

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

Date: Monday, 15 April 2024

**Committee:**  
**Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Date:** Tuesday, 23 April 2024  
**Time:** 2.00 pm  
**Venue:** Shrewsbury/Oswestry Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury,  
Shropshire, SY2 6ND

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

**There will be some access to the meeting room for members of the press and public, but this will be limited. If you wish to attend the meeting, please email [democracy@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@shropshire.gov.uk) to check that a seat will be available for you.**

**Please click [here](#) to view the livestream of the meeting on the date and time stated above.**

**The recording of the event will also be made available shortly after the meeting on the Shropshire Council YouTube Channel: [Here](#)**

Tim Collard  
Assistant Director - Legal and Governance

**Members of Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Joyce Barrow (Chairman)	Nick Hignett
Steve Davenport (Vice Chairman)	Pamela Moseley
Garry Burchett	Ed Potter
Rosemary Dartnall	Rob Wilson
Julian Dean	Paul Wynn
Roger Evans	

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 Interests

Members are reminded that they must declare their disclosable pecuniary interests and other registrable or non-registrable interests in any matter being considered at the meeting as set out in Appendix B of the Members' Code of Conduct and consider if they should leave the room prior to the item being considered. Further advice can be sought from the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.

## 3 Minutes of Previous Meetings (Pages 1 - 8)

To consider the minutes of the following previous meetings:

- Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024. (**To Follow**).
- Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting (Call In of Cabinet Decision on Sports Village Transformation) held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024. (Attached).
- Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting (Call In of Cabinet Decision on Parking Tariffs, Operations and Development) held on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024. (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 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

## 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 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

**6 Progress against the actions from the Social Housing and Housing Strategy Report (Pages 9 - 20)**

The Assistant Director Homes and Communities will provide an update on progress against the actions from the Social Housing and Housing Strategy report that was considered by the Committee at their meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023. (Attached).

Contact: Jane Trethewey (Tel: 01743 258913)

**7 Progress against the actions from the New Housing Developments Work**

The Assistant Director Economy and Place will provide an update on progress against the actions from the New Housing Development report that was considered by the Committee at their meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023. **(REPORT TO FOLLOW)**.

Contact: Tracy Darke ([tracy.darke@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:tracy.darke@shropshire.gov.uk))

**8 Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme**

To discuss topics for the Committee to focus on in the coming year.

Contact: Tom Dodds (Tel: 01743 258518)

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

The Committee is scheduled to next meet on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 2.00 p.m.

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## Committee and Date

Economy and Environment  
Overview and Scrutiny  
Committee

23 April 2024

## **ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2024**

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

**Responsible Officer:** Amanda Holyoak

Email: [Amanda.holyoak@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Amanda.holyoak@shropshire.gov.uk) Tel: 01743 257714

### **Present**

Councillors Joyce Barrow (Chair) Steve Davenport (Vice Chair), Nick Bardsley (substitute member) Garry Burchett, Rosemary Dartnall, Julian Dean, Roger Evans, Nick Hignett, Pamela Moseley and Ed Potter, David Vasmer (substitute member)

### **1 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor Rob Wilson. His substitute was Councillor David Vasmer.

Apologies were also received from Councillor Paul Wynn. His substitute was Councillor Nick Bardsley.

### **2 Disclosable Interests**

None were declared.

### **3 Public Question Time**

There were no public questions

### **4 Member Question Time**

There were no member questions.

### **5 Call In - Sports Village Transformation**

The Chair welcomed the committee members and Robert Macey, Portfolio Holder for Digital and Culture, and officers Jane Trethewey, Assistant Director Homes and Communities and Peter Gilbertson, Senior Project Management Officer, to the meeting.

She explained the purpose of the meeting which had been convened to consider the call-in submitted by The Liberal Democrat Group Leader on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group in respect of the Cabinet decision of 17 January 2024 regarding Shrewsbury Sports Village Transformation. She referred to the [Page 1](#) is available to the committee in

relation to call in and the procedure that would be followed, set out in appendix 4 to the report.

