

Shropshire Council
Legal and Democratic Services
Shirehall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
SY2 6ND
Date: Wednesday, 4 May 2022

Committee: Council

Date: Thursday, 12 May 2022

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

Members of the Council – a briefing note will be circulated by e-mail prior to the meeting with important housekeeping details and arrangements for the meeting.

Members of the Public – If you wish to attend the meeting please e-mail democracy@shropshire.gov.uk to check whether a seat will be available for you.

Members of the public will be able to access the live stream of the meeting by using this link:

www.shropshire.gov.uk/council12may2022

Tim Collard
Assistant Director – Legal and Governance

Vince Hunt (Chairman)	Gwilym Butler	Simon Harris
Brian Williams (Vice Chairman)	Dean Carroll	Nigel Hartin
Lezley Picton (Leader)	Steve Charmley	Nick Hignett
Ed Potter (Deputy Leader)	Ted Clarke	Ruth Houghton
Roy Aldcroft	Gerald Dakin	Richard Huffer
Jeff Anderson	Rosemary Dartnall	Tracey Huffer
Caroline Bagnall	Steve Davenport	Kirstie Hurst-Knight
Nicholas Bardsley	Mary Davies	Mike Isherwood
Joyce Barrow	Julian Dean	Mark Jones
Bernie Bentick	Geoff Elner	Simon Jones
Thomas Biggins	David Evans	Duncan Kerr
Ed Bird	Julia Evans	Heather Kidd
Andy Boddington	Roger Evans	Christian Lea
Peter Broomhall	Paul Gill	Hilary Luff
Julia Buckley	Rob Gittins	Nigel Lumby
Garry Burchett	Nat Green	Elliott Lynch
	Kate Halliday	Robert Macey

Richard Marshall
David Minnery
Dan Morris
Pamela Moseley
Alan Mosley
Cecilia Motley
Peggy Mullock
Ian Nellins

Kevin Pardy
Vivienne Parry
Tony Parsons
John Price
Chris Schofield
Dan Thomas
Robert Tindall
Edward Towers

Kevin Turley
David Vasmer
Alex Wagner
Claire Wild
Rob Wilson
Leslie Winwood
Paul Wynn

Your Committee Officer is:

Amanda Holyoak Tel: 01743 257713

Email: Amanda.holyoak@shropshire.gov.uk

AGENDA

1 **Election of Chairman**

To elect a Chairman for the ensuing year

2 **Apologies for Absence**

3 **Election of Vice Chairman**

To appoint a Vice Chairman for the ensuing year

4 **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.

5 **Minutes** (Pages 1 - 22)

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 24 February 2022, attached

6 **Announcements**

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

7 **Public Questions** (Pages 23 - 34)

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 not later than 5.00 pm on Friday 6 May 2022. Information on submitting questions is available from here: [Public question time | Shropshire Council](#)

8 **Constitution of Committees and Allocation of Seats to Political Groups** (Pages 35 - 40)

To agree the constitution of Committees and allocate seats between political groups.

Report of Assistant Director Legal and Governance is attached – **Appendix 2 to follow**

9 **Scheme of Delegation**

To resolve that the Responsibility for Functions, set out in Part 3 of the Constitution and the Scheme of Delegations, set out in Part 8 of the Constitution be agreed. There have been no substantive changes since the updates approved by Council on 15 July 2021.

Contact: Tim Collard, Assistant Director Legal and Governance 01743 252756

10 Appointment of Independent Persons (Pages 41 - 42)

Report of the Assistant Director Legal and Governance attached

Contact: Tim Collard, Tel 01743 252756

11 Appointment of Monitoring Officer

At the meeting of Council on 23 September 2021, Tim Collard, then Interim Assistant Director Legal and Democratic Services, was appointed as Monitoring Officer on a temporary basis - until the Assistant Director Post was filled permanently. Tim Collard has now been appointed to the role of Assistant Director Legal and Governance, and it is recommended that he is now appointed as Monitoring Officer of the Council on a permanent basis.

