

Shropshire Council
Legal and Democratic Services
Shirehall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
SY2 6ND
Date: Wednesday, 17 February 2021

Committee: Council

Date: Thursday, 25 February 2021

Time: 10.00 am

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

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<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/council25february2021/>

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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:

Tim Ward Committee Officer

Tel: 01743 257713

Email: tim.ward@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 - 10)

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 17 December 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 is 10am on Tuesday 23 February 2021

6 Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel (Pages 11 - 20)

Report of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services is attached

Contact: Claire Porter Tel 01743 252763

7 Council Tax Resolution 2021- 22 (Pages 21 - 42)

Report of the Interim Executive Director, Resources is attached

Contact: James Walton Tel 01743 258915

8 Financial Strategy 2021/22 - 2025/26 (Pages 43 - 218)

Report of the Interim Executive Director, Resources is attached

Contact: James Walton Tel 01743 258915

9 Fees and Charges 2021/22 (Pages 219 - 284)

Report of the Interim Executive Director, Resources is attached

Contact: James Walton Tel 01743 258915

10 Capital Strategy 2021/22 - 2025/26 (Pages 285 - 322)

Report of the Interim Executive Director, Resources is attached

Contact: James Walton Tel 01743 258915

11 Treasury Strategy 2021/22 (Pages 323 - 374)

Report of the Interim Executive Director, Resources is attached

Contact: James Walton Tel 01743 258915

12 University Centre Of Shrewsbury Project (Pages 375 - 384)

Report of Director of Place is attached

Contact: Mark Barrow 01743 258916

13 Future Civic Accommodation (Pages 385 - 398)

Report of Director of Place is attached

Contact: Mark Barrow 01743 258916

14 Proposed Redevelopment of Former Ironbridge Power Station Site - Onward Delegation of Planning Control from Telford and Wrekin Council (Pages 399 - 404)

Report of Director of Place is attached

Contact: Mark Barrow 01743 258916

15 Annual Report of the Portfolio Holder for Assets, Economic Growth and Regeneration (Pages 405 - 418)

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Assets, Economic Growth and Regeneration is attached.

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Steve Charmley

16 Motions

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

- 1. The following motion has been received from Councillor Gwylim Butler and is supported by Councillors Cecilia Motley, Peggy Mullock, Paul Wynn, Christian Lea, Les Winwood, Michael Wood, David Turner, Paul Milner, Joyce Barrow, Tom Biggins, Gerald Deakin, William Parr, Dan Morris, Nick Hignett, Roy Aldcroft, Robert Tindall and Rob Gittins.**

Successive governments have allowed a serious funding imbalance to develop between rural authorities and their urban and metropolitan counterparts. Despite Governments' recognition of the higher cost of delivering services in rural areas, this imbalance has been allowed to increase year on year. Rural Services Network - which has a wide membership of rural authorities and has long championed fairer funding settlements for rural areas – has analysed the present government's Provisional funding settlement 2021/22 and calculates that rural residents, when compared with urban:

Will still be paying over £96 per head more in Council tax

Receive some 61% (£107) per head less from Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA general grant)

Get £11 less per head in specific social care costs, despite a higher proportion of elderly rural residents

Suffer a 16% gap compared with urban of the new social care grants

Excluding council tax, receive over £112 (42% per head) less in Government Funded Spending Power

As a result, Principal Councils serving rural areas, when compared with urban authorities have to cope with less government grant per head of population; are required to pay more per head of population in Council tax from lower rural incomes; fund more of their essential services through Council Tax (69.29% compared to 55.80%) and yet receive fewer services which are often more expensive to access.

Prior to the Covid pandemic we note that this government was committed to deliver a fairer funding formula for local government and embark on a levelling up agenda, which was primarily aimed at raising funding levels for underfunded regions in the north of the country.

Shropshire residents feel strongly that sparse rural authorities such as ours should also benefit from the levelling up agenda to reduce the current unfair funding disparities between urban and rural authorities and ensure the delivery of equitable funding settlements throughout the country. We seek equality of outcomes and funding for the people and economy of Shropshire; and reduced reliance on Council tax to compensate for inadequate government support.

“This Council therefore instructs the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister/Chancellor/SoS MHCLG seeking a commitment that the levelling up agenda should be widened to include Shropshire and other rural Shire Counties; and that the Government should commit to and deliver a fairer funding settlement for Council services and infrastructure requirements.”

2. **The following motion has been received from Councillor Julian Dean and is supported by Kate Halliday, Madge Shineton, and the Liberal Democrat group.**

Principles for LTP4

This council recognises the urgent need to address the transport related climate emergency whilst supporting better and more inclusive connectivity for our residents. We further recognise the opportunity that a switch to active travel presents to address public health issues associated with sedentary lifestyles. This requires policies that follow the hierarchy of traffic reduction, modal shift and electrification. Reduced per-person journeys has been a feature in the UK since the beginning of the century, so this hierarchy is in line with changing patterns of behaviour and the well-researched popular desire for enhanced local living. Following this policy hierarchy will support a resilient and inclusive recovery from the pandemic.

