

Shropshire Council  
Legal and Democratic Services  
Shirehall  
Abbey Foregate  
Shrewsbury  
SY2 6ND  
Wednesday, 8 July 2020

**Committee: Council**

**Date: Thursday, 16 July 2020**

**Time: 10.00 am**

**Venue: THIS IS A VIRTUAL MEETING - PLEASE USE THE LINK ON THE AGENDA TO LISTEN TO THE MEETING**

Members of the public will be able to listen to this meeting by clicking on this link:

[Link for Council meeting 16.7.20](#)

Please note that this meeting will be made available through Microsoft Teams Live Events - your device will need to meet the minimum specification as detailed on the Microsoft website at this link: [Device Specification](#)

- You will need to download MS Teams (free) and click on the link to listen to the meeting if you are using a PC
- If using a mobile device, you will need to download the MS Teams app (free) before clicking the link
- Use the link at 1.00 am on the day of the meeting and click on 'Join as Guest'
- You may receive an error message or a request for login details if you try to gain access before 11.00 am

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)  
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  
Gwendoline Burgess

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  
Ruth Houghton  
Richard Huffer  
Tracey Huffer  
Roger Hughes  
Ioan Jones  
Simon Jones  
Mark Jones  
Heather Kidd  
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 Shingleton  
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

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# 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 meetings held on 27th February and 6th May 2020 (Pages 1 - 14)**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> February and 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

## **4 Announcements**

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

## **5 Public Questions**

To receive any questions from the public, notice of which has been given in accordance with Procedure Rule 14. Deadline for notification for this meeting is 10am on Tuesday 14th July 2020.

A petition, bearing over 1000 signatures has been received from Jake Thompson, requesting a debate under the Council's Petition Scheme. The petition requests that the Council:

Remove Clive of India statue from Shrewsbury town centre

The 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.

## **6 Financial Outturn 2019/20 (Pages 15 - 60)**

Report of the Director of Finance, Governance and Assurance is attached.

Contact James Walton Tel 01743 255011

## **7 Community Infrastructure Levy - Spending Update (Pages 61 - 66)**

Report of the Director of Place is attached.

Contact Mark Barrow Tel 01743 258919

## **8 Sustainable Temporary Housing Solutions in Shropshire (Pages 67 - 154)**

Report of the Interim Acting Chief Executive and Director of Adult Services is attached.

Contact Andy Begley Tel 01743 258911

**9 Shrewsbury Civic Centre Project (Pages 155 - 162)**

Report of the Director of Place is attached.

Contact Mark Barrow Tel 01743 258919

**10 Virtual Planning Committee Process (Pages 163 - 174)**

Report of the Planning Services Manager is attached.

Contact Ian Kilby Tel 01743 258718

**11 Local Government Ombudsman Report - Finding of Fault with Injustice (Pages 175 - 188)**

Report of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services is attached.

Contact Claire Porter Tel 01743 252763

**12 Portfolio Holder Report - Lezley Picton: Culture, Leisure, Waste and Communications (Pages 189 - 206)**

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure, Waste and Communications is attached.

Portfolio Holder: Lezley Picton

**13 Portfolio Holder Annual Report - Councillor Steve Davenport for Highways and Transport (Pages 207 - 220)**

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Highways and Transport is attached.

Portfolio Holder: Steve Davenport

**14 Report of the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care/Public Health and Climate Change (Pages 221 - 244)**

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Climate Change is attached.

Portfolio Holder: Dean Carroll

**15 Annual Report 2019/20 Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Pages 245 - 248)**

The Annual Report of the Chair of the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee is attached.

Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair: Councillor Karen Calder

**16 Motions**

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

**1. The following motion has been received from Councillor Julian Dean and supported by Councillors Hannah Fraser, Pauline Dee and David Vasmer**

**Pension Fund Fossil Fuel Disinvestment motion**

Council notes:

Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Councils have both declared climate emergencies and pledged to be net zero by 2030.

Shropshire County Pension Fund (SCPF) currently has around £294 million invested in fossil fuel companies including Shell and BP and through asset manager BlackRock.

These investments are incompatible with the climate emergency declaration and the councils' commitment to reach net zero within the next ten years.

Fossil fuel investments are increasingly financially risky as a result of both the Covid19 pandemic and the global transition to a more sustainable economic and environmental model. They are now being regularly out-performed by renewables.