The Chair invited the Liberal Democrat Group Leader to explain the reasons for the call in of the decision. He said that he was not against the consultation per se, but against the consultation that had been agreed by Cabinet because of the phraseology within it. He asked that the content of the questionnaire be referred back to Cabinet with recommendations for amendment as his Group felt that the decision made had been flawed due to concerns related to :

- The questionnaire – which did not reflect the lengthy debate on swimming pool facilities in Shrewsbury, stretching back over 13 years and previous decisions made;
- Previous consultations undertaken - which had returned results significantly favouring the Quarry Swimming pool over the Sports Village for development of new swimming facilities had been ignored;
- 600 submissions to the consultation on swimming facilities held in 2016 had been rejected as they had been submitted using the same device in one household;
- The reason the Quarry swimming facilities were in a poor condition was due to lack of maintenance over significant amount of time;
- The possibility of a new pool in the Riverside location had not even been considered.

The Chair asked if there were any questions for Councillor Evans at this stage of the meeting and as there were none, went on to ask the Assistant Director, Homes and Communities and Portfolio Holder for Digital and Culture to explain the background to the decision made and respond to the call in.

The Assistant Director explained that:

- The Cabinet decision had been purely to consult on the proposals for a pool to be added to the existing facilities at Shrewsbury Sports Village;
- No decision had been made in relation to the Quarry Pool, nothing had been ruled in or out, and the consultation on proposals for the Sports Village did not rule out any proposals for the Quarry Pool in future;
- In order to progress with a two site pool solution in Shrewsbury it would only be possible to develop one at a time – any development of facilities at the Quarry pool site would require its closure over a lengthy period, leaving Shrewsbury with no swimming provision during that time. This was the reason for progressing with the consultation solely on proposed facilities at the Sports Village site, ahead of a decision being made on the Quarry.

The Portfolio Holder reiterated that no decision at all had been made on the Quarry Swimming Pool and that the consultation was designed only to obtain views on proposals for new facilities at the Sports Village site.

Committee members were invited to ask any questions of officers and the Portfolio Holder.

A member of the committee said the financial circumstances the council found itself in meant that the likelihood of having two pool locations in Shrewsbury into the future was unlikely. He felt that the consultation therefore was in effect related to closure of the

Quarry Pool. The Call-in had been made as it was felt that the consultation should have included an option to ask if people felt a refurbished or rebuilt pool was needed in Shrewsbury Town Centre - as previous consultations had identified the town centre as the favoured location for swimming facilities.

Officers again reiterated that no decision had been made in relation to the Quarry site, and that if it were to be refurbished or rebuilt ahead of a Sports Village facility then Shrewsbury would be left without any swimming facilities at all for a lengthy period of time. In addition, as the Quarry pool at 55 years old was at end of life, the risk of further serious maintenance issues was high which could result in temporary or long-term closure, leaving the town without any facilities.

Locating a pool at the Smithfield development in the town centre had never been raised previously; would represent a completely new direction; and was unlikely to be feasible due to flood risk, and financial viability due to the footprint which would be required. Progressing this as an option would delay decision making for many years.

The Chair noted that members of the Shropshire Amateur Swimming Association, who had come to watch the meeting, were in support of the proposals for the Sports Village.

A Committee member was critical of how the results of previous consultations in relation to swimming facilities had been used and raised a concern regarding the rejection of a large number of responses to a previous consultation, as a result of another response having been already submitted from the same device in a household, which he said potentially had skewed results.

Members also raised points related to: transport issues, the number of gyms already available in the area; positive energy efficient measures for a pool at the sports village; reasons an 8 lane pool had been proposed; the need to support the viability of the Sports Village; the current lifespan, viability and future of the Quarry Pool location; and the need to avoid a situation whereby there were no swimming facilities at all available in Shrewsbury.

The Chair reminded all present that the discussion must focus on the exploration of the reasons as set out in the call in, which was, whether the current consultation on proposed swimming facilities to be added to the Sports Village site was flawed.

