

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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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

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## Committee and Date

Council

12 May 2022

## COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2022**

**In the Clayton Hall - Shrewsbury College, London Road, Shrewsbury. SY2 6PR  
10.00 am - 4.45 pm**

**Responsible Officer:** Tim Ward

Email: tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk      Tel: 01743 257713

### **Present**

Councillors Vince Hunt (Chairman) Lezley Picton (Leader), Brian Williams (Vice Chairman), Ed Potter (Deputy Leader), Roy Aldcroft, Jeff Anderson, Caroline Bagnall, Nicholas Bardsley, Joyce Barrow, Bernie Bentick, Thomas Biggins, Ed Bird, Andy Boddington, Peter Broomhall, Julia Buckley, Garry Burchett, Gwilym Butler, Dean Carroll, Steve Charmley, Ted Clarke, Gerald Dakin, Rosemary Dartnall, Steve Davenport, Mary Davies, Julian Dean, Geoff Elner, David Evans, Roger Evans, Paul Gill, Rob Gittins, Nat Green, Simon Harris, Nigel Hartin, Nick Hignett, Ruth Houghton, Richard Huffer, Tracey Huffer, Kirstie Hurst-Knight, Mark Jones, Simon Jones, Duncan Kerr, Heather Kidd, Hilary Luff, Nigel Lumby, Elliott Lynch, Robert Macey, Richard Marshall, David Minnery, Dan Morris, Pamela Moseley, Alan Mosley, Cecilia Motley, Peggy Mullock, Ian Nellins, Kevin Pardy, Tony Parsons, John Price, Chris Schofield, Dan Thomas, Robert Tindall, David Vasmer, Alex Wagner, Claire Wild, Rob Wilson and Paul Wynn

### **76 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Julia Evans, Kate Halliday, Mike Isherwood, Christian Lea, Viv Parry, Edward Towers, Dave Tremellen, Kevin Turley and Les Winwood.

### **77 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

Members were 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.

The Monitoring Officer reminded Members that under the new code of conduct the reason for their interest must be disclosed at the meeting even if it was already included on their Declaration of Interests Form.

Councillor Jeff Anderson declared a prejudicial interest in item 9 as he owned a business in Shrewsbury Town centre

Councillor Nat Green declared a prejudicial interest in item 7 as his wife was involved in financial negotiations regarding stall market.

Councillor Lezley Picton declared a prejudicial interest in items 9 and 19 as she owned property in Shrewsbury Town centre

Councillor Claire Wild declared a prejudicial interest in item 9 and 19 as she owned property in Shrewsbury Town centre.

## 78 Minutes

### **RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2022, as circulated with the agenda papers, be approved and signed as a correct record.

## 79 Announcements

### **Chairman's Engagements**

The Chairman referred Members to the list of official engagements carried out by himself and the Vice Chairman since the last meeting of the Council on 13 January 2022, which had been circulated by email.

## 80 Public Questions

### Public Questions

The Chairman advised that public questions had been received from Katie Blant, Paul Hollington, Stephen Mulloy, Joanna Blackman, Michael Dinneen and Sharuf Morsa. 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 Council on Thursday, 24th February, 2022, 10.00 am — Shropshire Council](#)

### Petition

A petition, bearing over 1000 signatures had been received from Darren Childs, requesting a debate under the Council's Petition Scheme. The petition requested that the Council:

Support our campaign 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 at local areas like Ludlow hospital, GP surgery, fire station, to attend until an ambulance arrives

In presenting his petition Mr Childs gave examples of serious delays in ambulance response times and the effect this has on patients. He urged to Council to support his campaign.

Members comments included: -



- The Council should support a campaign to reopen all the hubs that were closed
- There is a problem with ambulances having to wait at A&E and work must be done within A&E to speed up the triage process in order that ambulances can be freed up quicker.
- WMAS very urban centric and does not take account of the rurality of Shropshire.
- Need to increase resources to enable a more efficient service.

The Portfolio Holder, Councillor Simon Jones, thanked the petitioner. He stated that the Council was already taking action regarding the ambulance hubs though both the HASC and the HWBB. and in line with the options laid out in the Constitution, proposed that the Council take the action requested in the petition.

This was supported unanimously.

## 81 **Capital & Financial Strategy 2022/23 - 2026/27**

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Councillor Gwilym Butler, and seconded by The Leader Councillor Lezley Picton that the report of the Executive Director of Resources, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed

By way of amendment Councillor David Vasmer proposed that that the timescale for conversion of streetlight to LED be reduced from 2 years to one year which would reduce costs and reduce the Council's carbon footprint. This was seconded by Councillor Roger Evans.

On being put to a vote the amendment was defeated

By way of amendment Councillor David Vasmer proposed that that the rise in social housing rents should be reduced from 4.1% to 3%, with the shortfall being met from the Housing Revenue Account. This was seconded by Councillor Heather Kidd.

The Portfolio Holder for Physical Infrastructure Councillor Dean Carroll commented that the rise of 4.1% constituted a rise of 91 pence per week and that the most vulnerable people would be covered by housing benefit. He added that all Residential Social landlords in the county were applying the maximum rise of 4.1%.

Councillor Duncan Kerr asked what percentage of the Council's tenants received housing benefit. Councillor Carroll agreed to circulate the information after the meeting.

On being put to a vote the amendment was defeated

By way amendment Councillor Julia Buckley proposed the following: -

- 1a. Cease activity on NWRR, repay related spend and commitments using capital receipts ringfenced to NWRR leaving a surplus of capital receipts of between £1.3m and £5.6m.
- 1b. Invest in county-wide 20 is plenty
- 1c. Invest in county wide Active Travel Infrastructure
  
- 2a. Reduce borrowing and debt repayments (by the net of 1a, b, c), creating spare budget in the revenue budget and use this to part fund 2c, d, e.
- 2b. Offer 1 time discount (50% cost) for electronic billing, generating income to part fund 2c, d, e.
- 2c. Retain library staff resource by reversing cut PS17
- 2d. Re-establish 4 x open access youth clubs in areas of most need
- 2e. Increase Mental Health support workers for children and young people

These were seconded by Councillor Tony Parsons

On being put to a vote the amendments were defeated.

By way of amendment Councillor Julian Dean proposed that Council agrees to create a revenue stream to finance borrowing for an Active Travel and Public Transport Infrastructure Investment Fund by changing the charging band for two Shrewsbury Car Parks which would realise an expected income of £253,000 per year, which would be used to establish the new Fund with an initial input of £4.853m. This was seconded by Councillor Duncan Kerr

The Portfolio Holder for Physical Infrastructure Councillor Dean Carroll advised the meeting that whilst he could not support the amendment, he would be happy to include the proposals regarding increasing car park charges as part of a wider review of car parking that he would be carrying out later in the year.

On being put to a vote the amendment was defeated.

By way of amendment Councillor Julian Dean proposed that 10% of the new Highways Investment capital fund be ringfenced to bring existing footways and cycleways to a suitable managed condition, in line with the aspiration for highways, such ringfencing to be shown in the budget by establishing a new budget line for Existing Footways and Cycleways Investment, with a transfer of 10% of the Highways Investment fund to the new budget line. This was seconded by Councillor Duncan Kerr.

On being put to a vote the amendment was defeated.

On being put to a recorded vote, with 42 Members voting in favour, 23 against and no abstentions as follows:

**FOR:**

Councillors Aldcroft, Anderson, Bardsley, Barrow, Biggins, Bird, Broomhall, Burchett, Butler, Carroll, Charmley, Dakin, Davenport, Elnor, D Evans, Gill, Gittins, Harris, Hignett, Hunt, Hurst-Knight, M Jones, S Jones, Luff, Lumby, Lynch, Macey, Marshall,

Minnery, Morris, Motley, Mullock, Nellins, Picton, Potter, Price, Schofield, Thomas, Tindall, Wild, Williams and Wynn

**AGAINST:**

Councillors Bagnall, Bentick, Boddington, Buckley, Clarke, Dartnall, Davies, Dean, R Evans, Green, Hartin, Houghton, R Huffer, T Huffer, Kerr, Kidd, Moseley, Mosley, Pardy, Parsons, Vasmer, Wagner and Wilson

It was **RESOLVED** that Members:

- A. Approve a 3.99% Council Tax rise resulting in a basic amount of council tax for a Band D property of £1,561.11 in the billing authority's area, calculated in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (section 42b) and the Local Government (Structural Changes) (Further Financial Provisions and Amendment) Regulations 2008
- B. In accordance with the provisions of Section 40 (2) of the 1992 Act, approve the amount of Council Tax calculated for each category of dwelling in the billing authority's area to be as follows:

<b>Property Band</b>	<b>2022/23 Charge £</b>
A	1,040.74
B	1,214.19
C	1,387.65
D	1,561.11
E	1,908.03
F	2,254.94
G	2,601.85
H	3,122.22

- C. Approve that a total precept of £180,285,304 be levied.
- D. Approve the 2022/23 budget of £597.560m outlined in the Budget Book at Appendix 3, including the savings proposals outlined in section 4.5 of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) at Appendix 1.
- E. Note the changes required to the 2022/23 budget as a result of the Provisional and Final Local Government Settlement and revised business rates and collection fund estimates.
- F. Note the revised funding gap for the years 2023/24 to 2026/27.

