific details of these changes such as Terms of Reference for the Committees and representation on those committees will be brought to the Annual Meeting of the Fire Authority in June 2019.

Annual Plan 2019/20

The Fire Authority received its Annual Plan 2019/20. This has been published on the Service's website and can be accessed via the following link.

<https://www.shropshirefire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/09-annual-plan-2019-20.pdf>

The Fire Authority agreed the outline format and contents of the Annual Plan 2019/20 at its meeting in February 2019. The Strategy and Resources Committee agreed the Service Targets 2018/19, which support the four Strategic Aims, at its meeting in March 2019.

Financial Performance to March 2019

The Fire Authority received a report on the financial performance of the Service up to March 2019 and has agreed virements to the revenue budget as requested. The report also set out the Service's performance against prudential indicators to date in 2018/19.

In addition, the Fire Authority also agreed a further increase to the Service's tariff for special service charges which were updated in February 2019 in line with firefighter pay.

The tariff has been further increased to ensure that the rates for fire investigation and reporting remain aligned with regional charges as determined by the West Midlands Fire Investigation Group.



Eric Carter
Chair
Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority
April 2019

Background Papers

Agenda and Papers for the meeting of Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority held on 24 April 2019

The agendas and reports (with the exception of exempt or confidential items) for all Fire Authority meetings and those of its Committees appear on the Brigade's website:

<https://www.shropshirefire.gov.uk/>

To access reports go to the Fire Service's website and follow the steps below.

- Click on 'About Us' at the top of the page
- Click on 'Fire and Rescue Authority'
- Click on 'Meetings' in the list on the right hand side of the screen
- Click on '24 April 2019' and the various reports and appendices will be listed

If you have any difficulty with the website, please contact Lynn Ince, Executive Support Officer, on 01743 260225.

COUNCIL 16th MAY 2019

MEMBER QUESTIONS REPORT

1. Question from Councillor Kevin Pardy:

The Full Member's meeting of February 2019 unanimously voted to establish a wholly owned Council housing company in order to tackle the backlog of affordable housing required within the Unitary area of Shropshire.

I believe the founding of this company is an opportunity for this council to take a lead in home fire safety.

Government statistics show that 30,744 dwelling fires occurred in the year 2017/18 resulting in 263 deaths.

Statistics tell us that in total there were 5,447 non-fatal casualties in dwelling fires.

Injuries can be anything from slight burns, blisters, inhalation of smoke to more severe injuries such as loss of mobility, full body scarring, disfigurement, blindness and many more injuries including mental health problems.

The average cost of physical damage to a dwelling is between £14,500 and £15,000. The cost of fatalities can run into the millions in addition to the human cost and the loss endured by family and friends.

This council should ensure that deaths, injuries and damage to property be reduced to an absolute minimum. We, as a Council, can help to do this by fitting domestic sprinkler systems in the homes we build.

Having researched costs of a domestic sprinkler system it appears that costs range from £1,500 for a 2/3 bedroom house up to £2,500 for a 3 bedroom house.

The costs are minimal, relatively speaking, remembering that the costs quoted are for a one off fitting, costs are probably even less when developing a site with a number of homes.

I ask the leader to confirm that this authority will ensure Fire Safety Sprinkler Systems are fitted to Council built homes.

Response from the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Strategic Planning:
ROB MACEY , PORTFOLIO HOLDER

Domestic fire safety is something that this administration takes very seriously, and we are keen to learn from best practice where domestic fire sprinklers have been installed.

The Welsh Assembly Government introduced changes to Building Regulations that apply across the whole of Wales and which resulted in a requirement to install automatic water suppression systems in all new houses and flats from 1st January 2016. I am not aware of any plans to introduce this change to Building Regulations in England. Regulations in England mean that only buildings constructed since 2007 and which are taller than 30m are required to have sprinklers fitted.

There has been no formal assessment of the effectiveness of the installation of sprinkler systems in Wales from the perspective of prevention of injury and death from fire. Given that the changes to Building Regulations were very recent, it is likely that it will be many years before any trends are apparent.

I am aware that there have been significant technical issues around the installation of sprinklers in Wales. The most pertinent is water pressure which impacts on the design and cost of installation. Cllr Pardy is correct when he states that a basic sprinkler system costs up to approximately £2,000 per property. Experience in Wales has shown that the additional specialist pumps that are required to address water pressure issues result in additional costs of up to £1,500.

However, this administration does not approach this issue from a cost perspective. It is important that the new Housing Company develops a quality standard for houses designed and built which set a high benchmark for the local housing industry.

Our aim is to build houses to good space standards and which are energy efficient to reduce the carbon footprint whilst also addressing fuel poverty issues. High quality building materials will be used and excellent construction standards which will ensure compliance with building and fire regulations in England.

I would recommend that this issue is referred to the Supervisory Board for further detailed examination. Members will be aware that the Supervisory Board is a politically balanced group of Members who will be able to consider all issues relating to the development of exemplary homes in the county.”

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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