

Shropshire Council  
Legal and Democratic Services  
Shirehall  
Abbey Foregate  
Shrewsbury  
SY2 6ND  
Date: Wednesday, 7 December 2016

**Committee: Council**

**Date: Thursday, 15 December 2016**

**Time: 10.00 am**

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

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

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

Ann Hartley (Chairman)	David Evans	Cecilia Motley
Brian Williams (Speaker)	Roger Evans	Peggy Mullock
Malcolm Pate (Leader)	John Everall	Peter Nutting
Steve Charmley (Deputy Leader)	Hannah Fraser	Kevin Pardy
Peter Adams	Nigel Hartin	William Parr
Andrew Bannerman	Richard Huffer	Vivienne Parry
Nicholas Bardsley	Tracey Huffer	John Price
Tim Barker	Roger Hughes	Malcolm Price
Joyce Barrow	Vince Hunt	David Roberts
Tudor Bebb	John Hurst-Knight	Keith Roberts
Thomas Biggins	Jean Jones	Madge Shingleton
Andy Boddington	Simon Jones	Jon Tandy
Vernon Bushell	Jonny Keeley	Robert Tindall
Gwilym Butler	Miles Kenny	Dave Tremellen
John Cadwallader	Duncan Kerr	Kevin Turley
Karen Calder	Heather Kidd	David Turner
Dean Carroll	Nic Laurens	Arthur Walpole
Lee Chapman	Christian Lea	Stuart West
Anne Chebsey	Amy Liebich	Claire Wild
Peter Cherrington	David Lloyd	Leslie Winwood
Ted Clarke	Robert Macey	Michael Wood
Gerald Dakin	Jane MacKenzie	Tina Woodward
Steve Davenport	Chris Mellings	Paul Wynn
Andrew Davies	David Minnery	
Pauline Dee	Pamela Moseley	
	Alan Mosley	

Your Committee Officer is:

**Karen Nixon** Committee Officer

Tel: 01743 257720

Email: [karen.nixon@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:karen.nixon@shropshire.gov.uk)

# AGENDA

## **1 Apologies for Absence**

## **2 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

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

## **3 Minutes (Pages 1 - 14)**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 September 2016 attached.

Contact Karen Nixon Tel 01743 257720.

## **4 Announcements**

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

## **5 Public Questions (Pages 15 - 18)**

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

A petition, bearing over 1,000 signatures, has been received from Mr and Mrs Stoddart, Administrators, on behalf of the 'Stop the Meole Brace Roundabout Works' Campaign Group, requesting a debate under the Council's Petition Scheme.

A background sheet from the Group has been circulated with the agenda papers for your information.

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

## **6 Retuning Officer's Report (Pages 19 - 20)**

Report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services is attached, marked 6.

Contact Claire Porter Tel 01743 252763

## **7 Portfolio Holder Annual Report for Planning, Housing and Regulatory Services & Environment (Pages 21 - 34)**

To receive the report from the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Housing and Regulatory Services & Environment, (deferred from the last Council meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2016), attached marked 7.

- 8 Report of the Portfolio Holder for Rural Services and Communities** (Pages 35 - 42)
- To receive the report from the Portfolio Holder for Rural Services and Communities, attached marked 8.
- 9 Report of the Portfolio Holder for Business and Economy** (Pages 43 - 52)
- To receive the report from the Portfolio Holder for Business and Economy, attached marked 9.
- 10 Annual Report of the Enterprise and Growth Scrutiny Committee** (Pages 53 - 56)
- To receive the report of the Chairman of the Enterprise and Growth Scrutiny Committee, attached marked 10.
- 11 Report of the Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Budget and Business Plan** (Pages 57 - 60)
- To receive the report from the Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Budget and Business Plan, attached marked 11.
- 12 Report of the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Support** (Pages 61 - 72)
- To receive the report from the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Support, attached marked 12.
- 13 Annual Report of the Performance Management Scrutiny Committee** (Pages 73 - 76)
- To receive the report from the Chairman of the Performance Management Scrutiny Committee, attached marked 13.
- 14 Setting the Council Taxbase for 2017/18** (Pages 77 - 94)
- Report of the Head of Finance, Governance and Assurance attached marked 14.
- Contact James Walton Tel 01743 255011.
- 15 Financial Strategy 2017/18** (Pages 95 - 122)
- Report of the Head of Finance, Governance and Assurance attached marked 15.
- Contact James Walton Tel 01743 255011.

- 16 Treasury Strategy 2016/17 - Mid Year Review** (Pages 123 - 142)  
Report of the Head of Finance, Governance and Assurance attached marked 16.  
Contact James Walton Tel 01743 255011.
- 17 LGPS Central - Investment Pooling** (Pages 143 - 164)  
Report of the Head of Finance, Governance and Assurance attached marked 17.  
Contact James Walton Tel 01743 255011.
- 18 Changes to Arrangements for Appointment of External Auditors** (Pages 165 - 170)  
Report of the Head of Finance, Governance and Assurance attached marked 18.  
Contact James Walton Tel 01743 255011.
- 19 Draft Shropshire Council Corporate Plan 2016/17 to 2018/19** (Pages 171 - 206)  
Report of the Chief Executive attached marked 19.  
Contact Clive Wright Tel 01743 258675.
- 20 West Mercia Youth Justice Plan 2016-17** (Pages 207 - 256)  
Report of the Director of Children's Services attached marked 20.  
Contact Karen Bradshaw Tel 01743 254021.
- 21 Adoption of the Shifnal Neighbourhood Plan** (Pages 257 - 260)  
Report of the Director of Place and Enterprise is attached marked 21.  
Contact George Candler Tel 01743 258671.
- 22 Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations 2016** (Pages 261 - 266)  
Report of the Head of Legal & Democratic Services is attached marked 22.  
Contact Claire Porter Tel: 01743 252763.
- 23 Appointments to Committees**

To confirm the following changes of membership:

- Audit Committee

The appointment of Peter Nutting as a Substitute Member to replace Nic Laurens.