- G.** Note the Statement of the Chief Financial Officer on the Robustness of Estimates and Adequacy of Reserves as set out in Sections 6.1 – 6.3 of the MTFS at Appendix 1.
- H.** Approve the recommended level of general balances to support the 2022/23 revenue budget of £18.712m, noting that the projected balance is presently significantly below this for 2022/23.
- I.** Note the projected recommended level of general reserves for the following four years at £27.033m in 2023/24, £27.574m in 2024/25, £28.226m in 2025/26 and £30.760m in 2026/27.
- J.** Note the continued use of the Policy for Flexibility around the use of Capital Receipts as detailed in section 8.1 of the MTFS at Appendix 1.
- K.** Agree the adoption of the Capital Strategy 2022/23 – 2026/27 attached as Appendix 2.
- L.** Note the prioritised capital schemes identified at Appendix 2 section 8 including the need to identify and confirm funding sources for these schemes.
- M.** Agree the revised Capital programme as set out in Appendix 2 section 6 and Annex B to the Capital Strategy.
- N.** Agree the Pay and Rewards Policy for all Council staff for 2022/23 as set out in Appendix 5.
- O.** Approve the formal council tax resolution as set out in Appendix 4 to determine the levels of Council Tax for Shropshire Council for 2022/23

## 82 Fees and Charges 2022/23

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Councillor Gwilym Butler, and seconded by The Leader Councillor Lezley Picton that the report of the Executive Director of Resources, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed

In response to Councillor Kidd's query regarding road closure charges Councillor Carroll agreed to contact her outside the meeting to discuss the matter further.

In response to Councillor Wilson's query regarding street trading permits the Leader advised that this fell under Councillor Potters portfolio and that he would respond outside the meeting

Councillor Butler commented that if members had any further questions, they should email him and that he would ask the relevant officer to respond.

### **RESOLVED:**

#### **A. That Members**

Note the breakdown of the total income for 2021/22 and 2022/23 and in particular that the proposed 2022/23 charges for discretionary services represent only £41.768m of the £82.293m of income derived from Fees and Charges.

- B. Approve the charges for 2022/23 as detailed in Appendix 3 to be implemented 1 April 2022.
- C. Note that as previously agreed, any changes to fees and charges proposed by Shropshire Community Leisure Trust Ltd. in relation to the outsourced leisure facilities will only be referred to cabinet and council for approval if the proposed increases exceed Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the preceding November.
- D. Subject to restrictions or exemptions identified in the Welfare Reform and Work Bill it is recommended to Council that:
  - i. Social Housing rents for 2022/23 are increased by 4.1% from 4th April 2022.
  - ii. Affordable rents for 2022/23 are increased by 4.1% from 4th April 2022.
  - iii. Shared Ownership rents continue to be set at 2.75% of the outstanding capital value of the home at the time of sale and thereafter increased each April in accordance with the terms specified in the lease agreements.
  - iv. Service charges continue to be set based on actual cost.

### 83 Treasury Strategy 2022/23

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Councillor Gwilym Butler, and seconded by The Leader Councillor Lezley Picton that the report of the Executive Director of Resources, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

Councillor Rob Wilson asked whether the charges on the loans to Cornovii inhibited their ability to deliver their objectives. Councillor Butler commented that loans were charged at market rates but that he would raise the issue with the Cornovii board.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That Council:-

- a) Approve, with any comments, the Treasury Strategy for 2022/23
- b) Approve, with any comments, the Prudential Indicators, set out in Appendix 1, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2003.
- c) Approve, with any comments, the Investment Strategy, set out in Appendix 2 in accordance with the DLUHC Guidance on Local Government Investments.
- d) Approve, with any comments, the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement, set out in Appendix 3.

- e) Authorise the Section 151 Officer to exercise the borrowing powers contained in Section 3 of the Local Government Act 2003 and to manage the Council's debt portfolio in accordance with the Treasury Strategy.
- f) Authorise the Section 151 Officer to use other Foreign Banks which meet Link's creditworthiness policy as required.
- g) Authorise the Section 151 Officer to progress and finalise the restatement and amendment of Cornovii Development Ltd loan agreements.

#### 84 Shrewsbury Town Centre Redevelopment Phase 1

It was proposed by the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration and Planning, Councillor Gwilym Butler, and seconded by The Leader Councillor Lezley Picton that the report of the Executive Director of Place, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

By way of amendment Councillor Alan Mosley proposed that under paragraph 3 - recommendations: delete paragraphs 3.5 and 3.6 and insert new paragraph 3.5 as follows

3.5 Further to the above, no decision will be taken on the future of the Shirehall or the Council's relocation to the proposed Multi-Agency Hub until a rigorous scrutiny has been undertaken and its recommendations put to a meeting of the Full Council. All members should be able to attend and speak at said scrutiny meeting.

This Scrutiny will be informed by;

1. An up to date and detailed appraisal of the net costs and potential benefits of the full refurbishment of the Shirehall to present a suitable ongoing home for the Council and one which would attract other appropriate leaseholders.
2. Detailed plans, full environmental impact and costings of the proposed areas within the Hub to be occupied by SC and how the space will be utilised as part of a flexible working environment, including a full assessment of how this would be advantageous compared to a refurbished Shirehall.
3. Recent evidence of the attitude of staff regarding the proposed transfer and generally to proposals related to flexible working arrangement proposals.
4. The result of consultation with recognised trade unions.
5. Evidence of consultation with and/or comments submitted by other key stakeholders.
6. The extent to which the work-bases of Council staff will be relocated to other premises within our market towns, where those premises will be and how any moves will operate according to flexible working opportunities."

This was seconded by Councillor Ted Clarke.

Members expressed concern regarding the future of the Shirehall and felt that further work needed doing prior to it being declared surplus to requirements. Concern was also expressed regarding the effect the new developments would have on flooding risks.

On being put to a vote the amendment was defeated.

By way of amendment Councillor Julian Dean proposed that the recommendations at section 3 should be deleted and be replaced with:

That Council

- 3.1 Note the report.
- 3.2. Request completion of work, with appropriate consultation, on the Shropshire Plan, a new Economic Strategy, the Shrewsbury Movement Strategy associated with the Big Town Plan and the new Local Transport Plan (LTP4) prior to reconsideration of Shrewsbury Town Centre Redevelopment proposals, with intention to agree all the above within 2022.
- 3.3. Additionally, to request a report on options for a Shrewsbury Town Centre 'heat network', providing low energy heating using renewable energy, within the same timeframe.
- 3.4. Request a review of Shirehall options that includes independent appraisals for the refit and decarbonisation of the building, balanced against whole life CO2 emissions appraisals for alternative accommodation for the council.
- 3.5. Request that the Place Overview Committee consider the proposals for Shrewsbury Town Centre Redevelopment prior to the report returning to full council, and that any independent appraisals of options and risks associated with flooding, climate change mitigation and heat network provision are reviewed alongside this.
- 3.6. At the appropriate time, to request a revised Shrewsbury Town Centre Redevelopment Phase 1 report which takes account of the agreed strategies, plans and scrutiny listed above.

This was seconded by Councillor Duncan Kerr

In response to comments made the Portfolio Holder for Physical Infrastructure pointed out that recommendation 3.6 delegated responsibility to him and the Executive Director for Place to agree and implement the disposal and marketing strategy as the recommended option for the Shirehall site subject to approval by full council. so agreeing the recommendations in the report would not result in the instant sale of the Shirehall.

On being put to a vote the amendment was defeated.

Following a request from Councillor David Vasmer, the Portfolio Holder for Physical Infrastructure agreed to update Members on the issues reported at Shirehall.

**RESOLVED:**

That Council agrees to:

- 1.1. Approve the preferred option identified in the outline business case for the construction of a Multi-Agency Hub, on the site identified by the Smithfield Riverside master planning process and take forward as a capital project; such approval limited at this stage to progressing the project to detailed design (RIBA Stage 3: Spatial Coordination, or equivalent), requiring funding of £1.715m. A further report will be presented to Council for final approval of the design, gross development cost and funding for the construction of the project.
- 1.2. Approve the submission of a planning application for the demolition of the Riverside Shopping Centre and the former Riverside medical practice to facilitate the construction of the proposed Multi-Agency Hub within the current gross cost estimate for demolition of £3.853m, and to take forward as a capital project to completion of tender documentation and receipt of tenders.
- 1.3. Approve the preferred option identified in the outline business case, and submission of a planning application for the demolition of the former Pride Hill shopping centre, for the delivery of a leisure-led redevelopment of the site, with the adjacent Raven Meadow's surface car park, for a multi-storey travel hub and associated development and take forward as a capital project; such approval limited at this stage to progressing the project to detailed design (RIBA Stage 3: Spatial Coordination, or equivalent), requiring funding of £1.580m. A further report will be presented to Council for final approval of the design, gross development cost and funding for the construction of the project.
- 1.4. Delegate responsibility to the Executive Director of Place, in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and the Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration and Planning to progress the capital projects (3.1 – 3.3 above), to include, but not limited to, the following:
  - 1.1.1. progress a procurement and delivery strategy for Smithfield Riverside, incorporating the projects summarised in items 3.1 -3.3 above.
  - 1.1.2. progress life-cycle carbon assessments in relation to the projects summarised in items 3.1 and 3.3 above.
  - 1.1.3. engage with the Environment Agency, via the River Severn Partnership, to seek opportunities provided by the national Defra Adaptive Pathways Pilot for the River Severn, to assess and manage climate related risks, incorporating adaptation into the design and delivery of the Smithfield Riverside development programme.
  - 1.1.4. enter negotiations with the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership to ensure the 'Getting Building' funding remains relevant to the Pride Hill project; scope and agree variations as required to the Grant Funding Agreement (GFA).
  - 1.1.5. identify funding of £3.295m to deliver the above development activities, as scheduled in appendix C.



- 1.5. Further to recommendation 3.1, declare the Shirehall building and associated environs within the site boundary marked in red in appendix I, surplus to requirements.
- 1.6. Delegate responsibility to the Executive Director of Place, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Physical Infrastructure, to agree and implement the disposal and marketing strategy as the recommended option for the Shirehall site; agree terms and conditions of sale, all subject to approval at Full Council.

## 85 Shropshire Council Sustainable Warmth Programme

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, Natural Assets and the Green Economy, Councillor Ian Nellins, and seconded by Councillor Simon Jones that the report of the Executive Director of Place, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

Members welcomed the report and asked that a member briefing session be held to update them on what was available, and that the relevant scrutiny committee monitor the implementation of the scheme.