The Portfolio Holder said he wished to make it categorically clear that the Quarry Pool had only been referenced in the report to the committee to provide a context for the prioritisation of provision of facilities at the Sports Village location. There was a need to move quickly as any delays would lead to higher costs due to pressures of inflation on construction costs.

A member asked about the issue raised regarding rejection of a large number of responses to a previous questionnaire, as multiple responses could not be made from the same household. It seemed reasonable for two or three people to respond from the same household. The Assistant Director said that she believed that this was fairly standard methodology but said she would look into this issue.

It was confirmed that any future proposals related to the Quarry Swimming Pool would be subject to discussion and consultation.

It was proposed and seconded that the matter be referred back to Cabinet for the reasons set out in the call in the notice and during the meeting. On being put to the vote, this proposal fell.

The Portfolio Holder and Assistant Director were then asked that they clarify the position when the consultation was released with regard to multiple responses from the same household, and also make it clear that the consultation and proposals had no relation to future plans for the Quarry Pool. It was confirmed that they would be able to do this without reference back to Cabinet.

This was proposed and seconded and following a vote it was

**RESOLVED:**

That the Committee should take no further action and that the Assistant Director and Portfolio Holder ensure that once the consultation is issued that information will be provided so that it is very clear that the consultation is only in relation to proposals for the Sports Village, did not concern future plans for the Quarry Pool, which would be dealt with separately at a later date, and that it also be made very clear, if it remained the case, that multiple responses from the same device would not be accepted.

Signed ..... (Chairman)

Date: .....



## **Committee and Date**

Economy and Environment  
Overview and Scrutiny  
Committee

23 April 2024

## **ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 19 February 2024**

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

**2.00 - 4.24 pm**

**Responsible Officer:** Tim Ward Committee Officer

Email: sarah.townsend@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 257721

### **Present**

Councillors Joyce Barrow (Chairman), Steve Davenport (Vice Chairman), Rosemary Dartnall, Julian Dean, Roger Evans, Ed Potter, Paul Wynn, Roy Aldcroft (Substitute) (substitute for Garry Burchett), Nicholas Bardsley (Substitute) (substitute for Nick Hignett), Alan Mosley (Substitute) (substitute for Pamela Moseley) and David Vasmer (Substitute) (substitute for Rob Wilson)

### **1 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors Garry Burchett, Nick Hignett, Pam Moseley and Rob Wilson

Councillor Roy Aldcroft substituted for Councillor Burchett, Councillor Nick Bardsley substituted for Councillor Hignett, Councillor Alan Mosley substituted for Councillor Moseley and Councillor David Vasmer substituted for Councillor Wilson

### **2 Disclosable Interests**

There were no interests declared

### **3 Public Question Time**

The Chairman advised that public questions had been received from Pauline Dee and Seb Slater. A copy of the questions and the responses provided are attached to the signed minutes and available from the web page for the meeting

[Agenda for Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Monday, 19th February, 2024, 2.00 pm — Shropshire Council](#)

### **4 Member Question Time**

There were no questions from Members.

Councillor Andy Boddington addressed the meeting. He expressed the need for improvements to Park and Ride in Ludlow to enable the modal shift from car use. He

added that the increased charges could have an effect on the economic viability of the town.

Councillor Ed Towers requested that the banding for Wem be addressed as he felt that Wem should be in “Band 7” which would help address the issues that were currently affecting the town. In response to a question Councillor Towers confirmed that the Town Council had not been formally consulted on the changes and had not had opportunity to discuss the changes prior to the Cabinet meeting,

## 5 Call In of Cabinet Decision - Parking Tariffs, Operations & Development

The Statutory Scrutiny Officer took the meeting through the procedure which would be followed which was set out in appendix 4 of the report.

The Leader of the Labour Group, Councillor Buckley referred the meeting to the reasons for the call in which were set out in appendix 1a of the report she then drew members attention to the following points:

- The increases would have a major impact on businesses, residents, and tourists.
- There had been no consultation carried out with those that would be affected.
- The increases proposed were exceptionally high when compared to other increases in fees proposed, a fact that the Cabinet may not have been aware of when making their decision.
- The introduction of evening and weekend charges where there previously were not charges constituted a change of condition which had greater requirement for consultation which had not taken place. These charges would also have an adverse effect on the nighttime and weekend economy.
- There would be an adverse impact on residents through displaced on street parking.
- There is a need to look at the way we work with Partners and stakeholder when introducing changes.

