



Committee and Date

Council

30 March 2023

COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2023

**In the Council Chamber, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6ND
10.00 am**

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), Ian Nellins (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, Rachel Connolly, Gerald Dakin, Rosemary Dartnall, Mary Davies, Julian Dean, Geoff Elner, David Evans, Julia Evans, Roger Evans, Rob Gittins, Simon Harris, Nigel Hartin, Nick Hignett, Ruth Houghton, Kirstie Hurst-Knight, Mike Isherwood, Simon Jones, Duncan Kerr, Heather Kidd, Christian Lea, Hilary Luff, Nigel Lumby, Elliott Lynch, Robert Macey, Richard Marshall, Pamela Moseley, Alan Mosley, Cecilia Motley, Peggy Mullock, Kevin Pardy, Vivienne Parry, Tony Parsons, John Price, Ed Potter, Chris Schofield, Dan Thomas, Edward Towers, Kevin Turley, David Vasmer, Alex Wagner, Claire Wild, Mark Williams and Rob Wilson

85 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Steve Davenport, Paul Gill, Kate Halliday, Tracey Huffer, Richard Huffer, Mark Jones, David Minnery, Dan Morris and Paul Wynn

86 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Members were reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

With regard to Motion 4 - Annual Cost of Care Fee Review – Revised Methodology Linked to Providers' Actual Increased Costs, Councillor Ruth Houghton declared that she was a trustee of an organisation that provided care and that she would leave the room and take no part in the debate and vote.

With regard to Item 9 – Local Authority Housing Fund, Councillor Julia Buckley declared that she was a Board Member of STAR Housing.

87 Minutes

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2022, as circulated with the agenda papers, be approved and signed as a correct record.

88 **Announcements**

Chairman's Engagements

The Chairman referred Members to the list of official engagements carried out by himself and the Vice Chair since the last meeting of the Council on 15 December 2022, which had been circulated by email.

89 **Public Questions**

The Chairman advised that public questions had been received from Mike Streetly, Hannah Peters, Emma Bullard and Chris Naylor. 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, 2nd March, 2023, 10.00 am — Shropshire Council](#)

90 **Financial Strategy 2023/24 - 2027/28 and Setting the Council Tax Resolution 2023/24**

It was proposed by the Leader Councillor Lezley Picton and seconded by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate Resources, Councillor Gwilym Butler, 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 Julia Buckley proposed that the following should be added to the resolution: -

5B - Council to offer a Council Tax rebate equivalent to the rise (effectively a Council Tax freeze) to all those residents currently in receipt of benefits and living in properties whose Council Tax is banded A or B for 2023/24

This was seconded by Councillor Caroline Bagnall

On being put to a recorded vote with 27 Members voting for, 36 against and no abstentions as follows:

FOR:

Councillors Bagnall, Bentick, Boddington, Buckley, Clarke, Connolly, Dartnall, Davies, Dean, J Evans, R Evans, Hartin, Houghton, Isherwood, Kerr, Kidd, Moseley, Mosley, Pardy, Parry, Parsons, Towers, Turley, Vasmer, Wagner, M Williams and Wilson

AGAINST:

Councillors Aldcroft, Anderson, Bardsley, Barrow, Biggins, Bird, Broomhall, Burchett, Butler, Dakin, Elnor, D Evans, Gittins, Harris, Hignett, Hunt, Hurst-Knight, S Jones, Lea, Luff, Lumby, Lynch, Macey, Marshall, Motley, Mullock, Nellins, Picton, Potter, Price, Schofield, Thomas, Wild and B Williams.

The amendment fell

On being put to a recorded vote with 38 Members voting for, 25 against and no abstentions as follows:

FOR:

Councillors Aldcroft, Anderson, Bardsley, Barrow, Biggins, Bird, Broomhall, Burchett, Butler, Dakin, Elnor, D Evans, Gittins, Harris, Hignett, Hunt, Hurst-Knight, S Jones, Lea, Luff, Lumby, Lynch, Macey, Marshall, Motley, Mullock, Nellins, Picton, Potter, Price, Schofield, Thomas, Towers, Turley, Wild and B Williams.