### **RESOLVED:**

That the Council:

1. Note the bids received so far and the various work streams associated with them across Shropshire.
2. Agree permission for Shropshire Council to operate as the accountable body for the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Phase 3 (LAD3) bid awarded 18.11.2021.
3. Agree permission for Shropshire Council to operate as the accountable body for the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) awarded 08.02.2022
4. Approve inclusion of the schemes and associated funding totalling £10,414,244 in the capital programme

## 86 Care Leavers Covenant

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Children and Education, Councillor Kirstie Hurst-Knight, and seconded by Councillor Nick Bardsley that the report of the Executive Director of Place, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

Members welcomed the contents of the report.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That Council agrees to sign up to a Whole Council 5 Part Strategy and approves the current Covenant Pledge set out in Section 7.3.
2. Members are requested to sign today their commitment to promote the Care Leavers' Covenant with partners and businesses they come into contact with, and to refresh their commitment to the SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL CHILDREN IN CARE AND CARE LEAVERS' CHARTER (Appendix 5).
3. That Council delegates to the Chief Executive and the Executive Directors consideration of which of the additional options to enhance the Whole Council Five-Part Strategy they are prepared to endorse to include:
  - The development of more suitable housing options for care leavers.
  - Support to gain suitable housing for care leavers through use of rent guarantor schemes and/or payment of a supplement to housing providers where finance is a barrier.
  - The expansion of support to care leavers who become homeless by extending the automatic priority need category up to the age of 25 (legally it is currently 21).
  - Further to this, no care leaver would be made intentionally homeless from a care placement (ie, children's home, foster care, SB&L, SHIP, SAIL) and all care leavers would be placed into gold banding (or equivalent due to the review of the policy) for HomePoint.
  - Funding for additional work experience and apprenticeship opportunities in the Council ring-fenced for care leavers
  - A 'Whole Council' audit to take place.
  - An annual 'Social Value' face to face event to bring together Council members and representatives from Council departments with local businesses and partner agencies to promote opportunities for Shropshire care leavers and set ambitious targets to enable them to live and work successfully within Shropshire.

**87 Paper v digital agendas**

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Digital, Data and Insight, Councillor Rob Gittins, and seconded by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate Resources, Councillor Gwilym Butler that the report of the Interim Assistant Director – Legal and Democratic Services, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received, and agreed.

Councillor Kidd commented that she found it difficult to quickly search through documents online. She was advised that there was support available for Members to help them with this.

**RESOLVED:**

That Council

1.1 agree that paper copies of agendas and reports should not routinely be provided for meetings and IT support will be provided to enable Members to access digital copies of agendas and reports subject to:

- a) any specific requests by Members for a paper copy of the summons for a meeting to be posted to their home address.
- b) any specific requests by Chairs of Committees for a paper copy of the agenda but not the full set of reports where a second screen is available when chairing the meeting.
- c) Copies of reports provided to members will be recorded and costs and carbon savings published annually.

1.2 agree to amend paragraph 9.2 of Part of the Councils Constitution as follows:

*“9.2 Contents of the Summons*

*The Summons will give the date, time and place of each meeting and specify the business to be transacted. When sent electronically it will be accompanied by such reports as are available. When sent by post, such reports as are available will be sent separately by electronic means unless agreed by the Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services that they should be provided in paper form.*

2. agree that meetings of Council, Cabinet and committees should continue to be live streamed in accordance with the processes that have been in place since the return to face to face meetings in May 2021

**88 Member and Public Questions Procedure**

It was proposed by the Leader, Councillor Lezley Picton, and seconded by the Councillor Julian Dean that the report of the Interim Assistant Director – Legal and Democratic Services, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received, and agreed.

By way of amendment Councillor David Vasmer proposed that recommendation be amended to read

That Council approve the Proposed Recommendations with regard to Issues 3,4,5,6 & 7 as set out in Section 4 below and to delegate authority to the Monitoring Officer to make any necessary amendments to the Constitution

This was seconded by Councillor Kevin Pardy.

On being put to the vote the amendment was defeated.

By way of amendment Councillor Rosemary Dartnall proposed

That the proposed recommendation at item 9 be amended to read: It is recognised that vexatious questions may challenge councillors and officers and that the council considers individual residents vexatious. However, within any open and transparent council meeting public questions are a demonstration of fundamental democratic rights. Vexatious and repetitive questions will be ruled out under the criteria of the Council's Procedure Rules. Repeating a question asked and answered at any public council meeting in the previous six months will not be permitted.

#### 5. Risk Assessment and Opportunities

That Appraisal 5.1. be amended to read - There is a risk attached to allowing members of the public into meetings which are live streamed. Officers will be able to mute or remove participants from a meeting where there is cause for concern if abusive, personally abusive or foul language is used or if the participant attempts to interrupt the progress of the meeting.

This was seconded by Councillor Tony Parsons.

Councillor Picton stated that she was happy to accept the amendment to Issue 9 but not the amendment to appraisal 5.1. Councillor Dartnall agreed to withdraw the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of her amendment.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That Council approve the Proposed Recommendations with regard to Issues 1 – 9 as set out in Section 4 below subject to the amendment of the recommendation at item 9 to read:

It is recognised that vexatious questions may challenge councillors and officers and that the council considers individual residents vexatious. However, within any open and transparent council meeting public questions are a demonstration of fundamental democratic rights. Vexatious and repetitive questions will be ruled out under the criteria of the Council's Procedure Rules. Repeating a question asked and answered at any public council meeting in the previous six months will not be permitted.

And that delegated authority be given to the Monitoring Officer to make any necessary amendments to the Constitution

#### **89 Members Allowances and Parental Leave for Councillors**

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate Support, Councillor Gwilym Butler, and seconded by Councillor Dan Thomas that the report of the Interim Assistant Director – Legal and Democratic Services, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received, and agreed.

Members welcomed the contents of the report.

Councillor Buckley commented that if we were to become a truly family friendly council consideration should be given to when and where meetings are held and the facilities which are available.

Councillor Roger Evans asked that the Remuneration Panel be asked to carry out a review of the Allowance Scheme, consulting with Members where appropriate, with a view to bringing a report to the Council meeting in February 2023. Councillor Butler suggested that Group Leaders could discuss how they want this to be taken forward at a meeting of the Constitution Working Group.

## **RESOLVED**

1. That the current Members' Allowance Scheme, attached at Appendix 1, be approved.
2. That the Parental Leave Policy for Members, attached at Appendix 2, be approved

## **90 Allocation of Committee Seats and Appointments**

It was proposed by the Chairman, Councillor Vince Hunt, and seconded by the Vice Chairman Councillor Brian Williams that the report of the Interim Assistant Director – Legal and Democratic Services, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received, and agreed

## **RESOLVED**

1. That the Council confirms the revised allocation of seats to each of the political groups for the 2021/22 municipal year as a consequence of the change in group membership as follows:
  - a) That the composition and revised allocation of seats on its committees and other bodies as detailed in the report be approved.
  - b) That the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group provides notification of which if its members will continue as a member of the South Planning Committee.
  - c) That Councillor Boddington be appointed to the South Planning Committee.
2. That following changes to committee membership be noted:

### Performance Management Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Nick Hignett appointed as a substitute member of the Performance Management Scrutiny Committee

## **91 Motions**

The following motions had been received in accordance with Procedure Rule 16

- 1. From Councillor Joyce Barrow and supported by Councillors Steve Davenport, David Evans, Robert Macey, Chris Schofield and Lezley Picton**

Whilst consort to the mayor of Oswestry, I came into contact with the Stoma Group, known as “bums on tums” which is a totally voluntary run group, headed by Irene Constable. She told me how simple things, recommended by colostomy UK, could make a huge difference to their members, and are inexpensive changes to toilets.

In terms of the classic 'stand-alone building' type of public toilets, these are all now mostly owned and run by Town & Parish Council's. It's estimated to be in the region of 35 or more of these type of public toilets.

As regards Shropshire Council owned and run buildings or sites which are available to be used by members of the public (such as libraries, museums, leisure etc.), It is estimated to be in the region of 42 with toilet facilities.

I would like Shropshire council to implement the following where possible.

1. A shelf on which to lay out the items needed when changing their appliance. This doesn't need to be huge, if there is already a surface that is within reach, such as a baby changing mat or the like, that would be sufficient.
2. Two Cloths hooks
3. A sanitary bin within the cubicle.
4. Write to all town and parish councils in our area, to ask them to consider doing the same.

None of these are costly but would make the world of distance to an Ostomate who urgently needs to change their appliance.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Chris Schofield

On taking a vote the motion was supported

2. **From Councillor Simon Harris supported by Councillors Tom Biggins, Richard Marshall, Ian Nellins and Chris Schofield**

### **Ban Both Sky Lantern and Balloon Releases from Council Property**

For many years the Marine Conservation Society has run a campaign to make sky lantern and balloon releases illegal by classifying this activity as 'littering'. The Society has not been successful.

The Society has also encouraged Local Authorities to ban these activities from property that the Authorities own – this approach, while not dealing with the problem per se, has had some success. Shropshire's neighbouring Council of Worcestershire has banned both sky lantern and balloon releases, while Hereford has banned sky lantern releases. I understand that Shropshire Council banned sky lantern releases several years ago; although this ban is not reflected on the Society's website.

Both these releases need to be banned for the following reasons:

- Over the past 5 years, on average 3 balloons per 100m have been found during the Great British Beach Clean.
- Balloons marketed as 'biodegradable' can last up to four years ie as litter
- Animals, including livestock, can be injured through ingestion, entanglement and entrapment.
- Marine turtles are particularly vulnerable. The digestive tract of a juvenile green turtle, washed up dead near Blackpool in 2001, was completely blocked by marine litter including a large fragment of blue latex balloon
- Animals get tangled up in balloon ribbons and string, restricting their movement and the ability to eat
- Sky lanterns also pose a fire hazard to crops and to thatched roof properties

I move the following motion:

1. All Sky Lantern and Balloon releases are to be banned from all Shropshire Council property.
2. Shropshire Council will request the Government to classify all such releases as littering, and thus they should be made illegal.
3. Shropshire Council will run a media campaign to discourage all such releases within the County.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Dan Morris

On taking a vote the motion was supported

**3. From Councillor Tom Biggins supported by Councillors Geoff Elner, Ian Nellins, Chris Schofield**

Shropshire Council notes with the utmost concern the DVSA's decision to close the Whitchurch Driving Test centre on 10th April 2022, because the lease is due to end soon, without having undertaken any consultation with those directly affected or the local community.