Former Bank of England Governor Mark Carney warned in December 2019 that fossil fuel investments risk becoming "stranded assets" (i.e., worthless) as investors exit the sector. "A question for every company, every financial institution, every asset manager, pension fund or insurer – what's your plan?"

The 'engagement' approach does not mitigate the financial risks the sector faces. There is also no evidence of any multinational corporation changing its core business model in response to investor pressure.

Council believes it is time for Shropshire's flagship pension fund to commit to divestment from fossil fuels over a three year timeframe.

This would;

Allow for the development of 'impact investment' directed towards internationally recognised sustainable development goals and/or investment in a local sustainable economy.

Provide for a more sustainable future of all pension fund stakeholders.

Provide leadership in the face of the climate emergency.

This Council resolves:

To instruct the Acting Chief Executive to write to the Pension Fund Committee asking the Committee to follow best practice by;

1. Adding a statement to their strategy that climate change constitutes financial risks to the fund.
2. Setting a 3 year timescale for the reinvestment of funds currently invested in fossil fuel dependant assets.
3. Developing an investment strategy consistent with sustainable development goals and developing a local sustainable economy.

Finally we recognise that fossil fuel investments constitute part of the councils

‘carbon footprint’ and so resolve that this element should be reported on within our greenhouse gas reporting for Scope 3.

**2. The following motion has been received from Councillor David Vasmer and is supported by the Liberal Democrat Group**

This Council notes that:

- As COVID-19 restrictions ease, the Government is encouraging people to walk and cycle, where possible, instead of taking public transport or returning to their cars.
- The Government has stated that it aims to have all school children returning to school in September 2020.
- The Government has specifically stated that it wishes more children to walk and cycle to school.
- To enable this the Government has announced a £250 million ‘Emergency Active Travel Fund’ for temporary infrastructure to enable safe walking and cycling – of which, Shropshire has been allocated an indicative funding allocation of £432,000. 20% of this money was available in ‘tranche one’ (June 2020), the remaining 80% is available in ‘tranche two’ (Summer 2020).
- The Secretary of State for Transport, Grant Shapps, issued new Statutory Guidance on 9 May to all Highways Authorities, requiring them to deliver ‘transformative change’ within an urgent timeframe.
- Measures listed under the Statutory Guidance include (but are not limited to) ‘pop-up’ cycle facilities, widening footways, ‘school streets’ schemes, and reducing speed limits.
- The guidance further states that ‘measures should be taken as swiftly as possible, and in any event within weeks, given the urgent need to change travel habits before the restart takes full effect.’
- The Department for Transport wrote to councils in the week commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020 about their award from ‘tranche 1’. This letter stated that they had “been asked to convey from ministers that they would like to see proposals of an even higher level for tranche two”.
- Speaking in front of the Transport Select Committee on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020, the Secretary of State stated “We want to make sure that we reprioritise the way that local authorities think about road space so that they think about putting walking and cycling as the first two of those—possibly e-scooters as well since they are coming along—and driving as the next thing, rather than how we just construct it around the car and the other things will have to fit in around vehicles.”.
- ‘School Streets’ restrict motor traffic at the school gates for a short period of time, generally at drop-off and pick-up times.
- ‘School Streets’ improve road safety for pupils, encouraging active travel to school (and a modal shift out of cars). They also enable social distancing outside schools, and additionally improve the air quality and environment at the school gates.
- Prior to COVID-19, ‘school streets’ schemes have already been successfully

introduced or were being trialled at multiple local authorities across the UK\*.

- Since then, planning and implementation of 'school streets' has accelerated, with many more councils introducing these schemes before schools reopened in June.
- Multiple NGOs are calling for the introduction of 'school streets' to manage social distancing at the school gate.
- Councils are introducing the measures under their own considerable statutory powers, making experimental traffic orders where necessary.
- Shropshire Council has already made a number of road alterations to assist with active travel and social distancing associated to town centres, but none specifically targeted at schools. It has also taken the first step to improve safety outside schools by adopting a 20mph blanket policy for all schools in December 2019
- As promoted by the Secretary of State, this is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to take the next step and positively impact travel choices, including the associated benefits on health, air quality and road safety.
- Research from Sustrans following trials of School Streets says that 90% of parents and residents surveyed say they would support regular traffic-free streets outside schools.