AGAINST:

Councillors Bagnall, Bentick, Boddington, Buckley, Clarke, Connolly, Dartnall, Davies, Dean, J Evans, R Evans, Hartin, Houghton, Isherwood, Kerr, Kidd, Moseley, Mosley, Pardy, Parry, Parsons, Vasmer, Wagner, M Williams and Wilson

It was **RESOLVED**

That members:

- A. Approve a 4.99% Council tax rise (a 2.99% increase to Council Tax and a 2% increase to Adult Social Care Precept) resulting in a basic amount of council tax for a Band D property of £1,639.01 in the billing authority's area, calculated in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (section 42b).
- 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:

| Property Band | 2023/24 Charge £ |
|---------------|---------------------|
| A | 1,092.68 |
| B | 1,274.78 |
| C | 1,456.90 |
| D | 1,639.01 |
| E | 2,003.24 |
| F | 2,367.46 |
| G | 2,731.69 |
| H | 3,278.02 |

- C. Approve that a total precept of £193,577,046.
- D. Approve the formal council tax resolution as set out in Appendix 4 to determine the levels of Council Tax for Shropshire Council for 2023/24.
- E. Approve the 2023/24 budget of £645.741m outlined in the Budget Book at Appendix 3.
- F. Note the key changes to the MTFS as outlined in Appendix 1 since the December update of the MTFS and the advice relating to those changes, in particular
- The public consultation and related findings
 - The Alternative Budget process and findings
 - The Financial Settlement and implications for the Council
 - The Collection Fund outturn and the impact on next year
 - The latest budget forecast for the current year and the resulting likely impact on reserves in this year and next (also included in the MTFS assumptions)
- G. Note the revised funding gap for the years 2024/25 to 2027/28.
- H. 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.
- I. Approve the recommended level of general fund balances to support the 2023/24 revenue budget of £40.458m, noting that the projected balance is presently significantly below this for 2023/24.
- J. Note the projected recommended level of general reserves for the following four years at £33.278m in 2024/25, £33.096m in 2025/26, £32.366m in 2026/27 and £32.875m in 2027/28.
- K. 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.
- L. Agree the adoption of the Capital Strategy 2022/23 – 2027/28 attached as Appendix 2.
- M. Note the prioritised capital schemes identified at Appendix 2 section 8 including the need to identify and confirm funding sources for these schemes.
- N. Agree the Capital Programme as set out in Appendix 2 section 6 and Annex B to the Capital Strategy.
- O. Agree the Pay and Rewards Policy for all Council staff for 2023/24 as set out in Appendix 5.

91 Fees and Charges 2023/24

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate Resources, Councillor Gwilym Butler, and seconded by Councillor Chris Schofield 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.

RESOLVED:

That members:

1. note the breakdown of the total income for 2022/23 and 2023/24 and in particular that the proposed 2023/24 charges for discretionary services represent £45.052m of the £86.918m of income derived from Fees and Charges.
2. approve the charges for 2023/24 as detailed in Appendix 3 to be implemented from 1 April 2023.
3. 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.
4. Revise housing rents as follows (subject to restrictions or exemptions identified in the Welfare Reform and Work Bill):
 - i. Social Housing rents for 2023/24 are increased by 7% from 3rd April 2023.
 - ii. Affordable rents for 2023/24 are increased by 7% from 3rd April 2023
 - 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. For 2023/24 the increase is capped at 7% in line with the cap imposed on social housing rents.
 - iv. Service charges continue to be set based on actual cost.

92 Treasury Strategy 2023/24

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate Resources, Councillor Gwilym Butler, and seconded by Councillor Nick Bardsley 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.

RESOLVED:

That Full Council

- i. Approve, with any comments, the Treasury Strategy for 2023/24, set out in appendix 1 (parts 1-3).
- ii. Approve, with any comments, the Investment Strategy, set out in Appendix 1 (part 4) in accordance with the DLUHC Guidance on Local Government Investments.
- iii. Approve, with any comments, the Prudential Indicators, set out in Appendix 1 (part 5), in accordance with the Local Government Act 2003.
- iv. Approve, with any comments, the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement, set out in Appendix 1 (part 6).
- v. 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.
- vi. Authorise the Section 151 Officer to use other Foreign Banks which meet Link's creditworthiness policy as required.
- vii. Authorise the Section 151 Officer to progress and finalise the restatement and amendment of Cornovii Development Ltd loan agreements.