12 Shropshire Plan

Report of Chief Executive, TO FOLLOW

Contact: Andy Begley, 01743 258675

13 Star Housing Management Arrangements

Report of Executive Director of Place, TO FOLLOW

Contact Mark Barrow, 01743 25

14 Temporary Accommodation Delivery Programme (Pages 43 - 48)

Report of Executive Director of Place attached

Contact Mark Barrow, tel 01743 258676

15 Motions

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

- 1. The following motion has been received from Councillor Rob Wilson and is supported by Councillors Julian Dean, Kate Halliday and Rosemary Dartnall**

Transport and Developments Supplementary Planning Document

This Council notes:

1. At Full Council in May 2019 Shropshire Council declared a Climate Emergency.
2. At Full Council on 24th September 2020 Shropshire Council resolved to:
 - a. Support the Prime Minister's "Gear Change" announcement.

- b. Ensure that all cycling infrastructure built in Shropshire conforms to the standards laid out in LTN 1/20.
3. At Full Council on 25th February 2021 Shropshire Council resolved that LTP4 would “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.”
4. At Full Council in September 2021 Shropshire Council resolved to proactively reduce the number of short car journeys taken, particularly in our towns at first, act to discourage cars from our town centres, develop low traffic zones, create safe active travel routes, and improve urban public transport.
5. Local Plan as submitted says that more than 30,000 new homes will be built in Shropshire by 2038.
6. In April 2021 Shropshire Council has appointed its first Active Travel Manager.
7. Shropshire Council has submitted a £98m bid to the Department for Transport for the “Bus Back Better” programme.
8. LTN 1/20 chapter 14 “Integrating cycling with highway improvements and new developments” is introduced as follows: “It is important that cycle infrastructure requirements are embedded into local authority planning, design and highway adoption policies and processes. This will ensure that good quality cycle infrastructure is delivered in all new developments, new highways and highway improvement schemes.”
9. The Government has set the target that 50% of journeys in towns should be walked or cycled by 2030.
10. Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) are currently being developed for Market Towns across Shropshire
11. The new Local Transport Plan (LTP4) is currently being developed, and has been envisioned as a high level umbrella document which is supported by a number of supplementary documents.
12. Bath and NE Somerset Council has recently developed a Supplementary Planning Document to address Transport and Developments ([Document overview | Bath and North East Somerset Council \(bathnes.gov.uk\)](#)).
13. Sheffield City Council passed a motion in November 2021 that developers will need to make a Climate Change Declaration when

submitting a planning application ([Sheffield City Council - Agenda item - Notice of Motion Regarding "Developers Climate Change Declaration" - Given By Councillor Angela Argenzio and To Be Seconded By Councillor Peter Garbutt \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#))

This Council resolves:

1. to express disappointment that a number of recent developments fall below the standards aspired to for public and active transport; for example SUE South, Sweetlake Meadow and Bowbrook Meadows in Shrewsbury.
 2. to instruct the executive to plan for the Planning Policy team to develop a Supplementary Planning Document to specifically ensure that sustainable, active and public transport is embedded into all new developments in Shropshire.
 3. to call on the executive to ensure that following the adoption of the Local Plan, the said Supplementary Planning Document is developed and implemented as soon as possible.
 4. to call on the executive to ensure that planning development officers are fully conversant with LTN 1/20, Transport for New Homes principles alongside other existing policies.
 5. That to promote better development for sustainable transport, pending the adoption of the new Local Plan, the Council will promote 'Transport for New Homes' guidance to developers and will ask developers to give their answers to these questions as part of the Planning process:
 - What measures have been/will be taken to limit car dependency and to maximise opportunities for the take up of active travel and public transport?
 - What measures have been/will be taken to ensure connectivity and access to services and to opportunities for work, rest, play within distances reachable by walking, wheeling or cycling?
 6. That the Council will publicly recognise those developers who have gone above and beyond minimum Government requirements to support sustainable transport.
- 2. The following motion has been received from Councillor Duncan Kerr and is supported by the Green Group**

Governance, democracy and the committee system

Background

The committee system is a method of decision-making where a collective group of elected members meet, debate proposals and make decisions, usually in the public domain. Committees are usually politically proportionate. The chairperson of a committee would usually oversee the business of the committee, lead on agenda planning and

would have a second or casting vote to resolve tied voting. Committees meet around every two months with published agendas and reports containing recommendations. This method of governance was the predominant method in local government for many years.

