

Shropshire Council
Legal and Democratic Services
Shirehall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
SY2 6ND
Date: Wednesday, 22 February 2023

Committee: Council

Date: Thursday, 2 March 2023

Time: 10.00 am

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

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

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

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

Please click [here](#) to view the livestream of the meeting on the date and time stated on the agenda

The recording of the event will also be made available shortly after the meeting on the Shropshire Council Youtube Channel [Here](#)

Tim Collard
Assistant Director - Legal and Governance

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

Tony Parsons
John Price
Ed Potter
Chris Schofield
Dan Thomas

Robert Tindall
Edward Towers
Kevin Turley
David Vasmer
Alex Wagner

Claire Wild
Mark Williams
Rob Wilson
Paul Wynn

Your Committee Officer is:

Tim Ward Committee Officer

Tel: 01743 257713

Email: tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk

AGENDA

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Members are reminded that they must 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.

3 Minutes (Pages 1 - 22)

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 15 December 2023

4 Announcements

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

5 Public Questions

To receive any questions from the public, notice of which has been given in accordance with Procedure Rule 14. Deadline for notification is 5.00 pm on Friday 24 February 2023

6 Financial Strategy 2023/24 - 2027/28 and Setting the Council Tax Resolution 2023/24 (Pages 23 - 298)

Report of the Executive Director, Resources is attached

Contact: James Walton. Tel. 01743 258915

7 Fees and Charges 2023/24 (Pages 299 - 352)

Report of the Executive Director, Resources is attached

Contact: James Walton. Tel. 01743 258915

8 Treasury Strategy 2023/24 (Pages 353 - 404)

Report of the Executive Director, Resources is attached

Contact: James Walton. Tel. 01743 258915

9 Local Authority Housing Fund (Pages 405 - 430)

Report of the Executive Director of Place is attached

Contact Mark Barrow Tel: 01743258919

10 Appointment of Independent Co-Opted Member of the Audit Committee

In accordance with the decision of Council at its meeting held on 15 December 2022, applications were invited for an Independent co-opted member of the Audit Committee. Following the selection process, Council is recommended to approve the co-option of Jim Arnold to the Council's Audit Committee.

11 Changes to Committee Membership

Performance Management Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Steve Charmley ceases to be a member of the Performance Management Scrutiny Committee

People Overview Committee

Councillor Roy Aldcroft to replace Councillor Steve Davenport as a substitute member of the People Overview Committee

Place Overview Committee

Councillor Dan Morris ceases to be a member of the Place Overview Committee

Communities Overview Committee

Councillor Elliott Lynch ceases to be a member of the Communities Overview Committee

Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Chris Schofield ceases to be a member of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee

Southern Planning Committee

Councillor Andy Boddington to replace Councillor Roger Evans as a member of the Southern Planning Committee

Councillor Richard Huffer to replace Councillor Nigel Hartin as a member of the Southern Planning Committee

Councillor Nigel Hartin to replace Councillor Vivienne Parry as a substitute member of the Southern Planning Committee

12 Motions

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

1. Motion received from Councillor Julian Dean supported by the Green Group

Council notes and supports:

The following statements from the Department for Transport's "Decarbonising Transport – A Better, Greener Britain" report:

"Buses are the easiest, quickest, and cheapest way to improve public transport."

“As well as decarbonising private and commercial road vehicles, therefore, we must increase the share of trips taken by public transport, cycling and walking.”

The temporary £2 national bus fare limit.

The expectation that government will require a ‘vision led approach’ to for the new Local Transport Plan to specifically target carbon emissions through modal change and “that LTAs will need to define Quantified Carbon Reductions (QCRs) for any proposed interventions included within the LTP” (taken from UPDATE ON LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN FOR SHROPSHIRE report to Place Overview Committee February 2023).

We further note recent expressions of support for better public transport by the local Federation of Small Businesses and the Shropshire Business Chamber, pointing to recruitment challenges due to young people who either choose not to drive, or can’t afford to, not being able to access work opportunities.

Council expresses its disappointment at the rejection of the Levelling Up Fund bid to support public transport but remains committed to an improved bus service as a key element in providing improved connectivity without further damage to environment. We welcome, as an example, the aspiration of the MP for North Shropshire and the Portfolio holder for Climate Change, The Environment and Transport for express bus services connecting Market Drayton to Shrewsbury.

Council believes:

Preferential access to the town centre for bus services is key to attracting people out of cars into the most space efficient mode of transport, the urban bus.

A well designed and conveniently located transport hub is a pre-requisite for an effective bus network, serving the needs of both passengers and drivers.

The current bus station site, which is in the public realm and has easy access to the train station and the Darwin Shopping Centre remains the ideal location. Alternatives discussed so far, such as suggestions for a range of bus stops around the railway station instead of a bus station would be a poor substitute for a modern bus interchange station and would fail to signal our commitment to excellent public transport for the future.

The redevelopment of the riverside area provides an opportunity to install a new and attractive bus interchange and transport hub on this location, integrated with other developments. We note that other towns of similar size to Shrewsbury have installed new bus station interchanges in recent years.