The loss of the centre removes a vital service from a large part of the Shropshire Council area, including Whitchurch, Market Drayton, Wem, Ellesmere, Hodnet, Prees and all the countryside in between.

In addition pupils come over the border from Bronington, Penley and Hanmer in Wales and from Malpas, Marbury, Wrenbury and Audlem and all the surrounding countryside in South Cheshire.

The nearest test centres will be at Crewe, Wrexham or Shrewsbury.

Pupils will need to travel to a new driving test town to have familiarisation lessons with the road layout before taking a test. This will have the discriminatory effect of increasing the cost for a pupil, due to the extra travel time of going to and returning from a new venue with a driving instructor before the lesson/test can take place.

For example a car journey to Crewe can take  $\frac{3}{4}$  hour/ 1 hour each way, dependent on traffic.

This closure will not only cause a massive inconvenience and extra travelling cost for all individual learner drivers and driving instructors in the future, but it will also remove a local service that provides economic benefit to our area.

This decision is arbitrary, unfounded on economic grounds, and we believe this closure goes against the Government's policy of levelling up. The detrimental effect to the local area of closing the Whitchurch Driving Test Centre is disproportionately severe and will not provide a "customer-centred service" for our area.

Shropshire Council calls on the Secretary of State at the Department for Transport:

1. to reverse the decision by the Driving Standards Agency to close the Driving Test Centre in Whitchurch on 10th April 2022 and
2. to instruct the Driving Standards Agency to maintain a driving test centre in Whitchurch to ensure parity of opportunity for residents across the north of Shropshire and adjoining areas.

By way of amendment Councillor David Vasmer proposed the following: -

Insert after the first paragraph as follows

"Shropshire Council notes the support given by Helen Morgan MP to the campaign to save the Whitchurch Test Centre. She has:

- a. Criticised the DVSA's Chief Executive who said that pupils could take their tests elsewhere. Helen Morgan said that his response "represents a fundamental misunderstanding of the problems faced by rural communities, especially the difficulties we face in getting to Crewe, Wrexham and Shrewsbury."
- b. Met and is working with a local community action group which is campaigning to keep the Test Centre open.
- c. In Parliament asked the Transport Secretary Grant Shapps to keep the Test Centre open
- d. Met with Baroness Vere and the Regional Operations Director of the DVSA to urge them to reverse their closure decision.

Councillor Biggins commend that he was unable to accept the amendment but was willing to add the following paragraph to the motion

Shropshire Council also notes the campaign to save Whitchurch Driving Test Centre led by local driving instructors and their pupils, that is supported by parish and town councils, as well as Shropshire Council Councillors and the MP for North Shropshire.



Councillor Vasmer indicated that he was happy with this

On taking a vote it was **RESOLVED**

Shropshire Council calls on the Secretary of State at the Department for Transport:

- a) to reverse the decision by the Driving Standards Agency to close the Driving Test Centre in Whitchurch on 10th April 2022 and
- b) to instruct the Driving Standards Agency to maintain a driving test centre in Whitchurch to ensure parity of opportunity for residents across the north of Shropshire and adjoining areas.
- c) Shropshire Council also notes the campaign to save Whitchurch Driving Test Centre led by local driving instructors and their pupils that is supported by parish and town councils, as well as Shropshire Councillors and the MP for North Shropshire.

**4. From Councillor Heather Kidd supported by the Liberal Democrat Group**

The role of Scrutiny committees is an integral and important part of the constitution of this Council and vital to the decision making process of a Council. The Council spends time, effort and resources running our Scrutiny Committees. Measuring their value to this Council through constructive challenge and improved policy and decision making is vital to those taking part and also to the people of Shropshire. Good scrutiny should provide measurable outcomes.

This Council therefore resolves to explicitly include the positive changes and improvements that each Scrutiny Committee has achieved throughout the year in the annual report they present to Council. This should include:

- Reporting the impact of Task & Finish Groups – where policy has changed or decisions improved
- The number of recommendations to Cabinet and whether they were adopted or rejected and why.
- Reviews of previous years implementation by Cabinet and any service outcomes at 6 or 12 months.
- A report on any pre-scrutiny work and its impact.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Julia Buckley

On being put to a vote the motion was defeated

**5. From Councillor Lezley Picton supported by Councillors Gwilym Butler, Dean Carroll, Rob Gittins, Kirstie Hurst-Knight, Simon Jones, Cecilia Motley, Ian Nellins and Ed Potter**

This Administration was very disappointed by the latest Government announcements regarding Shropshire Council's Levelling Up and County Deal bids. This Council put forward first class Levelling Up bids which, if successful, would have made a huge positive difference to communities across Shropshire. Our bid for a county deal, which included asking government to devolve more powers to a local level, was seen as vital at a time when our communities and indeed our whole county is recovering from the pandemic.

As part of the announcement surrounding County Deals, Government insisted that this process was not about, nor would it involve, Local Government reorganisation.

It has now been stated that the success of future bids may require the creation of a 'combined authority' for the area that could, potentially, be made up of both Shropshire Council and Telford & Wrekin Council, or even by joining with other adjacent authorities.

The communities represented by Shropshire Council and Telford & Wrekin Borough Council are very different, with different priorities and different challenges in delivering services. Active cooperation already exists between both Councils and indeed Herefordshire Council in areas of converging interests and priorities and there is no reason why this will not continue and expand.

**MOTION**

This Council opposes the suggestion of the creation of a single unitary authority covering the whole historic county of Shropshire. Further, that a Mayor or Governor, or any other additional layer of bureaucracy is not required.

That Shropshire Council will continue to work with neighbouring authorities, where appropriate, and without the need for amalgamation, and

That the Council Leader and Chief Executive Officer will continue to impress upon the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities that Shropshire Council is best placed to deliver the needs of its residents and that Council will continue to pursue Levelling Up Bids, County Deals and fairer funding for Shropshire in its own right.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Cecilia Motley.

On being put to a vote the motion was supported.

**6. Received from Councillor Nigel Hartin and is supported by Councillors Heather Kidd, David Vasmer and Rob Wilson**

This Council resolves to help as many residents as possible to organise street parties to celebrate HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, including advertising how to organise one, waiving all fees and covering public liability insurance.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Caroline Bagnall

The Leader Councillor Lezley Picton commented that it would not be possible for the Council to cover public liability insurance and informed the meeting that there was no charge for road closures for community groups and by way of amendment proposed the following: -

This Council resolves to help as many residents as possible to organise street parties to celebrate HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee by publicising specific advice and guidance for events such as Street Parties

Councillor Hartin agreed to accept this amendment and on being put to a vote it was **RESOLVED** that

This Council resolves to help as many residents as possible to organise street parties to celebrate HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee by publicising specific advice and guidance for events such as Street Parties.

Councillor Cecilia Motley, Portfolio Holder for Communities, Culture, Leisure and Tourism and Transport advised Members that further information was available from the Events and Licensing Officer and agreed to circulate his contact details to Councillors.

## 92 Questions from Members

The Chairman advised that the following questions had been received in accordance with Procedure Rule 15. A copy of the report containing the detailed questions and their formal response is attached to the signed minutes.

Received from Councillor Rob Wilson and answered by Councillor Ian Nellins, Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, Natural Assets & Green Economy in relation to the traffic filter on Crowmeole Road. By way of supplemental question Councillor Wilson invited the Portfolio Holder to visit the area to see the current situation firsthand which he agreed to do.

Received from Councillor Rob Wilson and answered by Councillor Dean Carroll, Portfolio Holder for Physical Infrastructure in relation to use of refabricated units for temporary accommodation. There was no supplementary question

Received from Councillors David Evans and Hilary Luff and answered by Councillor Ed Potter, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration and Planning in relation to levelling up funding for Craven Arms. There was no supplementary question

Received from Councillor Tom Biggins and answered by Councillor Ed Potter, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration and

Planning in relation to a new mini roundabout at the junction of Claypit Street and London Road In Whitchurch. There was no supplementary question

**93 Exclusion of Press and Public**

**RESOLVED:**

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.

**94 Alveley Industrial Estate**

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Physical Infrastructure, Councillor Dean Carroll, and seconded by Councillor Richard Marshall that the exempt report of the Head of Property and Development, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

**RESOLVED:**

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved

**95 Exempt Minutes**

**RESOLVED:**

That the Exempt Minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2022, as circulated with the agenda papers, be approved and signed as a correct record.

Signed ..... (Chairman)

Date: .....

## COUNCIL 12 MAY 2022

### PUBLIC QUESTIONS

#### PUBLIC QUESTIONS

##### 1 Peter Phillips

###### LANDLINES SWITCH OFF

WHAT steps has the Council taken to identify such residents, as required by the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act (CSDPA ? )

THE ACT states that councils have a duty to assess the needs of disabled people for help with the cost of a phone and any necessary special equipment the event of a phone becoming unavailable.

Traditional copper land lines are all to be switched off within 3 years.

Thereafter, 'Digital Voice ' will be operating – we will only be able to access a phone via our broadband. All phones will have to be plugged into mains electric (copper one have their own power source.) Routers, of course, require electricity. In the event of a power cut, you will have to use a mobile—if you have a signal! until it requires re-charging.

Unanswered queries include :

People without Broadband—how will they be 'switched on?'

What about pay phones?

What steps have been taken to identify people who are digitally excluded?

At some stage, developers /residents will have to be told they cannot have a copper connexion. Who decides? When? how is the decision to be implemented?

What is the position of small suppliers, eg, SWS?

How are contacts with the emergency services to be guaranteed?

What consultation has there been?

BT says it will provide backup battery packs for vulnerable people against power cuts...how will they be re-charged?

Have plans been made to improve mobile phone coverage?

Have needs of off-grid premises been assessed?