The Labour Government's Local Government Act 2000 introduced new systems of governance, including the Leader and Cabinet model for executive decision-making, which was adopted by Shropshire Council and most other local authorities. The committee system was abolished for all but the smallest local authorities. The main aims of the new approach were to speed up decision-making and to identify individual accountable elected members for areas of responsibility and to make the system more easily understood by the public.

The Conservative led Coalition Government amended the Local Government Act in 2011 to empower Local Authorities by enabling any local authority to revert to the committee system, either if the council itself agreed this, or if a petition of at least 5% of the electorate was received asking the Council to change its governance arrangements.

Council notes

That recently a number of leading unitary local authorities have seen the benefits to public accountability, transparency and effective scrutiny and have opted to revert to a Committee system. This is particularly important when a Council is facing difficult and challenging decisions in the light of diminishing resources.

Council resolves

To widen the brief of the Boundary Review working group (and rename it a Governance and Boundary Review working group) to investigate and make recommendations to the Council regarding the re-introduction of a Committee system.

3. The following motion has been received from Councillor Julian Dean and is supported by the Green Group

Council notes:

The 54% increase in the price cap on energy bills from 1st April, leading to an estimated 6.3m households (27% of homes in England) now being in fuel poverty.

This will mean a significant increase in the number of households in Shropshire facing fuel poverty from the 23,000 (17%) estimated by Age UK in September 2021

The widely expected further increase to energy bills in October.

The urgent need to eliminate fossil fuel imports from the Russian Federation in solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

The urgent need to decarbonise our energy system to stand any chance of reaching commitments to limit global heating to 1.5° or below 2°

That research suggests energy bills of almost 8m households could be slashed by up to 40% if the government prioritises retrofitting the country's draughty, heat-leaking homes, yet trailed plans for an expansion to the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) scheme as part of the Energy Strategy were abandoned.

That 'Onshore wind is one of the cheapest forms of renewable power' according to the Energy Strategy and that 83% of voters support its expansion, yet initial suggestions to ease planning restrictions for this were abandoned.

That new nuclear energy production costs roughly twice as much as new wind and solar energy and, according to government research, takes up to 17 years to bring on stream.

Council believes:

The British Energy Security Strategy was a missed opportunity to deliver urgent additional investment in home energy efficiency & speedy, affordable renewable energy production that could improve the UK's energy security, quickly reduce the impact of the energy price rises & have a lasting impact in reducing carbon emissions.

Council resolves:

To lobby our MPs directly, & to call on the LGA to lobby government to;

- Review & revise planning laws to enable the rapid expansion of onshore wind energy where there is local community support.
- Review & revise plans to ramp up home energy efficiency investment, using the planned Local Net Zero Forum to plan the rapid development of a retrofit industry, whilst strengthening Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards and their enforcement.

To require the Executive to bring forward reports in the Autumn of 2022, building on the Sustainable Warmth Programme report of February 2022, to update the council on progress in:

- Identifying opportunities for community and/or council led renewable energy generation in our area as part of the council's economic development work
- Addressing the warmer homes supply chain issues mentioned in the February report through economic development work.
- Bringing in further funds to improve the energy efficiency standards of all housing in the county
- Strengthening the Affordable Warmth and Energy Efficiency Team (as indicated in answer to members question at Cabinet 16/2/22)
- Providing accessible information, advice & guidance in a variety of formats to those looking to improve the energy efficiency of their

- homes
- Working in partnership with other agencies & voluntary & community groups to address fuel poverty and home energy efficiency
- Improving energy efficiency and decarbonisation of heating in social housing in Shropshire.

To become a Member of the End Fuel Poverty Coalition.