Councillor Rosemary Dartnall seconded the proposal to refer the decision back to Cabinet for them to reconsider the decision made.

The Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group stated that there were 4 main points in their call – in: -

- It was inappropriate that changes to car parking charges were made before a review of the parking strategy had been considered.
- There were statements in the report about car parks and on-street parking being frequently full but there was no evidence to support this contained in the report.
- The increases in charges in car parks outside the loop as compared to those within the loop was contrary to the policy contained within the Movement Strategy.
- The purposes of the increases are not clearly specified.

Councillor Evans proposed that the decision be referred back to Cabinet for them to consider the following: -

- To look at the situation in Wem, moving from Band 6 to Band 7
- To restrict any increase in charges to inflation
- To remove the proposal to introduce charges between 6.00pm and 8.00pm
- To remove the proposal to introduce charging on Sundays.

Council David Vasmer seconded the proposal.

The Assistant Director Infrastructure explained the background behind the proposals. He informed the Committee that after a review of the parking assets it had become clear that there was need for a parking improvement plan to ensure the necessary investment was available to maintain and improve car parks and that additional staff were needed to oversee this and to progress the outstanding residents parking schemes. He added that the proposed increase were to ensure that the funding was available without having to take money from elsewhere in the highways budget.

The Portfolio Holder for Highways advised Members that were any surplus to arise in the parking budget it could be used to support things like public transport

Following a request for clarification the Head of Legal and Democratic Services stated that whilst charges could not be set with the express purpose of generating a surplus for other purposes, when setting charges it was considered prudent financial practice to take account of any surplus as long as charges were set in accordance with the Road Traffic Act.

In response to a query the Head of Legal and Democratic Services stated that there were two ways in which changes could be introduced

- a) By Notice – where the proposed changes were publicised by publishing a notice stating that the changes were to be made 21 days ahead of the changes
- b) By Order – where a notice of intention would be published and there was a 21 day period for objections and notice must be taken of any objections received prior to making the final order.

She stated that it was set out in the Road Traffic Regulation Act which process should be followed.

After further discussion it was proposed by Councillor Wynn that the decision be referred back to Cabinet following the concerns expressed around the higher charges in Shrewsbury, the effect of evening and Sunday charges and the situation in Wem. This was seconded by Councillor Aldcroft.

**RESOLVED:**

That the decision should be referred back to Cabinet to be reconsidered in light of the following concerns: -

- Higher Charges in Shrewsbury
- Situation in Wem (moving from Band 6 to Band 7)
- Evening charges
- Sunday parking charges

Signed ..... (Chairman)

Date: .....



**Committee and Date**  
**Economy and Environment Oversight and Scrutiny Committee**  
**23 April 2024**

Item

Public



## Social Housing and the Housing Strategy

**Responsible Overview and Scrutiny Officer:**

Jane Trethewey

email: jane.trethewey@shropshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01743 258913

**Oversight and Scrutiny Chair:**

Joyce Barrow

### 1. Synopsis

Social housing is a key element in Shropshire's housing market, ensuring accessibility to suitable accommodation for those unable to afford it through the open market. Shropshire Council's housing strategy is integral to supporting this tenure, aligning with the objectives of the Shropshire Plan, where housing is recognised as vital for a robust economy.

### 2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. This report follows on from key recommendations of the Economy and Environment Oversight Committee regarding housing need and social housing in Shropshire, as a key contributor to the objectives of The Shropshire Plan, where Housing is noted as essential to a healthy economy.
- 2.2. The recommendations made through this work aim to shape and inform Shropshire's Housing Strategy and help to bring the Strategic Housing function more centrally into the thinking, planning and delivery of other key strategies such as the economic growth strategy and transport plans.
- 2.3. The report acknowledges progress made since the previous discussion and outlines an action plan for further necessary work.