##### 2 Christine Glover

The flooding of one's home is a terrible, terrible experience. The emotional and mental anguish is beyond words. As someone who suffers flooding of my home, I am massively concerned about any building on areas of land prone to flooding. These developments can have a catastrophic effect on those of us who already suffer, particularly those of us upstream of Shrewsbury. It's important to understand the impact of new developments and not just on flood plains. It's my belief that our

flooding issues are caused, not by the weather and nature alone, but by a combination of things, including the actions of human beings creating an artificial environment. With each new building development, 'millions of gallons of rainwater that would normally seep into the earth gradually, are cascading down gutters into drains and into rivers which means they'll become raging, vindictive monsters.' In addition to this, there is displacement of water caused by building new access roads. If this trend of new building developments continues, soon there will be nowhere for the extra water to go. If the problem of flooding is to be resolved, it's important to look at the roots of the problem and not just the symptoms. It's not enough to erect flood defences, because that just creates a problem elsewhere. **My question to Council: Considering the flooding earlier this year and its consequences, would now be a good time to abandon the proposed Riverside Development plan, along with the disposal of Shirehall, the two being connected?**

### **3 Mike Streetly**

I note the recent 30% cut in the council's Capital budget with the council's finance director saying "Due to pressures in the revenue budget, it is not possible to continue with schemes that would add a significant further financial pressure through additional borrowing costs". However, the proposed NWRR is still retained and will consume nearly a fifth of the capital budget over the next four years.

I note that there is £52M for the NWRR in the capital budget for FY 22/23/24. Could you please provide the capital spend to date (including any spend from the revenue budget) and the total estimated spend on capital and revenue budgets to completion?

The revised price for the new swimming pools in Shrewsbury has doubled compared to the initial budget and the council has put the scheme on hold as a result. Given the ongoing spend on the NWRR of thousands of pounds every week and the very high rates of inflation in the construction industry combined with the fact that any over run to the cost of the NWRR will be unaffordable given the financial situation outlined above, will the council immediately put the NWRR on hold pending a review of costs?

### **4 Slawomir Fefjer**

Has Shropshire Council submitted a bid to Active Travel Fund tranche 3 and is it going to submit a bid to Active Travel Fund tranche 4?

## **5 Save Our Shirehall**

1. Does the Council recognise how much Shropshire's Council Tax payers will object to their Council spending a quoted £37 million on a new 'civic-hub' when £3 - 5 million on our Shirehall would afford legacy maintenance, energy improvements and cosmetic refreshment ? 2. As 'blended' office/home working unfolds, how can a Riverside 'civic-hub', with flood risk, accommodate the commuting and work-related travel and parking for some 800 Shropshire Council and tenant employees, compared to the County-wide accessibility and space available at the Shirehall? 3. What carbon impact audit and assessment will be made of a) the demolition of our Shirehall, b) its site re-development and c) a 'civic-hub' new build replacement?

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**COUNCIL 12 May 2022**  
**Public Questions**

<b>Question from:</b>	Peter Phillips
<b>Subject:</b>	Landlines Switch Off
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Rob Gittins
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WHAT steps has the Council taken to identify such residents, as required by the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act (CSDPA ? ) THE ACT states that councils have a duty to assess the needs of disabled people for help with the cost of a phone and any necessary special equipment the event of a phone becoming unavailable.</li> </ul> <p>In the event of a power cut in any specific part of Shropshire, the Council and Adult Social Care will work with the Distribution Network Operators (DNO) to establish those areas affected and review its own database to identify those individuals who are already known to Adult Social Care within the identified geographical area and who are considered as being at increased vulnerability because of the power cut. These individuals will be communicated and supported through a co-ordinated approach which will include face to face wherever a phone call is not possible.</p> <p>With regard to the specific question in relation to the ‘Chronically Sick and disabled Persons Act (CSDPA) 1970’, this was repealed at the point that the Care Act 2014 was introduced. The provision of a telephone and any special equipment to enable it’s use was referred to in the CSDPA 1970; however, technology has understandably moved on considerably during the last 50 years and the provisions within the Care Act (CA) 2014 are focussed on meeting individuals needs and wellbeing outcomes which has essentially increased and widened the scope for how various items of technology and digital equipment can be supplied to individuals who live in their own homes and in accordance with the CA 2014 eligibility criteria. Adult Social Care do keep a record of where such equipment has been provided to individuals and can refer to this if needed. This also includes the very small number of individuals where telephone equipment and access to a landline has been provided historically under the CSDPA 1970.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People without Broadband - how will they be ‘switched on?’</li> </ul> <p>People who currently have no broadband will be contacted by the Communication Provider (CP) that provides their landline telephone connection to arrange the migration away from their current analogue connection to a digital one. When, how and with what equipment this migration takes place will be specific to each CP. The CP for most landline-only customers will be BT plc, which is replacing its analogue telephone service with a product called Digital Voice. For FAQs relating to BT’s Digital Voice, please see: <a href="https://www.bt.com/help/landline/digital-voice-migration">https://www.bt.com/help/landline/digital-voice-migration</a>. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Question: When will my new equipment arrive?</i></li> <li><i>Answer: If you need new equipment it will arrive before your switch over day. We’ll let you know the delivery date.</i></li> </ul> <p>It is important to note that the CP marketplace is aware that some customers will be outside of areas that can be migrated to fibre. To accommodate these customers we understand that a <u>product has been developed</u> by BT Openreach which will allow customers to still make calls across the legacy copper network.</p>	

- What about pay phones?

Payphones or public call boxes/kiosks are provided by BT plc, which has a Universal Service Obligation (USO) administered by Ofcom, to provide a reasonable number of working phone boxes where they're most needed. If BT want to remove the one and only call box from a site (by site Ofcom means, 'a 400-metre walking distance surrounding a call box') they are required to follow and agreed process, see page 3 of:

[https://www.ofcom.org.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0035/47879/removing\\_callboxes.pdf](https://www.ofcom.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0035/47879/removing_callboxes.pdf)

Where the Openreach analogue network serving an existing call box is upgraded to digital, Shropshire Council expects the technology in the call box to be upgraded with no loss of service.

- What steps have been taken to identify people who are digitally excluded?

Communication Providers are expected to identify which of their customers are vulnerable, including those who are digitally excluded, i.e. they don't have a broadband connection and will need an alternative migration solution.

As part of the Council's strategic planning process, 'digital accessibility' is a proposed work stream that will review 'digital inequality'. A range of different datasets will be used to baseline and inform this project work.

- At some stage, developers/residents will have to be told they cannot have a copper connexion. Who decides? When? how is the decision to be implemented?

Most of the landlines in the UK, including the Shropshire Council area, are owned and managed by Openreach. Openreach will issue a 'Stop Sell' notice for each telephone exchange area once 75% of premises can access a fibre optic broadband network. This means that people in those areas won't be able to order new landline-based products (telephone & broadband) if a fibre optic one is available. The first telephone exchange in Shropshire expected to be subject to a Stop Sell is Ludlow (from August 2022).

*Please also see our response to 'People without Broadband - how will they be 'switched on?'*

- What is the position of small suppliers, e.g: SWS?

Small alternative network (altnet) broadband suppliers, like Secure Web Services (SWS), do not provide services to customers using Openreach's copper landline network.

SWS provides a broadband connection to its customers using 'fixed wireless access' and 'fibre to the premises' network technologies. SWS are able to provide Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) telephony services as an alternative. This is a commercial decision. Each altnet supplier will make an independent decision on deploying a VoIP solution. There is no obligations on these suppliers to provider telephony services.

- How are contacts with the emergency services to be guaranteed?

Ofcom states (<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/news-centre/2021/upgrading-landlines-to-digital-technology>): "Unlike traditional telephones, a telephone connected to a broadband router will not work in a power cut, as the router gets its power from the mains. If you rely on a landline telephone (for example, you don't have a mobile telephone, you're unable to use a mobile

telephone or you don't have mobile signal inside your home) your telephone service provider must make sure you are able to contact the emergency services during a power cut. This could be in the form of battery back-up so your landline telephone will continue to work, or giving you a basic mobile telephone to use in this situation."

Agreements between the Mobile Network Operators ensures that 'roaming' for emergency calls is available. This means where a member of the public has no signal from their mobile provider they can use the most immediate and available network to make an emergency call.

- What consultation has there been?

Openreach ran a consultation on the 'digital switchover' in 2018, see:

<https://www.openreach.com/news/openreach-to-consult-communication-provider-customers-on-switch-to-digital-phone-services-by-2025/>

- BT says it will provide backup battery packs for vulnerable people against power cuts...how will they be re-charged?

Battery backup is designed to enable people to continue to use their telephone service during a power cut, but it is only meant as a short-term solution until such time as the mains power connection is restored.

Ofcom guidance issued in 2018 stated that, "Providers should have at least one solution available that enables access to emergency organisations for a minimum of one hour in the event of a power outage in the premises" (Source:

[https://www.ofcom.org.uk/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0016/123118/guidance-emergency-access-power-cut.pdf](https://www.ofcom.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0016/123118/guidance-emergency-access-power-cut.pdf).

- Have plans been made to improve mobile phone coverage?

On 9 March 2020 the Government announced that it had entered into an agreement with the four Mobile Network Operators to provide grant funding to deliver a 'Shared Rural Network'. Under the terms of this agreement, each mobile operator has committed to providing good quality data and voice coverage to 88% of the landmass by 30 June 2024, and 90% by 30 June 2026\*, subject to certain conditions (including the provision of funding for elements of the programme).

\* In July 2021, the definition of 'Subsequent Coverage Deadline' was changed from June 2026 to January 2027 (Source: <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/spectrum/information/cellular-coverage>)

- Have needs of off-grid premises been assessed?

Premises that are off-grid for fibre broadband services are being considered by the government. Last year the government issued a call for evidence on the subject of very hard-to-reach premises. In February 2022 the government issued their response to this, see:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/improving-broadband-for-very-hard-to-reach-premises/outcome/improving-broadband-for-very-hard-to-reach-premises-government-response#government-response-1>. Based on the evidence that was gathered, the government will set out a series of policy proposals later in 2022 setting out how it intends to address connectivity challenges to these premises.