We further recognise that a new Local Plan will be strengthened in its climate, sustainability, and inclusivity objectives by the adoption of a robust and ambitious Local

Transport Plan.

We resolve to use our influence at Midlands Connect to pursue the reduce/shift/electrify hierarchy. As the sub-national body Midlands Connect should produce its own transport decarbonisation strategy, should review all infrastructure plans against this and should apply for all available powers on transport including those over bus franchising.

We further resolve that the forthcoming Local Transport Plan will:

1. Include a commitment that LTN 1/20 is fully adopted when planning active travel routes and infrastructure.
 2. Adopt 'Transport for New Homes' principles for responding to development proposals. Where proposals do not meet high standards against the Transport for New Homes checklist they should be rejected.
 3. Include Public Health as an originator and consultee in its development, recognising the impact that transport planning will have on health and wellbeing.
 4. Include a pathway to net zero carbon emissions from transport that is compatible with local, regional and national carbon budgets and our net zero targets, to include interim emissions targets and monitoring processes.
- 3. The following motion has been received from Councillor Julian Dean and is supported by Councillor Kate Halliday and the Liberal Democrat Group**

Support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill

Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt in the UK and around the world. Global temperatures have increased by 1 degree Celsius from pre-industrial levels. Atmospheric CO₂ levels are above 400 parts per million (ppm) and continue to rise. This far exceeds the 350 ppm deemed to be a safe level for humanity.

Without more significant and sustained action, the world is set to exceed the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C limit between 2030 and 2040. Therefore the current UK target of net zero by 2050 is not satisfactory. It is too little too late.

The increase in harm caused by a rise of 2°C rather than 1.5°C is significant. This is described by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C published in October 2018. According to the IPCC, limiting heating to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector and local communities. The costs of failing to address this crisis will far outstrip the investments required to prevent it. Investing now will bring many benefits in the form of good jobs, breathable cities and thriving communities.

Council notes that

- (i) This council has declared a climate emergency;
- (ii) Many local authorities have established Citizens' Assemblies that are playing an important role in assisting them in their plans to achieve net zero by 2030 or before; and that
- (iii) There is a Bill before Parliament—the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill (published as the "Climate and Ecology Bill")—according to which the Government must develop an emergency strategy that:

- a. requires that the UK plays its fair and proper role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions consistent with limiting global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees C above pre-industrial temperatures;
- b. ensures that all the UK's consumption emissions are accounted for;
- c. includes emissions from aviation and shipping;
- d. protects and restores biodiverse habitats along overseas supply chains;
- e. restores and regenerates the UK's depleted soils, wildlife habitats and species populations to healthy and robust states, maximising their capacity to absorb CO₂ and their resistance to climate heating;
- f. sets up an independent Citizens' Assembly, representative of the UK's population, to engage with Parliament and Government and help develop the emergency strategy.

Council therefore resolves to:

- (i) Support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill
- (ii) Inform the local media of this decision;
- (iii) Write to local MPs, asking them to support the Bill; and
- (iv) Write to the CEE Bill Alliance, the organisers of the campaign for the Bill, expressing its support (campaign@ceebill.uk).

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

Putting Pedestrians First

This Council notes:

1. Pedestrians includes all those who walk – including parents with prams and pushchairs – and those who use mobility aids such as wheelchairs or scooters.
2. The special needs of people who are partially sighted or blind.
3. Increased numbers of people are walking due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. 16% of Shropshire households do not have a car and 42% of Shropshire households have one car. Therefore, a large number of people are reliant on alternative forms of transport.
5. In 2018, 27% of all trips were made by walking, covering 3% of all distance travelled.
6. The Department of Transport has just concluded a consultation into changes to the Highway Code which propose a hierarchy of users, putting pedestrians first.
7. In September 2020 Shropshire Council unanimously resolved to support the Prime Minister's Gear Change policy: "A bold vision for cycling and walking".
8. The Government's Gear Change policy says:
 - a. "Increasing walking and cycling can help tackle some of the most challenging issues we face as a society – improving air quality, combatting climate change, improving health and wellbeing, addressing inequalities and tackling congestion on our roads."
 - b. "well-planned improvements in the walking environment" can increase footfall by up to 40%
 - c. "We want to see a future where half of all journeys in towns and cities are cycled or walked. 58% of car journeys in 2018 were under 5 miles."
 - d. From now "cycling and walking measures are no longer seen as an afterthought but have moved to the very heart of considerations for all transport policy and planning, at all levels of leadership."
 - e. A new commissioning body and inspectorate, Active Travel England, led by a new national cycling and walking commissioner which will be established in the next few months.