\* Including but not limited to: Birmingham City Council, Bristol City Council, Cardiff Council, The City of Edinburgh Council, Glasgow City Council, Greater Manchester, Leeds City Council, Sheffield City Council, Southampton City Council, City of York Council, and many London Boroughs.

This Council agrees to follow Government guidance and work collaboratively with councillors, schools, and local partners to:

- a) swiftly identify those schools in the county that could put a 'school streets' scheme in place
- b) have 'school streets' in place at these schools by the first day of the new school term in September – taking advantage of experimental traffic orders and new statutory guidance over fast-tracked Traffic Regulation Orders
- c) introduce measures to promote walking and cycling in those schools that are not suitable for a 'school streets' scheme

### **3. The following motion has been received from Councillor David Vasmer and is supported by the Liberal Democrat Group**

This Council notes that:

Due to the COVID-19 virus it is noted that there are a reduced number of meetings being held. This has led to long delays in publishing the minutes of meetings that have been held.

We note that Parish and Town Councils are expected to publish minutes of their meetings within 4 weeks of the them being held. This to be in draft form if a meeting has not been held to formally ratify them. This is good practise and enables both the public and members to be better informed on matters that are

discussed and agreed.

It is therefore proposed that:

- This council meeting requests officers to put in place a policy similar to our local councils and publish minutes of all public meetings within 4 weeks of their being held. This to be in draft form if no formal meeting has taken place. This will enable all members and the public to be aware of what was discussed and agreed at our council meetings.
- This revised policy to be effective from the date of this council meeting.

Note. For information please see two extracts from the

**“Transparency code for smaller authorities”** published by the **Department for Communities and Local Government**

**P4 Policy context.**

1, This Code is issued to meet the Government’s desire to place more power into citizens’ hands to increase democratic accountability. Transparency gives local people the tools and information they need to hold local public bodies to account.

**P9 Minutes, agendas and papers of formal meetings.**

29. Smaller authorities should publish the draft minutes from all formal meetings (i.e. full council or board, committee and sub-committee meetings) not later than one month after the meeting has taken place. These minutes should be signed either at the meeting they were taken or at the next meeting.

**4. The following motion has been received from Councillor Nat Green and is supported by the Liberal Democrat Group**

As a result of recent demonstrations, a spotlight has fallen upon various monuments to individuals who, upon examination, had controversial aspects to their lives that some argue are offensive to contemporary eyes, and that their behaviour should not be worthy of such public commemoration. In Shrewsbury, this takes the form of the statue of Robert Clive that stands in The Square. It is clear that passions have run high on both sides of the argument and, noting the trying times that we find ourselves in, this motion is intended to take a measured, democratic approach to a fraught issue. In light of this, as member for the Division in which this statue stands, I propose the following:

That first, a history board should be placed adjacent to the statue giving a balanced narrative of Clive and his history.

Then second, after an information campaign in the media and perhaps through public meetings, a referendum of the people of Shropshire is held on whether Clive should stay, or go; with options as to his replacement should his removal be required. After all, it is their town and their Square.

By taking this course of action, Shropshire Council will have shown itself mindful both of contemporary sensibilities, but not have been seen to have discarded the past on a whim.

**17 Questions from Members (Pages 249 - 256)**

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



## **18 Appointments to Committees**

### Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Cllr Ruth Houghton and Cllr Viv Parry to replace Cllr David Vasmer as substitute members of the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

### Performance Management Scrutiny Committee

Cllr David Vasmer to become a substitute member of the Performance Management Scrutiny Committee.

### Place Overview Committee

Cllr Andy Boddington to replace Cllr David Vasmer as a full member of the Place Overview Committee.

Cllr David Vasmer to become a substitute member of the Place Overview Committee.

### People Overview Committee

Cllr Ruth Houghton to replace Cllr David Vasmer as a full member of the People Overview Committee.

Cllr David Vasmer to replace Cllr Roger Evans as a substitute member of the People Overview Committee.

### Standards Committee

Cllr David Vasmer to become a substitute member of the Standards Committee.

## **19 Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority Chair's Report of the Meeting held on 24th June 2020 (Pages 257 - 262)**

To receive the report of the Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority arising from its meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

## **20 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.

## **21 Exempt Minutes of 27th February 2020 (Pages 263 - 266)**

To approve as a correct record the exempt minutes of the Council meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020.