Finally to note Shropshire Council submitted a comprehensive submission to Ofcom in 2018 on the issue of "protecting access to emergency services in power cuts at customer premises".

The submission and extract will be shared with Mr Phillips. The evidence demonstrates not only the Council's commitment to supporting the people that we define as vulnerable and to emphasising the importance of Communication Providers like BT playing their part, but also our approach to continuing to take every opportunity that presents itself to articulate that commitment, both to central Government and to agencies such as Ofcom. Of note, we have again over the past month engaged with both DCMS and the LGA on the subject of 'digital switchover'.

<b>Question from:</b>	Mike Streetly
<b>Subject:</b>	NWRR
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Dean Carroll

I note the recent 30% cut in the council's Capital budget with the council's finance director saying "Due to pressures in the revenue budget, it is not possible to continue with schemes that would add a significant further financial pressure through additional borrowing costs". However, the proposed NWRR is still retained and will consume nearly a fifth of the capital budget over the next four years.

I note that there is £52M for the NWRR in the capital budget for FY 22/23/24. Could you please provide the capital spend to date (including any spend from the revenue budget) and the total estimated spend on capital and revenue budgets to completion?

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The council has not spent £28m on the North West Relief Road to date.

The project consists of two discrete elements in the Capital Programme, the Oxon Link Road (OLR) and the NWRR. Whilst these are linked for the purposes of the current Planning application and future construction, they are separated in financial terms for the requirements of the two external funding bodies. The OLR has a current budget of £12.9m in total, with £4.2 of this being externally funded by the Marches LEP and £8.7m being local match funding through developer contributions. The NWRR has secured funding from the DfT of £54.4m with a required local match of £19.8m to be found through developer contributions and capital receipts. In total therefore the budget available for NWRR is £87m and this reflects current estimations of cost. It should be noted that the DfT and LEP Capital awards are not able to be reallocated by the Council and unspent budget would need to be returned if the NWRR does not go ahead.

The Council has spent £18.111m on surveys and designs to date with just £3.189m of this coming from the Council's own agreed match allocation to date.

As we have stated previously, the North West Relief Road (including the Oxon Link Road) remain a key priority for the Council and will continue to ensure that the outcomes achieved reflect value from the investment at each stage of the project life.

<b>Question from:</b>	Christine Glover	
<b>Subject:</b>	Flooding	
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Ian Nellins	

The flooding of one's home is a terrible, terrible experience. The emotional and mental anguish is beyond words. As someone who suffers flooding of my home, I am massively concerned about any building on areas of land prone to flooding. These developments can have a catastrophic effect on those of us who already suffer, particularly those of us upstream of Shrewsbury. It's important to understand the impact of new developments and not just on flood plains. It's my belief that our flooding issues are caused, not by the weather and nature alone, but by a combination of things, including the actions of human beings creating an artificial environment. With each new building development, 'millions of gallons of rainwater that would normally seep into the earth gradually, are cascading down gutters into drains and into rivers which means they'll become raging, vindictive monsters.' In addition to this, there is displacement of water caused by building new access roads. If this trend of new building developments continues, soon there will be nowhere for the extra water to go. If the problem of flooding is to be resolved, it's important to look at the roots of the problem and not just the symptoms. It's not enough to erect flood defences, because that just creates a problem elsewhere. My question to Council: Considering the flooding earlier this year and its consequences, would now be a good time to abandon the proposed Riverside Development plan, along with the disposal of Shirehall, the two being connected?

Shropshire Council, like you, shares the ambition for pace and progress in finding solutions to flooding across the Severn. With our partners, it is both our role and ambition to enable resilience of local communities across the catchment. For this reason, we established and jointly chair the River Severn Partnership with the Environment Agency.

The Partnership is in direct response to challenges in securing flood management investment as well as the increasing frequency and severity of flooding which requires accelerated delivery. We believe there is a justified case for water management measures across the Severn. However, as you may be aware, current investment in flood management via Defra's Flood Defence Grant in Aid is predominately targeted at protecting existing residential properties. This makes it complex to produce viable business cases for new flood risk management schemes. This is particularly the case when seeking options for rural communities where numbers of residential properties are small or indeed some of the flood affected urban areas, such as Shrewsbury, where the impacts are on businesses rather than homes.

The Partnership believes that a wider approach is needed which opens up new routes to funding and delivery. The link to future growth and development is key. The scale of investment need is far more than the public purse is able to provide and therefore the Partnership is exploring how it can provide multiple benefits for people and places from water management and create viable investment cases. It has already been successful in securing over £40million in additional Government investment through this approach, which is being used to deliver water

management measures on the Severn as well as a long term management plan. This plan will be adaptive to take account of future changes, such as some of those you mention.

The Riverside development forms one of the important short term pathfinders under the Partnership. To effectively manage risks, Shropshire Council is working closely with the Environment Agency and via the Partnership to provide a two way approach for assessing and managing flood risk on the site. This allows us to take into account what we know now about flood risk and therefore how we design the development from the outset as well as developing a longer term adaptive plan that can take account of future changes, whether climate change, future investment in flood risk management such as the Severn Valley Water Management Scheme or any future developments. Flood risk management is a key consideration in the Riverside work. It is being addressed from the outset in collaboration with the key risk management authorities and provides an opportunity for us to jointly consider how we can embrace both the river and any associated nature based management measures as part of the scheme.

<b>Question from:</b>	Slawomir Fefjer	
<b>Subject:</b>	Active Travel Fund	
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Ian Nellins	Approved
Has Shropshire Council submitted a bid to Active Travel Fund tranche 3 and is it going to submit a bid to Active Travel Fund tranche 4?		
Shropshire Council did not submit a bid to the Active Travel Fund Tranche 3 due to a lack of staffing resources at the time. The intention is to submit a bid to future Active Travel Funds.		

<b>Question from:</b>	Save Our Shirehall	
<b>Subject:</b>	Shirehall	
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Dean Carroll	
Does the Council recognise how much Shropshire's Council Tax payers will object to their Council spending a quoted £37 million on a new 'civic-hub' when £3 - 5 million on our Shirehall would afford legacy maintenance, energy improvements and cosmetic refreshment ? 2. As 'blended' office/home working unfolds, how can a Riverside 'civic-hub', with flood risk, accommodate the commuting and work-related travel and parking for some 800 Shropshire Council and tenant employees, compared to the County-wide accessibility and space available at the Shirehall? 3. What carbon impact audit and assessment will be made of a) the demolition of our Shirehall, b) its site re-development and c) a 'civic-hub' new build replacement?		
<i>On the 24 February 2022, Full Council formally declared the Shirehall building surplus to requirements and delegated to officers the ability to agree and implement the disposal strategy and agree terms for sale subject to the final approval of full Council.</i>		
<i>The quoted figure of £3 - £5 million to afford legacy improvements is wholly unrealistic and would do very little to improve the Shirehall in terms of its energy performance or indeed critical</i>		

*maintenance/improvements to provide any form of longevity in terms of future use. The original refurbishment scheme agreed by full council was in excess of £20m and that did not include the removal of asbestos.*

*Shirehall has failed technically, functionally and economically and of course it's green credentials are extremely poor. The current building fabric and energy output is extremely inefficient and performs significantly below industry standards for heat loss, wasted energy, comfort and daylight. This creates a poor user environment where people are often too hot or too cold with little control over their personal environment. Detailed work was undertaken in terms of feasibility for the refurbishment of the Shirehall and related to the key decisions taken at the Council meeting of 16 July 2020. In the report it advised that the Stage 2 financial business case as prepared by Rider Levett Bucknell (RLB) identified an estimated cost of £24.1m, this was on the basis of refurbishing the Shirehall, which was presented to full Council in December 2018. Due to inflation and comparable scope of works, this figure is likely now to be in excess of £30m. We would of course be very interested to see an estimate of cost which provides for a functional refurbishment of the Shirehall for the sum of £5 million, together with the projected operational carbon savings that such a refurbishment would be able to provide. Notwithstanding the detailed work undertaken previously, the total floor area of the Shirehall equates to circa 20,000m<sup>2</sup>, the Council's predicted future requirement is currently set at less than a quarter of that floor space. Incorporating the future likely requirements of partners the forecast requirement for the planned Multi Agency Hub, in total, is just over half of the current floor space of the Shirehall.*

*The commitment to move to a town centre site, will provide excellent access to transport links with the bus station, train station and the park and ride service, together with both existing and future planned parking provision to match with the Council's climate change and movement strategy objectives. In terms of the increasing risks associated with flooding, the redevelopment of the riverside area provides the opportunity to address and mitigate the impacts of flooding as part of the next stage of design development.*

*No decisions have been taken in terms of demolition of the current Shirehall building and the future of the site will be tested through an appropriate marketing process. This will scope the appetite of any third parties who may wish to retain or convert the existing building as opposed to redeveloping the site.*

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<u>Committee and date</u>
Council
12 May 2022

## **CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES AND THE ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO POLITICAL GROUPS**

**Responsible  
Officer**

Tim Collard

Email: Tim.collard@shropshire.gov.uk

Telephone (01743) 252756

:

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### **1.0 Synopsis**

1.1 This report deals with the overall constitution of committees, the overall entitlement of seats for each of the political groups and the proportionate allocation of seats between the groups across all committees.

### **2.0 Executive Summary**

2.1 The provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 require the Council to review the representation of each political group on committees, panels etc. at each annual meeting or as soon as practicable after that meeting. The regulations require that all Scrutiny, Standing and Regulatory Committees are politically balanced across the total number of committee places. Subject to that overriding requirement, each committee must also be politically balanced, as far as it is reasonably practicable.

2.2 The Executive (Cabinet) is not subject to the political balance rules.

2.3 Advisory Committees and other ad hoc bodies and groups are not subject to the political balance rules either, but traditionally political proportionality has been applied to them outside the overall aggregate balance referred to in paragraph 2.1 above.

2.4 As a consequence of the resignation of Councillor Tremellen, there may be a need to consider further the allocation of seats to political groups at a future meeting once the outcome of the by election is known if that results in a change in the political balance of the Council.