### 3. Recommendations

- 3.1. That committee notes the progress towards delivering the recommendations agreed upon at Cabinet in September 2023 and the progress against the actions from the Social Housing and Housing Strategy Report presented to Scrutiny on 9 November 2023.
- 3.2. That committee reviews and provides feedback on the action plan delivery and planned work and agrees to receive future updates on progress.

## Report

### 4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1. The risk for Shropshire Council should it not progress the recommendations previously agreed by Cabinet is that it will fail to maximise the benefits of social housing for those in greatest need and will lose opportunities to support the rural economy.
- 4.2. Failure to maximise opportunities for social housing will also result in higher costs both to the poorest households who may be displaced out of county, and to the Council itself, through a need for more expensive temporary accommodation in place of permanent housing solutions.
- 4.3. Through effective action in pursuing better housing options, the Council can mitigate these risks, and improve outcomes for households and their communities.
- 4.4. With the Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2024/25 - 2028/29 now published, we need to consider the risks and opportunities presented. Against this backdrop, we will examine how best to align our housing objectives with corporate financial goals to continue to address housing needs effectively.

### 5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. There are no financial implications directly related to this report.

### 6. Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.1. Having suitable housing in communities that is located in closer proximity to places of work, education, health services, and retail and food shops can help to reduce the amount of travel by motor vehicle that is required. This can reduce energy and fuel consumption.
- 6.2. Ensuring that homes are energy efficient either as new build or existing properties that are retrofitted with insulation and newer heating solutions will also help to reduce fuel consumption.
- 6.3. Implementing sustainable construction practices and materials in new housing developments can contribute to lower carbon emissions and mitigate environmental impact of construction activities.

- 6.4. Promoting alternative modes of transportation such as walking, cycling and public transport through well-connected and accessible communities can further reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with transportation.
- 6.5. Incorporating green spaces into housing development not only enhances liveability but also contributes to carbon capture and air quality.

## 7. Background

- 7.1. In 2023, members of the former Communities Overview Committee, and subsequently the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee, undertook an enquiry into social housing in Shropshire, to contribute to the planned review of the Housing Strategy.
- 7.2. The objective of this work was:
  - To review and understand housing need in Shropshire;
  - To understand the different types of social housing, and the wider description of affordable housing and its forms, for example, key worker housing;
  - To identify and consider specific challenges related to the housing market in Shropshire; and
  - To identify key messages and make evidence-based recommendations to inform the review and update of the Housing Strategy.
- 7.3. A range of findings were identified from this work, which were summarised in the report to the 20 July 2023 meeting of the committee and were further related in the committee's report to the Cabinet meeting of 6 September 2023.
- 7.4. Six recommendations were made to shape and inform the Housing Strategy and bring the Strategic Housing focus into the thinking, planning and delivery of other key strategies such as the economic growth strategy and transport plans.
- 7.5. A further recommendation was that feedback be provided to the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting of 9 November 2023 to confirm which recommendations have been accepted and which have not. Also, that an action plan should set out what will be done, and by when, to deliver the accepted recommendations, and where recommendations have not been accepted an explanation should be provided.
- 7.6. It was agreed to review the recommendations and progress of this work at the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 23 April 2024. This update shows the progress and actions taken regarding social housing and the Housing Strategy, as reported to the 9 November 2023 meeting, and highlights any changes that have arisen, including those stemming from the medium-term financial strategy.