Therefore council resolves:

To commit to ensuring that the county town of Shrewsbury retains a proper Bus Station by requiring that the masterplan brief for the Riverside redevelopment includes the requirement for an attractive bus station with excellent links to rail and town centre, making best use of the current location.

2. Motion received from Councillor David Vasmer and supported by the Liberal Democrat Group

This Council:

- Notes that new Voter ID requirements, introduced by the Elections Act 2022, involve voters having to show photo ID before being issued with a ballot paper at all elections from May 2023 onwards.
- Notes with concern that this new requirement creates a new barrier to residents exercising their democratic right to vote and may lead to some

Shropshire residents being disenfranchised.

- Notes that a list of 'accepted' forms of photo ID has been published and that this includes fewer forms of ID held by younger and marginalised people.
- Notes that voters can obtain a 'Voter Authority Certificate' from the Council if they do not have an 'accepted' form of photo ID.
- Notes with concern the additional costs and administrative burden this will place on Electoral Services, and the risk of abuse towards poll workers from anyone denied a vote due to lack of ID.
- Believes that this legislation is unnecessary, undemocratic and an example of attempted voter suppression

Council therefore:

- Calls on Cabinet to review current electoral registration letters and public information campaigns to ensure that every effort is made to communicate these new requirements, to avoid any resident being disenfranchised.
- Calls on Cabinet to include reference to the need to show voter ID and how to claim a Voter Authority Certificate on all forms of written communications including emails, letters and social media posts.
- Calls on the government to urgently expand the list of 'accepted' forms of photo ID and to fully fund the costs to Councils of implementing this policy.
- Requests that the Leader communicate Council's views to Government and to our local MPs

**3. Motion received from Councillor David Vasmer and supported by Councillors Julia Buckley, Roger Evans, Mike Isherwood, David Minnery, Tony Parsons, Edward Towers, Alex Wagner and Mark Williams
More Member Involvement in Planning Decisions**

This Council Notes

- 1) The concern of many members of all Groups about the decisions of the Agenda Setting meetings that take place before meetings of both the Northern and Southern Planning Committees
- 2) That Members are not informed about the decisions of the Agenda Setting meetings and often only find out after a decision notice has been issued.
- 3) That a record of decisions taken by Agenda Setting meetings is made but not circulated to councillors nor is it published on the Council's website.
- 4) That Members cannot attend Agenda Setting Meetings
- 5) That there is no provision for Members challenge planning enforcement decisions as exist in other planning authorities.

This Council Agrees

- 1) That there is a need to review Shropshire's scheme of delegation for planning decisions in the light of controversial decisions taken by both the Northern and Southern Planning Committees when Members do not believe that their views were properly considered before decisions were taken.

This Council Resolves

- 1) That the Place Overview Committee conduct a review of Shropshire's Scheme of Delegation for planning decisions taking into account:
 - a. Schemes operated by other planning authorities
 - b. The views of Members
 - c. The views of Parish and Town Councils
- 2) That such a review and recommendations for change be considered in time for implementation at the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2023

4. Motion received from Councillor Julia Buckley and supported by Councillors Bagnall, Clarke, Connolly, Dartnall, Halliday, Moseley, Mosley, and Parsons

Annual Cost of Care Fee Review – Revised Methodology Linked to Providers' Actual Increased Costs

This Council Notes:

1. That the Annual Care Fee Review process seeks to allocate a fair uplift to cover increased costs for social care providers on a 12-monthly basis, to reflect accurate cost changes within multi-annual delivery contracts
2. The concern of many members and residents regarding the ongoing viability of non-profit organisations to deliver key adult social care provision in Shropshire, given current financial pressures
3. The appreciation and gratitude towards social care staff who work in incredibly demanding and important roles across our county, often without the full financial recompense and recognition they deserve
4. That the increase in the National Minimum Wage goes some way to redress that balance, but does also add an additional 6.6% of cost pressure to care provider organisations
5. That the current inflationary pressures also add 10.1% additional costs for heating, utilities and transport fuel
6. This would create an average cost increase for care providers in 2023-24 of 8.35%

This Council Agrees:

1. That there is a need to ensure we support and retain our non-profit providers within the sector to help deliver our services
2. That whilst there is a wide variance in types of provision with different cost models, increases could still be captured accurately
3. If we fail to set accurate cost increases we could lose several providers of vital care; so it is crucial to examine this issue
4. That a review of the mechanism for cost review uplifts is needed

This Council Resolves:

1. To review the calculation formula used to arrive at Care Fee agreements with providers.
2. A fairer mechanism could be to seek evidence from providers that accurately captures price increases and use the % increase as a base for settlement increases
3. To work with all providers, including non-profit organisations, to retain and nurture provision for our most vulnerable residents.

13 Questions from Members (Pages 431 - 432)

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

14 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

15 Exempt Minutes (Pages 433 - 436)

To approve as a correct record the exempt minutes of the previous meeting held on 15 December 2022

16 Chief Officer Pay Award 2022 (Pages 437 - 446)

Report of the Executive Director, Resources is attached

Contact: James Walton. Tel. 01743 258915