

Shropshire Council  
Legal and Democratic Services  
Shirehall  
Abbey Foregate  
Shrewsbury  
SY2 6ND

Date: 25 August 2020  
My Ref:  
Your Ref:

**Committee:**  
**Place Overview Committee**

**Date:** Thursday, 3 September 2020  
**Time:** 10.00 am  
**Venue:** THIS IS A VIRTUAL MEETING

**Members of the public will be able to listen to this meeting by clicking on this link:**  
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- If using a mobile device, you will need to download the MS Teams app (free) before clicking the link
- Use the link at 2.00 pm on the day of the meeting and click on 'Join as Guest'
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You are requested to attend the above meeting.  
The Agenda is attached.

Claire Porter  
Director of Legal and Democratic Services

**Members of Place Overview Committee**

Joyce Barrow (Chairman)  
Andy Boddington  
Julian Dean  
Rob Gittins  
Simon Harris

Paul Milner (Vice Chairman)  
Dan Morris  
Pamela Moseley  
William Parr  
Paul Wynn

Your Committee Officer is:

**Sarah Townsend** Committee Officer

Tel: 01743 257721

Email: [sarah.townsend@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.townsend@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 of the Meeting held on 6 March 2020 (Pages 1 - 6)

To consider the minutes of the Place Overview Committee meeting held on 6 March 2020 (attached).

Contact: Sarah Townsend (Tel: 01743 257721)

## 4 Public Question Time

To receive any questions or petitions from the public of which notice has been given. The deadline for notification for this meeting is 10.00am on 1 September 2020.

## 5 Member Question Time

To receive any questions of which Members of the Council have given notice. The deadline for notification for this meeting is 10.00am on Tuesday 1 September 2020.

## 6 Agricultural Vehicles and Rural Roads

Report of Assistant Director of Infrastructure **TO FOLLOW**

## 7 Biodiversity

## 8 Work Programme (Pages 7 - 16)

To consider the future work programme of the Committee (attached).

Contact: Danial Webb (Tel: 01743 258509)

**9 Date/Time of Next Meeting of the Committee**

The Committee is scheduled to next meet at 10.00am on Thursday 5 November 2020.

**10 Exclusion of Press and Public**

To resolve that in accordance with the provision of Schedule 12 A of the Local Government Act 1972 and Paragraph 10.4 (5) of the Council's Access to Information Rules, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item.

**11 Exempt Minutes of the Last Meeting (Pages 17 - 18)**

To consider the exempt minutes of the Place Overview Committee meeting held on 6 March 2020 (attached).

Contact: Sarah Townsend (Tel: 01743 257721)

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Place Overview Committee
6 March 2020
1.00 pm

Item
<b>3</b>
Public

**MINUTES OF THE PLACE OVERVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 6 MARCH  
2020  
1.00 - 2.45 PM**

**Responsible Officer:** Sarah Townsend  
Email: sarah.townsend@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 257721

**Present**

Councillor Joyce Barrow (Chairman)  
Councillors Roy Aldcroft (Substitute) (substitute for Paul Wynn), Julian Dean, Rob Gittins, Simon Harris, Paul Milner (Vice Chairman), Pamela Moseley, William Parr, David Vasmer and Claire Wild (Substitute) (substitute for Dan Morris)

**53 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dan Morris and Paul Wynn. Councillors Claire Wild and Roy Aldcroft were in attendance as their substitutes.

**54 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

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

**55 Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th January 2020**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020 were confirmed as a correct record.

**56 Public Question Time**

There were no questions from members of the public.

**57 Member Question Time**

Questions were received from three Councillors.

**From Councillor Julian Dean:** Councillor Dean was in attendance, although his question and response in relation to the proposed North West Relief Road was read out by the Chairman. A full copy of the question and response provided is attached to the web page for the meeting and also attached to the signed minutes.

**From Councillor Roger Evans:** Councillor Evans was not in attendance and his questions and responses in relation to WSP and Kier were read out by the Chairman. A full copy of the questions and responses provided is attached to the web page for the meeting and also attached to the signed minutes.

**From Councillor David Vasmer:** Councillor Vasmer was in attendance, although his questions and responses in relation to Kier were read out by the Chairman. A full copy of the questions and responses provided is attached to the web page for the meeting and also attached to the signed minutes.

## 58 WSP Annual Report

The committee received the report of the Interim Assistant Director of Infrastructure and Communities which summarised the annual performance report for the WSP contract for the 2018/19 financial year and built upon the previous report presented to the Committee on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018.

The Commission Manager for WSP was in attendance to present this item. The committee were informed of the work undertaken by WSP, the outcomes that had been achieved during the 2018/19 financial year and how they are monitored and scored against a number of key performance indicators.