93 Local Authority Housing Fund

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Growth, Regeneration and Housing, Councillor Dean Carroll, and seconded by Councillor Roy Aldcroft 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.

RESOLVED:

That Members

1. Agree to enter into the MoU with DLUHC, on the basis that the Council will use best endeavours to acquire the full target of dwellings to which the allocation of grant funding relates and delegates authority to the Executive Director of Resources to agree, sign and return the MoU by the deadline of 15 March 2023.
2. Approve that capital investment of up to £0.750m of Section 106 commuted sums and prudential borrowing of up to £3.2m in the HRA is used to match fund the DLUHC grant funding of £3.2m to acquire up to 30 dwellings into the HRA.
3. Delegate authority to the Executive Director of Resources, the Assistant Director of Homes and Communities, and Head of Property and Development to approve a final business case and financial appraisals setting out the financial arrangements to support the acquisitions of dwellings into the HRA.
4. Delegate to the Head of Property and Development, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Growth, Regeneration and Housing, the authority to agree and complete appropriate freehold acquisitions.

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

The Chairman Councillor Vince Hunt advised the meeting that 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 was recommended to approve the co-option of Jim Arnold to the Council's Audit Committee.

It was proposed by the Chair of the Audit Committee, Councillor Brian Williams and seconded by Councillor Simon Harris and duly **RESOLVED**:

That Jim Arnold be appointed as an Independent co-opted member of the Audit Committee

95 **Changes to Committee Membership**

It was proposed by the Chairman Councillor Vince Hunt, and seconded by the Vice Chairman Councillor Brian Williams that the following amendments to committee membership be agreed

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

Councillor Rachel Connolly to replace Councillor Kevin Parry as a substitute member of the Southern Planning Committee

RESOLVED:

That

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

Councillor Rachel Connolly to replace Councillor Kevin Parry as a substitute member of the Southern Planning Committee

96 **Motions**

The following motion was received from Councillor Julian Dean and 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.

Councillor Julia Evans seconded the motion

By way of amendment Councillor Rosemary Dartnall proposed that

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

Council resolves to:

Confirm that the existing bus station location remains an option for an improved bus station with facilities for passengers and drivers, of a standard likely to increase public transport use across Shropshire, in accordance with our shared ambition for transport modal shift.

Make explicit to the those developing the delayed BTP Movement Strategy that the revised Smithfield Riverside Strategic Development Framework requirement for the movement strategy to “Consider the reconfiguration or relocation of the existing bus station” still stands.

Clarify that the brief for the Smithfield Riverside masterplan tender should follow the BTP Movement Strategy, as was envisaged by the original timeline which would have seen the Movement Strategy already published and, which could include an improved bus station at the existing location.

Ensure that throughout all stages of the Smithfield Riverside development, provision of a Shrewsbury central bus interchange must be provided, as the minimum requirement, for bus passengers and drivers.

Councillor Dean indicated that he would accept the amendment.

By way of amendment Councillor Dean Carroll proposed

This Council resolves:

To reaffirm its commitment to including a bus interchange within the Riverside/Smithfield Road redevelopment site in replacement of the existing bus station to ensure retention of excellent links between bus and rail and transport and Shrewsbury Town Centre.

This was seconded by Councillor Lezley Picton

On taking a vote the amendment was supported and it was **RESOLVED:**

This Council resolves:

To reaffirm its commitment to including a bus interchange within the Riverside/Smithfield Road redevelopment site in replacement of the existing bus station to ensure retention of excellent links between bus and rail and transport and Shrewsbury Town Centre

The following motion was 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

Councillor Andy Boddington seconded the motion

Following advice from the Monitoring Officer Councillor Vasmer altered the motion to the following: -

Council therefore:

- Calls on the Electoral Registration/Returning Officer to arrange a presentation to Members to explain his intentions regarding a communications strategy to ensure that every effort is made to communicate these new requirements, to avoid any resident being disenfranchised. Such a presentation should include reference to electoral registration letters and how the need to show voter ID and to apply for a Voter Identity Certificate will be highlighted on relevant 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

On taking a vote the motion was not supported

The following motion was 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

Councillor Tony Parsons seconded the motion

On taking a vote the motion was not supported.