## 8. Additional Information

- 8.1. The six recommendations from the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed by Cabinet are as follows:

- Following the implementation of the revised allocations policy and scheme, the Council should ensure that this is adhered to by all registered providers through regular monitoring to guarantee those in the highest need are allocated housing.
- The Council should recognise the importance of the strategic housing function and how housing is integral to planning policy, social care and economic development, and therefore the need to strengthen the relationship between these functions.
- The Council should promote a place-based approach to housing and economic development, which includes commissioning affordable and supported housing based on evidenced need to ensure that housing priorities are delivered in the right place. Thus, responding to the fact that Shropshire is made up of any different communities across a large geographic area with different needs.
- Investment in social housing must acknowledge the specific needs of rural settlements, therefore products need to be tailored accordingly. For example, intergenerational supported housing, which could include staff accommodation, would help to promote a preventative agenda in villages and small towns (e.g., preventing admissions to hospital and care homes, and supporting people with learning disabilities and mental health problems to live independently).
- The Council should explore and pursue opportunities to attract funding, such as Community Land Trusts, and lobby for new products specifically to support the rural economy which will not only deliver the preventative agenda, but also balance the housing market and help to ensure that people can continue to afford to live in communities in Shropshire. For example, innovative funding products to fund intergenerational living and for sub-market private rented accommodation for key workers who are not necessarily able to access social housing, as they are not in a high priority reasonable preference category.
- The Council should review and implement any new legislation on short-term lets, helping to ensure that the balance is struck between the economic gain to communities and places through increased visitor spend, against the availability of homes to buy and rent where there is local concern.

8.2. A range of actions have already been delivered or are underway to address these recommendations. Further actions are now being scoped or planned to address them more fully. The Action Plan set out in Appendix 1 lists these for review.

## 9. Conclusions

- 9.1. The findings and recommendations of the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee are now being used to inform the development of housing related strategy and policy, with progress reflected in the Action Plan appended.

### List of Background Papers

- **Cabinet 6 September 2023 - Social Housing and Reviewing the Housing Strategy**
- **Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee 20 July 2023 - Social Housing and Reviewing the Housing Strategy**

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**Local Member:** Not applicable.

**Appendices: APPENDIX 1 Action Plan**

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**APPENDIX 1 ACTION PLAN**

	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Timescales</b>
1	Following the implementation of the revised allocations policy and scheme, the Council should ensure that this is adhered to by all registered providers through regular monitoring to guarantee those in the highest need are allocated housing.	<p><b>Action to date</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The revised allocations policy and scheme is now being applied.</li> <li>Shropshire’s main RPs have been contacted individually and have agreed and signed Nominations Agreements to ensure lettings are made in line with policy.</li> <li><b>New action in progress:</b> Formal monitoring meetings of RPs obligations as contained within the Nominations Agreement are due to commence in April 2024 and quarterly thereafter</li> <li>The Housing Service regularly challenge landlords who reject the highest banded bidders for a property, to ensure that this is legitimate. This has resulted in a higher number of lets being made to Band 1 bidders.</li> </ul> <p><b>Further action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Closer working between the HomePoint team in Housing Services and the Housing Enabling team in Planning should see earlier exchanges with landlords around the first lettings of newbuild homes, to ensure that they are identified for cases in highest need.</li> <li><b>Amended action:</b> A planned upgrade of the Abrisas system that sits behind HomePoint will improve reporting so that concerns can be identified and addressed earlier. The upgrade was previously due to delivery by April 2024, however, testing and implementation of the upgraded system is now due to take place June 2024.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>July 2024</b></li> <li><b>June 2024</b></li> </ul>
2	The Council should recognise the importance of the strategic housing function and how housing is integral to planning policy, social care and economic development, and therefore the need to strengthen the	<p><b>Action to date</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A new Housing Strategy Officer post was created and appointed into in summer 2023, creating additional capacity in the strategic housing function.</li> <li>The Housing Strategy and Development Manager post, now vacant, was intended to be recruited into. However, in line with the savings plans set out in the MTFs, this position has now been deleted. The</li> </ul>	