It was noted that the WSP contract was considered to be positive and supported Highways and Transport staff and wider colleagues in the council (e.g. Economic Growth) across a number of agendas, issues, projects and outcomes.

During the 2018/19 financial year, WSP had requested payments to the value of £5,601,808.74, all of which were within financial resources and the minimum contract value is £2.5 million per annum.

During the discussion and responding to questions from the committee, it was explained that:

- By using WSP, the level of service and the cost for work is known to the Council upfront.
- It was a struggle to recruit talented staff.
- The amount of grant applications that had been bided for, had increased substantially in the last two years.
- Concern was expressed regarding the amount of work that WSP were doing when the Council was struggling financially.
- WSP had a strong, designated climate change team who would be happy to attend a future meeting of the Place Overview Committee to talk about this topic.
- Two members of Shropshire Council's flooding team had been recruited from WSP.

- The Much Wenlock Flood Alleviation Scheme had been inspected four times in the last month, including in the dark.
- In terms of the LED conversion programme on street lighting across Shropshire, a comment was made that some of the lights had either not been switched on or, had been missed. The Interim Head of Highways, Transportation and Streetscene responded that, whilst there might be some delays, he thought it likely that the programme would be completed earlier than the planned three years.
- Information relating to road safety / sustainable travel education (paragraph 17.2 of the report) would be considered at a future meeting of the Road Safety Task and Finish Group.
- Cycle routes into Shrewsbury town centre were being improved.
- The Interim Head of Highways, Transportation and Streetscene agreed to send a larger version of the report to Councillor David Vasmer.

The committee thanked officers for their hard work during the recent floods and commented that the support they had provided was exemplary. Officers were also thanked in relation to the work undertaken on the A529 and particularly, in keeping everyone informed regarding what was happening.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the Annual Performance Report for WSP for the 2018/19 financial year was considered by the Place Overview Committee.
- (b) That scrutiny note and comment upon the detail contained within the report as appropriate.
- (c) Scrutiny continues to receive an annual performance report on the WSP contract.
- (d) That a report detailing the supervision of the WSP contract be considered at a future meeting of the Place Overview Committee.
- (e) That WSP attend a future meeting of the Place Overview Committee to talk about climate change.

**59 Work Programme 2020**

The committee's work programme for 2020 was noted and the Chairman explained that Mr Malcolm Andrew, on behalf of Trefonen Rural Protection Group Management Committee, had requested that the committee consider adding the Local Plan to their work programme. The Overview and Scrutiny Officer commented that this had been considered by the Place Overview Committee on four occasions in the last two years.

Councillor Robert Macey was in attendance as Portfolio Holder for Housing and Strategic Planning and explained that the Local Plan would be considered at the May 2020 Cabinet meeting and also at a future Council meeting. In addition, he stated that information relating to the Local Plan was available on the Council's website and that several public consultations had been held.

Both the Chairman and the Vice Chairman declared that they would not take part in the voting as they both lived in Trefonen. On being put to the vote, it was agreed that

the Local Plan should be added to the committee's work programme and in particular, the global policies and global policy changes should be considered.

**RESOLVED:**

That the following items be added to the committee's work programme:

- The Local Plan.
- Marches LEP Plan – for consideration in April 2020.
- Response to the recent flooding (Councillor Kate Halliday to be invited) – for consideration in April 2020.
- Progress and scrutinising of the Highways Improvement Plan – for consideration in June 2020.

Members were informed that if anyone needed any advice regarding the recent flooding and particularly the disposal of household goods, they should call 0345 678 9006.

Councillor Julian Dean left the meeting at this point.

**60 Exclusion of the Press and Public**

A member of the committee questioned why the 'Kier Annual Report – Further Update' agenda item needed to be held in exempt session. The Director of Place responded that whilst he wanted to make the report as transparent as possible, there was currently an ongoing dispute.

**RESOLVED:**

That in accordance with the provision of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and Paragraph 10.4 (5) of the Council's Access to Information Rules, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item.

**61 Kier Annual Report - Further Update**

The committee received the report of the Director of Place which provided members with an update on quality control procedures.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the committee notes the Highways and Environment Term Service Contract and the measures in place by the Council regarding the checking and controlling of highway works.
- (b) That the committee receive a further update at their 11<sup>th</sup> June 2020 meeting, regarding progress and the scrutinising of the Highways Improvement Plan and that the Highways Consultant attend this meeting.