- Environment & Services Scrutiny Committee  
The appointment of Nick Bardsley as a Substitute Member to replace John Price  
The appointment of Roger Evans as a Substitute Member
- Children & Young People's Scrutiny  
The appointment of Arthur Walpole as a Full Member.  
The appointment of Nic Laurens as a Substitute Member.
- Enterprise & Growth Scrutiny Committee  
The appointment of Jonny Keeley as a Full Member  
The appointment of Roger Evans as a Substitute Member
- Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee  
The appointment of Dean Carroll as a Substitute Member to replace David Roberts.

## 24 Motions

The following 3 motions have been received in accordance with Procedure Rule 16 as follows;

### 24.1 From Councillor Tracey Huffer

#### "Sustainability and Transformation Plan

On 28 November, the STP for Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin was published. It lacks detail, especially on finances. The area where it is weakest is on provision of rural services. The STP talks about reviewing community beds across the county. We

all know that 'reviewing' is a euphemism for cuts. The STP barely makes a mention of rural maternity services.

This Council requests that the Leader or Chief Executive write to Simon Wright, the area lead for the STP, and Shropshire MPs, calling for a greater emphasis on rural care in the STP, including maternity care."

### 24.2 From Councillor Hannah Fraser

"This Council notes with concern that the government's proposals for an Apprenticeship Levy will result in Local Authority maintained schools contributing 0.5% of their budget to the scheme. This authority considers that public funding for education should not be diverted to supporting the Apprenticeship Levy, and that schools should be exempt from the scheme, particularly as children in Local Authority Schools will be disadvantaged compared with children in Academies or Free Schools.

This Council resolves to write to the relevant Government Minister and our Shropshire MPs to express our concern regarding the proposals, and make the case for schools to be exempt from the Apprenticeship Levy."

### 24.3 From Cllr Roger Evans/Lib Dem Group

“ This Council notes that the recent Financial Report which was considered and agreed by Cabinet on 9<sup>th</sup> November proposed some funding be diverted into recycling empty homes. This was to help regenerate Shropshire’s communities. The amount allocated however is just £250,000 for this year with a similar amount for next year. This is not enough.

Council is disappointed to see just this relatively small amount being allocated. When the present Empty Homes Strategy 2014–17 was first proposed in 2014 the Liberal Democrat Group called it in for examination by a Scrutiny Committee. This cross party group of backbench councillors looked at what was proposed and made five recommendations. The fifth recommendation was

***“That the Task & Finish Group considers that both additional funding and staff resource in the Empty Homes Team would be of significant benefit to both the Council and Shropshire communities. It is therefore recommended that a business case be produced, to be considered by Cabinet on an agreed date, detailing the level of additional funding required to deliver a more widespread and comprehensive approach to Empty Homes work. This should include the additional staffing resource required to carry out the tasks identified in the report’s findings, and budget required to be able to effectively utilise enforcement powers, including works in default. It should highlight the positive benefits these measures could have for the Council and Shropshire Communities.”***

The report including the above statement was presented to and adopted by the Cabinet on 29 July 2015.

It is understood a business case was produced but never published, was kept secret. Resources were in fact reduced and proposals were made to redeploy staff.

A number of our neighbouring local authorities took a different attitude and have so gained both extra cash off the Government by drastically reducing the number of long term empty homes in their areas and of course increasing the number of home available for residents to live in.

Two examples are

- Cheshire East Unitary Authority has reduced the number of long term empty homes since they were formed in 2009 by just over 50%. In October 2009 they had 3,200 long term vacant dwellings. In October 2015 the total had reduced to 1540.
- Herefordshire has also reduced theirs by over 50%. Reducing the number of long term empty homes over a similar period from 845 to 419.

Shropshire by comparison in October 2009 had 1,940 long term empty homes and 1,526 in October 2015. A reduction of just over 20%, equal to just 69 homes per year being made available for families to live in. The staff we have working in this area work hard but lack resources to enable them to do their work as they would wish, as we would wish and importantly as those in housing need want them to.

It is further noted that;

- For 2016/17 this council is receiving £9.2m from our Government in New Homes Bonus. This includes the contribution council receives from Government

due to the 35 vacant homes returned to occupation between October 2014 and October 2015.

- The Shropshire Council web page covering this area was last updated in May 2016 with the message  
***“This strategy is currently under review. An updated version will be made available on this page as soon as possible.”***

Council asks Cabinet to look again at their recent decision and allocates sufficient funds to enable more empty homes to be made available for those in need of housing and also increase the amount that this council receives in New Homes Bonus.

## **25 Questions from Members (Pages 267 - 278)**

To receive any questions from Members, notice of which has been given in accordance with Procedure Rule 15.2, attached marked 25.