4. The following motion has been received from Councillor Tracey Huffer, seconded by Councillor Heather Kidd, and is supported by Andy Boddington and Richard Huffer

1. At its February meeting, councillors unanimously agreed to back a petition requesting the council's support for the countywide campaign for improving ambulance response times in returning an ambulance hub back in Ludlow, South Shropshire or the return of local rapid response vehicles who can be on call or based in local areas such as hospitals, GP surgeries and fire stations to attend until an ambulance arrives.
2. At that meeting, Tracey called on the council to set up an inquiry to get answers from the hospital trust, from the ambulance trust, the CCG and others, and to hear views from across the county such as those Darren Childs expressed at that meeting. An inquiry would be a powerful statement from Shropshire Council that is not a passive player when the health service in our country is struggling and too often failing to deliver services that we need.
3. In the week to 3 April, 72% of ambulances arriving at the RSH and PRH experienced handover delays of 30 minutes or more, compared to 27% nationally. This is one of the causes of delays in getting to new patients and transferring them to A&E, along with the distances that ambulances must often travel.
4. Delays in transfer into A&E results from many problems. SaTH has difficulty in staff recruitment and retention and there has been higher than normal staff sickness in recent months. The two hospitals are often close to full bed occupancy, a situation exacerbated by delays of transfer into the care system. A&E attendances are up 13% over five years.
5. This is complex web of problems which requires a dedicated inquiry with a panel of experts drawn from across the local health economy and councillors.
6. We recognise that this is a major undertaking and the terms of reference will need to ensure that the inquiry is focused on the key issues. It will also require administrative resource. However, the benefits to the county and to individuals of a local health system that works efficiently are immeasurable.
7. This council agrees to establish a working group to:

- a) Investigate how an inquiry might operate.
- b) To set draft objectives and terms of reference for the inquiry.
- c) To identify the organisations from which members of the inquiry would be drawn.
- d) To report its findings to Cabinet.

5. The following motion has been received from Councillor Rosemary Dartnall, seconded by Councillor Caroline Bagnall, and is supported by the Labour Group

Shropshire Public Transport

15 Arriva bus services, until recently commercially viable, are under notice and Shropshire's bid for Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) funding was rejected by government. Of the threatened Arriva bus routes, some are now being subsidised by Shropshire Council in the short term, some face cancellation and some have been combined into other routes: beyond September, the future is very uncertain. The provider has the right to run or cancel any commercially viable service because the council does not have full control of our public transport.

Shropshire's bus service is failing us, failing our residents. This failure is happening before our eyes, at the very moment we need an effective integrated public transport and active travel system designed to drive down the number of car journeys in Shropshire. We have an outdated bus network and it is under threat. Of course, there are problems: passenger numbers have not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels, fuel costs have increased and there is a shortage of drivers. We must act now.

We urgently need a modal shift that encourages transport choices that allow us to begin the overdue journey towards zero carbon. The failure of Shropshire Council's BSIP bid is a matter of great regret: a positive result would have given Shropshire residents the benefit of an upgraded system for our towns, villages and rural areas, redesigned featuring responsive services, integrated connections to our trains and town bus routes. We urgently need a plan B.

When public transport fails, as with any service, reduced provision in response to reduced demand rapidly leads to an ever-declining system, in this case with inbuilt inequality and increased car dependency for the residents we represent. Our bus system is now on such a downward spiral and we must act now to avoid a failure of leadership. We must be bold and head-off that downward spiral, deal with the immediate problems but set a course now to rectify the medium and the long term.

There is only way to do that – to develop a "One Public Transport Vision" for Shropshire and apply for Franchise Powers that put the council in control of scoping, maintaining and improving public transport, treating it as a keystone policy in the battle against the impending climate emergency.