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<p>relationship between these functions.</p>	<p>Strategy Officer will now report to an existing alternative line manager post which has been revised, with the title of Strategic Housing and Commissioning Manager</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning policy and social care colleagues attend the Housing Executive Board meetings, to share information and action on strategic housing matters.</li> <li>• The Housing strategy has been identified as a key element of the Marches Strategic Partnership and the Strategic Infrastructure Partnership, where Shropshire Council working with neighbouring counties and with other partners to ensure that appropriate plans are put in place to meet need into the future.</li> <li>• <b>Action completed:</b> Economic Development colleagues have joined Housing Executive Board meetings to ensure links between key service areas.</li> </ul> <p><b>Further action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A restructure of the Housing Strategy function is planned with a planned move of housing enabling colleagues from planning policy to Housing Strategy, which will create stronger links between the functions.</li> <li>• <b>Amended action:</b> The Council’s Planning Policy and Housing Enablement services will commence the review of the Type and Affordability of Housing Supplementary Planning Document following adoption of the draft Shropshire Local Plan. This was targeted for September 2024, but is now due in spring 2025, following the delays to the Local Plan. This document will provide detailed advice for housebuilders regarding the Council’s requirements and priorities for housing, thereby supporting the understanding and application of housing policies in the adopted Development Plan. In this way, it will also support the implementation of the Council’s Housing Strategy.</li> <li>• <b>New action:</b> The Housing Executive Board work programme is being refreshed and Terms of Reference are being revised to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>May 2024</b></li> <li>• <b>May 2025</b></li> <li>• <b>April 2024</b></li> </ul>
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		<p>ensure activity is focused on those areas which will best deliver on the strategic priorities of the Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>New action:</b> The Housing Strategy will be consolidated with the proposed new affordable, intermediate housing strategy taking into account the rural nature of the county.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>September 2024</b></li> </ul>
<p>3</p>	<p>The Council should promote a place-based approach to housing and economic development, which includes commissioning affordable and supported housing based on evidenced need so as to ensure that housing priorities are delivered in the right place. Thus, responding to the fact that Shropshire is made up of many different communities across a large geographic area with different needs.</p>	<p><b>Action to date</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Housing Commissioning Priorities document was drafted and issued to all Registered Providers and to Cornovii Developments Limited in summer 2023, planned to guide development programmes. This is based upon evidenced need derived from the Housing Needs Survey 2022 and includes reference to general needs and supported housing.</li> <li>• Planning consent was achieved for a new housing scheme at Coton Hill House, Shrewsbury, to provide supported accommodation for homeless people to enable them to move on into settled homes.</li> <li>• <b>Action completed:</b> After further consideration and consultation with the relevant stakeholders, it has been determined that a review of the Tenancy Strategy is not necessary at this time, as the existing strategy effectively achieves our affordable housing goals.</li> <li>• Preferences for the type and tenure of housing has been outlined, laying the groundwork for the Housing Strategy for Shrewsbury, aligning with the Big Town Plan. However, progress has been limited as we await further guidance on infrastructure requirements.</li> </ul> <p><b>Further action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A report will be created based upon the findings of the Housing Needs Survey, so that this information is more accessible to partners needing to reference the data, allowing better evidenced decisions to be made.</li> <li>• We acknowledge the need for continued work in creating a housing strategy for Shrewsbury, linking to the Big Town Plan and the economic goals for Shrewsbury, and the evidenced housing needs shown in the Housing Needs Survey. This was previously targeted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>April 2024</b></li> <li>• <b>Ongoing</b></li> </ul>

		<p>for July 2024, but will now be pursued once other relevant departments are positioned to engage in further discussions. It is deemed premature to advance this initiative further until infrastructure considerations are clarified.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunities are actively being sought to meet specific housing needs across Shropshire, in support of a range of different resident groups.</li> <li>• <b>New action:</b> The Housing Commissioning Priorities are to be regularly updated and will form a key function of the work of the Housing Executive Board, in terms of oversight and monitoring of delivery of new affordable homes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ongoing</b></li> <li>• <b>Ongoing</b></li> </ul>
4	<p>Investment in social housing must acknowledge the specific needs of rural settlements, therefore products need to be tailored accordingly. For example, intergenerational supported housing, which could include staff accommodation, would help to promote a preventative agenda in villages and small towns (e.g., preventing admissions to hospital and care homes, and supporting people with learning disabilities and mental health problems to live independently).</p>	<p><b>Action to date</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Housing Commissioning Priorities document includes reference to supported housing requirements and identifies a range of locations where newbuild development will be appropriate.</li> <li>• Cabinet has approved the Sustainable Affordable Warmth Strategy addressing the investment needs of rural and urban homes.</li> <li>• <b>Action delivered:</b> A draft Independent Living and Specialist Accommodation Strategy for Shropshire was included on the forward plan for Cabinet consideration on 21 February 2024. Subsequently, it has been approved for an eight-week public and stakeholder consultation.</li> <li>• <b>Action delivered:</b> The draft Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy is on the forward plan seeking approval to an eight-week public and stakeholder consultation at Cabinet on 17 April 2024.</li> </ul> <p><b>Further action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>New action:</b> Following the completion of the eight-week public and stakeholder consultation on the draft Independent Living and Specialist Accommodation Strategy, the strategy will undergo further amendments before seeking Cabinet approval. The strategy details the need and opportunities for specific property types and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>May 2024</b></li> </ul>