- f. Active Travel England will also begin to inspect, and publish annual reports on, highway authorities. They will be graded on their active travel performance and dangerous failings in their highways for cyclists and pedestrians will be identified.
- g. "It is our intention that the commissioner and inspectorate will, in this regard, perform a similar role to Ofsted in raising standards and challenging failure."
- 9. The Department for Transport (DfT) is drawing up legislation to enact Part 6 of the 2004 Traffic Management Act.
- 10. Part 6 will allow local authorities outside London to enforce common road offences for the first time in England. This will mean that Shropshire Council is able to enforce School Streets and Low Traffic Neighbourhoods using cameras without the need for physical barriers in the road.

This Council further notes:

- 11. A large number of pavements across Shropshire are damaged, too narrow, or inadequate in some other way.
- 12. In rural areas pavements are often missing on routes to community facilities such as GP surgeries, schools, and shops.
- 13. Pavements are often blocked by temporary road signs for roadworks.
- 14. The level of pavements is often disrupted for access to driveways and other inlets.
- 15. Pavement users in wheelchairs, and those with prams and pushchairs, cannot always find dropped kerbs to cross roads.
- 16. Pavements are often damaged and uneven as result of being uplifted by tree roots.
- 17. Pavements are not swept regularly which in autumn means they can become very slippery with rotting leaves.
- 18. In winter pavements are not cleared of snow and the contrast with major roads, which are always cleared of snow, could not be more stark. At such times, many pedestrians are forced to walk in the road.
- 19. All of the above make it difficult for pedestrians, particularly those with mobility issues or those using prams and pushchairs and can act as a disincentive to leave home and thereby increase social isolation.
- 20. Walking is an important, but often ignored, part of our transport system.
- 21. Shropshire needs to be proactive rather than reactive to the establishment of Active Travel England.
- 22. Shropshire only received 14% of the funds it bid for in Phase 2 of the Active Travel Fund (75% of the indicative funding allocation).

This Council resolves to:

- 23. Widen the Commonplace consultation launched by the Big Town Plan to cover the whole of Shropshire with the aim of allowing residents to identify where pavements and the walking environment is inadequate. This would enable the council to develop a list of locations that require attention.
- 24. Ensure that all new housing developments in Shropshire are easily and safely accessible and navigable by foot.
- 25. Instruct the Director of Place to investigate and report back to Scrutiny how to
 - a. Ensure that all temporary roadwork signs are installed at a high level, making use of lampposts or other Council infrastructure, so that messages are clear to drivers but do not restrict the pavement or the roadway. Where this is not possible, signs should be placed on the road and never on the pavement.
 - b. Ensure that a constant pavement height is maintained where driveways are installed across the pavement.
 - c. Increase the number of pedestrian crossings and reduce pedestrian waiting times at crossings to a minimum.
- 26. Ensure that Shropshire is ready to use the new powers enabled by Section 6 of the

- 2004 Traffic Management Act to improve the walking environment.
27. Appoint an officer in Highways to have specific responsibility for walking.
28. Establish a Task and Finish Group to review pavement maintenance.
29. Ensure that Shropshire is fully prepared for the establishment of Active Travel England and associated funding streams.
30. Ensure that pedestrians are placed at the top of the hierarchy of users in LTP4

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

Provision of Skips after Flooding

Council notes

1. The transfer of the provision of emergency skips from Street Scene to Highways.
2. Highways during the recent floods provided just one skip to Coton Manor flats and refused to supply any extra ones that were needed. This contrasts with the swift and plentiful supply of skips that were supplied by Street Scene after the flooding last year.
3. The provision of skips is not a luxury; it is essential for the maintenance of public health and to assist the psychological well-being of those who have been flooded, as it enables them to make the first step in rebuilding their lives.

Council resolves

1. To reverse this recent change in policy and that in future when flooding does occur, no matter where it is, the previous practise of providing as many skips as needed will continue to be provided by whichever department has from time to time the responsibility for skip provision.
2. All skips that are provided to assist residents suffering from flood problems will be supplied at no cost to the local residents.

17 Questions from Members (Pages 419 - 424)

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

18 Report of the Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority (Pages 425 - 428)

To receive the report of the Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority arising from its meeting held 10 February 2021

19 Exclusion of Press and Public

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 items.

20 Exempt Minutes (Pages 429 - 434)

To approve as a correct record the exempt minutes of the Council meeting held on 17 December 2020

21 Oswestry Innovation Park Disposal Options (Pages 435 - 444)

Exempt report of Director of Place is attached

Contact: Mark Barrow 01743 258916

22 Shrewsbury West Sustainable Development Extension Disposal Options (Pages 445 - 452)

Exempt report of Director of Place is attached

Contact: Mark Barrow 01743 258916

23 Strategic Acquisition Shrewsbury Central (Pages 453 - 464)

Exempt report of Director of Place is attached

Contact: Mark Barrow 01743 258916