### **3.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Council confirms the constitution of committees and the allocation of seats to each of the political groups for the 2022/23 municipal year and the allocation of seats between the political groups, as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 to this report.

## **REPORT**

### **4.0 Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal**

- 4.1 The Council is obliged to ensure that the membership of committees and related bodies is proportionate to individual group membership.

### **5.0 Financial Implications**

- 5.1 The allocation of seats on Committees will have no obvious financial implications.

### **6. Climate Change Appraisal**

- 6.1 The allocation of seats on Committees will have no obvious impact in terms of climate change.

### **7.0 Constitution of Committees**

- 7.1 The Council is requested to approve the overall constitution of committees.
- 7.2 This requires 114 seats to be allocated proportionately across all committees and the Council is requested to approve the overall constitution as set out below:

<b><u>Committee Name</u></b>	<b><u>Seats per Committee</u></b>
Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee	10
Performance Management Scrutiny Committee	10
Communities Overview Committee	10
Place Overview Committee	10
People Overview Committee	10
Pensions Committee	4
Audit Committee	5
Strategic Licensing Committee	15
Standards Committee	9
Southern Planning Committee	11
Northern Planning Committee	11
Housing Supervisory Board	9
Total	<u>114</u>

## 8.0 Allocation of Seats

- 8.1 The Council is required to approve the allocation of seats to the political groups for the coming year.
- 8.2 The maximum number of seats available to each group within the political balance rules will be:

<b><u>Group Name</u></b>	<b><u>Seats per Group</u></b>
Conservatives	66
Liberal Democrats	20
Labour	14
Independent	7
Green	6
Unaligned Members	1
Total	<u>114</u>

- 8.3 The proportionate allocation of seats to the political groups across all committees is set out in Appendix 1 and the proposed allocation of these totals to individual members, in accordance with the wishes of the respective Group Leaders, is set out in Appendix 2 to this report (To Follow).
- 8.4 The Council is entitled to 10 seats on the Shropshire and Wrekin Combined Fire Authority. Under the present arrangements, the Conservative Group is entitled to 6 seats, the Liberal Democrat Group 3 seats, the Labour Group 1 seat and the Independent Group 1 seat.
- 8.5 The proposed allocation of seats meets the legal requirements, however, should the Council wish, it is possible to agree allocations which are not strictly politically balanced if no Member dissents.

**List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)**

Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and Regulations made thereunder.

**Cabinet member:** Leader of the Council

**Local Members:** All

**Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Constitution of Committees and Allocation of Seats to Political Groups

Appendix 2 – Proposed Allocation of Seats to Political Groups (To Follow)

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## APPENDIX 1

### ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO POLITICAL GROUPS

Composition of the Council	Cons	Lib Dem	Lab	Ind	Green	Non Affiliated	Vacancy	Total
	42	13	9	4	4	1	1	74

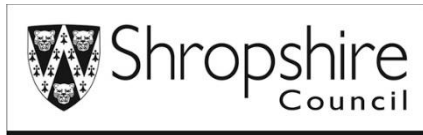
#### SCRUTINY

	Cons	Lib Dem	Lab	Ind	Green	Non Affiliated	Total
Communities Overview	6	2	1	0	1		10
Health & Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny	6	2	1	1	0		10
People Overview	6	2	1	1	0		10
Performance Management Scrutiny Committee	6	2	2	0	0		10
Place Overview	6	2	1	0	1		10

#### STANDING AND REGULATORY

	Cons	Lib Dem	Lab	Ind	Green		Total
Pensions Committee	3	1	0	0	0		4
Audit Committee	3	1	1	0	0		5
Standards	5	1	1	1	1		9
Strategic Licensing Committee	8	3	2	1	1		15
Northern Planning Committee	6	2	1	1	1		11
Southern Planning Committee	6	1	2	1	0	1	11
Housing Supervisory Board	5	1	1	1	1		9
<b>Aggregate No Seats Required</b>	66	20	14	7	6	1	114

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Committee and date  
Council

12 May 2022

Item

Public

## **APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS**

**Responsible Officer** Tim Collard

Email: Tim.collard@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743352756

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### **1. Synopsis**

- 1.1 Shropshire Council is required by the Localism Act 2012 to have in place at least one Independent Person whose views are to be sought and taken into account when dealing with allegations that its Councillors, and those of the Town and Parish Councils in Shropshire, have failed to comply with the code of conduct.
- 1.2 Shropshire Council, in 2017, appointed two Independent Persons for a term of 5 years.

### **2 Executive Summary**

- 2.1 The "arrangements" adopted by the Council for the promotion of ethical conduct must include provision for the appointment by Council of at least one "Independent Person."
- 2.2 The term of office for both of the current Independent Persons is coming to an end.
- 2.3 The Independent Person must not have been a member or co-opted member of the authority for a period of 5 years prior to their appointment and must have applied following an advertisement being placed locally.
- 2.4 An application has been placed, and 2 applications received to fill the vacancies that arise.
- 2.5 Both of the applicants are existing Independent Persons having been appointed for a period of 5 years by the Council in 2017.
- 2.6 The Monitoring Officer has consulted with both the Chair of the Council and the Chair of the Standards Committee and both are content with the Recommendation being made to Council to re-appoint the existing Independent Persons

### **3. Recommendation**

**3.1 That Mr Stephen Donkersley and Mr Tim Griffiths be appointed as Independent Persons for a period until the Annual Meeting of the Council due to be held in 2026.**

## **REPORT**

### **4 Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal**

4.1 The recommendations in this report, if approved, will have no impact on Children and Vulnerable Adults, Risk Management, Human Rights, Equalities, Community, and other Consultation

### **5 Financial Implications**

5.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

### **6 Climate Change Appraisal**

6.1 The proposals will have no impact on climate change

### **7 Additional Information**

7.1 The previous appointment had been made for a five year period to avoid the reappointment process coinciding with the ordinary election of Councillors to Shropshire Council.

7.2 The Monitoring Officer proposes that, having regard to previous experience and having regard to their recent applications, Mr Stephen Donkersley and Mr Tim Griffiths are appointed to the positions for a further four year period.

<b>List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)</b>
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None

<b>Responsible Member</b>
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Chairman of Standards Committee – Councillor David Evans

<b>Local Member</b>
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All

<b>Appendices</b>
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None





<u>Committee and Date</u>
Council
12 May 2022

<u>Item</u>
Public

## **Delivery of the Temporary Accommodation Programme**

**Responsible Officer** Jane Trethewey Assistant Director Homes and Communities  
e-mail: [Jane.trethewey@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Jane.trethewey@shropshire.gov.uk)

### **1. Synopsis**

- 1.1. This report requests a more flexible approach to delivering temporary accommodation. It seeks:
- to vary the detail of the acquisition of dwellings to provide one-bedroom units of dispersed temporary accommodation; and
  - that as an interim measure, the Council enters into short-term leases of private accommodation.

### **2. Executive Summary**

- 2.1. On 13 January 2022 Council received a report, "Programme Approach to the Purchase of Temporary Accommodation". This report set out a programme to deliver supported temporary accommodation: both schemes with on-site management and support; and dispersed dwellings.
- 2.2. Due to limited opportunities in the housing market to identify and acquire suitable one- and two-bedroom dwellings, a variation to the approvals contained in the January 2022 report is requested to allow for greater flexibility to deliver small units of self-contained dispersed accommodation. Described as "acquisition and works" scheme, an example would be the acquisition of a three-bedroom house on the proviso that this is converted into two self-contained one-bedroom flats.
- 2.3. In addition, as an interim measure to enable the Council to provide additional temporary accommodation in the short-term, a further flexibility is sought for the Council to enter into leases of existing open market schemes of self-contained and shared

accommodation. The Council would facilitate the provision of appropriate intensive housing management and support.

### **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1. To widen the definition of the temporary accommodation programme in the Council report of 13 January 2022 to include "acquisition and works", thereby allowing the purchase of larger dwellings to be converted into one-bedroom and two-bedroom self-contained dwellings.
- 3.2. Delegate to the Head of Property and Development, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Physical Infrastructure, the authority to agree and enter into appropriate short-term property leases.

## **REPORT**

### **4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal**

- 4.1. By widening the scope of the temporary accommodation delivery programme to enable "acquisition and works", the main risks are that:
  - Shropshire Towns and Rural (STAR) Housing is unable to source sufficient suitable larger dwellings which can be viably converted into smaller self-contained units; and
  - where dwellings are purchased planning permission for conversion is not granted.
- 4.2. In terms of seeking to mitigate these risks, analysis of properties for sale on the open market and direct approaches (including those offered back to the Council under the Right of First Refusal) shows that at present there are suitable dwellings which have the potential to be converted into self-contained units. In addition, the due diligence process will include STAR Housing seeking pre-planning application advice.
- 4.3. By having the ability to enter into short term leases of suitable self-contained and shared accommodation, on the proviso that the Council ensures occupants are provided with appropriate management and support, seeks to provide an interim solution to the need for suitable supported temporary accommodation. The main risk is the lack of opportunities available to the Council.
- 4.4. Given as this report seeks to widen the delivery options set out in the Council report of 13 January 2022, the original Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA) remains unchanged.

## 5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. Financial modelling shows that the anticipated total scheme costs, and associated General Fund revenue savings, to deliver self-contained units using an “acquisition and works” approach are in line with those agreed under the original “purchase and repair” model. As previously set out in the 13 January 2022 Council report, each acquisition will be subject to a business case and relevant officer and Portfolio Holder delegations.
- 5.2. Given the Housing Benefit regulations applicable to leased accommodation, it is anticipated that there will not be high revenue savings from utilising private accommodation, however, it will still be more economical than the use of bed and breakfast.

## 6. Climate Change Appraisal

### 6.1. Energy and fuel consumption:

- The sustainability and energy performance of accommodation will be reviewed as part of the business case for each individual acquisition. Works costs will reflect the need to meet a lettable standard and will fund upgrades to reduce carbon emissions. The intention is to seek to improve acquired properties so that they reach net zero by 2030. The energy efficiency rating of these properties, post improvement will be reported in line with STAR Housing’s key performance indicators.