*(The full version of minute 61 constitutes exempt information under Category 5 of Paragraph 10.4 of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules and has accordingly been withheld from publication).*



<TRAILER\_SECTION>

Signed ..... (Chairman)

Date:

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Place Overview Committee	<u>Item</u>
3 September 2020	<u>Public</u>

## Place Overview Committee Work Programme

### Responsible officer

Tom Dodds, Statutory Scrutiny Officer

[tom.dodds@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:tom.dodds@shropshire.gov.uk)

[01743 258518](tel:01743 258518)

### 1.0 Summary

1.1 This paper presents the Place Overview Committee's proposed work programme for the remainder of the municipal year. The council's overview and scrutiny committees have based their programmes on topics from Shropshire Council's Strategic Action Plan. The committee also

- scrutinises thematic priorities
- responds to emerging issues and
- follows up on previous work.

### 2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Committee members to:

- agree the proposed committee work programme attached as **appendix 1**
- note the current task and finish groups attached as **appendix 2**
- suggest changes to the committee work programme and
- recommend other topics to consider.

### 3.0 Background

3.1 Overview and Scrutiny's committees base this work programme on topics from Shropshire Council's Strategic Action Plan. They also

- scrutinise thematic priorities
- respond to emerging issues
- follow up on previous work and
- carry out cross-committee work through task and finish groups.

3.2 A refreshed overview and scrutiny work programme for this committee is attached as **appendix 1**. A refreshed list of current task and finish groups is attached as **appendix 2**.

#### 4.0 Next steps

- 4.1 Overview and scrutiny updates this report on an ongoing basis and presents it to each overview and scrutiny committee. This will allow members the opportunity to contribute to its development at each committee meeting.

<b>List of background papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)</b>
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None
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<b>Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)</b>
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All
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<b>Local Member</b>
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All
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<b>Appendices</b>
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Overview and scrutiny work programme
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Overview and scrutiny task and finish groups
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**Appendix 1**  
**Overview and Scrutiny work programme 2020 onwards**

**Place Overview Committee**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Intended outcomes or objectives</b>	<b>What output is required?</b>	<b>Who needs to be heard from?</b>	<b>Expected impact or added value</b>	<b>Work date</b>
Agriculture and rural roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To understand the issues facing agricultural users of rural roads</li> <li>To scrutinise how the council and partners can work together to make rural roads safer.</li> </ul>	Overview report presentation	Director of Place  NFU  Police and Crime Commissioner	The impact of agricultural vehicles on rural roads is minimised.  Farms and other agricultural businesses are able to use rural roads.	3 Sep 2020
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand the council's role in promoting biodiversity in Shropshire.</li> <li>Scrutinise work taking place and evaluate proposals for</li> </ul>	overview report presentation	Biodiversity Officer	The council maximises its opportunities to increase biodiversity in Shropshire.	3 Sep 2020
Shrewsbury shopping centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Receive a verbal update on the development of the council-owned shopping centres in Shrewsbury</li> </ul>	Verbal update	Director of Place	Shropshire Council makes good use of its investments.	5 Nov 2020

## Place Overview Committee

Topic	Intended outcomes or objectives	What output is required?	Who needs to be heard from?	Expected impact or added value	Work date
North West Relief Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scrutinise ongoing development of the proposed relief road</li> </ul>	Overview report	Highways, Transport and Environment Commissioning Manager	Shropshire Council's full business case for the relief road is fit for purpose.	5 Nov 2020
Quarterly budget scrutiny	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyse the impact of budget changes to service delivery.</li> <li>• Scrutinise any proposals for reconfigured services.</li> <li>• Consider progress on meeting agreed budget savings.</li> </ul>	Overview report	Director of Place	Shropshire Council budgeting and spending reflects council priorities.	5 Nov 2020
Kier and WSP annual reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the annual reports of the council's two principal highways' contractors</li> <li>• Ensure that our contractors provide a high level of service and value for money.</li> </ul>	Annual reports	Director of Place		28 Jan 2021

## Place Overview Committee

Topic	Intended outcomes or objectives	What output is required?	Who needs to be heard from?	Expected impact or added value	Work date
Highways performance monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the performance of Shropshire Highways.</li> <li>Further detail on quality control, as requested at the committee's meeting in February 2020.</li> </ul>	Overview report	Highways, Transport and Environment Commissioning Manager	Shropshire Highways' contracted work is completed to a high standard.	28 Jan 2021
Communicating highways works and repairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand how the council communicates disruptions to the highway.</li> <li>Make recommendations on future development of communications</li> </ul>	Overview report Presentation	Technology and Communications Manager	People in Shropshire receive timely and relevant information about disruptions to the highway.	28 Jan 2021
Local Housing Company	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scrutinise the creation of a local housing company in Shropshire</li> </ul>	Overview report Presentation	Director of Place	Shropshire's Housing Development Corporation builds homes that support the council's strategic objectives.	18 March 2021