		<p>services and will be used to encourage developers and landlords to provide these.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>New action:</b> Subject to Cabinet approval of the draft Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping strategy and after public and stakeholder consultation, any necessary amendments will be implemented. Approval will then be sought to present the full strategy to the Council. The strategy captures the range of situations that result in families and individuals becoming homeless and will improve our approach to addressing the triggers from which these issues arise.</li> <li>• <b>New action:</b> The new affordable, intermediate and rural housing strategy will be consolidated with the Housing Strategy (end date 2025) into a single comprehensive document. This consolidation ensures cohesive planning for housing priorities in future.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>June 2024</b></li> <li>• <b>September 2024</b></li> </ul>
5	<p>The Council should explore and pursue opportunities to attract funding, such as Community Land Trusts, and lobby for new products specifically to support the rural economy which will not only deliver the preventative agenda, but also balance the housing market and help to ensure that people can continue to afford to live in communities in Shropshire. For example, innovative funding products to fund intergenerational living and for sub-market private rented accommodation for key workers who are not necessarily able to access social housing, as they are</p>	<p><b>Action to date</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council officers meet regularly with Homes England as the main funder of social housing in England, as well as with WMCA which has recently been granted devolved funding for housing investment, to lobby for funding to support Shropshire’s housing priorities.</li> <li>• The establishment of the Marches Strategic Infrastructure Partnership has initiated discussions on funding for rural housing, alongside our neighbouring Councils with similar demographic and geographic challenges. This has now been captured into the Marches Forward work.</li> <li>• <b>New Action delivered:</b> We have initiated meetings with health and social care colleagues to discuss affordable and intermediate housing options within a rural setting with a view to informing commissioning priorities and the housing strategy.</li> </ul> <p><b>Further action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An affordable and intermediate housing options strategy will be initiated. Following discussions, it has been decided to consolidate the affordable and intermediate housing strategy into the housing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>September 2024</b></li> </ul>

	<p>not in a high priority reasonable preference category.</p>	<p>strategy, extending its scope beyond its original end date of 2025. The decision aims to comprehensively address the challenges faced by rural settlements and market towns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Housing sub-group of the Marches Strategic Infrastructure Partnership will identify opportunities to lobby and bid for funding to address the housing needs of the rural economy, with the intention of having more weight as a group than Shropshire on its own.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>July 2024</b></li> </ul>
<p>6</p>	<p>The Council should review and implement any new legislation on short-term lets, helping to ensure that the balance is struck between the economic gain to communities and places through increased visitor spend, against the availability of homes to buy and rent where there is local concern.</p>	<p><b>Action to date</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National policy discussions on short term residential lets are being monitored. However, no new legislation has yet been issued for implementation locally.</li> </ul> <p><b>Further action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working with the Housing sub-group of the Marches Strategic Infrastructure Partnership, opportunities will be identified to lobby for legislation relating to short-term lets, to address the impact this has on availability of homes for local residents.</li> <li>New legislation will be implemented as appropriate to ensure that the visitor economy and local housing needs are well balanced.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>July 2024</b></li> <li><b>Ongoing</b></li> </ul>

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