### 6.2. Renewable energy generation:

- Each individual acquisition will be considered for opportunities for renewable energy generation

### 6.3. Carbon offsetting or mitigation:

- Given the nature and type of accommodation to be delivered under this programme, it is unlikely that there will be opportunities for carbon offsetting or mitigation.

### 6.4. Climate Change adaptation:

- The scope of any retrofit upgrade will consider the potential need for climate change adaptation to manage the effects of more extreme weather.

## 7. Background

- 7.1. The Council has a duty to provide interim (temporary) accommodation if, at any point during enquiries surrounding a homelessness application, there is a reason to believe that an applicant may be: homeless; eligible for assistance, and in priority

need. Where an applicant is owed the main duty, this being an offer of settled accommodation, and is currently accommodated in temporary accommodation the Council has a duty to provide temporary accommodation until such time as the duty is ended, either by an offer of settled accommodation or for another specified reason.

- 7.2. Given that basis for accommodating households under the interim accommodation duty is because the Council has reason to believe that the household is eligible for assistance, homeless and in priority need; and where the main duty is owed, the Council has determined that the household is unintentionally homeless, eligible for assistance and in priority need, this means that single and couple households who are required to be accommodated will be considered to be vulnerable.
- 7.3. The provision of temporary accommodation in the form of supported housing, either with on-site or floating intensive housing management and support, is therefore the most appropriate form of housing the Council can provide to these vulnerable households.
- 7.4. On 13 January 2022 Council received a report, "Programme Approach to the Purchase of Temporary Accommodation". This report set out the rationale and process for delivering a temporary accommodation programme of up to 60 units of accommodation to be held in the HRA, funded by Section 106 commuted sums and borrowing on rental income, and managed by the Council's Arm's Length Management Organisation (ALMO), STAR Housing.
- 7.5. It was agreed that this programme be progressed and that it was to comprise two elements:
  - the delivery of supported accommodation schemes for single homeless people who require on-site management and support; and
  - the "purchase and repair" of one- and two-bedroom dwellings across Shropshire to provide a dispersed temporary accommodation scheme.
- 7.6. However, lack of opportunities in the housing market to identify and acquire suitable one- and two-bedroom dwellings is currently providing cause for concern. The Council is competing with other prospective purchasers in a housing market where there is very high demand for one- and two-bedroom units of accommodation. To date only one dwelling has been acquired, with two further dwellings subject to conveyancing.
- 7.7. Therefore, a variation to the approvals contained in the January 2022 report is requested to allow for greater flexibility to deliver one- and two-bedroom units of self-contained dispersed accommodation. An example would be the acquisition of a three-

bedroom house on the basis that this is converted into two self-contained one-bedroom flats. Therefore, allowing the delivery of the dispersed accommodation scheme through both "purchase and repair" and "acquisition and works".

- 7.8. In addition, although not a demand on capital resources, a further flexibility is sought to enable the Council to provide additional temporary accommodation in the short term. This being for the Council to consider leasing suitable existing open market schemes of self-contained and shared accommodation. Although the Council would not own the accommodation it would still facilitate the intensive housing management and support functions.

## 8. Conclusions

- 8.1. The proposed additional variations to the original report of 13 January 2022 seek to provide additional flexibility to delivery one- and two-bedroom self-contained dispersed unit and allow for the potential of an interim offer to be sourced whilst the Council is progressing the delivery of its temporary accommodation schemes.

**List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)**

13 January 2022 Council Report, "Programme Approach to the Purchase of Temporary Accommodation"

**Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)**

Cllr Dean Carroll  
Cllr Simon Jones

**Local Member**

**Appendices**

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## **COUNCIL 12 MAY 2022**

### **MEMBER QUESTIONS**

#### **Question from Councillor Julia Evans**

Whilst welcoming the temporary and limited support from Shropshire Council to retain some of the bus services threatened with cuts by Arriva, the situation remains poor and early indications are that the subsidised service 20 is failing to provide even the reduced level of service required, with many buses not arriving. What action will cabinet members take to ensure the subsidised service is delivered as required by the subsidy agreement? Will the portfolio holder commit to carrying out a feasibility study in to introducing a bus franchising system as is being implemented or considered in many other local authority areas?

#### **Response from Portfolio Holder for Communities, Culture, Leisure, Tourism and Transport**

As you will know the council has stepped in to temporarily support a number of services previously operated on a commercial basis by Arriva and whilst this support has initially been provided through until September, to allow us time to consider alternative options, I should point out that the financial support for service 20 in particular has been substantial. Officers have spoken to Arriva regarding the performance of this interim service and they have confirmed via the vehicle tracking units that it is continuing to service all of the stops at the times specified in the revised timetable and we will continue to monitor its performance.

With regard to the option of a franchising model for Shropshire and undertaking a study to identify if that would be of benefit, we are open to exploring its potential and the associated benefits that may bring for Shropshire, which was an element of our BSIP submission to the Dft.

With the aforementioned withdrawal of bus services resulting in additional council financial support, we are considering all of the options available to us to ensure that we have a sustainable network that reflects modern day travel needs. As part of that commitment we will shortly be inviting all members to a public transport briefing session and then following that the formation of a cross party working group, to discuss and plan with officers a strategy for public transport going forwards, which may of course include a recommendation to consider franchising.

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**Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority  
Chair's Report of Meeting held on 16 February 2022 and  
Extraordinary Meeting held on 23 February 2022**

**Fire Authority Meeting – 16 February 2022**

**Capital Programmes, Treasury Management Statement and  
Capital Strategy**

The Fire Authority confirmed its 2022/23 to 2026/27 capital programmes, and approved its Capital Strategy for the same period, together with its Treasury Strategy Statement for 2022/23.

**Adequacy of Reserves and Robustness of Budget**

The Fire Authority agreed the reserves, recommended by its Strategy and Resources Committee, and noted the Treasurer's assurances covering the robustness of the 2022/23 budget and adequacy of the reserves.

**Revenue Budget 2022/23 and Precept**

The Fire Authority considered recommendations made by its Strategy and Resources Committee in relation to the revenue budget and precept for 2021/22.

The recommendations on the report were not carried on a recorded vote and it was agreed that an Extraordinary Meeting be arranged to further consider the issue.

**Annual Plan 2022/23**

The Fire Authority agreed the outline format and contents of the Annual Plan 2022/23.

In addition, the Fire Authority delegated responsibility to its Strategy and Resources Committee to agree the Service Targets 2022/23, which support the Fire Authority's four Strategic Aims.

**Annual Review of Charges for Special Services**

The Fire Authority has completed its annual review of the tariff for special services charges and agreed an increase of 1.5% with effect from 1 April 2022, in line with the interim pay increase awarded to firefighters in 2021/22.

## **Firefighters' Pension Scheme – Dealing with Immediate Detriment Cases**

The Fire Authority received a report outlining the current position in relation to the Firefighters Pension Schemes age discrimination remedy and the payments to be made to those Scheme members who were eligible for Immediate Detriment remedy payments.

The Home Office withdrew the framework guidance for processing Immediate Detriment cases in November 2021, ahead of legislation being finalised and coming into force in or before October 2023. At this point, the Service paused any such payments. It has also been advised that Central Government will not fund any costs attributed to the settlement of Immediate Detriment cases in Service and any fire and rescue authorities that proceed to process cases on this basis should assume that they will need to cover the associated costs. Due to a delay in clarification of HM Treasury guidance regarding these payments, it is impossible to confirm what the financial impact on the Fire Authority will be at this stage.

It was therefore agreed by the Fire Authority that the pausing of Immediate Detriment payments for claimants under the framework should continue with the position being reconsidered once guidance on the matter has been received from HM Treasury.

## **Amendments to the Pay Policy Statement 2022/23**

The Fire Authority has conducted its annual review of the Pay Policy Statement and agreed minor changes to bring it up to date. The amended Statement has now been published and will be reviewed annually, following notification of national pay decisions determined in respect of Gold, Grey and Green Book staff each year.

## **National Fire Chiefs Council Direct Entry Scheme**

The Fire Authority received a report setting out the intention and rationale for the Service taking in part in the 'proof of concept' pilot of the National Fire Chiefs Council Direct Entry programme.

The purpose of the Direct Entry Scheme is to provide an attractive opportunity for high calibre leaders to directly enter fire and rescue services at Station or Area Manager level. This will enable services to broaden the base from which they draw their operational commanders, thereby increasing diversity of thought, perspective and experience.

The proposed timescale for the Direct Entry pilot is that recruitment will start in September 2022 with the first entrants arriving in the Services engaged in the 'proof of concept' pilot in April 2023. The Service will engage in this pilot with a view to contracting one direct entrant at Station Manager level. This is, however, dependent on a suitable individual successfully completing the selection process.

# Extraordinary Fire Authority Meeting – 23 February 2022

## Revenue Budget 2022/23 and Precept

The Fire Authority agreed:

- A net budget requirement of £24,410,522
- A total precept of £18,012,202 to be levied on the billing authorities
- A Council Tax resulting in a basic amount of Council Tax at Band D of £106.27
- The amount payable by billing authorities for 2022/23, as follows:

<b>Council</b>	<b>Precept £</b>
Shropshire Council	12,272,631
Borough of Telford & Wrekin Council	5,739,571
	<hr/>
	18,012,202



Eric Carter  
Chair  
Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority  
February 2022

### Background Papers

Agenda and Papers for the meeting of Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority held on 16 and 23 February 2022

**The agendas and reports (with the exception of exempt or confidential items) for all Fire Authority meetings and those of its Committees appear on the Brigade's website:**

<https://www.shropshirefire.gov.uk/>

To access reports go to the Fire Service's website and follow the steps below.

- Click on 'About Us' at the top of the page
- Click on 'Fire and Rescue Authority'
- Click on 'Meetings' in the list on the right hand side of the screen
- Click on the appropriate meeting date and the various reports and appendices will be listed

If you have any difficulty with the website, please contact Lynn Ince, Executive Support Officer, on 01743 260225.

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