This council resolves to;

1. Recognise the future of the threatened Arriva bus services remains uncertain and bring them in-house now, to be run as a Shropshire Council prototype.
 2. Acknowledge that developing and maintaining a robust policy for an integrated "One Public Transport Vision" combined with an active travel network is our only route to decarbonisation in Shropshire.
 3. Apply immediately to government for Franchise Powers to strengthen our Local Transport Plan and decarbonisation strategy. Plan to complete a Shropshire-wide, fully consulted franchise design for integrated public transport, ready within 12-18 months to go out to tender.
 4. Apply for each and every BSIP, electric bus and associated funding round announced by government, as well as any for active travel grants, but keep the franchise plan on track meanwhile to ensure our bus services thrive in the medium to long term.
- 6. The following motion has been received from Councillor Bernie Bentick and is supported by the Liberal Democrat Group**

This Council notes:

1. The findings of The Ockenden Report, the recent extremely poor Ambulance emergency response and patient transfer times and the inadequate Community provisions for patients fit for discharge home but requiring support.
2. Additionally, Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group/Integrated Care System (CCG/ICS) has planned a radical change in the delivery of Primary Care with the introduction of Health Hubs, without adequate consultation.
3. The Health Scrutiny committees simply do not have the capacity to cover the many vitally important health changes facing our residents.
4. Currently the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee is not fulfilling its statutory role which is defined as:

*To review and scrutinise, in accordance with the **Local Authority (Overview and Scrutiny Committees Health Scrutiny Functions) Regulations 2002 as amended**, matters relating to the health service in the authority's area and to make reports and recommendations in accordance with those Regulations.*

5. We welcome the Leader of Council's answer to the Question raised at Cabinet on April 6th:
*I agree that Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee as a Statutory body, is an important element of Shropshire Council holding the local NHS to account.
To this end the cabinet supports strengthening the role of*

Scrutiny.

- *In terms of strengthening the role of Joint HOSC, Cabinet will work with the joint Chairs of HOSC to lobby to strengthen the role of Joint Scrutiny.*
- *We are also in conversation with the LGA regarding the Scrutiny function. This discussion will be taken through Joint HOSC planning sessions.*
- *With regards to additional funding for a health scrutiny officer, I have asked officers to consider how we could prioritise Health Scrutiny and how this prioritization could be resourced / funded*

Council Resolves that:

1. Cabinet works with the joint Chairs of HOSC and together lobby Government to put sanctions in place where cooperation from health services is poor.
2. HOSC Officer support is now prioritised and a timeline for the appointment is made available urgently as we all recognise its importance.
3. Shropshire Council lobbies the Health Minister for enhanced funding to recruit social care staff on better pay and enhanced career pathways in the light of the cost-of-living strain and lack of available workforce whilst building on the excellent work of Shropshire staff. This would help enable community support for all those fit for discharge from hospital and have knock on results for A&E and the Ambulance Service.

7. The following motion has been received from Councillor David Vasmer

Council Notes

1. The recent deaths in the River Severn at Shrewsbury and a notable rescue of a man from the water who "was clinging on for dear life".
2. The dangers posed by flooding which are not always understood by the public

The Council Resolves to:

1. Erect fencing at the edge of paths alongside major rivers in the County where there is no fencing at the moment
2. Provide ladders by steep river banks to help people escape from the water where they have fallen in over the last few years
3. Devise a promotional campaign warning people of the dangers from floodwater to include more signage and public information in news articles/social media postings/adverts/posters
4. Review river safety generally and make a report to a future meeting of Shropshire Council.

16 Questions from Members (Pages 49 - 50)

To receive questions from Members, notice of which has been given in accordance with procedure rule 15.2, attached

17 Report of the Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority (Pages 51 - 54)

To receive the report of the Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority arising from its meetings held on 16 and 23 February 2022

18 Dates of Council Meetings 2022 - 2023

To agree that the meetings of the Council in 2022 – 2023 will be held on the following Thursdays, commencing at 10.00 am

7 July 2022

22 September 2022

15 December 2022

2 March 2023

30 March 2023

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 55 - 56)

To approve as a correct record the exempt minutes of the previous meeting held on 24 February 2022

21 Oswestry Strategic Acquisition

Report of the Executive Director of Place TO FOLLOW

Contact: Mark Barrow, tel 01743 25

22 Chief Officer Pay Award (Pages 57 - 70)

Exempt report of the Director of Resources attached

Contact: James Walton 01743 258915