## Place Overview Committee

Topic	Intended outcomes or objectives	What output is required?	Who needs to be heard from?	Expected impact or added value	Work date
Quarterly budget scrutiny	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyse the impact of budget changes to service delivery.</li> <li>Scrutinise any proposals for reconfigured services.</li> <li>Consider progress on meeting agreed budget savings.</li> </ul>	Overview report	Director of Place	Shropshire Council budgeting and spending reflects council priorities.	18 March 2021
Local Transport Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider the development of the new Local Transport Plan and how it relates to the delivery of the council's priorities.</li> </ul>	overview report presentation	Head of Commissioning	<p>Contribute to development of Local Transport Plan.</p> <p>Provide assurance that the plan contributes to housing and economic growth plans.</p>	18 March 2021
Night-time economy and licensing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand the value of the night time economy in Shropshire</li> <li>Scrutinise policies pertaining to the night time economy</li> </ul>	Overview report Presentation	Director of Place	<p>Shropshire's towns have vibrant, well-supported night-time economies.</p> <p>Night-time economies contribute to the vibrancy of town centres.</p>	TBA



**Place Overview Committee**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Intended outcomes or objectives</b>	<b>What output is required?</b>	<b>Who needs to be heard from?</b>	<b>Expected impact or added value</b>	<b>Work date</b>
Local Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the Local Plan seeking to respond to the Climate Change emergency</li> <li>• Comment on the draft plan before its presentation to Council.</li> </ul>	Overview report	Head of Place		TBA

**Appendix 2**  
**Current and proposed task and finish groups**

Title	Objectives	Reporting to
Financial Strategy and Innovation and Income Generation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To understand the process and activity stages for developing the Financial Strategy and how these translate into the Council’s annual budgets</li> <li>• To consider and scrutinise the proposals and emerging plans for the whole Financial Strategy and 2019/20 budget, including how they align to the four pillars. This will be through their development and their implementation, in particular for innovation and raising income.</li> <li>• To consider the alignment of the Financial Strategy and the new Corporate Plan being developed autumn 2018.</li> <li>• To consider the recommendations and areas for action identified in the Corporate Peer Challenge report relating to the Financial Strategy, and how they are being addressed.</li> <li>• To consider the direct and indirect impacts, including risks, of 2019/20 Budget proposals on current services and customers.</li> <li>• To complete specific pieces of work to identify and work up alternatives to emerging plans, including the feasibility of any alternative proposals</li> <li>• Make evidence based recommendations in relation to plans and approaches for innovation and income generation, and alternative proposals for future budget setting.</li> </ul>	Performance Management Scrutiny Committee

<b>Title</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Reporting to</b>
Road casualty reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the nature of road traffic collisions in Shropshire.</li> <li>• Understand feelings of road safety, and the effect of feeling unsafe when travelling.</li> <li>• Understand the factors that contribute to safer travel</li> <li>• Scrutinise how Shropshire Council and its partners work together to make travel safer.</li> <li>• Explore how Shropshire Council responds to new models of Government transport funding.</li> </ul>	Place Overview Committee
Community Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To understand how community transport operates in Shropshire, and the demand for community transport services.</li> <li>• Identify how the community transport groups, the council, and other partners can work together to provide community transport to people in Shropshire who do not have access to public or private transport.</li> </ul>	Communities Overview Committee
Brexit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To consider the information brought together to develop a view for Shropshire of the possible implications of Brexit for the Shropshire economy and the achievement of the Economic Growth Strategy.</li> <li>• To identify, with the relevant officers, the key evidence and related requirements of what Shropshire would require from a future UK funding approach.</li> <li>• To make evidence based recommendations to Cabinet.</li> </ul>	Performance Management Scrutiny Committee

<b>Title</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Reporting to</b>
Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To understand how Shropshire Council currently uses Section 106, CIL and NHB and the impact that this has had</li> <li>• To understand how Section 106, CIL and NHB could be used in Shropshire to enable or encourage projects or initiatives for economic growth and prosperity</li> <li>• To learn from other places how they have used Section 106, CIL and NHB to enable or encourage projects or initiatives for economic growth and prosperity</li> <li>• To make evidence based recommendations on how Section 106, CIL and NHB could be used in Shropshire to enable or encourage projects or initiatives for economic growth and prosperity</li> </ul>	Performance Management Scrutiny
Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To review Shropshire Council’s existing work to reduce its CO2e output.</li> <li>• To scrutinise existing council policy and practice and recommend policy changes that would support further carbon reduction.</li> <li>• To identify and evaluate opportunities to reduce spending and generate income by adopting low-carbon technology and practices.</li> </ul>	Place Overview Committee
Dog fouling and dangerous dogs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To scrutinise how the local authority tackles               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ dog fouling</li> <li>○ dog attacks</li> <li>○ stray dogs</li> </ul> </li> <li>• licenced dog breeding</li> </ul>	Performance Management Scrutiny Committee

By virtue of paragraph(s) 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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