The following motion received from Councillor Julia Buckley and supported by Councillors Caroline Bagnall, Ted Clarke, Rachel Connolly, Rosemary Dartnall, Kate Halliday, Pam Moseley, Alan Mosley, and Tony 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.

Councillor Rachel Connolly seconded the motion.

By way of amendment Councillor Cecilia Motley proposed that

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 appreciation and gratitude towards social care staff who work in incredibly demanding and important roles across our county often without the financial recompense and recognition they deserve

This Council Agrees:

1. That there is a need to ensure we support and retain our valued providers within the sector to help deliver our services. To that end we will support a market where demands are more aligned to strategies such as the Shropshire Plan and supporting people as appropriate to remain at home.
2. That the work put into the Fair Cost of Care exercise has provided the Council with a valuable template for determining future regular funding rounds, whilst recognising that the Cost of Care policy places further pressure on the Council's resources.

This Council Resolves:

1. To work with all providers, including non-profit organisations, to retain and nurture appropriate provision for our most vulnerable residents
2. Further, to work with providers to redesign the domiciliary care market to ensure growth, flexibility and coverage; and consideration of a 'rural rate'.
3. To recognise the complication of the time lag using the previous year's costings, and impact of inflation, and how this has added additional pressure where the discrepancy is unusually high such as in the 2023/24 negotiations. This should be given due consideration, and where possible, costs calculated as an average of the 2 years, and to also take account of inflation projections into the future.

Councillor Buckley indicated that she would accept the amendment and on taking a vote it was **RESOLVED:**

This this Council Resolves:

1. To work with all providers, including non-profit organisations, to retain and nurture appropriate provision for our most vulnerable residents
2. Further, to work with providers to redesign the domiciliary care market to ensure growth, flexibility and coverage; and consideration of a 'rural rate'.
3. To recognise the complication of the time lag using the previous year's costings, and impact of inflation, and how this has added additional pressure where the discrepancy is unusually high such as in the 2023/24 negotiations. This should be given due consideration, and where possible, costs calculated as an average of the 2 years, and to also take account of inflation projections into the future.

97 Questions from Members

The Speaker 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 Roy Aldcroft and answered by the Portfolio Holder for Highways and Regulatory Services in relation to mitigations to address the impact of HS2 works on the parish of Woore, By way of supplementary question Councillor Aldcroft asked for an update on any recent meetings the Council had had with HS2. The Portfolio Holder for Highways and Regulatory Services that the Council had and would continue to work closely with Woore Parish Council. He stated that Shropshire Council was only a consultative authority as the primary authority was Staffordshire but that during the process to date the Council had negotiated 32 mitigations worth in the region £114,000.00 worth of works to be put in place.

Received from Councillor Ruth Houghton and answered by the Portfolio Holder for Culture and Digital in relation to help for leisure centres with sustainability plans. By way of supplementary question Councillor Houghton asked for information around the timescales for the feasibility plan and the carbon reduction plans. The Portfolio Holder for Culture and Digital advised her that the plans would take some time to formulate and that the Council was looking at different management options for leisure centres. He added that currently it was not known what government grants and subsidies would be available.

Councillor Roger Evans stated that he had submitted an urgent question. The Chairman advised the meeting that the Chief Executive had concluded that the question was not urgent, that he agreed with that assessment and that he would not therefore be taking it. He further advised that a response to the question would be given at the forthcoming meeting of Cabinet.

98 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 item

99 **Exempt Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the Exempt Minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2022, as circulated with the agenda papers, be approved, and signed as a correct record

100 **Chief Officer Pay Award 2022**

It was proposed by the Leader Councillor Lezley Picton and seconded by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate Resources, Councillor Gwilym Butler, that the exempt 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.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved

Signed (Chairman)

Date: