



Shropshire Council
Legal and Democratic Services
Shirehall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
SY2 6ND

Date: Tuesday, 13 February 2024

Committee: Cabinet

Date: Wednesday, 21 February 2024

Time: 10.30 am

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

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

There will be some access to the meeting room for members of the press and public, but this will be limited. If you wish to attend the meeting please email democracy@shropshire.gov.uk to check that 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

Members of Cabinet

Lezley Picton (Leader)

Cecilia Motley

Ian Nellins

Robert Macey

Gwilym Butler

Dean Carroll

Kirstie Hurst-Knight

Mark Jones

Dan Morris

Chris Schofield

Your Committee Officer is:

Ashley Kendrick Democratic Services Officer

Tel: 01743 250893

Email: ashley.kendrick@shropshire.gov.uk



AGENDA

1 Apologies for Absence

2 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.

3 Minutes (Pages 1 - 10)

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2024.

4 Public Question Time

To receive any questions from members of the public, notice of which has been given in accordance with Procedure Rule 14. Deadline for notification is not later than 5.00 pm on Thursday 15 February 2024.

5 Member Question Time

To receive any questions from Members of the Council. Deadline for notification is not later than 5.00 pm on Thursday 15 February 2024.

6 Scrutiny Items

7 Response to report of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Rural Proofing in Health and Care

Lead Member – Councillor Cecilia Motley – Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Public Health

Report of Rachel Robinson, Executive Director of Health

REPORT TO FOLLOW

8 Financial Strategy 2024/25 - 2028/29

Lead Member – Councillor Gwilym Butler – Portfolio Holder for Finance, Corporate Resources and Communities

Report of James Walton – Executive Director of Resources

REPORT TO FOLLOW

9 Treasury Strategy 2024/25

Lead Member – Councillor Gwilym Butler – Portfolio Holder for Finance, Corporate Resources and Communities

Report of James Walton – Executive Director of Resources

REPORT TO FOLLOW

10 Fees and Charges 2024/25

Lead Member – Councillor Gwilym Butler – Portfolio Holder for Finance, Corporate Resources and Communities

Report of James Walton – Executive Director of Resources

REPORT TO FOLLOW

11 Estimated Collection Fund Outturn For 2023/2024 (Pages 11 - 18)

Lead Member – Councillor Gwilym Butler – Portfolio Holder for Finance, Corporate Resources and Communities

Report of James Walton – Executive Director of Resources

12 Treasury Management Update Quarter 3 2023/24 (Pages 19 - 42)

Lead Member – Councillor Gwilym Butler – Portfolio Holder for Finance, Corporate Resources and Communities

Report of James Walton – Executive Director of Resources

13 Financial Monitoring Report Quarter 3 2023/24 (Pages 43 - 86)

Lead Member – Councillor Gwilym Butler – Portfolio Holder for Finance, Corporate Resources and Communities

Report of James Walton – Executive Director of Resources

14 Performance Monitoring Report Quarter 3 2023/24 (Pages 87 - 96)

Lead Member – Councillor Rob Macey – Portfolio Holder for Culture and Digital

Report of James Walton – Executive Director of Resources

15 Draft Independent Living and Specialist Accommodation Strategy (Pages 97 - 178)

Lead Member – Councillor Dean Carroll – Portfolio Holder for Housing and Assets

Report of Mark Barrow, Executive Director of Place

16 Determination of Admission Arrangements 2025/26 (Pages 179 - 200)

Lead Member – Councillor Kirstie Hurst-Knight – Portfolio Holder for Children and Education

Report of Tanya Miles – Executive Director of People

17 Shropshire Schools Funding Formula 2024-25 (Pages 201 - 206)

Lead Member – Councillor Kirstie Hurst-Knight – Portfolio Holder for Children and Education

Report of Tanya Miles – Executive Director of People

18 Severn Valley Water Management Scheme Update (Pages 207 - 214)

Lead Member – Councillor Ian Nellins, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, Environment and Transport

Report of Mark Barrow, Executive Director of Place

19 Date of Next Meeting

To note that the next meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 13 March 2024.



Committee and Date

Cabinet

21 February 2024

CABINET

Minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2024

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

Responsible Officer: Ashley Kendrick

Email: ashley.kendrick@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 250893

Present

Councillor Lezley Picton (Chairman)

Councillors Cecilia Motley, Ian Nellins, Robert Macey, Gwilym Butler, Dean Carroll, Kirstie Hurst-Knight, Mark Jones, Dan Morris and Chris Schofield

93 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies.

94 Disclosable Interests

No declarations of interest were received.

95 Minutes

RESOLVED:

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2023 as an accurate record.

96 Public Question Time

Mike Sargeant, in relation to complaints regarding the Council's Planning Function. A response was provided by the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulatory Services.

Jamie Russell, in relation to the North West Relief Road. A response was provided by the Portfolio Holder for Highways.

David Kilby, in relation to the Sports Village. A response was provided by the Portfolio Holder for Culture and Digital.

Frank Oldaker, in relation to North West Relief Road planning. A response was provided by the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulatory Services.

The full questions and the responses provided to them are available from the public question item on the web page for the meeting - [Public Questions - Responses 17124.pdf \(shropshire.gov.uk\)](#)

97 Member Question Time

One members' question had been received from Councillor Julia Buckley, in relation to the Sports Village transformation. By way of supplementary question, Councillor Buckley sought reassurance that Cabinet were confident that there were no covenants at the Quarry site, and clarity on how residents would access the Sports Village. The Portfolio Holder for Culture and Digital confirmed the previous answer with regards to covenants and advised that there would be enhanced public transport to the facility.

The question and response are available from [Member Questions - Responses 17124.pdf \(shropshire.gov.uk\)](#)

98 Rural Proofing in Health and Care - Report of the Health & Scrutiny Committee

The Chair of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Chair of the Rural Proofing Task and Finish Group introduced the report, which set out the Group's findings and recommendations, and had been brought before Cabinet for adoption.

Members had been impressed with the level of engagement with partners in care and thanks were given to all members and officers for their expertise involved to ensure the best outcome for residents. Particular thanks were given to Sophie Foster, Overview and Scrutiny Officer, for co-ordinating meetings and capturing the input of members.

Members noted that their investigation looked at the options to effectively 'rural proof' the amendment or introduction of strategies, plans, policies and service design and provision in health and care in Shropshire which have been adopted by the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It would then be forwarded to the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 24 January 2024.

Cabinet welcomed the report and gave thanks for the level of detail contained. The Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Public Health would bring the report to the Health and Wellbeing Board together with the ICP and ICB for them to adopt.

Following queries raised on a number of recommendations, it was:

RESOLVED:

To bring a report to the next meeting of Cabinet to respond to the recommendations contained within the Task and Finish Group's report.

99 Alternative Budget Proposals 2024/25

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Corporate Resources and Communities introduced the report which covered the discussion of the alternative budget proposals which took place at the Transformation and Improvement Oversight and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 10 January in line with that report.

Members noted that the report to overview and scrutiny committee identified several common themes; notably arrangements to ensure value for money through all contracts let by or managed by the Council. The discussion in scrutiny committee identified that

looking to reduce the carbon footprint of the Council by having this as a priority within all procurement and contracting activities would be a key area to explore further in the coming months as the budget for 2024/25 and the MTF5 for 24/25-28/29 are agreed and put into place.

Members raised concerns that some of the alternative budget proposals would not be viable such as insourcing, due to national issues with recruitment in certain areas and the reduced ability to receive similar economies of scale when using contractors; the sale of the multi-agency hub to fund the refurbishment of Shirehall, as it was felt that insufficient funds would be received; and that there would be significant unbudgeted costs associated with breaking contracts, purchasing of residential properties and increased costs to support additional staffing if they were to be insourced.

It was felt that insufficient information had been provided to opposition leaders; however, it was stated that the budget should continually be looked at, with Cabinet already considering the budget for the next financial year and beyond.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet:

1. Noted the discussion described that took place in the Transformation and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.
2. Considered the reduction of carbon emissions in the supply chain as a potential spending reduction proposal and resolved to make any appropriate amendments considered necessary to the budget proposals to be presented to Full Council on 29 February 2024.

100 Shrewsbury Movement & Public Realm Strategy

The Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, Environment and Transport presented the report which sought approval to commence formal consultation for a minimum period of eight weeks for the final draft of the Movement and Public Space Strategy for Shrewsbury. This strategy would ensure a cohesive, transformative approach to movement and public space across the town.

Members welcomed the report and acknowledged the benefits of providing an integrated transport system and greater active travel options, as well as providing a reduction in vehicular emissions and improvements to air quality across the town, contributing to a cleaner, safer environment.

Members voiced their enthusiasm to be involved in the delivery of the strategy.

Queries were raised with regards to the engagement of younger residents, and disabled access within the town. In response, the Portfolio Holder advised that a team would be visiting the Shrewsbury Colleges group, and disabled access would be looked at as a priority. It was also acknowledged that the park and ride offer should be increased in frequency and the length of time it is in operation.

RESOLVED:

That:

1. Cabinet agreed that the draft Movement and Public Space Strategy for Shrewsbury be subject to public consultation for a period of eight weeks, commencing on Friday 26 January 2024, with the final terms of the consultation being approved by the Executive Director of Place in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, Environment and Transport.
2. Cabinet agreed that, following the conclusion of the public consultation, a further report will be presented to Cabinet for final approval of the Movement and Public Space Strategy for Shrewsbury, and authorises the Executive Director of Place, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, Environment and Transport, to develop a delivery plan to sit aside the Strategy as a working document and be subject to periodic review.

101 Parking Tariffs, Operations & Development

The Portfolio Holder for Highways presented the report which sought approval to introduce new and additional tariffs in Shropshire (but mainly in Shrewsbury), preparation of a new Council Parking Strategy, a review of Parking Services’ structure and preparation of a car park Maintenance and Improvement Plan.

Members were informed that the increase in fees were not part of the budget saving as any revenue must go back into the parking budget.

Concern was expressed that no consultation had taken place and that the increases were large, especially with regards to season tickets. Other parking options such as the park and ride ceased operating at 6pm and the proposals would see charges in the town extend until 8pm. It was felt that this proposal did not support the Shrewsbury Movement and Public Realm Strategy which had just been approved. It was suggested that this item be deferred until consultation had taken place.

RESOLVED:

To agree the recommendations 1-7 as set out in the report as follows:

Recommendation 1 (In twelve parts)

3.1 Cabinet is recommended to approve the increases set out for each of the twelve tariffs set out in Table A below, to be introduced by notice under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (“RTRA”).

3.2 Table A

Recommendation	CURRENT BAND	CURRENT TARIFF (Per Hour)	NEW TARIFF (Per Hour)	LOCATION	SUNDAY TARIFF

1a	1	£2.80	£3.60	Shrewsbury On-Street	Full
1b	2	£2.00	£2.80	Bridge St, St. Austins St, The Quarry	Full
1c	2	£2.00	£2.00	Raven Meadows	£2.00 flat fee
1d	3	£1.20	£1.60	St. Julians Friars	Full
1e	4	80p	£1.20	Frankwell – Main, Riverside and Quay	Half
1f	5/4	60p/80p	£1.00	Abbey Foregate, Bridgnorth, Ludlow On-Street (Blue), Much Wenlock	Half
1g	2	£2.00	£2.20	Ludlow On-Street (Red)	Full
1h	3	£1.20	£1.40	Ellesmere Mereside	Full
1i	3	£1.20	£1.40	Bridgnorth, Ludlow, Oswestry, Ellesmere	Half
1j	5	60p	80p	Whitchurch, Ludlow, Market Drayton, Much Wenlock, Church Stretton	Half
1k	6	40p	60p	All the above plus Wem and Prees Heath	Half
1l	7	Free	Free	All other car parks	-

Recommendation 2 (In five parts)

3.3 Cabinet is recommended to approve the associated increases set out for each of the five season ticket tariffs set out in Table B below, to be introduced by notice under the RTRA 1984.

3.4 Table B

Recommendation	CURRENT BAND	CURRENT TARIFF (Per Annum)	NEW TARIFF (Per Annum)	LOCATION EXAMPLES
2a	3	£512	£681	St Julians Friars
2b	4	£640	£960	Frankwell
2c	5	£480/£640	£800	Abbey Foregate, Bridgnorth
2d	5	£480	£640	Whitchurch, Church Stretton
2e	6	£320	£480	Ludlow, Oswestry, Market Drayton

Recommendation 3 (In nine parts)

3.5 Cabinet is recommended to approve the associated increases set out for each of the nine resident permit tariffs set out in Table C below, to be introduced by notice under the RTRA 1984.

3.6 Table C

Recommendation	CURRENT BAND	CURRENT TARIFF (Per Annum)	NEW TARIFF (Per Annum)	LOCATION EXAMPLES
Shrewsbury Car Parks				
3a	3/4	£512	£768	Frankwell (Band 4), St Julians Friars though Band 3 has been linked to Band 4 for permits only
3b	5	£384	£640	Abbey Foregate, Shire Hall Overflow
Shropshire Car Parks				
3c		£100	£110	Ludlow On-Street
3d		£50	£58	Bridgnorth On-Street
3e	4	£512	£640	Back Lane, Much Wenlock
3f	5	£384	£512	All other locations
3g	6	£256	£384	
3h	Special	£448	£560	Riverside Bridgnorth
3i	Special	£192	£288	Prees Heath

Recommendation 4– (In 4 parts)

3.7 Cabinet is requested to approve advertisement of Traffic Regulation Orders for consultation on each of the four additional items for Shrewsbury town shown in Table D and the subsequent consideration of objections and making of the Orders if appropriate in accordance with the delegation to the Assistant Director for Highways set out in Part 8 of the Council's Constitution.

3.8 Table D

Recommendation Number	Description	Detail
4a	Remove all capped rates in Shrewsbury i.e. Abbey Foregate, Frankwell and Raven Meadows	From maximum fee of 8 hours to hourly charge for all hours
4b	Introduce evening tariffs to Shrewsbury on-street parking	From 8.00am/6.00pm to 8.00am/8.00pm.

	places	
4c	Introduce evening tariffs to Bridge Street, St Austins Street and The Quarry car parks	From 8.00am/6.00pm to 8.00am/8.00pm.
4d	Introduce evening tariffs to Frankwell car parks	From 8.00am/6.00pm to 8.00am/8.00pm.

Recommendation 5 – Parking Asset Improvement Plan (P.A.I.P)

3.9 Cabinet is requested to approve that a Parking Asset Improvement Plan be prepared immediately.

Recommendation 6 – Parking Service Review

3.10 Cabinet is requested to approve a review of the role, structure and staff in the Parking Services operation.

Recommendation 7 – Parking Strategy

3.11 Cabinet is requested to approve that a new Parking Strategy be developed for Member approval in principle, prior to non-statutory public consultation.

102 Whitchurch Civic Centre and Library - RAAC

It was agreed to bring forward item 12 to this point in the meeting.

The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Assets introduced the report which provided an update on the actions taken to deal with the identified Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) at Whitchurch Civic Centre and Library, and cease the use of the building on the grounds of safety and recommended further work on the potential redevelopment of the site. It also recommended interim measures for the library service and community use provision.

With permission of the Leader, local members were invited to speak. They expressed the importance of the facility in the town, which was run for the benefit of the community.

Members were reassured that no further action would be taken without public consultation, however the priority was to minimise the risk to users of the building.

It was suggested that the Council worked with the local MP on submitting a bid for Levelling Up 3; however Members were advised that Levelling Up 3 was for existing applications only. The Portfolio Holder welcomed the role that the MP was playing in meeting the Permanent Secretary of State, supported this action and advised the outcome of that would inform their next steps in lobbying government.

Members were informed that without securing external funding, the building was beyond economic repair.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet noted the key surveys, investigations and report relating to the condition of the Civic Centre and the presence of RAAC, confirming that the building is beyond economic repair and delegated authority to the Assistant Director Commercial Services to

- i) Arrange for the building to be decommissioned and to remain permanently closed due to its critical condition.
- ii) Set up a working group to include Shropshire Council officers, local Shropshire Councillors and Whitchurch Town Council to finalise the options appraisal for the future of the site and bring forward business cases for the options 1 to 6 listed in paragraph 7.12 to include appropriate surveys, appraisals, assessments and designs, subject to further approval by Cabinet/Council.
- iii) Provide and deliver an interim solution to library and community service provision. Continue to develop the options appraisal and business cases to progress next steps library and customer transformation in Whitchurch.
- iv) Work with Whitchurch Town Council in their identification of new civic accommodation.
- v) Consult with Whitchurch Town Council and the local community ahead of any final decisions on the future of the site.

103 Cambrian Railway Building Oswestry - Request for Capital Funding to Match UKSPF Grant Offer

It was agreed that item 13 would be brought forward to this part in the meeting.

The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Assets introduced the report which sought Cabinet authority to proceed with a capital project to restore the exterior of the Cambrian Railway Building in Oswestry, a Grade 2 listed building in the ownership of the Council. The cost is estimated at £900,357 and a UKSPF bid has secured an offer of 70% but now requires 30% match funding from the Council's capital programme.

Members were in support of the project and felt that this was an iconic building which should be restored.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet:

1. Delegated authority to the Executive Director for Resources to enter into an Agreement with the UKSPF to restore the exterior of the building and to secure £630,250 in grant aid.
2. Approved match funding of £270,107 of capital to be financed through borrowing.

3. Provided Authority to Proceed with the project to restore the exterior of the Cambrian Railway Building in Oswestry and requested that the capital programme is updated to reflect Cabinet approval of this report, within the capital programme being approved by Council on 29 February 2024.
4. Delegated authority to the Executive Director for Place to proceed with the delivery of the exterior restoration including listed building consent, detailed design, tendering of works and construction.
5. Once the Conservation Management Plan and surveys are complete a business case for the re-use of the Cambrian Building is brought back to the Cabinet for review and consideration of any additional investment required to restore the interior of the building and make it suitable for re-use.

104 Sports Village Transformation

The Portfolio Holder for Culture and Digital introduced the report which sought Cabinet approval to undertake an 8-week public consultation on development proposals including a new swimming and fitness centre based at the Shrewsbury Sports Village (SSV) on Sundorne Road, Shrewsbury.

Concern was expressed that the report refers to the Quarry “site” and it was felt that a swimming and leisure facility was vital in the town centre, in line with the vision for Shrewsbury. The importance of a town centre facility was acknowledged; however it was confirmed that there was a need for a competition pool and that due to insufficient parking and the flooding risks, the Quarry was not suitable. It was further confirmed that no decision had been made as to the future of the Quarry site, but that SSV would be prioritised until a decision has been made with regards to the facilities that can be afforded at the Quarry. Members were reminded that possibilities for swimming provision had previously been investigated and that any investment should be welcomed.

Members welcomed the sustainability of the proposals and that this would be a positive move for the swimming community.

In response to a query, the Portfolio Holder advised that the new facility would serve the whole of the county and would accommodate a variety of needs, such as Changing Places facilities. It would provide adequate parking facilities as well as being accessible via public transport.

Members were thanked for their work in getting the project to this point, and specific thanks were given to Peter Gilbertson, Senior Project Management Officer.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet:

1. Confirmed that the previous decision made in December 2020 to develop a dual split site proposal, with new pools being developed at both the Quarry and SSV, is currently unaffordable and development of SSV needs to be prioritised, with a full

assessment being undertaken in due course on the future options for the Quarry site.

- 2. Authorised an 8-week public consultation on the development proposals for SSV, including a competition standard pool and studio pool and improvements to the fitness centre.
- 3. Agreed that once the public consultation is completed, the results are to be reported back to Cabinet and then Full Council for a decision on whether to amend the proposals and/ or to proceed with the capital funding for the design and construction of the SSV facilities.

105 Healthier Weight Strategy

The Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Public Health introduced the report which sought Cabinet approval of the Healthier Weight Strategy for Shropshire 2023 to 2028, attached as appendix 1, which was endorsed by the Health and Wellbeing Board at its meeting on 16th November 2023.

Members noted that the ambition is to prevent obesity and manage health from a preventative approach from birth. The Strategy had been informed by the feedback received from a recent consultation exercise.

A request was received to focus on mental health as well as physical health.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet approved the adoption and implementation of the Healthier Weight Strategy for Shropshire 2023 to 2028 (Appendix A)

106 Date of Next Meeting

Members noted that the next meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 21 February 2024.

Signed (Chairman)

Date:



Committee and Date

Cabinet
21st February 2024

Item

Public



Estimated Collection Fund Outturn for 2023/24

Responsible Officer:	James Walton		
email:	james.walton@shropshire.gov.uk	Tel:	01743 258915
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	Cllr Gwilym Butler, Finance, Corporate Resources and Communities		

1. Synopsis

This report sets out the estimated Collection Fund surpluses/deficits for 2023/24 as at 15th January 2024 for Council Tax and 31st January 2024 for Non-Domestic Rates for the year ending 31st March 24 and respective shares notifiable to the major precepting authorities.

2. Executive Summary

2.1. Each year, the council plans to collect around £250m of business rates and council tax. The Council is required by statute to maintain a Collection Fund separate from the General Fund of the Council to maintain transparency and accountability in this area. This is especially important as the Council collects council tax on behalf of other bodies as well (e.g. the Fire Service, and town and parish councils). Collection is undertaken by a dedicated revenues team.

2.2. For Shropshire Council, estimates are made each year of the expected collection rates for Council Tax and Business Rates, and in recent years these rates have taken account of the pandemic and more recently the cost of living crisis. Nevertheless, Local Authorities and the services they provide have never been more reliant on the collection of local taxation to provide funding for the essential interventions needed for the people, communities and businesses we serve.

2.3. The Collection Fund estimated deficits for the year ending 31st March 2024 are:

- A. Overall council tax deficit of £1.016m (Council's share is £0.835m). Assumed levels of billing and collection were extended for 2023/24. Collection rates have remained strong, but the rate of new properties entering the taxbase is below previous estimates, causing collection to be below anticipated levels.
 - B. Overall business rates deficit of £5.269m (Council's share is £2.777m). The current valuation list setting out the levels of business rates to be levied against business premises was set out in 2023. In recent years the cost of living crises and inflationary pressures have led to a larger number of businesses than before seeking to challenge the valuation levels for their premises. The level of valuation challenges requires that provisions for loss of income must be set up, which is causing the majority of the impact on the business rates collection fund. Valuations which are reduced will lower the collectible amount, and be reflected in future billing. Valuations which are upheld will remain collectible at current levels and be included in collection in the coming year.
- 2.4. The inclusion of the overall estimated deficit for Council Tax and NDR in the Council's 2024/25 budget reduces the available funding for the Council. This is consistent with the treatment of the Collection Fund Balance in previous years, where surpluses have been added to reserves or reduced savings targets, and deficit have been an additional charge into budgets.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. To note the overall Collection Fund estimated deficit of £6.285m for the year ending 31st March 2024, comprised of an estimated deficit of £1.016m for Council Tax and an estimated deficit of £5.269m for Non-Domestic Rates (NDR), and the reasons for this.
- 3.2. To note the distribution of the Collection Fund estimated deficit for Council Tax and NDR to the major/relevant precepting authorities and the Secretary of State.
- 3.3. To note Shropshire Council's share of the overall estimated deficit of £3.612m, comprised of an estimated deficit of £0.835m for Council Tax and an estimated deficit of £2.777m for NDR.
- 3.4. To note the inclusion of Shropshire Council's share of the overall estimated deficit for Council Tax and NDR in the 2024/25 budget.

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1. Estimation of the Council Tax Collection Fund surplus or deficit is a well understood process and any potential for error is mitigated to a large extent by adhering to the relevant legislation. However, small variations in collection rate or changes in the taxbase can have a significant financial impact due to the magnitude of the sums involved.

- 4.2. Estimation of the Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) Collection Fund surplus or deficit can be affected by changes in rateable values and the level of appeals. A degree of variance on the Collection Fund due to changes in the appeals provision should be anticipated.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. Council Tax and NDR precepts are fixed prior to the start of the financial year. Any variations to these amounts are realised through the Collection Fund. The estimated Collection Fund Outturn projects the variation for the financial year end and any surplus or deficit is included in the following year's budget. Variations in collection rate and changes in the taxbase for Council Tax and rateable values for NDR will have an impact on the Collection Fund and therefore affect the amount available to be distributed.

Council Tax

- 5.2. The forecast of the Council Tax Collection Fund Balance for the year ending 31st March 2024 shows a forecast deficit of £1.016m based on figures as at 15th January 2024. This is comprised of an in year estimated deficit of £0.391m and an additional deficit of £0.625m in the outturn position from the previous financial year. The estimated deficit on the Council Tax Collection Fund is due to an increase in the contribution to the bad debt provision.
- 5.3. The year end estimated deficit is distributed to the major precepting authorities in proportion to the current year demands and precepts on the Collection Fund. The percentages are likely to change each year due to different inflationary adjustments being applied by the major precepting authorities.
- 5.4. The amount incorporated into the Council's 2024/25 budget in relation to the Council Tax Collection Fund deficit is £0.835m. This is comprised of an in year estimated deficit of £0.322m and a deficit of £0.513m from the previous year's actual Council Tax Collection Fund.
- 5.5. The detailed determination of the estimated Council Tax Collection Fund deficit for 2023/24 is shown in Appendix A and the allocation of the estimated deficit to each of the major precepting authorities is summarised in Table 1 in Appendix C.

Non-Domestic Rates (NDR)

- 5.6. The forecast of the Non-Domestic Rates Collection Fund Balance for the year ending 31st March 2024 shows a forecast deficit of £5.269m based on figures as at 31st January 2024. This is comprised of an in year estimated deficit of £0.432m and an additional deficit of £4.837m in the outturn position from the previous financial year.
- 5.7. The forecast deficit on the Non-Domestic Rates Collection Fund is attributable to the increase in the appeals provision for appeals raised against the 2017 rating list prior to the introduction of the new rating list in 2023.

- 5.8. The year end estimated deficit is distributed to the Secretary of State and relevant precepting authorities in proportion to the current year demands and NDR payments on the Collection Fund. The percentages are fixed in accordance with The Non-Domestic Rating (Rates Retention) Regulations 2013.
- 5.9. An exception to this distribution method exists, however, in relation to Business Rates income from renewable energy projects. This income is retained in full by the Billing Authority and as such the income is disregarded from calculations in the rates retention scheme. In 2022/23 income from Renewable Energy Schemes (RES) was £1.149m and is forecast to be £1.333m in 2023/24. The 2023/24 Business Rates Collection Fund estimate includes a deficit of £0.383m to be retained in full by Shropshire Council as the billing authority.
- 5.10. The amount incorporated into the Council's 2024/25 budget in relation to the Business Rates Collection Fund is a deficit of £2.777m. This is comprised of an in year estimated deficit of £0.407m and a deficit of £2.370m from the previous year's actual Business Rates Collection Fund.
- 5.11. The detailed determination of the estimated Business Rates Collection Fund deficit for 2023/24 is shown in Appendix B and the allocation of the estimated deficit to the Secretary of State and the relevant precepting authorities is summarised in Table 1 in Appendix C.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.1. The estimated Collection Fund Outturn report and recommendations have no direct effect on climate change.
- 6.2. NDR receipts received from renewable energy schemes (RES) are retained in full by the Council. As a result of this a dedicated base budget was built in from 2022/23 to support climate change initiatives.

7. Background

- 7.1. As a Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) Billing Authority the Council is required by legislation to estimate the surplus or deficit for each financial year on the Collection Fund.
- 7.2. Council Tax and NDR precepts from the Collection Fund are fixed prior to the start of a financial year and any variations from this realised through the Collection Fund in year are distributed in the following two financial years (based on estimates in the following year and actuals in the subsequent year).
- 7.3. The Collection Fund is a statutory fund separate from the General Fund of the Council. The Collection Fund accounts independently for:
 - Income into the Fund: The Fund is credited with the amount of receipts of Council Tax and NDR it collects.

- Payments out of the Fund: In relation to Council Tax payments are made to the Council, the two major precepting authorities (West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner and Shropshire & Wrekin Fire Authority) and the local preceptors (Parish and Town councils). In relation to NDR payments are made to the Council, the Secretary of State and the single relevant precepting authority (Shropshire & Wrekin Fire Authority).

7.4. The Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended) requires the Council as the Billing Authority to calculate a Collection Fund estimate by 15th January each year for Council Tax. The Non-Domestic Rating (Rates Retention) Regulations 2013 require the Council as the Billing Authority to calculate a Collection Fund estimate by 31st January each year for NDR. Both estimates relate to the Collection Fund Income and Expenditure Account for the year ending 31st March and the impact of this on the Collection Fund Balance.

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

Local Member: All

Appendices

Appendix A: Shropshire Council 2023/24 Estimated Council Tax Collection Fund Account

Appendix B: Shropshire Council 2023/24 Estimated Non-Domestic Rates Collection Fund Account

Appendix C: Distribution of the 2023/24 Estimated Collection Fund (Surplus) / Deficit

APPENDIX A

SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL ESTIMATED COUNCIL TAX COLLECTION FUND ACCOUNT
(Estimate As At 15th January 2024)

	2023-24 Estimate £'000
Income	
Council Tax Income	(249,534)
Transfers from General Fund - Discretionary Relief	(357)
Total Income	<u>(249,891)</u>
Expenditure	
2023/24 Precepts	
Shropshire Council	193,577
West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner	31,239
Shropshire & Wrekin Fire Authority	13,129
Parish & Town Councils	10,156
Bad & doubtful debts	
Increase in Bad Debt Provision	2,182
Total Expenditure	<u>250,283</u>
(Surplus)/Deficit for the year	391
Impact on Collection Fund Accumulated (Surplus)/Deficit	
Accumulated (surplus)/deficit brought forward	(2,211)
Distribution of prior year estimated surplus	2,836
(Surplus)/Deficit for the year	391
Estimated Accumulated (Surplus)/Deficit Carried Forward	<u>1,016</u>
Share of Estimated Collection Fund Surplus	
Shropshire Council	835
West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner	128
Shropshire & Wrekin Fire Authority	54
	<u>1,016</u>

APPENDIX B

SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL ESTIMATED NON-DOMESTIC RATES COLLECTION FUND ACCOUNT
(Estimate As At 31st January 2024)

	2023-24 Estimate £'000	2023-24 Excluding Renewable Energy Schemes £'000	2023-24 Renewable Energy Schemes Only £'000
Income			
Business Rates Income	(73,278)	(71,944)	(1,333)
Transitional Protection	(7,017)	(7,017)	-
Total Income	<u>(80,295)</u>	<u>(78,962)</u>	<u>(1,333)</u>
Expenditure			
2023/24 Payments to Major Preceptors			
Secretary of State	38,821	38,821	-
Shropshire Council	39,424	38,044	1,380
Shropshire & Wrekin Fire Authority	776	776	-
Cost of Collection	456	456	-
Bad & doubtful debts			
Increase in Bad Debt Provision	292	292	-
Appeal Losses & Provisions			
Losses	(5,519)	(5,474)	(45)
Increase in Appeal Provision	6,476	6,094	381
Total Expenditure	<u>80,727</u>	<u>79,011</u>	<u>1,717</u>
(Surplus)/Deficit for the year	432	49	383
Impact on Collection Fund Accumulated (Surplus) / Deficit			
Accumulated (surplus)/deficit brought forward	831	870	(39)
Distribution of prior year estimated surplus/(deficit)	4,005	3,967	38
(Surplus)/Deficit for the year	432	49	383
Estimated Accumulated (Surplus) / Deficit Carried Forward	<u>5,269</u>	<u>4,886</u>	<u>383</u>
Estimated Collection Fund (Surplus) / Deficit			
Prior year (surplus)/deficit	4,837	4,837	(0)
In year (surplus)/deficit	432	49	383
	<u>5,269</u>	<u>4,886</u>	<u>383</u>
Distribution of Estimated Collection Fund (Surplus) / Deficit			
Secretary of State	2,443	2,443	-
Shropshire Council	2,777	2,394	383
Shropshire & Wrekin Fire Authority	49	49	-
	<u>5,269</u>	<u>4,886</u>	<u>383</u>

**DISTRIBUTION OF THE 2023/24 ESTIMATED COLLECTION FUND
(SURPLUS) / DEFICIT**

1.1 The allocation of the estimated deficit to the Secretary of State and the relevant precepting authorities is summarised in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Distribution of the 2023/24 Estimated Collection Fund (Surplus) / Deficit

	Council Tax	NDR	Total
	£m	£m	£m
Secretary of State	-	2.443	2.443
Shropshire Council	0.835	2.777	3.612
West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner	0.128	-	0.128
Shropshire & Wrekin Fire Authority	0.054	0.049	0.103
Total Estimated (Surplus) / Deficit	1.016	5.269	6.286

1.2 The Secretary of State and major / relevant precepting bodies were notified of these deficits by 31st January 2024.



Committee and Date

Cabinet
21st February 2024

Item

Public



Treasury Management Update Quarter 3 2023/24

Responsible Officer:	James Walton		
email:	james.walton@shropshire.gov.uk	Tel:	01743 258915
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	Cllr Gwilym Butler, Finance, Corporate Resources and Communities		

1. Synopsis

The Council currently holds £40m in investments and £286m of borrowing. This report shows the return on those investments over quarter 3, the economic outlook for the next 3 years and confirms activities align with the Council approved Treasury Management Strategy.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The report outlines the treasury management activities of the Council in the third quarter of 2023/24. It highlights the economic environment in which treasury management decisions have been made and the interest rate forecasts of the Council's Treasury Advisor, Link Asset Services. It also updates Members on the internal treasury team's performance.
- 2.2. During Quarter 3 the internal treasury team achieved a return of 5.28% on the Council's cash balances, outperforming the benchmark by 0.09%. This amounts to additional income of £16,290 during the quarter which is included within the Council's outturn position in the Financial Monitoring Report. Further details on this are provided in paragraph 10.4 of the report. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) held the Bank Rate at 5.25% again in December 2023, although it is widely anticipated that this will be the peak Bank Rate and is likely to be held at this level until mid 2024.

- 2.3. Reducing returns on cash balances is directly attributable to the overall reduction in available balances. This is also set out in the MTFs and the Q3 Finance Report, elsewhere on this agenda. It is possible that short term borrowing will be required to ensure that the cash balances of the council are retained at an appropriate level through the second half of March. It is expected that cash balances reduce anyway through February and March, as Council Tax receipts reduce at year end. Council Tax receipts then increase in April. Short term borrowing, if taken out, will be done at a cost calculated as the net difference between the cost of borrowing and benefit of short-term investment. At present this is estimated as 0.2%-0.3%.
- 2.4. The overall reduction in cash balances also reduces the extent to which the process of internal borrowing can be sustained. This is a preferable approach as it uses internal cash balances ahead of any external borrowing. As overall balances reduce (overall balances are made up principally of longer term earmarked and unearmarked reserves, supplemented by the impacts of corporate cashflows) it will become necessary to secure external borrowing.
- 2.5. Under the CIPFA Treasury Management Code, it is best practice to provide quarterly Treasury Management updates.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. Members are asked to review the position as set out in the report –
 - a) Reducing cash balances, the result of the Council's long term financial management approach, indicates a need to take out external borrowing during 2024/25, as reflected in the Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25. This brings to an end a period of strong cash balances which have enabled reduced capital finance costs over the last 10 years.
 - b) Noting the summary of the wider economic environment and the Council's borrowings and investments set out in Appendix A
 - c) Noting the performance within prudential indicators for quarter 3, 2023/24 (Appendix B)

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1. The assessment and management of risk are key considerations for any Treasury Management approach. Compliance with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management, the Council's Treasury Policy Statement and Treasury Management Practices and the Prudential Code for Capital Finance together with the rigorous internal controls will enable the Council to manage the risk associated with Treasury Management activities and the potential for financial loss.
- 4.2. The Council's Audit Committee is the committee responsible for ensuring effective consideration of the Council's Treasury Management Strategy and policies.
- 4.3. The recommendations contained in this report are compatible with the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998.

- 4.4. There are no direct environmental, equalities or climate change consequences arising from this report.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. The Council makes assumptions about the levels of borrowing and investment income over the financial year. Reduced borrowing as a result of capital receipt generation or delays in delivery of the capital programme will both have a positive impact on the council's cash position. Similarly, higher than benchmarked returns on available cash will also help the Council's financial position. For monitoring purposes, assumptions are made early in year about borrowing and returns based on the strategies agreed by Council in the preceding February. Performance outside of these assumptions results in increased or reduced income for the Council.
- 5.2. The Quarter 3 performance is above benchmark and has delivered additional income of £16,290 which is reflected in the Financial Monitoring Report Quarter 3 2023/24. Performance in Q4 2023/24 will be impacted by the availability of cash balances available for investment and the level of any short-term external borrowing secured. The net cost will be the difference between the borrowing cost and the investment return, expected to be 0.2%-0.3%.
- 5.3. As at 31 December 2023 the Council held £40 million in investments as detailed in Appendix A and borrowing of £286 million at fixed interest rates. The ability to secure fixed rates helps to manage the uncertainty and risk of changes to interest rates.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.1. The Council's Financial Strategy includes proposals to deliver a reduced carbon footprint for the Council therefore the Treasury Team is working with the Council in order to achieve this. There are no direct climate change impacts arising from this report. Shropshire Council's investment portfolio has no level 1, 2 or 3 emissions. It comprises of straightforward cash deposits with financial institutions and other Local Authorities.

7. Background

- 7.1. The Council defines its treasury management activities as "the management of the authority's borrowing, investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions, the effective control of the risks associated with those activities, and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks". The report informs Members of the treasury activities of the Council between 1 April 2023 and 31 December 2023.
- 7.2. The council had £40m invested at the end of the third quarter period, as set out in Appendix A. This is a reduction in the overall investment balance over previous periods, and reflects the gradual application of reserves in line with budget plans across recent years. During the period of comparatively high cash balances, the

council has benefited from the ability to fund borrowing internally ('internal borrowing') rather than needing to secure external borrowing (via PWLB).

8. Economic Background

8.1. An overview of the general economic position is included as Appendix A, and with further detail in Appendix D. Decisions on Council investment activity are influenced by this wider context. This highlights:

- Consumer Price Indices (CPI) inflation fell from 8.7% in April to 4.6% in October, then again to 3.9% in November.
- a sharp fall in wage growth.
- A 0.3% decline in real GDP in October due to the ongoing drag from higher interest rates.

8.2. For wider context and consideration of the global financial outlook, an economic and borrowing update for the third quarter of 2023/24 is attached in Appendix D.

9. Economic Forecast

9.1. The Council receives its treasury advice from Link Asset Services. Their latest interest rate forecasts to 31 December 2026 are shown below. The Bank Rate was again held at 5.25% in December by the MPC in the December meeting. It is anticipated that 5.25% will be the peak bank rate and this may be elevated for a while in a bid to squeeze inflation out of the economy. The table below demonstrates the latest forecasts of interest rates over the next 3 years which will impact on future investment returns and the consequent benchmark.

Link Group Interest Rate View 07.11.23		Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25	Dec-25	Mar-26	Jun-26	Sep-26	Dec-26
BANK RATE		5.25	5.25	5.25	5.00	4.50	4.00	3.50	3.25	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
3 month ave earnings		5.30	5.30	5.30	5.00	4.50	4.00	3.50	3.30	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
6 month ave earnings		5.60	5.50	5.40	5.10	4.60	4.10	3.60	3.40	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10
12 month ave earnings		5.80	5.70	5.50	5.20	4.70	4.20	3.70	3.50	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.30
5 yr PWLB		5.00	4.90	4.80	4.70	4.40	4.20	4.00	3.80	3.70	3.60	3.50	3.50	3.50
10 yr PWLB		5.10	5.00	4.80	4.70	4.40	4.20	4.00	3.80	3.70	3.70	3.60	3.60	3.50
25 yr PWLB		5.50	5.30	5.10	4.90	4.70	4.50	4.30	4.20	4.10	4.10	4.00	4.00	4.00
50 yr PWLB		5.30	5.10	4.90	4.70	4.50	4.30	4.10	4.00	3.90	3.90	3.80	3.80	3.80

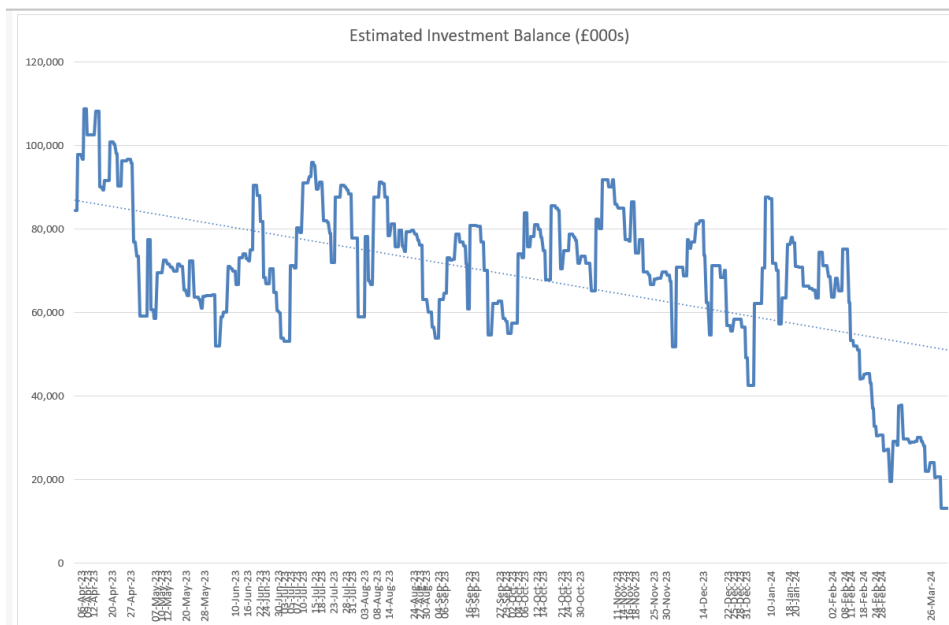
10. Treasury Management Strategy

10.1 The Treasury Management Strategy (TMS) for 2023/24 was approved by Full Council on 2 March 2023 and the Treasury Management Strategy for 2024/25 will be presented to Council on 29 March 2024. The Council's Annual Investment Strategy, which is incorporated in the TMS, outlines the Council's investment priorities as the security and liquidity of its capital.

10.2 The Council aims to achieve the optimum return on investments commensurate with the proper levels of security and liquidity. In the current economic climate, it is considered appropriate to:

- Keep investments short term (up to 1 year),
- Only invest with highly credit rated financial institutions using Link's suggested creditworthiness approach, including sovereign credit rating and Credit Default Swap (CDS) overlay information provided by Link.
- The Treasury Team continue to take a prudent approach keeping investments short term and with the most highly credit rated organisations.

10.3 In the third quarter of 2023/24 the internal treasury team outperformed its benchmark by 0.09%. The investment return was 5.28% compared to the benchmark of 5.19%. This amounts to additional income of £16,290 during the quarter which is included in the Council’s outturn position in the Financial Monitoring Report. Estimated investment Balances are identified weekly based on latest information relating to anticipated spending and receipts. The summary of the position over the last 12 months is shown in the chart below. This clearly shows an overall reduction in available cash balances, within a managed ‘corridor’ of highs and lows arising from the necessary in- and out-flows of cash resources.



10.4 Reducing balances is structurally preferable – councils must hold a level of balances on hand to help deal with unanticipated pressures, but the level of reserves to be held is a result of local circumstances, political leadership, and the local assessment of risk. Using reserves is a useful way to defer the point in time at which action is required to be taken – for example, by allowing more complex solutions to be implemented. While reserves are retained at a high level (a situation seen at the end of the COVID crisis) it is possible to use available cash balances to delay external borrowing for capital purposes, instead using ‘internal borrowing’ as a more cost effective approach to capital finance. Using reserves to enable longer term efficiency is a proven approach to effective local financial management.

At present, the Council is using internal borrowing at a level around £100m. Assuming a borrowing rate of 5%, the level of saving per year is around £5m. External borrowing has not been undertaken in around 10 years – a total saving of around £50m arising from careful management of revenue and capital budgets.

However, the reducing level of balances means that it will no longer be possible to internally borrow through the MTFS period. It is anticipated that external borrowing will be required during 2024/25, and this is being planned for in the revised Treasury Management Strategy for 2024/25. This will not have an adverse impact on the revenue budget position as the necessary levels of budget provision have already been set aside (as part of the Minimum Revenue Provision or ‘MRP’ budgets).

From April 2022 the Treasury team are benchmarked against the 3 Month Sterling Overnight Index Average (SONIA). We have now moved into a rising interest rate environment and therefore the benchmark rate has also increased sharply on the back of this. It should be noted that within the current investment portfolio, there are still some longer-term legacy investments fixed at lower rates when the Bank Rate was between 3.50% and 4.25%, still to renew. These investments were placed when market rates were much lower. These will mature in January and be replaced at much higher rates therefore the return of the investment portfolio will increase significantly, and the performance compared to benchmark will become more favourable.

- 10.5 A full list of investments held as at 31 December 2023, compared to Link's counterparty list, and changes to Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poor's credit ratings are shown within Link's Monthly Investment Analysis Review at Appendix A. None of the approved limits within the Annual Investment Strategy were breached during the third quarter of 2023/24. Officers continue to monitor the credit ratings of institutions on a daily basis. Delegated authority has been put in place to make any amendments to the approved lending list.
- 10.6 Due to the MPC's decision to hold the Bank Rate to 5.25% in December 2023, investment and borrowing rates have remained at a higher rate on the back of this. The average level of funds available for investment purposes in the first quarter of 2023/24 was £78 million.

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

Council, 2 March 2023 – Treasury Strategy 2023/24

Cabinet, 6 September 2023: Treasury Management Update Quarter 1 2023/24

Cabinet, 22 November 2023: Treasury Management Update Quarter 2 2023/24

Local Member: N/A

Appendices [Please list the titles of Appendices]

- A. Shropshire Council Monthly Investment Analysis Review as at 31 December 2023 (provided by Link Group)
- B. Prudential Indicators for Quarter 3 2023/24
- C. Prudential Borrowing Schedule
- D. Economic Background and Borrowing Update



Shropshire Council

Monthly Investment Analysis Review

December 2023

Monthly Economic Summary

General Economy

The UK Manufacturing PMI fell to 46.2 in December, down from 47.2 in the prior month and missing market expectations of 47.5. The latest reading pointed to a reduction in manufacturing output for the tenth consecutive month and at a notably faster pace than in November. Production sustained its decline due to reports of reduced demand both at home and abroad amidst challenging economic conditions, as well as destocking activities and tighter inventory policies at plants. Conversely, the UK Services PMI rose to 53.7 in December of from 50.9 in the previous month, above expectations of 51, marking the second consecutive expansion in the UK's services sector and outperforming the contractions in Eurozone members. Consequently, the Composite PMI rose to 51.7 in December, up from 50.7 in the previous month and surpassing the market consensus of 50.9. Meanwhile, the UK Construction PMI edged down to 45.5 in November, barely shifting from October's value of 45.6 and falling short of market expectations set at 46.3. This latest reading marks the second-lowest point since May 2020.

The UK economy shrank 0.3% m/m in October, reversing the growth from the previous two months, and worse than market forecasts of a flat reading. The services sector shrank 0.2% and was the largest contributor to the fall. Meanwhile, output in consumer-facing services fell by 0.1%. Also, production declined 0.8% driven by widespread drops in manufacturing output, namely computer, electronic and optical products, and machinery and equipment while construction output went down 0.5% partly due to the poor weather. Considering the three months to October, UK GDP stalled. Elsewhere, the UK's trade deficit widened to £4.480 billion in October, the largest in five months, as imports jumped 4.6% to a four-month high and exports rebounded 0.6% from an over one-year low.

The UK registered an increase of 50,000 jobs in the three months to September, slightly lower than a downwardly revised 52,000 gain in the previous reading. Meanwhile, average weekly earnings, including bonuses in the UK increased 7.2% y/y in the three months to October, the lowest in five months and below market forecasts of a 7.4% rise. The adjusted "experimental" unemployment rate in the UK remained unchanged at 4.2% in the three months leading up to October. The adjusted "experimental" employment rate stood at 75.7%, and the economic inactivity rate remained unchanged at 20.9%.

Regarding inflation, the annual consumer price measure in the UK declined to 3.9% in November, the lowest since September 2021, from 4.6% in October and well below forecasts of 4.4%. The largest downward contribution came from transport, mainly downward effects from motor fuels and, to a lesser extent, second-hand cars, maintenance and repairs, and air fares. Other downward pressure came from prices for recreation and culture, namely computer games and admission fees to theatres and live music events; and food and non-alcoholic beverages, mostly bread and cereals. Prices also rose less for alcoholic beverages and tobacco, clothing and footwear and health and continued to fall for housing and utilities. On the other hand, inflation was steady for communication, education and restaurants and hotels. Annual core inflation also declined, with its 5.1% reading the lowest since January 2022.

In the retail sector, November witnessed a 1.3% m/m increase in sales, a stark contrast to October's stagnant growth and beating market forecasts of a 0.4% rise. It was the strongest growth in retail activity since January. Additionally, the GfK Consumer Confidence indicator rose to -22 in December from -24 in November as Britons became less pessimistic about their future financial situation amid easing inflationary pressures. Analysts noted that wages have begun to rise faster than inflation while mortgage rates eased from their summer peak. Elsewhere, Public sector net debt excluding public sector banks was £2,671.4 billion at the end of November and was provisionally estimated at around 97.5% of the UK's annual gross domestic product (GDP); this is 1.8 percentage points higher than in November 2022 and remains at levels last seen in the early 1960s.

The US economy added 199,000 jobs in November, surpassing the 150,000 added in October and exceeding market expectations of a 180,000 gain. Nonetheless, it marked the second consecutive month with job additions below the average monthly gain of 240,000 observed over the past year, signalling a slowdown in the labour market. The final GDP reading showed the US economy expanded at an annualised rate of 4.9% in the third quarter of 2023, slightly below the 5.2% seen in the second estimate, but matching the 4.9% initially reported. It still marks the strongest growth since Q4 2021. Furthermore, the annual inflation rate in the US slowed to 3.1% in November, the lowest reading in five months, from 3.2% in October and in line with market forecasts.

The annual inflation rate in the Euro Area decreased to 2.4% y/y in November, the lowest since July 2021, from 2.9% in October and in line with the preliminary release. However, inflation is likely to pick up in the near-term on account of an upward base effect for the cost of energy, ECB President Lagarde said during the regular press conference after the latest ECB monetary policy decision of the year where rates were left unchanged, as expected. In 2024, the central bank expects inflation to decline slower because of further upward base effects and the phasing-out of past fiscal measures aimed at limiting the repercussions of the energy price shock. GDP in the Euro Area contracted by 0.1% in Q3 2023, marking a reversal from a downwardly revised 0.1% growth in the preceding three-month period.

Housing

The Nationwide House Price Index in the United Kingdom dropped by 1.8% year-on-year in December 2023, easing from a 2.0% fall in the previous month and compared with market expectations of a 1.4% decrease. Similarly, the Halifax House Price Index declined by 1.0% year-on-year in November 2023, following a revised 3.1% drop in October. Home prices are expected to continue declining in the upcoming months, as economic uncertainty, the broader cost of living, overall employment rates, and affordability are likely to continue hurting demand.

Currency

Sterling slightly depreciated against the Euro and Dollar over the month.

	December	Start	End	High	Low
GBP/USD	\$1.2633	\$1.2625	\$1.2788	\$1.2526	
GBP/EUR	€1.1659	€1.1536	€1.1681	€1.1499	

Forecast

Link Group and Capital Economics still hold that the interest rate will peak at 5.25% in this cycle.

Bank Rate	NOW	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25	Dec-25	Mar-26	Jun-26	Sep-26	Dec-26
Link Group	5.25%	5.25%	5.25%	5.25%	5.00%	4.50%	4.00%	3.50%	3.25%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%
Capital Economics	5.25%	5.25%	5.25%	5.25%	5.25%	4.75%	4.25%	3.75%	3.25%	3.00%	-	-	-	-

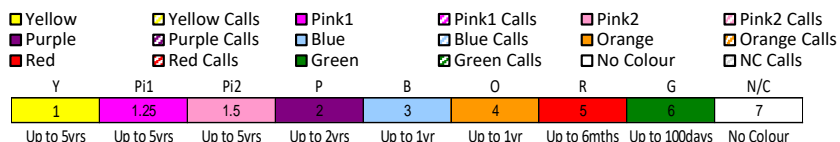
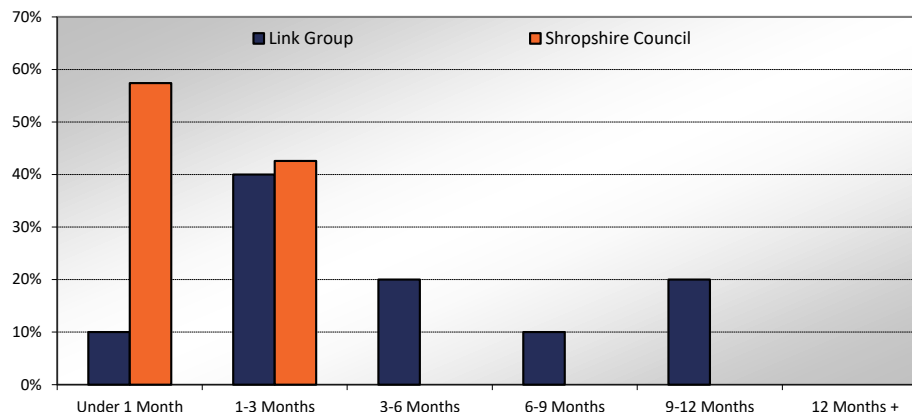
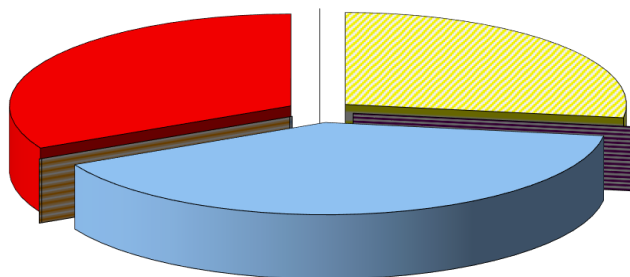
Shropshire Council

Current Investment List

Borrower	Principal (£)	Interest Rate	Start Date	Maturity Date	Lowest LT / Fund Rating	Historic Risk of Default
MMF Insight	10,900,000	5.30%		MMF	AAAm	
National Westminster Bank Plc (RFB)	2,000,000	5.59%	07/08/2023	19/01/2024	A+	0.002%
National Westminster Bank Plc (RFB)	5,000,000	4.45%	25/01/2023	24/01/2024	A+	0.003%
Lloyds Bank Plc (RFB)	3,000,000	5.57%	31/07/2023	31/01/2024	A+	0.004%
National Westminster Bank Plc (RFB)	2,000,000	4.50%	01/02/2023	31/01/2024	A+	0.004%
Goldman Sachs International Bank	5,000,000	5.77%	04/08/2023	02/02/2024	A+	0.004%
Goldman Sachs International Bank	5,000,000	5.55%	29/09/2023	29/02/2024	A+	0.007%
National Westminster Bank Plc (RFB)	5,000,000	5.77%	18/08/2023	29/02/2024	A+	0.007%
National Westminster Bank Plc (RFB)	2,000,000	5.64%	15/09/2023	15/03/2024	A+	0.009%
Total Investments	£39,900,000	5.35%				0.005%

Note: An historic risk of default is only provided if a counterparty has a counterparty credit rating and is not provided for an MMF or USDBF, for which the rating agencies provide a fund rating. The portfolio's historic risk of default therefore measures the historic risk of default attached only to those investments for which a counterparty has a counterparty credit rating and also does not include investments which are not rated.

Portfolio Composition by Link Group's Suggested Lending Criteria



Portfolios weighted average risk number = **3.11**

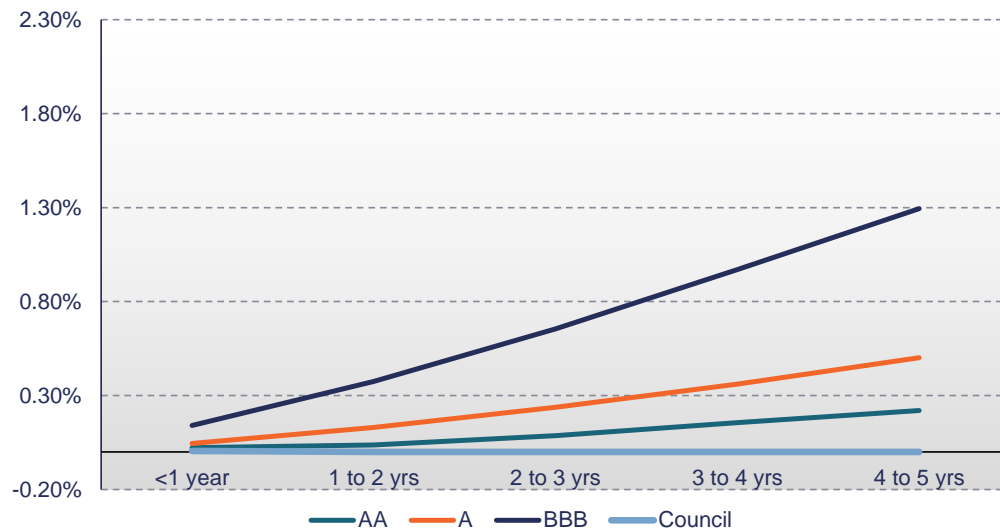
WARoR = Weighted Average Rate of Return
WAM = Weighted Average Time to Maturity

	% of Portfolio	Amount	% of Colour in Calls	Amount of Colour in Calls	% of Call in Portfolio	WARoR	WAM	WAM at Execution	Excluding Calls/MMFs/USDBFs	
									WAM	WAM at Execution
Yellow	27.32%	£10,900,000	100.00%	£10,900,000	27.32%	5.30%	0	0	0	0
Pink1	0.00%	£0	0.00%	£0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0	0	0
Pink2	0.00%	£0	0.00%	£0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0	0	0
Purple	0.00%	£0	0.00%	£0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0	0	0
Blue	40.10%	£16,000,000	0.00%	£0	0.00%	5.16%	42	264	42	264
Orange	0.00%	£0	0.00%	£0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0	0	0
Red	32.58%	£13,000,000	0.00%	£0	0.00%	5.64%	43	171	43	171
Green	0.00%	£0	0.00%	£0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0	0	0
No Colour	0.00%	£0	0.00%	£0	0.00%	0.00%	0	0	0	0
Total	100.00%	£39,900,000	27.32%	£10,900,000	27.32%	5.35%	31	162	42	222

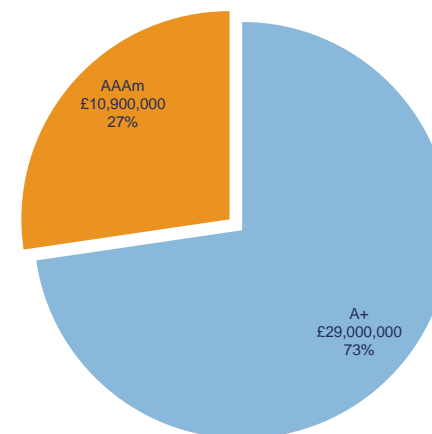
Shropshire Council

Investment Risk and Rating Exposure

Investment Risk Vs. Rating Categories



Rating Exposure



Historic Risk of Default

Rating/Years	<1 year	1 to 2 yrs	2 to 3 yrs	3 to 4 yrs	4 to 5 yrs
AA	0.02%	0.04%	0.09%	0.16%	0.22%
A	0.05%	0.13%	0.24%	0.36%	0.50%
BBB	0.14%	0.38%	0.65%	0.97%	1.29%
Council	0.01%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Historic Risk of Default

This is a proxy for the average % risk for each investment based on over 30 years of data provided by Fitch, Moody's and S&P. It simply provides a calculation of the possibility of average default against the historical default rates, adjusted for the time period within each year according to the maturity of the investment.

Chart Relative Risk

This is the authority's risk weightings compared to the average % risk of default for "AA", "A" and "BBB" rated investments.

Rating Exposures

This pie chart provides a clear view of your investment exposures to particular ratings.

Note: An historic risk of default is only provided if a counterparty has a counterparty credit rating and is not provided for an MMF or USDBF, for which the rating agencies provide a fund rating. The portfolio's historic risk of default therefore measures the historic risk of default attached only to those investments for which a counterparty has a counterparty credit rating and also does not include investments which are not rated.

Shropshire Council

Monthly Credit Rating Changes
MOODY'S

Date	Update Number	Institution	Country	Rating Action

Shropshire Council

Monthly Credit Rating Changes
FITCH

Date	Update Number	Institution	Country	Rating Action

Shropshire Council

Monthly Credit Rating Changes S&P

Date	Update Number	Institution	Country	Rating Action
08/12/2023	1996	Deutsche Bank AG	Germany	The Long Term Rating was upgraded to A+ from A.

Whilst Link Group makes every effort to ensure that all the information it provides is accurate and complete, it does not guarantee the correctness or the due receipt of such information and will not be held responsible for any errors therein or omissions arising there from. All information supplied by Link Group should only be used as a factor to assist in the making of a business decision and should not be used as a sole basis for any decision. The Client should not regard the advice or information as a substitute for the exercise by the Client of its own judgement.

Link Group is a trading name of Link Treasury Services Limited (registered in England and Wales No. 2652033). Link Treasury Services Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority only for conducting advisory and arranging activities in the UK as part of its Treasury Management Service, FCA register number 150403. Registered office: 6th Floor, 65 Gresham Street, London, EC2V 7NQ.

APPENDIX B – PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS FOR QUARTER 3

Prudential Indicator	2023/24 Indicator £m	Quarter 1 – Actual £m	Quarter 2 – Actual £m	Quarter 3 – Actual £m	Quarter 4 – Actual £m
Non HRA Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)	462	336	336	336	
HRA CFR	105	105	105	105	
Gross borrowing	445	286	286	286	
Investments	140	69	58	40	
Net borrowing	305	217	228	246	
Authorised limit for external debt	546	286	286	286	
Operational boundary for external debt	475	286	286	286	
Limit of fixed interest rates (borrowing)	534	286	286	286	
Limit of variable interest rates (borrowing)	267	0	0	0	
Internal Team Principal sums invested > 364 days	70	0	0	0	
Maturity structure of borrowing limits	%	%	%	%	%
Under 12 months	15	0	0	0	
12 months to 2 years	15	0	0	0	
2 years to 5 years	45	0	0	0	
5 years to 10 years	75	23	23	23	
10 years to 20 years	100	28	28	28	
20 years to 30 years	100	25	25	25	
30 years to 40 years	100	12	12	12	
40 years to 50 years	100	2	2	2	
50 years and above	100	10	10	10	

This page is intentionally left blank

APPENDIX C - PRUDENTIAL BORROWING SCHEDULE

Prudential Borrowing Approvals	Date Approved	Amount Approved £	Applied (Spent) 2006/07 £	Applied (Spent) 2007/08 £	Applied Outturn 08/09 2008/09 £	Applied Outturn 09/10 2009/10 £	Applied Outturn 10/11 2010/11 £	Applied Outturn 11/12 2011/12 £	Applied Outturn 12/13 2012/13 £	Applied Outturn 13/14 2013/14 £	Applied Outturn 14/15 2014/15 £	Applied Outturn 15/16 2015/16 £	Applied Outturn 16/17 2016/17 £	Applied Outturn 17/18 2017/18 £	Applied Outturn 18/19 2018/19 £	Applied Outturn 19/20 2019/20 £	Applied Outturn 20/21 2020/21 £	Applied Outturn 21/22 2021/22 £	Applied Outturn 22/23 2022/23 £	Budgeted 2023/24 £	Budgeted 2024/25 £	Budgeted 2025/26 £	Budgeted 2026/27 £	First year MRP Charged	Asset Life	Final year MRP Charged		
Monkmoor Campus	24/02/2006	3,580,000																										
Capital Receipts Shortfall -Cashflow	24/02/2006	5,000,000																										
Applied:																												
Monkmoor Campus			3,000,000		0																				2007/08	25	2031/32	
William Brooks					0				3,580,000																2011/12	25	2035/36	
Tern Valley					2,000,000																				2010/11	35	2044/45	
		8,580,000	3,000,000	0	2,000,000	0	3,580,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0				
Highways	24/02/2006	2,000,000	2,000,000																						2007/08	20	2026/27	
Accommodation Changes	24/02/2006	650,000	410,200	39,800																					2007/08	6	2012/13	
Accommodation Changes - Saving	31/03/2007	(200,000)																										
		450,000	410,200	39,800	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0				
The Ptarmigan Building	05/11/2009	3,744,000				3,744,000																			2010/11	25	2034/35	
The Mount McKinley Building	05/11/2009	2,782,000				2,782,000																			2011/12	25	2035/36	
The Mount McKinley Building	05/11/2009	0																							2011/12	5	2015/16	
Capital Strategy Schemes - Potential Capital Receipts shortfall - Desktop Virtualisation	25/02/2010	187,600				187,600									0.00	-									2010/11	5	2014/15	
Carbon Efficiency Schemes/Self Financing	25/02/2010	1,512,442					115,656	1,312,810	83,976	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	-									2011/12	5	2017/18	
Transformation schemes		92,635						92,635	-	-															2012/13	3	2014/15	
Renewables - Biomass - Self Financing	14/09/2011	92,996						82,408	98,258	(87,670)	-														2014/15	25	2038/39	
Solar PV Council Buildings - Self Financing	11/05/2011	56,342						1,283,959	124,584	(1,352,202)	-														2013/14	25	2038/39	
Depot Redevelopment - Self Financing	23/02/2012	0																							2014/15	10	2023/24	
Oswestry Leisure Centre Equipment - Self Financing	04/04/2012	124,521						124,521																	2012/13	5	2016/17	
Leisure Services - Self Financing	01/08/2012	711,197							711,197																2013/14	5	2016/17	
Mardol House Acquisition	26/02/2015	4,160,000									4,160,000	-													2015/16	25	2039/40	
Mardol House Adaptation and Refit	26/02/2015	3,340,000									167,640.84	3,172,358.86	-		0.00	-									2016/17	25	2041/42	
Oswestry Leisure Centre Equipment - Self Financing	01/08/2012	290,274											274,239			16,035									2018/19	5	2022/23	
Car Parking Strategy Implementation	17/01/2018	590,021													588,497.06	1,524									2020/21	5	2024/25	
PUT - Investment in Units re Shrewsbury Shopping Centres	13/12/2017	55,299,533												52,204,603	(208,569.18)	2,791,967	320,079.38	191,453							2018/19	45	2042/43	
PUT - SSC No 1 Ltd	13/12/2017	527,319												527,319														
Coil Shareholding	28/02/2019	1															1								2021/22			
Children's Residential Care	28/02/2019	2,000,000														1,381,539	230,765	38,486.70	316,209.69	33,000					2020/21	25	2044/45	
Pride Hill Shopping Centre Reconfiguration - LEP Match	19/12/2019	1,928,978															434,027	842,293	652,658.49						AUC	45		
Pride Hill Shopping Centre Reconfiguration - Feb 22 approval	01/02/2022	197,614																	197,614.21						AUC	45		
Greenacres Supported Living Development	24/09/2020	3,125,000																34,317	41,687.50	2,048,995	1,000,000				2023/24	25	2046/47	
Bishops Castle Business Park	19/09/2019	3,111,899															2,900	1,545,647	1,271,102.21	292,250					2023/24	25	2044/45	
Whitchurch Medical Practice (Pauls Moss Development)	26/07/2018	3,778,228																	171,509.07	3,606,719					2023/24	25	2047/48	
Oswestry Castleview - Site Acquisition	19/12/2019	3,256,241														3,256,241									2020/21	25	2044/45	
Former Morrisons Site, Oswestry	19/09/2019	3,390,145															3,390,145								2021/22	25	2045/46	
Meole Brace Pitch & Putt		5,399,999																11,927	136,348.64	4,748,309	503,415				AUC	25		
Maesbury Solar Farm		2,041,173																	19,681.65	2,021,491					AUC	25		
Commercial Investment Fund	Fin Strat 19/20	5,479,704																				5,479,704				2021/22	25	2044/45
The Tannery Development Block A - Land Acquisition		660,253																	62,500	594,752.50	3,000				2022/23	25	2045/46	
The Tannery Development Block A		6,353,605																		1,353,605	5,000,000					AUC		
The Tannery Development - Block B & C		7,467,802													3,677,843.83	3,456,019	311,325	16,614	3,846.79	2,153					2019/20	25	2045/46	
Oswestry Property Acquisition	12/05/2022	3,332,304																	3,332,303.71						2023/24	25	2047/48	
Shrewsbury Property Acquisition		3,837,012																	3,837,011.50						2023/24	25	2047/48	
Recycling Bin Roll Out Programme		2,029,778																4,395	2,025,383.79						2022/23	10	2032/33	
Highways Investment Programme	Capital Strategy Feb 22	31,565,001																3,983,412	18,011,589.00	3,545,000	3,695,000	2,330,000				2022/23	25	2046/47
Whitchurch Swimming & Leisure Facility	22/09/2022	13,100,282																	390,953.68	4,651,527	5,357,237	2,067,303	633,261			2026/27	45	2046/47
Previous NSDC Borrowing		955,595			821,138	134,457																			2009/10	5/25	2065/66	
		187,551,491	5,410,200	39,800	2,821,138	6,848,057	3,695,656	2,896,333	1,018,015	(1,439,872)	4,327,641	3,172,359	0	53,006,161	4,057,772	10,903,325	4,689,242.81	6,731,043.78	31,002,652.43	22,306,049	21,035,356	4,397,303	633,261					

This page is intentionally left blank

Economic Background and Borrowing Update

Economic Background

The third quarter of 2023/24 saw:

- A 0.3% m/m decline in real GDP in October, potentially partly due to unseasonably wet weather, but also due to the ongoing drag from higher interest rates. Growth for the second quarter, ending 30th September, was revised downwards to -0.1% and growth on an annual basis was also revised downwards, to 0.3%;
- A sharp fall in wage growth, with the headline 3myy rate declining from 8.0% in September to 7.2% in October, although the ONS “experimental” rate of unemployment has remained low at 4.2%;
- CPI inflation continuing on its downward trajectory, from 8.7% in April to 4.6% in October, then again to 3.9% in November;
- Core CPI inflation decreasing from April and May’s 31 years’ high of 7.1% to 5.1% in November, the lowest rate since January 2022;
- The Bank of England holding rates at 5.25% in November and December;
- A steady fall in 10-year gilt yields as investors revised their interest rate expectations lower.

The revision of GDP data in Q2 to a 0.1% q/q fall may mean the mildest of mild recessions has begun. Indeed, real GDP in October fell 0.3% m/m which does suggest that the economy may stagnate again in Q3. The weakness in October may partly be due to the unseasonably wet weather. That said, as the weakness was broad based it may also be the case that the ongoing drag from higher interest rates is more than offsetting any boost from the rise in real wages.

Higher interest rates have filtered through the financial channels and weakened the housing market but, overall, it remains surprisingly resilient with only marginal falls showing year on year on the Halifax (-1%) and Nationwide (-1.8%) indices. However, the full weakness in real consumer spending and real business investment has yet to come as currently it is estimated that around two thirds to a half of the impact of higher interest rates on household interest payments has yet to be felt.

Overall, we expect real GDP growth to remain subdued throughout 2024 as the drag from higher interest rates is protracted but a fading of the cost-of-living crisis and interest rate cuts in the second half of 2024 will support a recovery in GDP growth in 2025.

The labour market remains tight by historical standards, but the sharp fall in wage growth seen in October will reinforce the growing belief in markets that interest rates will be cut mid-2024. Wage growth eased in October much faster than the consensus expected. Total earnings fell by 1.6% m/m, which meant the headline 3myy rate eased from 8.0% in September to 7.2% in October. This news will be welcomed by the Bank

of England. Indeed, the timelier three-month annualised rate of average earnings growth fell from +2.4% to -1.2%. Excluding bonuses, it fell from 5.3% to 2.0%. Furthermore, one of the Bank's key barometers of inflation persistence, regular private sector pay growth, dropped from 7.9% 3myy to 7.3%, which leaves it comfortably on track to fall to 7.2% by December, as predicted by the Bank in November.

CPI inflation fell from 6.7% in September to 4.6% in October, and then again to 3.9% in November. Both these falls were bigger than expected and there are clear signs of easing in domestic inflationary pressures. The fall in core CPI inflation from 5.7% to 5.1% in November was bigger than expected (consensus forecast 5.6%). That's the lowest rate since January 2022. Some of the decline in core inflation was due to the global influence of core goods inflation, which slowed from 4.3% to 3.3%. But some of it was due to services inflation falling from 6.6% to 6.3%. The Bank views the latter as a key barometer of the persistence of inflation and it came in further below the Bank's forecast of 6.9% in its November Monetary Policy Report. This will give the Bank more confidence that services inflation is now on a firmly downward path.

A summary overview of the future path of Bank Rate

The Bank of England sprung no surprises with its December monetary policy committee (MPC) meeting, leaving interest rates at 5.25% for the third time in a row and pushing back against the prospect of near-term interest rate cuts.

Revised economic forecasts saw growth expectations trimmed for the second half of this year and next, while inflation projections were inched fractionally higher. Governor Bailey said the bank would keep monetary policy restrictive for long enough to "squeeze inflation" out of the system but it would be careful not to maintain that strategy for too long. However, in keeping with the September decision, the statement also noted that it was "much too early" to be thinking about rate cuts.

Borrowing

It is a statutory duty for the Council to determine and keep under review the "Affordable Borrowing Limits". The Council's approved Treasury and Prudential Indicators (affordability limits) are included in the approved Treasury Management Strategy. A list of the approved limits is shown in Appendix B. The Prudential Indicators were not breached during the second quarter of 2023/24 and have not been previously breached. The schedule at Appendix C details the Prudential Borrowing approved and utilised to date.

No new external borrowing was undertaken in the third quarter of 2023/24.

The Council has not undertaken any new borrowing for a number of years, and has been utilising cash balances to internally "borrow" for prudential borrowing schemes. This has enabled the Council to benefit from increased interest costs compared to the returns that could be generated on the cash balances. This approach has been effective during a period where the Council has held significant cash balances.

PWLB rates dropped significantly in November and December from earlier increases between April and October. The table below shows the high/low/average PWLB rates for the third quarter.

	1 Year	5 Year	10 Year	25 Year	50 Year
Low	4.65%	4.13%	4.20%	4.58%	4.27%
Date	06/04/2023	27/12/2023	06/04/2023	06/04/2023	05/04/2023
High	6.36%	5.93%	5.53%	5.96%	5.74%
Date	06/07/2023	07/07/2023	23/10/2023	23/10/2023	23/10/2023
Average	5.60%	5.09%	5.03%	5.35%	5.08%
Spread	1.71%	1.80%	1.33%	1.38%	1.47%

This page is intentionally left blank



Committee and Date

Transformation & Improvement Scrutiny
19th February 2024

Cabinet
21st February 2024

Item

Public



Finance Monitoring 2023/24 – Quarter 3

Responsible Officer:	James Walton
email: james.walton@shropshire.gov.uk	Tel: 01743 258915
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	Cllr Gwilym Butler, Finance, Corporate Resources and Communities

1. Synopsis

The Shropshire Plan clarifies our vision and priorities, aligning our resources to deliver positive outcomes for our people, businesses and communities. Our objectives are to be delivered within a fixed financial envelope and we continue to make progress towards that aim.

2. Executive Summary

Overview

- 2.1. The Shropshire Plan (TSP) was created to clarify Shropshire Council’s vision, priorities and Strategic Objectives. These objectives reflect the outcomes we aim to achieve within our available financial envelope. We measure the achievement of TSP by monitoring our performance (using Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to help measure, drive and understand delivery of our Strategic Objectives) and managing our overall financial position (ultimately delivering our outcomes while remaining within our agreed financial envelope).
- 2.2. The current year, 2023/24, is prioritising financial management with the aim to create a sustainable financial future. Over this year we have been monitoring our finances closely. We are seeking to rebase our budgets, in line with the outcomes

defined in TSP, to secure a modern, efficient, and sustainable base for the Council finances across the 5 year period of the MTFS.

- 2.3. This approach is aligned to the recommendations of the LGA peer review and is comparable with the best approaches seen in local government and covers the key elements of the Councils finances – revenue performance including ringfenced grants, spending reductions, reserves, and capital investment. However, we have been facing significant challenges during the year arising from inflation pressures within our supply chain and ongoing demand pressures for social care services we provide to local people.
- 2.4. We will need to continue to make the adjustments through this year and next but Shropshire residents will reap the rewards in years to come, through improved financial stability. Against this backdrop we are seeking to maintain our performance and improve it where our financial position allows. Beyond that, our intent is to grow our potential, seeking continuous improvement, greater resilience, and increased efficiency in all aspects of our work.

Key Values and Context

2.5. The key issues highlighted by this report are:

- a. **Revenue spending reductions of £39.8m:** The MTFS agreed by Full Council (2 March 2023) included £51.4m of planned spending reductions £39.8m which represents 77% of the year-end target.
- b. **Spending pressures in demand-led services of £28m:** Despite the good progress on spending constraint already identified (above), demand-led services are forecasting significant overall budget pressures of £28.495m in the year, pressures which are expected to persist into the coming year. After planned application of £20.5m of reserves set out in the reports for Q1 and Q2, the net budget pressure in People directorate is reduced to £7.995m.
- c. **An overall forecast for services of £14.533m:** Taking achieved savings and wider service pressures together, the overall forecast indicates net pressures in services of £14.362, which rises to £14.533m after taking into account changes to funding and corporate budget pressures (see table 1).
- d. **The above to be applied to the General Fund Balance, now £16.2m, at year end.**

3. Recommendations

Transformation & Improvement Scrutiny Committee

- 3.1. It is recommended that Transformation & Improvement Scrutiny Committee note the current position, raise any issues as appropriate, and identify any areas for future consideration by Scrutiny.

Cabinet

- 3.2. It is recommended that Cabinet note the following:

- a. That at the end of Quarter 3 (31 December 2023), the current expected level of savings delivery is £39.798m. That savings not yet confirmed amount to £11.593m.
- b. That demand-led services are forecasting significant overall budget pressures of £28.495m in the year, which are likely to continue into the coming year. These are pressures are included within the budget for next year. After planned application of £20.5m of reserves set out in the reports for Q1 and Q2, the net budget pressure in People directorate is reduced to £7.995m.
- c. Net service pressures across all areas amount to £14.632m (see table1).
- d. The result of A-C above with no further actions and including changes to corporate budget forecasts and anticipated grant income is a forecast overall overspend of £14.533m.

3.3. It is recommended that Cabinet approve the following, in line with the Q1 and Q2 monitoring reports:

- The reallocation of £9.7m of earmarked reserves to the General Fund Balance
- The application of £20.5m of funds from the General Fund Balance to mitigate pressures in social care

3.4. It is recommended that Cabinet approve that Shropshire Council acts as accountable body for the Innovation Regions Programme.

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

4.1. Regular financial reporting is part of the governance and risk management approach within the Council ensuring that it delivers sustainable and value for money services as required under statute. Risk management continues to be an active part of this process, and Officers review potential risk and opportunity scenarios each month. The Council holds two finance related strategic risks regarding managing the current financial situation and so this remains under constant review to consider appropriate management action of the situation.

4.2. Risk table

<i>Risk</i>	<i>Mitigation</i>
That the management actions described do not yield the results being targeted, leading to a larger pressure on the general fund balance.	To further enhance reporting and action planning on financial performance through Directorate Management and Chief Officer teams to include clear visibility for reserves position(s). To ensure that plans are prioritised such that the outturn position is fully funded by available reserves.
Ongoing pressures in Adult Social care	Partnership working with the ICS to ensure that risks and opportunities are actively managed through the winter period (an integrated approach to hospital discharge arrangements), and that opportunities to secure any additional funding (e.g., from DHSC) are utilised. The service transformation programme will

	also provide mitigations, with the enhanced approach to reablement.
Ongoing pressures in Children’s social care	Current indications are that the use of earlier intervention approaches is reducing the number of cases where children in need become children looked after, which will reduce new cases of children in need of care. Additionally, the introduction of in-house residential provision will provide alternatives to commercial residential care, such as family reunification or fostering.
Insufficient reserves to cover projected overspending or other deficits.	Improved budget preparation process with more analysis of current and future activity trends. Modelling of current and future reserves levels, including both earmarked and unearmarked, against likely levels of pressure and impact on securing the desirable level of unearmarked (general) reserves. Review of ways in which further funds can be brought into unallocated general fund balances and reserves to support balance sheet repair and reserves improvement with the aim to retain a General Fund Balance within the range of £15m to £30m.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. This is the subject of the report. The financial position as at 31 December 2023 will be used in the planning of the budget for 2024/25.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.1. The Council’s Financial Strategy supports its strategies for Climate Change and Carbon Reduction in several ways. A specific climate change revenue budget is held and spend is included in Appendix 1 to this report. The climate change schemes involving the Council’s assets or infrastructure are included within the capital programme of which further detail can be found within Appendix 7. These two areas of expenditure are anticipated to have a positive contribution towards climate change outcomes.
- 6.2. Securing a robust and sustainable financial base will help the Council meet the challenges of climate change – this is not separate to our budget management, but integral to it, as set out in the objectives of The Shropshire Plan and our aim to secure a Healthy Environment. Future financial planning will consider whether ‘carbon accounting’ will further clarify the options available to reduce the carbon footprint of the Council.

7. Background

- 7.1. Budget monitoring reports are produced quarterly for Cabinet and the budget position is reported monthly to Executive Directors, highlighting the anticipated year end projection and options to address the position in order that the Council remains within its available resources.

- 7.2. The monitoring reports track progress against agreed budget decisions, consider any budget changes (including re-profiling on Capital), forecast any significant variances to the budget, and enable corrective action to be taken to ensure a balanced budget at year end.
- 7.3. Council approved the Financial Strategy 2023/24 – 2027/28 on March 2023 which outlined the revenue and capital budget for 2023/24.
- 7.4. The approach to the current year was changed in view of the challenges we face, identified in the MTFs agreed by Full Council on 2 March 2023. The approach to the current year was extended to include:
- Improved access for budget holders to key activity and financial information
 - Faster internal reporting from quarterly to monthly, while maintaining quarterly reporting as our standard demonstration of transparency and accountability.
 - Wider engagement with relevant service managers to secure timely information on activity and resulting expenditure.

8. Projected Revenue Outturn at Q3

Overall position

- 8.1. At Quarter 3 (April – December), the Council is reporting a BAU ('business as usual') forecast overspend of £14.6m.
- 8.2. The £14.533m forecast overspend can be summarised as:
- £11.593m of spending reduction targets not yet achieved as at Quarter 3, and so subject to further review to assess deliverability within the year¹.
 - £20.5m funding built in as a contribution from the General Fund as short-term funding to mitigate the demand pressures in Adult and Childrens Social Care.
 - Other net pressures of £2.4m
 - Reduction in Top Up Grant of £0.545m.
- 8.3. The significant budget pressure being seen in social care is a position shared in common with many other local authorities, as recent media reports and sector communications have continued to confirm. It is clear that the ongoing impacts of COVID and the cost of living crisis continue to impact on many residents.

Table 1: BAU forecast expenditure and resources

Directorate	Revised Budget (£'000)	Forecast Outturn (£'000)	Q3 Under/Overspend (£'000)	Q2 Under/Overspend (£'000)
People	198,117	206,073	7,955	25,377
Place	75,750	79,294	3,545	4,289
Resources	2,764	5,641	2,877	3,201
Health & Wellbeing	1,878	1,866	(12)	(2)
Strategic Management Board	163	160	(2)	(17)
Service Spending	278,672	293,034	14,362	32,848
Corporate Budgets	(22,758)	(23,162)	(404)	(455)
Total Net Expenditure	255,914	269,872	13,959	32,393
Funded By:				
Council Tax	(193,577)	(193,577)		0
Business Rates	(39,424)	(39,424)		0

Top Up Grant	(11,120)	(10,545)	575	0
Revenue Support Grant	(7,479)	(7,479)		0
Collection Fund (Surplus)/Deficit	(4,314)	(4,314)		0
Total Funding	(255,914)	(255,339)	575	0)
Net Total	0	14,533	14,533	32,393

8.4. Table 1 summarises the position by directorate. This shows

- expenditure pressures are focused in the People Directorate, in the same way as was reported for Quarter 2. This is largely unchanged, despite ongoing work to address the ongoing demand pressures. In Q3 the position is reduced through the application of £20.5m of reserves (as indicated in the previous report).
- other areas have seen some improvement in their overall expenditure positions.
- income has remained largely as anticipated at the setting of the budget.

8.5. For further detail, see Appendix 1A and 1B; the breakdown by portfolio holder is in Appendix 1C.

Delivering spending reductions

8.6. Spending reductions already delivered within the year and anticipated to be delivered by the year-end now amount to £39.798m. This is summarised below.

Table 2: Summary of spending reductions

2023/24 Spending Reductions	2023/24 target savings	Q3 – delivered	Q3 – forecast	% of target savings	Under Review
Health & Wellbeing	-653,170	-598,677	-653,170	100%	0
People	-21,304,438	-15,918,074	-20,983,897	98%	-320,541
Place	-16,941,750	-6,846,593	-12,390,760	73%	-4,550,990
Resources	-6,027,192	-2,470,147	-3,069,882	51%	-2,957,310
Corporate Budgets	-6,463,760	-1,700,010	-2,700,010	42%	-3,763,750
Total	-51,390,310	-27,533,501	-39,797,719	77%	-11,592,591

8.7. In order to address the budgetary pressures arising in Social Care, the People Directorate is actively implementing measures to help ensure that resident care needs are met at the earliest opportunity, to reduce the likelihood of long term care being needed. This work is planned to continue into 2024/25, as was indicated in previous finance reports (at Q1 and Q2).

9. Income

9.1. The revenue budget is funded by £255.9m of income including specific government grants and retained local taxation receipts. Grant values are advised in the settlement before the start of the year and are unchanged.

9.2. Income through discretionary fees and charges is included in budgets for service area net spending. Appendix 2 provides analysis of the current projection of specific government grant income by directorate, including any new allocations, and highlights the current delivery of income through fees and charges charged in services.

10. Spending Reductions

10.1. The spending reduction projections for 2023/24 have been shown as delivery confirmed or delivery to be confirmed (summarised above in table 4, with further detail in Appendix 3). These projections show that 77% of the 2023/24 target reductions have been delivered.

11. Reserves

11.1. The 2023/24 budget strategy included a contribution of £19.868m to the General Fund balance which would then reach £26.961m, which is a safer level given the current profile of financial risks. This is shown in the table below, and in appendix 5.

11.2. It is important that the Council maintains the General Fund Balance at a robust level, as is assumed within the Medium Term Financial Strategy. Independent advice is that un-earmarked reserves (represented by the General Fund Balance¹) should equate to 5%-10% of net spending.

Table 4: General Fund Balance

General Fund	£'000
Balance as at 1 st April 2023	7,093
Budgeted Contribution	19,868
Budgeted General Fund Balance as at 31st March	26,961
Release of earmarked reserves	9,700
Funding of demand pressures in social care	(20,500)
General Fund Balance available to be applied to overspend in year	16,161

11.3. The impact across all funds and the associated levels of reserves/surpluses carried forward are set out in table 5 (below). Reserves in the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), Housing Revenue Account (HRA), and Public Health Grant (PHG) are ringfenced, and so can only be applied in line with the terms of those different grants or accounts.

Table 5: Summary of spending and impacts on reserves and carried forward surpluses for key funds and reserves

Revenue summary (£m)	General Fund £'000	Dedicated Schools Grant £'000	Housing Revenue Account £'000	Public Health Grant £'000
Forecast expenditure	270,447	50,111	(2,200)	13,663
Budget	255,914	48,185	(293)	13,663
Forecast (under)/overspend	14,533	2,926	1,926	0
Reserves:				
Brought forward	7,093	2,181	12,359	3,873
Added/(used)	(5,465)	(2,926)	(2,200)	(1,672)
Carried forward/in hand	1,628	(742)	10,159	2,201

11.4. General fund reserves (the general fund balance) is part of the risk mitigation strategy of the council. It is advisable to hold this reserve at £15m-£30m,

¹ It is usual for the General Fund Balance to be the core 'unearmarked reserve'. Some authorities only retain this balance, others also retain a general fund reserve earmarked to support budget delivery, where such provision is possible. Some also retain a revenue 'contingency' budget in addition to earmarked and unearmarked reserves.

depending on the assessment of risk being faced by the Council concerned. Based on the values above, a further £13.4m would be required to supplement the General Fund Balance and balance the position within the year. However, a plan to re-invest in General Fund Balances has been included over the course of the MTFS.

- 11.5. The DSG reserve is the result of surpluses accumulated in prior years. Overall, the DSG is allocated to be spent in-year on schools and educational priorities. Surpluses are carried forward to be used in later years. It is now anticipated that the DSG position at the Council will be in deficit which will mean the Council will need to use the national ‘statutory override²’ position to avoid needing to provide in the general fund for the deficit in the DSG. Balances are also held by schools themselves, although the general fund balances remain the contingency fund of last resort.
- 11.6. The HRA reserves reflects the overall reserves of the HRA The HRA also holds separate reserves to cover, for example, Major Repairs and future capital investment costs (e.g. for carbon neutral, fire safety, and anti-mould investments). Again, however, the fund of last resort is the general fund.
- 11.7. The PHG reserve is also the accumulated impact of underspending in previous years (partly due to the interaction of government funding for COVID response work and the scope of the PHG). Due to the impact of COVID funding, it is expected that the current accumulated surplus will be applied in the course of the next 3 years in line with planned and agreed activity within the current PHG regulations and monitored by OHID.

12. Capital Investment

- 12.1. The current capital investment programme and actual spend on that is detailed in Table 6 below, including updated projections on financing of the programme. Further detail is provided in Appendix 7.

Table 6: Projected outturn for the Approved Capital Programme

Directorate	2023/24 Revised Capital programme (£'000)	2023/24 Actual Spend (£'000)	2023/24 Actual YTD spend as % of budgeted YTD spend	2024/25 Capital Programme (£'000)	2025/26 Capital Programme (£'000)
Health & Wellbeing	--	-	-	-	-
People	10,556	4,942	46.8	14,349	5,780
Place	72,644	40,549	55.8	114,977	39,725
Resources	142	89	62.4	900	-
Total General Fund	83,342	45,580	54.7	130,226	45,505
Housing Revenue Account	32,826	9,004	27.4	17,125	12,708
Total Capital Programme	116,168	54,584	47.0	147,351	58,213
Financed By:					
Borrowing	25,336			48,405	11,737
Government Grants	54,286			70,082	33,011
Other Grants	2,275			156	44
Other Contributions	9,091			7,933	2,100

² The statutory override will currently end in March 2026.

Revenue Contributions to Capital	4,189			71	369
Major Repairs Allowance	8,316			4,828	5,000
Capital Receipts	12,676			15,876	5,952
Total Financing	116,168			147,351	58,213

* Actual financing of the capital programme is determined at year end

- 12.2. There is identified slippage of £10.5m between Q2 and Q3 capital reports. Slippage relates to the unplanned delays often encountered in larger capital projects. The schemes will continue as planned, but with the delay in delivery being reflected in the revised spending profile.
- 12.3. Capital schemes within the capital programme are not only continually monitored in terms of current year actual expenditure against budget but also in terms of scheme forecast outturn compared to budget and scheme delivery against profile. At Quarter 3 forecast outturn against budget and scheme delivery against profile for schemes in the approved capital programme are within acceptable limits.
- 12.4. The current capital programme assumes a level of capital receipts to finance the capital programme. Without these, the council may need to borrow externally, which would be more costly. Appendix 8 summarises the current capital receipt position and highlights both opportunities to secure receipts and the risk of increased revenue costs in future years.

13. Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

- 13.1. At Quarter 3 (Period 3), the HRA is projecting an overspend of £1.926m capital investment being brought forward (as a result of the decision in August 2023) with a resulting impact on the revenue cost of financing that investment. This additional in-year cost will be financed through the HRA reserve.

14. Dedicated Schools Grant

- 14.1. As with previous years, the final Early Years Block DSG allocation for 2022/23 was published on 20 July 2023. The final allocation of £17.139m which takes account of the January 2023 census figures is £0.229m less than the provisional Early Years DSG Block DSG allocation. The provisional allocation was used to calculate the 2022/23 DSG surplus carried forward, which is confirmed as £2.467m.
- 14.2. Of this, £0.285m relates to the 2021/22 and 2022/23 surpluses carried forward on the Schools Growth Fund. This value is earmarked for the Schools Growth Fund in 2023/24 where the Council's Schools Growth fund needs "topping-up" to meet in-year expenditure requirements. This commitment will leave £2.181m 'uncommitted' in the DSG reserve.
- 14.3. As at the end of Quarter 3, there is a forecast in year deficit of £2.926m which will need to be added to the £2.181m revised surplus carried forward from 2022-23 in order to give a forecast overall cumulative DSG deficit position of £0.742m at the end of 2023/24. The £2.926m in-year deficit is mostly caused by the forecast outturn position for the High Needs Block which forecasts an in-year deficit of £2.528m.

- 14.4. The forecast overspend on the High Needs Block of £2.528m is due to a significant forecast overspend against the budget for Independent Special School placements which has seen a 52% increase in forecast expenditure in 2023/24. There are several explanations for this. Firstly, the Council has experienced a sharp increase in demand for Independent Special School placements as evidenced by the number of new placements. This is a trend that was identified in 2022/23 but the increase has been faster than anticipated in 2023/24. Additionally there is more frequent use of independent alternative providers, particularly in relation to children who are post 16. Lastly, the average termly cost of a placement has increased in 2023/24 reflecting price inflationary pressures.
- 14.5. The forecast outturn position for the Early Years Block is showing an overspend of £0.335m against a provisional budget of £17.868m. Within this block, there is a forecast pressure of £0.360m on SEND Support against a budget set of £0.600m. The demand experienced on this budget has grown in recent years with Shropshire seeing a growing number of children presenting with a range of developmental and emotional difficulties which require support. It is important to note that this position on the Early Years budget is provisional and could change once the final 2023-24 Early Years DSG allocation is published in July 2024.
- 14.6. The High Needs Block DSG 3-year forecasting exercise undertaken in January 2023 demonstrated that future expenditure growth is likely to outstrip future growth in High Needs Block DSG allocations. An updated 3 year forecast for the High Needs Block DSG is now required as a key priority, given that expenditure in 2023-24 on the High Needs Block is forecast to be £42.684m at Q3, an increase of £7.830m compared to the 2022-23 figure of £34.854m, representing a 22% increase, while the funding increase for 2024-25 is provisionally only 5.1%. The High Needs Block DSG 3-year forecast will be presented to Schools Forum in 2024 with potential mitigations set out against the High Needs Block DSG to bring the DSG financial position back into balance over an agreed period, likely to mirror the 5 year MTFs period commencing in April 2024.

15. Financial Management

- 15.1. Key indicators of financial management can be examined through the management of routine financial transactions that the Council undertakes.
- 15.2. A key annual indicator is the ability to prepare the statutory accounts in line with the national deadline. This was achieved in the current year, with the pre-audit accounts being submitted for audit on the 31 May. The Council was one of only a few local authorities to achieve this, which provides confidence in the quality of the accounting records and the overall level of understanding that the finance team collectively hold.
- 15.3. In paying suppliers, the Council has adopted a no Purchase Order, no pay (“no PO no pay”) process which ensures that transactions are only processed with a valid, authorised purchase order, thereby ensuring prompt payments to suppliers on receipt of invoice. However, current levels of performance are variable between and within service areas.

15.4. Another key indicator of financial management is the level of aged debt that the Council is managing. These indicators are tracked over the course of the financial year to monitor progress. The indicators as at Quarter 3 are detailed in Appendix 9.

16. Accountable Body Status – Innovation Regions Programme

- 16.1. In April 2023 the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) set out the governments Wireless Strategy which included 5G technology adoption and digital transformation to build a more inclusive, competitive, and innovative digital economy.
- 16.2. DSIT are looking to establish 8-10 5G ‘Innovation Regions’ across the UK. DSIT encouraged bids from multiple local authorities working together.
- 16.3. Funding will enable Regions to unlock opportunities across the digital economy utilizing advanced wireless connectivity. Tailoring interventions to their specific local needs and existing strengths, Regions will promote the development and scaled adoption of 5G and other advanced wireless technologies in businesses and in the delivery of public services, to generate value and growth at the local level.
- 16.4. Successful ‘5G Innovation Regions’ will set their own individual objectives but must fit within the overarching objectives of the Innovation Regions programme:
- Drive productivity and economic growth in places across the UK through supporting the development and scaled adoption of 5G by businesses and public services.
 - Accelerate commercial investment in 5G and other advanced wireless technologies by aggregating and demonstrating demand.
 - Foster the 5G ecosystem by enabling activities that will bridge the gap between trials and adoption.
- 16.5. Shropshire Council submitted an application on behalf of the River Severn Partnership (RSP) to become a 5G Innovation Region.
- 16.6. Formed in 2019, the RSP brings together significant partners (26) across 8 counties. RSP covers more than 6,000 sq miles spanning both England and Wales.
- 16.7. With the river network at its heart, the Partnership is invested in a shared plan supporting people, businesses, and the environment to be resilient to the impacts of climate change and in so doing stimulate growth.
- 16.8. Becoming a 5G Innovation Region consolidates RSP’s Innovation Programme by embedding Advanced Wireless Connectivity (AWC) technology at the heart of technological innovation across our priority sectors comprising rural industries, water management and public services, where RSP’s partners are both regional and national leaders.
- 16.9. The bid was successful and resulted in a funding allocation of £3.755m to deliver the objectives of the Innovation Regions programme for the period to 31st March 2025.
- 16.10. Shropshire Council will act, subject to Cabinet approval, as the accountable body for this programme and will be responsible for monitoring the delivery and success of the scheme. Failure to make satisfactory progress with the funded

activities may result in a reduction in funding or repayment of grant. MoUs will be agreed with the relevant bodies in the delivery partnership and each partner will be required to submit evidence of progress to be assessed by Shropshire Council prior to the release of grant funding to mitigate the risk of clawback.

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

Financial Strategy 2023/24 – 2027/28, February 2023 Council [MTFS 2023-24 - 2027-28](#)

Financial Monitoring Report Quarter 1 2023/24 [Q1 finance report 23-24](#)

Financial Monitoring Report Quarter 2 2023/24, [Q2 finance report 23-24](#)

Financial Rules [Financial rules Feb 2019](#)

Local Member: All

Appendices

Appendix 1A – 2023/24 Projected Revenue Outturn by Service

Appendix 1B – 2023/24 Detailed Projected Revenue Outturn by Service

Appendix 1C – 2023/24 Projected Revenue Outturn by Portfolio Holder

Appendix 2 – 2023/24 Income Projections

Appendix 3 – Delivery of 2023/24 Savings Proposals

Appendix 4 – Reconciliation of Monitoring Projections to Savings Delivery

Appendix 5 – Amendments to Original Budget 2023/24

Appendix 6 – Reserves 2023/24

Appendix 7 – Projected Capital Programme Outturn 2023/24 – 2025/26

Appendix 8 – Projected Capital Receipts

Appendix 9 – Financial Management Indicators

APPENDIX 1A

2023/24 PROJECTED REVENUE OUTTURN BY SERVICE (MOVEMENT Q2 TO Q3)

Directorate / Service	Forecast Outturn Variance at Q2	Budget at Q3	Forecast Outturn at Q3	Forecast Variance at Q3	Movement from Q2 to Q3	Reasons for Movement Q2 to Q3
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
People						
Children's Social Care and Safeguarding	13,100	49,240	52,393	3,153	(9,948)	<p>£11.000m contribution from General Fund Balance. This is short term funding to support responses to demand pressures, described in previous reports.</p> <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • +£0.519m increase relating to External Residential Placements • +£0.257m increase relating to Fostering Placements (of which +£0.139m increase in new External Fostering placements due to increase in numbers) • +£0.222m increase in overspend relating to Semi-Independent Placements (16-18). Partially explained by 1 very high cost, short placement. • +£0.262m increase in overspend relating to DCT Prevention & Support Payments due to an increase in demand and complexity • -£0.083m decrease in overspend relating to PLO (pre-legal) Support Packages
Adult Social Care	9,701	126,958	129,255	2,297	(7,403)	<p>Non-Purchasing Reduction - £9.671m</p> <p>£9.500m contribution from General Fund Balance. This is short term funding to support responses to demand pressures, described in previous reports.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (£0.118m) forecast expenditure reduction in START <p>Purchasing Increase £2.268m</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £3.376m expenditure increase in SPOT placement forecasting. The majority of this is within Nursing (+£1.156m) and Residential Care (+£0.827m), but we have also seen increases in the Direct Payments forecasted position (+£0.362m) • (£0.222m) expenditure reduction in Supported Living. <p>Increased CHC (NHS) income £1.062m</p>

Directorate / Service	Forecast Outturn Variance at Q2	Budget at Q3	Forecast Outturn at Q3	Forecast Variance at Q3	Movement from Q2 to Q3	Reasons for Movement Q2 to Q3
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
						• (£1.062m) increase in Continuing Health Care (CHC) Income to improve joined up approaches. This reflects higher demand and complexity levels of work across the health and care system.
Early Help, Partnerships and Commissioning	(123)	3,268	3,012	(256)	(132)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • -£0.115m increase in temporary vacancy management savings across the Family Hubs • -£0.019m increase in underspend forecast against Early Help Family Hubs non-staffing budgets including premises related expenditure such as Rates, building/room rental/hire expenditure
Learning and Skills	296	18,190	18,569	379	82	• £0.105m increase in overspend relating to Home to School Transport between Quarter 2 and Quarter 3. Explained by large increase in numbers of children with SEND being placed at Independent Special Schools as well as the new state funded SEMH free special school, Keystone, increasing numbers attending following the move into their new building.
People Directorate Management	2,403	461	2,843	2,382	(20)	Minor variation to Quarter 2.
People Total	25,377	198,117	206,073	7,955	(17,421)	Of which, £20.5m of the change arises from planned application of General Fund Balance funds to provide time for demand management measures to be put into place.
Place						
Commercial Services	2,363	37,454	39,559	2,105	(258)	Decrease in projected spend on utilities and other repairs and maintenance costs
Homes and Communities	443	15,053	15,243	189	(254)	Additional savings achieved, additional income from services, some salary vacancies
Economy and Place	554	6,320	6,792	471	(83)	Additional savings achieved/vacancies/delay in expenditure
Directorate Management	1,392	(747)	661	1,408	16	Minor variation to Quarter 2.
Highways and Transport	(463)	17,669	17,040	(629)	(166)	Delay of works
Place Total	4,289	75,750	79,294	3,545	(745)	
Resources						

Directorate / Service	Forecast Outturn Variance at Q2	Budget at Q3	Forecast Outturn at Q3	Forecast Variance at Q3	Movement from Q2 to Q3	Reasons for Movement Q2 to Q3
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Finance and Technology	1,856	2,809	4,441	1,632	(225)	Additional savings achieved across vacancy management
Legal and Governance	233	347	505	158	(75)	Additional savings achieved across vacancy management
Workforce and Improvement	50	(8)	31	39	(11)	Minor variation to Quarter 2.
Communications and Engagement	82	626	687	60	(21)	Minor variation to Quarter 2.
Treasury and Pensions	0	(39)	(39)	0	0	No variation to Quarter 2.
Directorate Management	979	(971)	16	987	8	Minor variation to Quarter 2.
Resources Total	3,200	2,764	5,641	2,877	(324)	
Corporate Budgets	(455)	(22,758)	(23,162)	(404)	51	Increased pressure relating to external audit fees.
Health and Wellbeing						
Public Health	0	7	7	0	0	No variation to Quarter 2.
Regulatory Services	(2)	1,871	1,859	(12)	(10)	Minor variation to Quarter 2.
Health and Wellbeing Total	(2)	1,878	1,866	(12)	(10)	
Strategic Management Board						
Chief Executive and PAs	(17)	146	146	0	17	Minor variation to Quarter 2.
Programme Management	0	17	15	(2)	(2)	Minor variation to Quarter 2.
Strategic Management Board Total	(17)	163	160	(2)	15	
Council Total	32,394	255,914	269,872	13,959	(18,434)	

APPENDIX 1B

DETAIL BY SERVICE AREA

Directorate	Revised Budget £	Forecast Outturn £	Variance £
People	198,117	206,073	7,955
Place	75,750	79,294	3,545
Health & Wellbeing	1,878	1,866	(12)
Resources	2,764	5,641	2,877
Strategic Management Board	163	160	(2)
Corporate Budgets	(22,758)	(23,162)	(404)
TOTAL	255,914	269,872	13,959

PEOPLE	Full Year			RAGY
	Budget £	Forecast £	Variance £	
Total	198,117,440	206,072,559	7,955,119	R

Children's Social Care and Safeguarding	Children & Education				
		49,240,040	52,392,670	3,152,630	R

A contribution of £11.000m from the General Fund has been applied at the end of Q3. This is short-term funding while demand-led pressures are being addressed.

Other analysis is set out below.

- **£9.240m pressure on residential and fostering placement costs**, with the external residential placements forecast budget pressure currently forecast to be £6.950m reflecting 54 external residential spot/framework placements as at the end of November. The number of children in this type of placement exceeds the budgeted number in 2023/24. Although the increase in external residential spot/framework placements did stabilise in quarter 1. After a significant increase late in 2022/23, the service experienced an increase of 14 new external residential spot/framework placements in quarter 2 which included 2 large sibling groups. In Quarter 3, the numbers have remained more stable, although a lack of fostering capacity has meant that the service has experienced delays in moving children on from residential to fostering placements which has had an adverse effect on the monitoring position.

- £1.091m overspend relating to other costs such as transport recharges and taxi costs, childcare payments, parenting assessments and interpreting fees. These costs have increased in line with the increase in demand.

The service is adopting a number of strategies to address the current budget pressures, particularly around residential placements e.g. Stepping Stones Project and increasing internal foster care capacity. There is acknowledgement that demand has increased significantly over the last few years so there is emphasis on preventing demand into the social care system early through family support. This is being progressed through the "Best Start in Life", "Integration" and "Early Help Transformation" projects

- £0.894m pressure in the Disabled Children's Team (excluding staffing). £0.584m of this overspend relates to bespoke, short term care packages of prevention and support for disabled children and £0.250m relates to direct payments for disabled children. There has been a significant increase in demand, evidenced by a 300% increase in referrals. As well as an increase in the numbers of children requiring support, there has been an increase in the number of support hours per child, which indicates an increase in complexity.

- £0.438m overspend relates to PLO Support Packages budget where demand for expenditure relating to court-ordered items such as legal costs and medical assessments has increased.

- £0.398m overspend in the Leaving Care Team (excluding staffing). £0.322m of this overspend relates to accommodation costs for care leavers and allowances paid to care leavers, reflecting an increase in the number of children staying in relatively high cost supported accommodation placements beyond their 18th birthday. The remaining £0.076m relates to discretionary Council Tax relief for care leavers.

- £0.270m relates to the "Target Operating Model - Getting Leadership Right" savings target. This figure includes a £0.332m one-off budget pressure from an additional capacity Social Work Team/Court Team that was brought in temporarily to cope with increased demand. The forecast also includes an assumed £0.867m of posts to be capitalised as working on transformational projects.
- £0.273m overspend in Adoption Services. £0.139m relates to Adoption Allowances, where there has been a significant increase in 2022/23 and 2023/24. £0.146m overspend is forecast against the budget for intra agency adoption placements reflecting the trend across the region of more children being placed with voluntary adoption agencies. Whilst an additional cost, this is the most cost effective way to meet a child's needs and provides the best outcome. There has been an increase in the number of children adopted in line with demand.

Adult Social Care Operations	Adult Social Care and Public Health	118,141,330	120,743,909	2,602,579	R
-------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------	-------------	-------------	-----------	---

• (£9.500m) Contribution from General Fund, short term funding to address demand led pressures. The overall forecast overspend across Social Care Operations is £2.603m. The purchasing only element of this overspend is £12.042m. Below is the detail

- +£15.578m spot purchasing projected pressure. This pressure is split across base budget, where numbers of service users and cost of placements are higher than anticipated at budget setting, but lower than they were as at 1st April, and savings pressures that we are yet to see materialise in full. Continued achievement of savings in this area will reduce numbers and costs so the two go hand in hand when showing the overall position. We have seen an increase in nursing care, highlighting a complexity in people's needs from the community and through the hospital discharge routes. We have also seen more packages of care commissioned within people's homes, meaning the waiting lists have reduced but costs have increased. Work is on-going with the market to manage the increased costs of care. Finally, we have seen further pressures due to the continued need to support hospital discharges and short-term care provision which has resulted in higher costs. One-off Grant funding has been applied to offset some of these pressures.

- +£2.871m pressure on new and increased supported living packages. This pressure is driven by the level of complexity of service users' needs. Work is underway to remodel the service to better meet those needs.

- (£3.351m) anticipated over achievement of client contributions to care costs. As per the pressure on expenditure, due to greater number of individuals being supported than budgeted for, we are showing a greater amount of contributions being collected.

- (£3.054m) anticipated over achievement of CHC Income. This also reflects the increase in numbers of individuals we are supporting, especially those with more complex needs. It also reflects improved joined up approaches across health and social care.

Other variations (£9.466m):

- +£0.159m overspend relates to unachieved savings

- +£0.688m forecast pressure within passenger transport services relating to transport recharges. This is being looked at to ensure efficient use of resources.

- +£0.059m pressure on void supported living costs, where the lease costs of a property are not covered by tenants' Housing Benefit income due to the property being empty. Work continues to take place to ensure all voids are occupied as soon as possible and this number continues to reduce. This will also be looked at during the supported living remodelling mentioned above.

- (£0.599m) underspend within the staffing budget due to challenges in recruiting to vacant posts.

People Directorate Management	Adult Social Care and Public Health	460,690	2,843,164	2,382,474	R
--------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------	---------	-----------	-----------	---

The forecast overspend relates to unachieved savings targets that have been applied organisation wide. £2.278m relates to the "Target Operating Model - 5% reduction in staffing" savings target while £0.103m relates to the "Target Operating Model - Getting Leadership Right" savings target.

Learning and Skills	Children & Education	18,190,420	18,568,958	378,538	R
----------------------------	---------------------------------	------------	------------	---------	---

£0.454m of overspend at Q3 relates to the Home to School Transport budget. The service are confident that the changes put in place regarding alternative provision transport will deliver the £0.202m savings target in this financial year as well as well as the £0.100m savings target on SEND Transport. Despite this, the service has experienced a large increase in the number of routes/journeys paid for, particularly in the SEND Transport budget areas where the Council has seen a large increase in the number of pupils with SEND being placed at Independent Special Schools. This financial year has seen an acceleration of the trend experienced in 2022/23.

£0.039m forecast overspend relates to the Council's Fully Traded Schools Library Service as the forecast income from schools is not expected to cover the expenditure of running the service. This service is reviewing charges and operational activity for 2024/25 to ensure they can achieve full cost recovery going forward.

Partially offsetting this overspend, there is a forecast underspend of £0.065m within Learning & Skills Business Support relating to the use of capital receipts funding against a post on the basis that this post has been identified as working on a transformational project as a one-off in this financial year. There is a £0.037m forecast underspend in the NEETs Data Tracking team due to temporary vacancies. The remaining £0.012m forecast underspend relates to one off underspends on supplies and services across several teams.

Adult Social Care Provider Services	Adult Social Care and Public Health	3,933,660	4,226,524	292,864	R
--------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------	-----------	-----------	---------	---

Overall Provider Services have a forecast overspend of £0.292m. Broken down as below:

- +£0.091m pressure within Shared Lives. This includes £0.068m which relates to un-achievement of rental and Housing Benefit income. This is currently under review.
- (£0.059m) forecast underspend in Internal Day Services.
- +£0.260m forecast overspend in START. This is down to staffing. We have over-recruited within the team and increased wages in order to deal with previously seen high staff-turnover. Although showing as an overspend in this area the impact of not having a fully staffed service is the extra reliance on external providers to deliver care. This is at greater expense and has worse outcomes for the individuals, who often have to access longer-term care when not given the correct support to enable them to go back home. If we continue to see high staff turnover then the expenditure will reduce due to vacancies.

Adult Social Care Business Support and Development	Adult Social Care and Public Health	3,765,430	3,559,880	(205,550)	Y
-----------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------	-----------	-----------	-----------	---

(£0.206m) forecast underspend within Adult Social Care Business Support. The breakdown of this is as follows

- +£0.063m overspend relates to unachieved savings currently being worked through.
- +£0.106m overspend relates to yet to be made savings within Joint Training. We are in the process of making alternative plans
- (£0.120m) forecast staffing underspend due to vacancy management
- (£0.251m) short term capital funding to cover the costs of transformational posts

Adult Social Care Management	Adult Social Care and Public Health	1,117,730	725,147	(392,583)	Y
-------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------	-----------	---------	-----------	---

(£0.393m) forecast underspend within Adult Social Care Management. The breakdown as follows:

- (£0.086m) forecast staffing underspend. All posts are now recruited to so the underspend relates to when the posts were vacant in April/May 2023.
- (£0.305m) short term capital funding to cover the costs of transformational posts

Children's Early Help, Partnerships and Commissioning	Children & Education	3,268,140	3,012,307	(255,833)	Y
--------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------	-----------	-----------	-----------	---

The majority of the underspend (£0.234m) is due to delays in recruiting staff to vacancies within the Early Help Family Hubs. The remaining underspend relates to premises related costs such as Rates and building rental charges and other supplies and services

PLACE	Full Year			RAGY
	Budget £	Forecast £	Variance £	
Total	75,749,650	79,294,365	3,544,715	R

Waste Management	Deputy Leader, Climate Change, Environment and Transport	33,843,980	35,990,509	2,146,529	R
-------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------	------------	------------	-----------	---

Includes £4.125m outstanding Waste PFI saving, some of which is expected to be found in-year, delivery plans are in place as well as looking at the remainder of the saving to be achieved in future years.

Transformation & Improvement Scrutiny 19th February 2024, Cabinet 21st February 2024: Finance Monitoring 2023/24-Quarter 3

Director of Place	Housing and Assets	(746,850)	661,386	1,408,236	R
Projected overspend of £1.515m relating to undelivered TOM staffing budget turnover and wastage increase by 5% (year end review) savings. Increased by £0.159m due to the transfer of Housing savings target in P6. Some of this may be achievable in year by higher than 3% vacancy factor. -£0.130m saving anticipated from supplies and services budgets across the Place Directorate.					
Leisure	Culture and Digital	2,204,130	2,809,954	605,824	R
Leisure centre closures at three sites have resulted in loss of income/compensation for loss of income as well as repairs costs. Bad weather and flooding has also forced Meole Brace Golf Course to close resulting in reduced income'					
Planning Services	Planning and Regulatory Services	701,200	1,229,615	528,415	R
A reduction in the forecast income for planning applications and land charges (search) income. The number of major Planning Applications submitted in 2023/24 is lower than that of 2022/23, this is a trend seen by other Local Authorities. Planning income is greatly affected by the number of Major Planning Applications received (Apr-Dec 2022 Major Applications 89, Apr-Dec 2023 Major Applications 76).					
Housing Services	Housing and Assets	3,869,020	4,136,643	267,623	R
Housing Services have worked hard to reduce the numbers in B&B currently 125, as well as driving down accommodation costs for each placement. This work is ongoing alongside a number of temporary accommodation projects in the pipeline. Further to this, costs have been reduced for a range of support services, and a restructure is now planned to deliver staffing efficiencies. Current Assistive Equipment and Technology is projected to overspend by £0.338m in year, currently being offset by various other smaller overspends in Housing.					
Assistant Director Economy & Place	Growth and Regeneration	164,630	309,593	144,963	R
Projected overspend of £0.145m relating to undelivered Getting Leadership Right savings, work is being done to plan for these savings and cost of office alterations in Darwin Centre.					
Assistant Director Highways and Transport	Highways and Infrastructure	101,180	275,780	174,600	R
Projected overspend of £0.175m relating to undelivered Getting Leadership Right savings, work is being done to plan for these savings					
Assistant Director Commercial Services	Housing and Assets	50,080	162,794	112,714	R
Projected overspend of £0.111m relating to undelivered Getting Leadership Right savings, work is being done to plan for these savings.					
Assistant Director Homes and Communities	Housing and Assets	(181,720)	(27,179)	154,541	R
Projected overspend of £0.147m relating to undelivered savings, work is being done to plan for these savings offset by other small variances.					
Outdoor Partnerships	Culture and Digital	1,237,480	1,259,933	22,453	G
A break-in meant an additional £80k spend on replacing equipment, offset by an insurance claim but a shortfall of £20k has contributed to the overspend					
Libraries	Culture and Digital	3,362,630	3,409,319	46,689	G
Overspends are largely on salaries and equipment					
Shire Services	Housing and Assets	-	24,962	24,962	G
Minor variance from budget at Period 9					
Commercial Services Business Development	Housing and Assets	94,290	125,888	31,598	G
There is a current projected income shortfall against Business Development schemes due to the Business Development Officer spending significant amounts of time supporting transformation programme work in the People directorate to deliver savings in their service areas.					
Highways & Transport	Highways and Infrastructure	17,567,760	16,764,168	(803,592)	Y
Use of transport grants, release of transport provision (no-longer required) and managing the programme of works to maximise savings					
Business and Consumer Protection	Planning and Regulatory Services	1,986,250	1,838,704	(147,546)	Y
BCP are experiencing an influx of Blue Badge requests since the rules changed for 'non-visible disabilities', there are also a greater number of licenses than in the previous year due to the 3 and 5 year cycle that some are based on. Some vacancies contributing to underspend.					

Registrars and Coroners	Planning and Regulatory Services	565,950	444,329	(121,621)	Y
Large increase in advance bookings					
Corporate Landlord, Property and Development	Housing and Assets	3,496,230	3,287,787	(208,443)	Y
Reserves are being used to offset an unachievable savings target associated with generating income from the Guildhall. There is also a pressure created from movement of tenants in three operational buildings being Shirehall, Ptarmigan and Mount McKinley, work is being done in year to fill these vacancies and income shortfall is being offset by in-year savings. There is also a current in year pressure at Bishops Castle Business Park (£0.205m) due to low tenancy levels, this is being offset with one-off in-year savings. The remaining underspend is due to projections against utility costs and vacancy management across the teams.					
Economic Growth	Growth and Regeneration	1,262,200	1,170,271	(91,929)	Y
Projected underspend relates to savings on vacancy management and grant income					
Broadband	Culture and Digital	174,190	140,806	(33,384)	Y
Staffing savings resulting from a reduction in hours and vacancy					
Policy and Environment	Planning and Regulatory Services	1,919,870	1,870,746	(49,124)	Y
Projected underspend relates to savings on vacancy management.					
Shrewsbury Shopping Centres (Commercial)	Growth and Regeneration	440	-	(440)	Y
Minor variance from budget at Period 9					
Culture, Leisure & Tourism Development	Culture and Digital	19,320	3,874	(15,446)	Y
Minor variance from budget at Period 9					
Bereavement Services	Planning and Regulatory Services	(242,040)	(244,256)	(2,216)	Y
Minor variance from budget at Period 9					
Shropshire Hills National Landscape	Culture and Digital	38,710	38,710	(0)	Y
No variance from budget at Period 9					
Museums and Archives	Culture and Digital	1,233,610	1,110,916	(122,694)	Y
Closure of Acton Scott Historic Working Farm has generated a saving					
Theatre Services	Culture and Digital	228,810	91,010	(137,800)	Y
Overall services forecast to generate additional (net) income.					
Head of Culture, Leisure & Tourism	Culture and Digital	680,260	325,860	(354,400)	Y
Culture, Leisure and Tourism (CLT) restructure has lead to a projected underspend as well as a delay in recruitment to current vacancies in order to offset other overspends in other CLT areas.					
Climate Change	Deputy Leader, Climate Change, Environment and Transport	(30,700)	(33,155)	(2,455)	Y
Minor variance from budget at Period 9					
Highway Policy & Strategic Infrastructure	Deputy Leader, Climate Change, Environment and Transport	2,097,710	2,070,648	(27,062)	Y
Continued High Street pedestrianisation measures, offset by grant and savings					
Housing Development and HRA	Housing and Assets	51,030	44,750	(6,280)	Y
Minor variance from budget at Period 9					

HEALTH AND WELLBEING	Full Year			RAGY
	Budget £	Forecast £	Variance £	
Total	1,878,200	1,865,797	(12,403)	Y

Regulatory Services	Planning and Regulatory Services	1,871,130	1,859,167	(11,963)	Y
----------------------------	-----------------------------------------	-----------	-----------	----------	---

Minor variation at Q3					
Ring Fenced Public Health Services	Adult Social Care and Public Health	7,070	6,630	(440)	Y
Minor variance at Q3. The directorate held £4.215m as ring fenced Public Health reserve at April 23 and plans to use £1.366m of this in the year, the directorate has clear plans for the use of the balance of this reserve over the subsequent three years. The directorate also utilised specific grant funding of £1.669m to enhance its public health activities. The use of reserves and additional grants means that this area's activities are 124% of the annual Public Health Grant.					

RESOURCES	Full Year			RAGY
	Budget £	Forecast £	Variance £	
Total	2,763,930	5,641,346	2,877,416	R

Housing Benefits	Finance, Corporate Resources and Communities	512,130	1,728,130	1,216,000	R
Currently there are unachieved savings targets of £1.000m this is from a reduction in housing benefit subsidy loss from accommodating people in B&B accommodation to prevent homelessness, currently this saving is undeliverable, however solutions are being investigated as to how this can be moved forwards by housing.					
Resources Management Team	Finance, Corporate Resources and Communities	(971,470)	15,892	987,362	R
Currently there are unachieved savings targets of £0.979m, however a mitigation plans to make these savings achievable are currently being investigated.					
Finance	Finance, Corporate Resources and Communities	2,180,300	2,783,317	603,017	R
There are unachieved savings targets relating to efficiency reviews and Getting Leadership Right targets, these are partly offset by savings efficiencies across supplies and services, and vacancy management.					
Legal Services	Finance, Corporate Resources and Communities	(219,250)	(36,170)	183,080	R
Unexpected turnover within Legal Services generating additional vacancy savings, has been offset by the requirement to cover posts via more expensive agency, and locum costs especially in relation to covering legal child-care. There are also unachieved savings targets relating to Getting Leadership Right targets, legal disbursement reductions and service redesign.					
Policy and Governance	Finance, Corporate Resources and Communities	(69,650)	27,275	96,925	A
There are unachieved savings targets relating to service redesign.					
Human Resources and Organisational Development	Finance, Corporate Resources and Communities	(84,950)	(6,018)	78,932	A
Currently there are expected to be unachieved savings targets of £0.116m regarding Getting Leadership Right targets yet to have delivery confirmed, plans to make these savings achievable are currently being investigated, there are also SLA income pressures identified within the service of £0.153m these have been partly offset by savings from planned vacancy management and anticipated additional income generated within Health and Safety on a one off basis.					
Communications & Engagement	Leader, Policy and Strategy, Improvement and Communications	626,180	686,598	60,418	A
The savings around reducing the opening hours of Customer Service Centre have been delivered on a one-off basis in year, however there are unachieved savings of £0.123m in relation to securing CCTV partner funding and Getting Leadership Right targets yet to have delivery confirmed, offset in part by turnover within service area.					
Automation and Technology	Culture and Digital	116,830	(70,348)	(187,178)	Y
Savings are forecast in year from a combination of contract management, efficiencies across supplies and services, and vacancy management.					
Business Improvement: Data, Analysis and Intelligence	Culture and Digital	76,820	37,338	(39,482)	Y
In year savings of (£0.039m) are expected from vacancy management on a one-off basis.					

Commissioning Development and Procurement	Finance, Corporate Resources and Communities	(213,520)	(230,355)	(16,835)	Y
Minor variance from budget at Period 9					
Democratic Services	Finance, Corporate Resources and Communities	231,850	145,544	(86,306)	Y
There are expected to be savings from across members services in relation to supplies and services.					
Elections	Finance, Corporate Resources and Communities	560,220	516,382	(43,838)	Y
In year savings of (£0.044m) are expected from vacancy management on a one-off basis.					
Pensions	Finance, Corporate Resources and Communities	(38,590)	(38,590)	0	G
No variance from budget at Period 9					
Risk Management	Finance, Corporate Resources and Communities	(13,720)	(13,720)	-	G
No variance from budget at Period 9					

STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT BOARD	Full Year			RAGY
	Budget £	Forecast £	Variance £	
Total	162,730	160,248	(2,482)	Y

Chief Executive & PAs	Leader, Policy and Strategy, Improvement and Communications	145,770	145,638	(132)	Y
Minor variance from budget at Period 9					
Programme Management	Leader, Policy and Strategy, Improvement and Communications	16,960	14,610	(2,350)	Y
Minor variance from budget at Period 9					

CORPORATE BUDGETS	Full Year			RAGY
	Budget £	Forecast £	Variance £	
Total	(22,758,300)	(23,161,829)	(403,529)	Y

Corporate Budgets	Finance, Corporate Resources and Communities	(22,758,300)	(23,161,829)	(403,529)	Y
Assumed £2.303m of Organisation Wide TOM savings are unachieved, and £0.214m unachieved PFI savings, in year pressure from external audit fees of £0.127m offset by combined savings of (£0.031m) against non-distributable costs and corporate subscriptions, (£1.783m) from interest receivable and payable, MRP one off savings of (£0.592m), and (£0.572m) capital receipts set aside saving (one-off) for 23/24.					

APPENDIX 1C

2023/24 PROJECTED REVENUE OUTTURN BY PORTFOLIO HOLDER

Portfolio Holder	Revised Budget £'000	Forecast Outturn £'000	Variance £'000
Portfolio Holder Adult Social Care, Public Health and Communities	127,426	132,105	4,679
Portfolio Holder Children and Education	70,699	73,974	3,275
Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder Climate Change, Environment and Transport	35,911	38,028	2,117
Portfolio Holder Finance and Corporate Resources	(20,814)	(18,174)	2,640
Portfolio Holder Housing and Assets	6,632	8,417	1,785
Portfolio Holder Planning and Regulatory Services	6,802	6,998	196
Portfolio Holder Highways and Infrastructure	17,669	17,040	(629)
Portfolio Holder Growth and Regeneration	1,427	1,480	53
Portfolio Holder Culture and Digital	9,373	9,157	(215)
Leader and Portfolio Holder Policy and Strategy, Improvement and Communications	789	847	58
Total	255,914	269,872	13,959

APPENDIX 2

2023/24 INCOME PROJECTIONS Specific Government Grants

The revised revenue budget for 2023/24 includes specific Government Grants of £267.686m. The majority of these budgets will be based on known allocations that the Government has announced for Shropshire Council. However during the course of the financial year, the Council will also bid for additional grant funding to support activities and so the value of Government Grants received in the financial year may be different to the budgeted figure. An analysis of specific Government Grants is provided in the table below:

Government Grants	Revised Budget £'000	Forecast Outturn £'000	Variance £'000
People			
Dedicated Schools Grant	(110,599)	(110,599)	0
Pupil Premium Grant	(7,186)	(7,186)	0
Improved Better Care Fund	(1,967)	(1,967)	0
Asylum Seekers	(2,042)	(2,903)	(861)
Adult Social Care Discharge Fund	(1,663)	(3,783)	(2,120)
Other Grants ³	(6,516)	(7,074)	(558)
Total People Grants	(129,973)	(133,512)	(3,539)
Place			
Waste - PFI	(3,186)	(3,186)	0
Homes for Ukraine	(1,376)	(2,451)	(1,075)
Other Grants	(3,714)	(7,310)	(3,606)
Total Place Grants	(8,266)	(12,947)	(4,681)
Health and Wellbeing			
Public Health Grant	(13,192)	(13,192)	0
Other Grants ⁴	(216)	(1,821)	(1,605)
Total Health and Wellbeing Grants	(13,408)	(15,013)	(1,605)
Resources			
Mandatory Rent Allowances: Subsidy	(38,000)	(37,659)	341
Rent Rebates: Subsidy	(7,902)	(7,902)	0
Other Grants	(815)	(967)	152
Total Resources Grants	(46,717)	(46,528)	189
Strategic Management Board	0	0	0
Corporate Budgets			

³ This covers a range of smaller grants, including for example LTA Bus Recovery Funding (£1.083m), Holiday activities and food programme (£714k).

⁴ This includes Rough Sleeping (Drug and Alcohol Treatment) grant (£951k), Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment & Recovery (£379k), and a range of other grants.

Government Grants	Revised Budget £'000	Forecast Outturn £'000	Variance £'000
Social Care Support Grant	(21,547)	(21,547)	0
Business Rate Retention Scheme – s31 Grants	(21,521)	(21,521)	0
Improved Better Care Fund	(9,896)	(9,896)	0
Rural Service Delivery Grant	(7,757)	(7,757)	0
Market Sustainability and Fair Cost Fund	(3,264)	(3,264)	0
Core Spending Power Services Grant	(2,066)	(2,066)	0
New Homes Bonus	(1,748)	(1,748)	0
Other Grants	(1,523)	(1,576)	(53)
Total Corporate Budgets	(69,322)	(69,375)	(53)
Total	(267,686)	(277,375)	(9,689)

Income from Fees and Charges

The forecast income from discretionary sales, fees and charges is showing a projected shortfall, mainly relating to trading and rental income within Commercial Services, and parking income within Highways and Transport. This has been partially offset by additional income within Learning and Skills, particularly in relation to Home to School transport, increased income within Registrars and increased ticket sales for Theatre Severn. Further work will be undertaken within the services with an income shortfall to generate additional income to offset these projected shortfalls, or expenditure will be reduced accordingly.

Fees and Charges Income	Revised Budget £'000	Forecast Outturn £'000	Variance £'000
People			
Directorate Management	0	0	0
Adult Social Care Management	0	0	0
Adult Social Care Business Support & Development	(2,531)	(2,671)	(140)
Adult Social Care Provider Services	(224)	(202)	22
Adult Social Care Operations	(39)	(1)	38
Children's Social Care and Safeguarding	0	(1)	(1)
Children's Early Help, Partnerships and Commissioning	0	(3)	(3)
Learning and Skills	(1,477)	(2,217)	(740)
People Total	(4,271)	(5,095)	(824)
Place			
Directorate Management	0	0	0
Commercial Services	(15,647)	(15,080)	567
Economy and Place	(1,349)	(1,351)	(2)
Homes and Communities	(9,827)	(10,688)	(861)
Highways and Transport	(9,507)	(8,470)	1,037
Place Total	(36,330)	(35,589)	741
Health and Wellbeing			
Directorate Management	0	0	0
Public Health – Non Ringfenced	(120)	(80)	40

Fees and Charges Income	Revised Budget £'000	Forecast Outturn £'000	Variance £'000
Public Health - Ringfenced	(930)	(1,056)	(126)
Health and Wellbeing Total	(1,050)	(1,136)	(86)
Resources			
Directorate Management	0	0	0
Workforce and Improvement	(559)	(453)	106
Finance and Technology	(1,647)	(1,626)	21
Legal and Governance	(116)	(132)	(16)
Communications and Engagement	(170)	(94)	76
Pensions	(21)	(7)	14
Resources Total	(2,513)	(2,312)	201
Strategic Management Board	0	0	0
Corporate Budgets	0	0	0
Total	(44,164)	(44,132)	(32)

APPENDIX 3

DELIVERY OF 2023/24 SAVINGS PROPOSALS

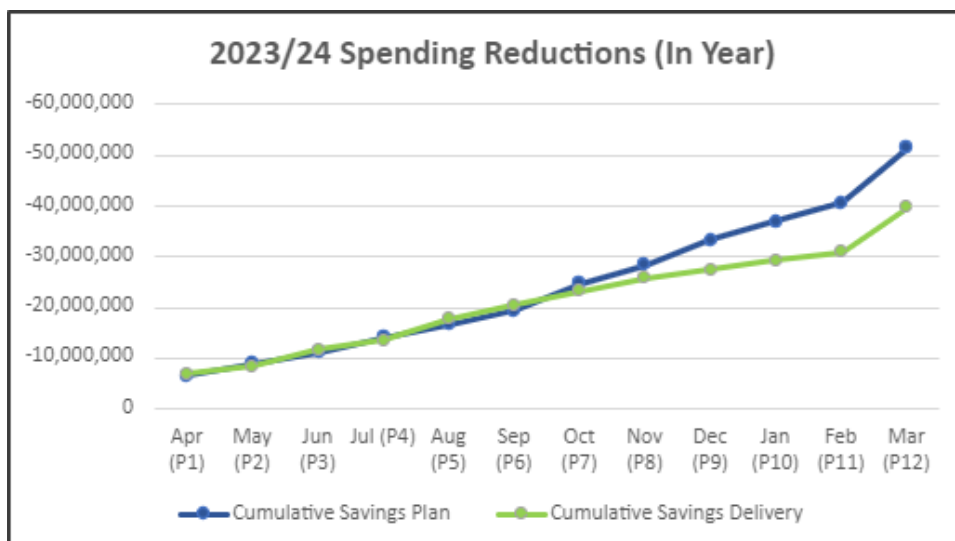
Summary

The savings projections for 2023/24 are being tracked monthly with savings delivery being mapped against projected delivery during the course of the year.

The table below summarises the position as at 31st December 2023. Delivered savings are those that are forecasted to be delivered by the end of the financial year.

Directorate	Delivered (£'000)	Savings still to be delivered (£'000)	Total (£'000)
People	(20,984)	(321)	(21,304)
Place	(12,391)	(4,551)	(16,942)
Health and Wellbeing	(653)	0	(653)
Resources	(3,070)	(2,957)	(6,027)
Corporate Budgets	(2,700)	(3,764)	(6,464)
Total Savings	(39,798)	(11,593)	(51,390)

The graph below plots the cumulative savings plan and cumulative savings delivery over the Financial Year.



Transformation & Improvement Scrutiny 19th February 2024, Cabinet 21st February 2024: Finance Monitoring 2023/24-Quarter 3

As per MTFS - 2 March 2023		2023/24 DELIVERY @ Q3				
Savings Reference	Description of Saving	Green - Achieved	Green - Will be achieved	Amber	Red	Total
POL05	Installation of battery units at Shirehall and Theatre Severn to store electricity generated from rooftop photovoltaic cell installations, to support reduced local energy use from the Grid and more locally generated energy, and to replace 'selling back' energy to the Grid.	0	-75,000	0	0	-75,000
POL06	Reduce small grant funding to local groups	-25,000	0	0	0	-25,000
POL07	Review of collection charges for bulky waste	-15,000	0	0	0	-15,000
POL08	Savings in the Museum Service	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL Policy Choice - Place		-40,000	-75,000	0	0	-115,000
EFF44	Review PFI contract costs to secure greater efficiency	-958,500	0	-1,200,000	-2,127,740	-4,286,240
EFF101	Target Operating Model - staffing budget turnover and wastage increase by 5% (year-end review).	-59,420	0	0	-1,447,550	-1,506,970
EFF105	Target Operating Model/Workforce Strategy - Getting Leadership Right - cashable benefit of improved organisation-wide performance management	0	0	0	-595,230	-595,230
EFF18	Decreased use of B&B accommodation as temporary accommodation for 2022/23 (including associated costs) in view of current action to reduce or divert demand.	0	0	0	-344,000	-344,000
EFF51	Shopping Centres - Pride Hill and Riverside base budget reduced as not required once the demolition works begin. To be reinstated in 2026-27	-265,450	0	0	0	-265,450
EFF46	Increased charges for car parking including changes to permit schemes and some reduction in concessions.	-728,272	0	-1,271,728	0	-2,000,000
EFF60	Increased income generation by Register Office	0	-60,000	0	0	-60,000
EFF61	Registrars and Estates increased income	0	-25,000	-25,000	0	-50,000
EFF66	Increased income generation within Museums and Archives	-4,165	-5,835	0	0	-10,000
EFF45	Charge staffing costs to capital budgets where possible and appropriate (capital project support or transformation of revenue services).	-94,710	-1,924,600	0	0	-2,019,310
EFF49	Removal of budgets for vacant posts (avg. 3%)	-628,792	-190,058	0	0	-818,850
EFF48	Review application of grant funding.	-976,000	0	0	0	-976,000
EFF50	Fees and charges increased in line with cost inflation.	-231,594	-194,467	0	0	-426,060
EFF55	Revised service structure for Communities, Leisure and Tourism functions.	-105,000	0	0	0	-105,000
EFF17	Review of support contracts	-250,000	-96,620	0	0	-346,620
EFF58	Review of housing costs and attribution to general fund functions versus attribution to Housing Revenue Account.	0	-80,000	0	0	-80,000
EFF09	Removal of budgets for vacant posts (avg. 3%)	-85,461	8,441	0	0	-77,020
EFF28	Increase private sector housing fees	-80,207	-19,793	0	0	-100,000
EFF26	Use external grant funding to support staff costs	-71,824	-64,856	0	0	-136,680
EFF56	Revise Shire Services cleaning contracts to improve efficiency and reduce net costs.	-57,810	-42,190	0	0	-100,000
EFF59	Review of youth centres and other accommodation used for youth activities	-32,830	0	0	-36,470	-69,300
EFF64	Enhanced income through use of Planning Performance Agreements and increased fees	0	-25,000	0	0	-25,000
EFF36	Optimise Occupational Therapy service delivery by ending 'just checking' contract.	-15,000	-15,000	0	0	-30,000
EFF47	Once-only use of adverse weather reserves while other savings plans are put into place.	-1,561,000	0	0	0	-1,561,000
EFF52	Reshape Planning Services to become closer to cost neutral by 2025/26	-200,000	0	0	0	-200,000
EFF24	Review the Independent Living Service to ensure value for money.	-150,000	0	0	0	-150,000
EFF53	Public Health funding to increase health improvement benefits through leisure services.	-140,000	0	0	0	-140,000
EFF54	Repurposing unclaimed developer bonds.	-125,000	0	0	0	-125,000
EFF57	Increased efficiency in drainage maintenance operations	-100,000	0	0	0	-100,000
EFF33	Improve value for money of housing security provision	-74,000	0	0	0	-74,000
EFF62	Recovery of insurance costs (prev. agreed)	-30,000	0	0	0	-30,000
EFF63	Recovery of insurance costs (additional to EFF62)	-30,000	0	0	0	-30,000
EFF65	Enhanced income through the commercial activities in the Natural and Historic Environment Team.	-30,000	0	0	0	-30,000
EFF77	Change to staff charges to CDL/Cornovii (reduced charges to CDL, increased costs to the Council)	40,980	0	0	0	40,980
EFF67	Anticipated overage payments from planned Cornovii/CDL developments.	0	0	0	0	0
EFF68	Increased income generation within Theatre Services	0	0	0	0	0

Transformation & Improvement Scrutiny 19th February 2024, Cabinet 21st February 2024: Finance Monitoring 2023/24-Quarter 3

EFF69	One off use of building control reserve (in line with reserve use guidelines; target applied in 2022/23 budget but removed from 2024/25 onwards, hence negative value)	0	0	0	0	0
EFF70	Increased income generation within Libraries	0	0	0	0	0
EFF71	Self-issue software reducing library costs	0	0	0	0	0
EFF72	Increased income generation within Council-operated Leisure Centres	0	0	0	0	0
EFF73	Cost savings in leisure services	0	0	0	0	0
EFF74	Libraries - Implementation of changes under the Library Transformation Project	0	0	0	0	0
EFF75	Efficiency savings within Highways Operations	0	0	0	0	0
EFF76	Reduce horticultural contract costs.	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL Efficiency - Place		-7,044,055	-2,734,977	-2,496,728	-4,550,990	-16,826,750
TOTAL SAVINGS - PLACE		-7,084,055	-2,809,977	-2,496,728	-4,550,990	-16,941,750
As per MTF5 - 2 March 2023						
Savings Reference	Description of Saving	Green - Achieved	Green - Will be achieved	Amber	Red	Total
POL01	Review the transport arrangements for SEND education placements to ensure efficient use of resources whilst providing appropriate support.	-100,000	0	0	0	-100,000
POL02	Consult on options to revise the contribution scheme for Post 16 applicants with SEND to ensure efficient use of resources.	0	0	0	0	0
POL03	Review the transport arrangements for placements at the Tuition Medical Behaviour Support Service to ensure efficient use of resources.	-202,000	0	0	0	-202,000
POL04	Consult on options to revise the Post 16 transport assistance scheme to ensure efficient use of resources.	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL Policy Choice - People		-302,000	0	0	0	-302,000
EFF101	Target Operating Model - staffing budget turnover and wastage increase by 5% (year-end review).	-1,721,457	0	0	-717,453	-2,438,910
EFF10	Managing predicted growth	0	0	0	0	0
EFF11	Increase numbers of local foster carers to enable reductions in independent foster care costs (local foster carers, engaged by the Council, are less costly than independent foster carers)	-1,000,000	0	0	0	-1,000,000
EFF13	Reduce numbers of childcare placements in long-term residential placements, where appropriate ('Stepping Stones' project, implementing the proven North Yorkshire model of children's social care management).	-1,000,000	0	0	0	-1,000,000
EFF14	Prevent the need for residential care	-832,198	0	0	0	-832,198
EFF105	Target Operating Model/Workforce Strategy - Getting Leadership Right - cashable benefit of improved organisation-wide performance management	-682,540	0	0	-39,680	-722,220
EFF09	Removal of budgets for vacant posts (avg. 3%)	-1,222,930	0	0	-25,050	-1,247,980
EFF21	Review exceptionally high-cost children's residential care placements to identify the optimum care arrangements for each child, reflecting their changing levels of need.	-250,000	0	0	0	-250,000
EFF22	Review care at home model.	-240,437	0	0	0	-240,437
EFF23	Review the Council contribution to maintained school redundancy costs.	-180,000	0	0	0	-180,000
EFF30	Review funding arrangements across Learning and Skills to maximise the use of the Central School Services Block (CSSB) grant funding, in line with Government guidance, to rebalance the Council contribution to the service.	-86,180	0	0	0	-86,180
EFF34	Review service model to deliver wellbeing training and capacity building offer.	-66,610	0	0	0	-66,610
EFF37	Review the 'Enhance' contract	-21,000	0	0	0	-21,000
EFF07	Review care at home model	-3,059,563	0	0	0	-3,059,563
EFF12	Review supported living model	-1,000,000	0	0	0	-1,000,000
EFF20	Reduce transport costs through improved efficiencies	-25,600	0	0	-274,400	-300,000
EFF27	Review of arrangements for personal budgets	-110,000	0	0	0	-110,000
EFF35	Charge for sourcing care to self funders	-18,110	0	0	0	-18,110
EFF40	Contract review for supported living	-7,480	0	0	0	-7,480
EFF06	Expand and enhance reablement model to improve people's outcomes get better and to remain independent.	-4,869,750	0	0	0	-4,869,750
EFF08	Review client contributions in line with national guidance	-1,500,000	0	0	0	-1,500,000
EFF15	Deliver efficiencies across the ISF model	-500,000	0	0	0	-500,000
EFF19	Develop flexible support model to support people to remain at home	-325,000	0	0	0	-325,000
EFF25	Increase joint training opportunities.	-150,000	0	0	0	-150,000
EFF32	Review of Day Services model.	-75,000	0	0	0	-75,000
EFF41	Increase Fees and Charges relating to Day Services	-7,000	0	0	0	-7,000
EFF42	Remove use of external venues	-5,000	0	0	0	-5,000
EFF16	Improving public health to reduce social care costs	-500,000	0	0	0	-500,000
EFF29	Review the 'Enable' services budget	-88,000	0	0	0	-88,000
EFF31	Review grants (non-statutory)	-80,000	0	0	0	-80,000
EFF38	Review of Enable	-12,000	0	0	0	-12,000
EFF39	Review of care packages jointly funded with health services	-1,046,040	0	0	736,041	-310,000
EFF43	Reduce social care demand through family support and early interventions to prevent crisis.	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL Efficiency - People		-20,681,897	0	0	-320,541	-21,002,438

Transformation & Improvement Scrutiny 19th February 2024, Cabinet 21st February 2024: Finance Monitoring 2023/24-Quarter 3

Additional Spending Reductions Identified to Offset Known Pressures in 2023/24		[Now shown in the table above]			
EFF06	Expand and enhance reablement model to improve people's outcomes get better and to remain independent.				
EFF07	Review care at home model				
EFF08	Review client contributions in line with national guidance				
EFF09	Removal of budgets for vacant posts (avg. 3%)				
EFF10	Managing predicted growth				
EFF35	Charge for sourcing care to self funders				
EFF39	Review of care packages jointly funded with health services				

TOTAL Efficiency - People	0	0	0	0	0
----------------------------------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------

TOTAL SAVINGS - PEOPLE	-20,983,897	0	0	-320,541	-21,304,438
-------------------------------	--------------------	----------	----------	-----------------	--------------------

As per MTFs - 2 March 2023

Savings Reference	Description of Saving	Green - Achieved	Green - Will be achieved	Amber	Red	Total
EFF101	Target Operating Model - staffing budget turnover and wastage increase by 5% (year-end review).	-111,550	0	0	0	-111,550
EFF04	Review future model of pest control delivery	-40,000	0	0	0	-40,000
EFF01	Review application of grant funds	-218,930	0	0	0	-218,930
EFF02	Additional capacity to support transformation programme	-128,960	0	0	0	-128,960
EFF105	Target Operating Model/Workforce Strategy - Getting Leadership Right - cashable benefit of improved organisation-wide performance management	-87,310	0	0	0	-87,310
EFF03	Removal of budgets for vacant posts (avg. 3%)	-61,420	0	0	0	-61,420
EFF05	Reduce the cost by providing the minimum statutory duty for Public Health Funerals.	-5,000	0	0	0	-5,000

TOTAL Efficiency - Health & Wellbeing	-653,170	0	0	0	-653,170
--------------------------------------------------	-----------------	----------	----------	----------	-----------------

Savings Reference	Description of Saving	Green - Achieved	Green - Will be achieved	Amber	Red	Total
EFF78	Review of customer contact teams across the Council - Channel shifting to promote more streamlined and cost-efficient responses.	-112000	0	0	-1000000	-1,112,000
EFF79	Reduce housing benefit subsidy loss arising from use of expensive bed and breakfast accommodation (reverses budget growth from 2021/22 into 2022/23)	0	0	0	-1000000	-1,000,000
EFF101	Target Operating Model - staffing budget turnover and wastage increase by 5% (year-end review).	-942570	0	0	0	-942,570
EFF105	Target Operating Model/Workforce Strategy - Getting Leadership Right - cashable benefit of improved organisation-wide performance management	-7940	0	0	-587310	-595,250
EFF87	Operating Model - Digital County - Reduce/remove uneconomical Service Delivery	0	0	0	-100000	-100,000
EFF88	Review of single person discount and housing benefit applications against data warehouse to reduce error and fraud.	0	0	0	-100000	-100,000
EFF89	CCTV provision and management - Seek partner funding contributions	0	0	0	-75000	-75,000
EFF82	Legal and Governance restructure to include deletion of some vacant posts and the movement of others into transformation	-164850	0	0	-67000	-231,850
EFF86	Contract rebates and spending reductions	-101500	0	0	-28000	-129,500
EFF97	Additional 100% premium on vacant properties	0	0	0	0	0
EFF98	Additional 100% levy on second homes	0	0	0	0	0
EFF99	Income generation within Audit Services (target level in 2024/25 reduced from previously agreed level)	0	0	0	0	0
EFF81	New Operating Model - Charge staffing costs delivering transformation to capital budgets where possible and appropriate (Workforce and Improvement).	-645222	0	0	0	-645,222
EFF80	Removal of budgets for vacant posts (avg. 3%)	-717730	0	0	0	-717,730
EFF85	Income savings from 22/23 - 26/27 Capital Strategy (ICT Equipment Replacement Fund)	-130000	0	0	0	-130,000
EFF83	New Operating Model - Charge staffing costs to capital budgets where possible and appropriate (Legal and Democratic).	-57330	0	0	0	-57,330
EFF90	Review of ICT contracts to streamline supplier use	-50000	0	0	0	-50,000
EFF91	Full recovery of legal and other recovery costs for unpaid council tax and business rates	-46000	0	0	0	-46,000
EFF92	Review use of Customer Relationship Management system	-25000	0	0	0	-25,000
EFF93	Increase fees and charges in line with cost inflation	-21000	0	0	0	-21,000
EFF84	New Operating Model - Charge staffing costs to capital budgets where possible and appropriate (Finance and IT).	-20740	0	0	0	-20,740
EFF94	Reduce use of printers and copiers (Multi-Functional Devices - MFDs)	-12000	0	0	0	-12,000
EFF95	Complete migration to SharePoint document management and sharing software	-10000	0	0	0	-10,000
EFF96	SMS reminder - Debt recovery (council tax)	-6000	0	0	0	-6,000
0						
TOTAL SAVINGS - RESOURCES	-3,069,882	0	0	0	-2,957,310	-6,027,192

Transformation & Improvement Scrutiny 19th February 2024, Cabinet 21st February 2024: Finance Monitoring 2023/24-Quarter 3

EFF100	Review PFI contract costs to secure greater efficiency	0	0	0	-213,760	-213,760
EFF103	Target Operating Model - Transformation partner delivers 4 x end-to-end process reviews yielding £0.5m per project.	0	0	0	-2,000,000	-2,000,000
EFF104	Increase interest receivable budgets based on changing bank rates	-1,300,000	0	0	0	-1,300,000
EFF105	Target Operating Model/Workforce Strategy - Getting Leadership Right - cashable benefit of improved organisation-wide performance management	0	0	0	0	0
EFF106	Budget review – treasury investment returns.	-700,000	0	0	0	-700,000
EFF107	Contract Spend Analysis and Contract Management Review	-200,010	0	0	-49,990	-250,000
EFF108	Application of corporate grants		-500,000	0	-1,500,000	-2,000,000
TOTAL SAVINGS - CORPORATE		-2,200,010	-500,000	0	-3,763,750	-6,463,760

APPENDIX 4

RECONCILIATION OF MONITORING PROJECTIONS TO SAVINGS DELIVERY

Directorate / Service	Q3 Forecast Variance £'000	Savings Pressure in 2023/24 £'000	Ongoing Pressures Identified £'000	Additional Ongoing Savings Identified £'000	One Off Pressures Identified £'000	One off Savings Identified £'000
People						
Directorate Management	2,382	808	1,598	0	0	(23)
Adult Social Care Management	(393)	0	24	0	0	(416)
Adult Social Care Business Support & Development	(206)	0	179	0	14	(399)
Adult Social Care Provider Services	293	0	67	0	689	(463)
Adult Social Care Operations	2,603	(488)	14,055	0	4,646	(15,610)
Children's Social Care and Safeguarding	3,153	0	9,215	0	7,778	(13,841)
Children's Early Help, Partnerships and Commissioning	(256)	0	0	0	38	(294)
Learning and Skills	379	0	0	0	530	(151)
People Total	7,955	320	25,138	0	13,695	(31,198)
Place						
Directorate Management	1,408	1,455	0	0	13	(60)
Commercial Services	2,105	2,275	0	0	1,183	(1,351)
Economy and Place	471	103	0	0	570	(201)
Homes and Communities	189	542	642	0	872	(1,867)
Highways and Transport	(629)	175	0	0	0	0
Place Total	3,545	4,551	642	0	2,638	(4,238)
Health and Wellbeing						
Directorate Management	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public Health – Non Ringfenced	(12)	0	0	0	381	(393)
Public Health - Ringfenced	0	0	0	0	3,186	(3,186)
Health and Wellbeing Total	(12)	0	0	0	3,568	(3,580)
Resources						
Directorate Management	987	980	0	0	7	0
Workforce and Improvement	39	117	0	0	89	(166)
Finance and Technology	1,632	1,579	341	0	174	(462)
Legal and Governance	158	158	0	0	461	(486)
Communications and Engagement	60	123	0	0	54	(117)
Treasury and Pensions	0	0	0	0	0	0
Resources Total	2,877	2,957	341	0	810	(1,231)
Strategic Management Board						

Directorate / Service	Q3 Forecast Variance £'000	Savings Pressure in 2023/24 £'000	Ongoing Pressures Identified £'000	Additional Ongoing Savings Identified £'000	One Off Pressures Identified £'000	One off Savings Identified £'000
Chief Executive and PAs	0	0	0	0	0	0
Programme Management	(2)	0	0	0	0	(2)
Strategic Management Board Total	(2)	0	0	0	0	(2)
Corporate Budgets	(404)	3,764	0	0	134	(4,302)
TOTAL	13,959	11,591	26,121	0	20,845	(44,596)

APPENDIX 5

AMENDMENTS TO ORIGINAL BUDGET 2023/24

	Total	People	Place	Health & Wellbeing	Resources	Strategic Management Board	Corporate
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Original Budget as Agreed by Council	255,914	200,478	77,124	2,038	3,827	39	(27,593)
Quarter 1 Structure Changes	0	(3,332)	(1,932)	(199)	(1,269)	105	6,627
Quarter 1 Virements	0	(85)	85	0	0	0	0
Quarter 2 Structure Changes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Quarter 2 Virements	0	450	(104)	0	(212)	5	(139)
Quarter 3							
Structure Changes:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Virements:							
Reallocating office space back to Corporate Landlord	0	(56)	56	0	0	0	0
Resolution of savings target	0	0	0	0	6	(6)	0
Pay Award 2023/24 allocation	0	660	522	39	410	19	(1,649)
Members Pay Award 2023/24 reallocation	0	0	0	0	2	0	(2)
Quarter 3 Revised Budget	255,914	198,117	75,750	1,878	2,764	163	(22,758)

APPENDIX 6

RESERVES 2023/24

General Fund

The General Fund reserve at 31st March 2023 stood at £7.093m, below the target level which is £15m-£30m as a minimum.

The 2023/24 budget strategy included a contribution of £19.868m to the General Fund balance which would then reach £26.961m.

It is essential that the Council retains the General Fund Balance in order to be able to mitigate any unforeseen shocks (such as ongoing inflationary increases, climate events such as flooding and drought, or rapid reductions in available resources due to changed national policy).

Independent advice is that General Fund un-earmarked reserves should equate to 5%-10% of net spending.

General Fund	£'000
Balance as at 1 st April	7,093
Budgeted Contribution	19,868
Budgeted Balance before impact of in-year monitoring position	26,961

During the course of the financial year it was agreed that a detailed review of earmarked reserves would be performed to release funding to the General Fund. This exercise has identified a potential £9.7m that can be released to the General Fund in 2023/24. As a result the available General Fund in 2023/24 is £36.7m. Management agreed that whilst the demand management plans for the Council progress to control the demand pressures experienced in Social Care, the General Fund Balance would be utilised directly to fund the demand pressures. Therefore £20.5m has been released to the revenue budget during Quarter 3.

General Fund	£'000
Budgeted Balance before impact of in-year monitoring position	26,961
Release of Earmarked Reserves	9,700
Available funds	36,661
Funding of Demand Pressures in Social Care	(20,500)
Balance before impact of in-year monitoring position	16,161

Earmarked Reserves

The Council held balances of £42.092m (excluding School Balances) in Earmarked Reserves as at 1st April 2023. There are a number of transactions planned from earmarked reserves during the course of the year. The current projections for the year end balance in earmarked reserves is detailed in the table below. The table includes the release of earmarked reserves to the General Fund Balance as outlined above.

Earmarked Reserves	1st April 2023 £'000	Forecast Net Contribution to/from Reserve £'000	31st March 2024 £'000
Sums set aside for major schemes, such as capital developments, or to fund major reorganisations	14,747	(4,842)	9,505
Insurance reserves	3,636	(2,495)	1,141
Reserves of trading and business units	0	0	0
Reserves retained for service departmental use	23,709	(13,045)	10,664
Reserves held for schools	10,487	0	10,487
Total	52,579	(20,382)	31,797

APPENDIX 7

PROJECTED CAPITAL PROGRAMME OUTTURN 2023/24 – 2025/26

The capital budget for 2023/24 is continuously being monitored and changed to reflect the nature of capital projects which can be profiled for delivery over several years. In Quarter 3 the capital budget for 2023/24 was subjected to a detailed review of the position of all projects and reprofiling where required into future years and this will continue in Quarter 4. In Quarter 3 there has been a net budget decrease of £10.495m for 2023/24, compared to position reported at Quarter 2 2023-24. The tables below summarise the overall movement, between that already approved and changes for Quarter 3.

Shropshire Council - Capital Programme 2023/24 - 2025/26

Capital Programme Summary - Quarter 3 2023/24

Directorate	Revised Budget Quarter 2 2023/24 £	Budget Virements Quarter 3 £	Revised Budget Quarter 3 2023/24 £	Actual Spend £	Spend to Budget Variance £	% Budget Spend	Outturn Projection £	Outturn Projection Variance £	2024/25 Revised Budget £	2025/26 Revised Budget £
General Fund										
Health & Wellbeing	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0
People	12,899,760	-2,344,236	10,555,524	4,942,101	5,613,423	46.82%	10,555,524	0	14,349,140	5,780,231
Place	79,894,604	-7,251,009	72,643,595	40,549,344	32,094,251	55.82%	72,643,595	0	114,977,328	39,724,736
Resources	1,042,361	-900,000	142,361	88,879	53,482	62.43%	142,361	0	900,000	0
Total General Fund	93,836,725	-10,495,245	83,341,480	45,580,324	37,761,156	54.69%	83,341,480	0	130,226,468	45,504,967
Housing Revenue Account	32,826,053	0	32,826,053	9,003,969	23,822,084	27.43%	32,826,053	0	17,124,384	12,708,431
Total Approved Budget	126,662,778	-10,495,245	116,167,533	54,584,292	61,583,241	46.99%	116,167,533	0	147,350,852	58,213,398

The main reductions in budget are as follows:

- Leisure – slippage of £1m in delivery of the Whitchurch Swimming and Fitness Centre
- Economic Development – slippage of £3m in delivery of the Oswestry Housing Infrastructure Fund scheme
- Corporate Landlord – slippage of £2m for delivery of Maesbury Solar Farm
- Schools unallocated – virement of £1.3m over to the new primary provision at Bowbrook, slippage of £0.750m for Bowbrook Primary, £0.500m relating to Devolved Formula Capital, £0.325m for Schools Future Place Planning, £0.250m for Haughmond School Scheme, £0.400m for other reprofiling relating to several schools.

The actual capital expenditure at Quarter 3 is £54.584m, which represents 46.99% of the revised capital budget at Quarter 3, 75% of the year. This is very low in comparison to the total revised budget, however, as previously noted, further budget reprofiling will be undertaken in Quarter 4, and this, alongside significant expenditure anticipated to be incurred in Quarter 4, will increase the percentage of actual capital expenditure compared to the revised capital budget. All budgets are fully allocated to projects and will be monitored for levels of spend throughout the remainder of the year. Based on recent years, the capital programme has out turned at around 85% of the outturn budget, which on average has been around 20% lower than the budget at this point in the year, due to further re-profiling later in the year.

The level of spend is slightly low across the programme in some areas, but equal to the level of spend in the previous year at this period. In terms of the major areas the spend position is as follows: People 46.82% (budget £10.556m), Place 55.82% (budget £72.644m) Resources 62.43% (budget £0.142m), HRA Major Repairs & New Build Programme 27.43% (budget £32.826m).

Shropshire Council - Capital Budget Monitoring Report Quarter 3 2023/24

Directorate Service Area	Revised Budget Quarter 2 2023/24 £	Budget Virements Quarter 3 £	Revised Budget Quarter 3 2023/24 £	Actual Spend £	Spend to Budget Variance £	% Budget Spend	Outturn Projection £	Outturn Projection Variance £	2024/25 Revised Budget £	2025/26 Revised Budget £
General Fund										
Health & Wellbeing	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0
Public Health Capital	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0
Regulatory Services Capital	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0
People	12,899,760	-2,344,236	10,555,524	4,942,101	5,613,423	46.82%	10,555,523	1	14,349,140	5,780,231
Adult Social Care Contracts & Provider Capital	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0
Adult Social Care Operations Capital	1,545,122	11,523	1,556,645	149,710	1,406,935	9.62%	1,556,645	0	300,000	0
Children's Residential Care Capital	393,125	-8,050	385,075	165,042	220,033	42.86%	385,075	0	300,000	0
Non Maintained Schools Capital	945,275	550,397	1,495,672	1,213,028	282,644	81.10%	1,495,672	0	2,750,000	0
Primary School Capital	6,352,375	676,531	7,028,906	3,163,374	3,865,532	45.01%	7,028,906	0	2,091,604	0
Secondary School Capital	724,211	-67,100	657,111	211,304	445,807	32.16%	657,111	0	0	0
Special Schools Capital	52,420	3,531	55,951	40,040	15,911	71.56%	55,951	0	0	0
Unallocated School Capital	2,887,232	-3,511,068	-623,836	-397	-623,439	0.06%	-623,836	0	8,907,536	5,780,231
Place Capital - Commercial Services	11,103,969	-2,282,661	8,821,308	3,167,140	5,654,168	35.90%	8,821,308	0	22,450,892	1,701,000
Corporate Landlord Capital	11,103,969	-2,282,661	8,821,308	3,167,140	5,654,168	35.90%	8,821,308	0	22,450,892	1,701,000
Place Capital - Economic Growth	11,709,200	-3,293,865	8,415,335	5,714,572	2,700,763	67.91%	8,415,335	0	15,082,580	4,371,738
Broadband Capital	1,611,088	0	1,611,088	1,403,373	207,715	87.11%	1,611,088	0	3,747,587	79,945
Development Management Capital	533,676	-4,352	529,324	223,969	305,355	42.31%	529,324	0	121,500	40,500
Economic Growth Capital	8,472,383	-2,822,040	5,650,343	3,737,012	1,913,331	66.14%	5,650,343	0	10,746,020	4,251,293
Planning Policy Capital	1,092,053	-467,473	624,580	350,219	274,361	56.07%	624,580	0	467,473	0
Place Capital - Homes & Communities	4,138,121	-830,000	3,308,121	1,005,342	2,302,779	30.39%	3,308,121	0	7,564,498	2,090,998
Leisure Capital	3,773,508	-1,000,000	2,773,508	870,442	1,903,066	31.38%	2,773,508	0	7,269,718	2,067,303
Libraries Capital	118,475	0	118,475	25,529	92,946	21.55%	118,475	0	94,780	23,695
Outdoor Partnerships Capital	269,038	170,000	439,038	99,917	339,121	22.76%	439,038	0	200,000	0
Visitor Economy Capital	-22,900	0	-22,900	9,455	-32,355	-41.29%	-22,900	0	0	0
Place Capital - Infrastructure	41,539,339	-727,960	40,811,379	24,650,301	16,161,078	60.40%	40,811,379	0	62,426,363	27,412,000
Environment & Transport Capital	0	438,156	438,156	438,157	-1	100.00%	438,156	0	0	0
Highways Capital	41,539,339	-1,166,116	40,373,223	24,212,144	16,161,079	59.97%	40,373,223	0	62,101,363	27,412,000
Waste Capital	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0	325,000	0
Place Capital - Housing Services	11,403,975	-116,523	11,287,452	6,011,989	5,275,463	53.26%	11,287,452	0	7,452,995	4,149,000
Housing Services	11,403,975	-116,523	11,287,452	6,011,989	5,275,463	53.26%	11,287,452	0	7,452,995	4,149,000
Resources	1,042,361	-900,000	142,361	88,879	53,482	62.43%	142,361	0	900,000	0
ICT Digital Transformation - CRM Capital	576	0	576	83,379	-82,803	14475.50%	576	0	0	0
ICT Digital Transformation - ERP Capital	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0
ICT Digital Transformation - Infrastructure & Archit	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0
ICT Digital Transformation - Social Care Capital	0	0	0	5,500	-5,500	0.00%	0	0	0	0
ICT Digital Transformation - Unallocated Capital	1,041,785	-900,000	141,785	0	141,785	0.00%	141,785	0	900,000	0
Total General Fund	93,836,725	-10,495,245	83,341,480	45,580,324	37,761,156	54.69%	83,341,480	0	130,226,468	45,504,967
Housing Revenue Account	32,826,053	0	32,826,053	9,003,969	23,822,084	27.43%	32,826,053	0	17,124,384	12,708,431
HRA Dwellings Capital	32,826,053	0	32,826,053	9,003,969	23,822,084	27.43%	32,826,053	0	17,124,384	12,708,431
Total Approved Budget	126,662,778	-10,495,245	116,167,533	54,584,292	61,583,241	46.99%	116,167,533	0	147,350,852	58,213,398

Page 82

APPENDIX 8

CAPITAL RECEIPTS

Capital receipts are a source of capital funding, often preferred to other sources which are focused on specific objectives (e.g. grants, match funding, developer contributions), or which bear a cost (e.g. external borrowing). They are also more flexible, as they can be used to fund costs such as service transformation.

The track record of the Council has demonstrated capability in realising capital receipts over a number of years. This is demonstrated in the table below. The table shows the value of capital receipts applied to the financing of the capital programme each year since 2017/18. The total value applied in that period is £63.5m. Realising capital receipts to that value has meant that borrowing has not needed to be used, for over 10 years. Since 2017/18, the cost of financing avoided by using capital receipts would now amount to an additional £3.174m of in-year Minimum Revenue Payment (MRP) charges to revenue budgets (which would increase the level of savings required). By applying capital receipts, the Council has avoided costs which would now be over £3m per year, and would have cost £12.1m across the period since 2017/18. Of course – this is only indicative, as actual borrowing costs may have been higher or lower than the assumed level of 5%.

capital receipts used in-year; cost model if borrowing had been applied (£000s)								
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	
2017/18	10,550	10,550	10,550	10,550	10,550	10,550	10,550	
2018/19	0	7,401	7,401	7,401	7,401	7,401	7,401	
2019/20	0	0	8,875	8,875	8,875	8,875	8,875	
2020/21	0	0	0	5,826	5,826	5,826	5,826	
2021/22	0	0	0	0	8,095	8,095	8,095	
2022/23	0	0	0	0	0	9,310	9,310	
2023/24	0	0	0	0	0	0	13,417	
	10,550	17,951	26,827	32,653	40,748	50,058	63,475	
MRP @ 5%	528	898	1,341	1,633	2,037	2,503	3,174	12,113

The planned level of financing to be supported by capital receipts based on the current capital programme is set out in the table below. It continues the trend seen since 2017/18 of seeking an average of £10m of capital receipts funding per year.

A further £43m of assets are currently being considered for disposal, and progressing this rapidly will be vital to the progress of the council in the coming year.

However, the pressures materialising for the 2024/25 budget and the pressure to secure investment to enable service transformation at scale (which may include service redesigns and staff redundancies as a result) will put pressure on capital receipts to be used for transformation purposes rather than as funding for the capital programme.

Transformation & Improvement Scrutiny 19th February 2024, Cabinet 21st February 2024: Finance Monitoring 2023/24-Quarter 3

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Corporate Resources Allocated in Capital Programme	12,675,711	15,876,462	5,952,293	1,600,000
Capital Programme Ring-fenced receipt requirements	1,224,248	16,555,333	18,371,005	-
Transformation activities	4,018,186	-	-	-
Total Commitments	17,918,146	32,431,795	24,323,298	1,600,000
Capital Receipts in hand/projected:				
Brought Forward in hand	17,465,369	12,965,717	- 18,906,078	- 43,164,376
Generated 2023/24 YTD	9,009,567	-	-	-
Projected - 'Green'	4,408,927	560,000	65,000	65,000
Total in hand/projected	30,883,863	13,525,717	- 18,841,078	- 43,099,376
Shortfall to be financed from Prudential Borrowing / (Surplus) to carry forward	- 12,965,717	18,906,078	43,164,376	44,699,376
Further Assets Being Considered for Disposal	1,468,300	27,468,715	7,463,000	7,000,750

APPENDIX 9

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT INDICATORS

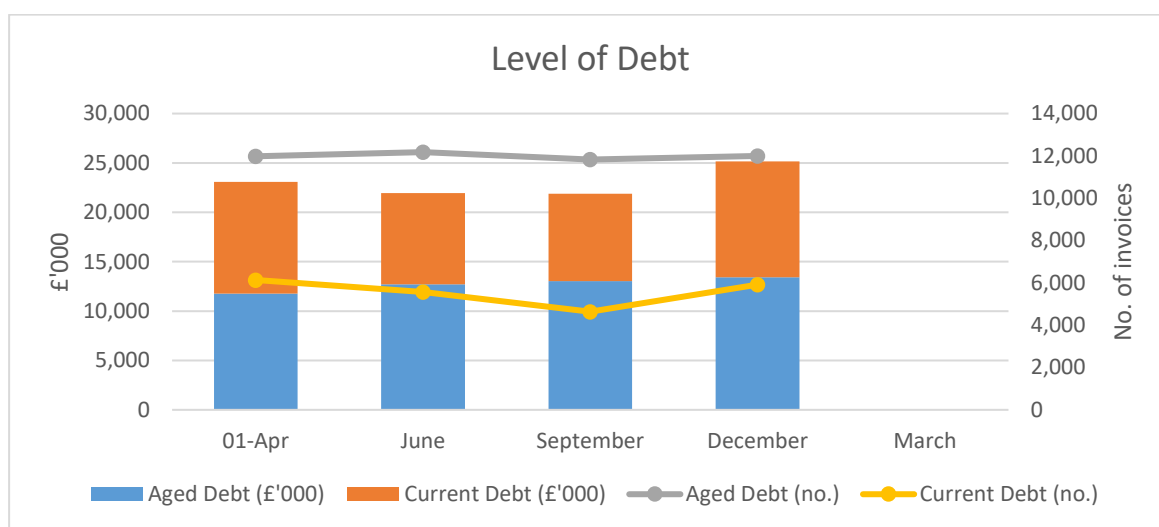
The two financial indicators detailed below will be tracked during the course of the financial year to provide assurance on the Council's financial management processes.

Payment of Invoices

April – December 2023	% of Invoices	No. of Invoices
Paid within 30 days	74.65	86,084
Invoices not paid within 30 days	25.35	29,237
Total	100.00	115,321

Aged debt

As at 31 st December 2023	Value (£'000)	No. of Invoices
Aged Debt	13,434	11,993
Current Debt	11,725	5,913
Total	25,159	17,906



The payment of invoices indicator demonstrates that the Council is paying 74% of invoices to suppliers within 30 days. This indicator has improved during the course of 2023/24 but is still not at the desired level. Ideally, invoices should be raised for payments due to the council within 30 days, and purchase orders for all new supplies should be raised ahead of delivery. Statistics on late submission of invoices and production of retrospective orders are produced for senior managers across the Council and they are being asked to tackle areas of late payment to improve performance around this.

The value of aged debt has increased marginally in both value and number of invoices. This does remain significantly high and the effects of cost of living are impacting on the level of debt held. Focussed action is being taken across the authority to improve debt recovery. The Council is also undertaking a review of the processes around aged debt recovery to try and minimise the level of debt raised and improve rates of direct debit take up to reduce debt arising.

This page is intentionally left blank



Committee and Date

Transformation & Improvement Scrutiny – Quarter 3
19th February 2024

Cabinet
21st February 2024

Item

Public



Performance Monitoring 2023/24 – Quarter 3

Responsible Officer:	Helen Watkinson		
email:	helen.watkinson@shropshire.gov.uk	Tel:	01743 258659
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	Cllr Robert Macey, Culture & Digital		

1. Synopsis

The Shropshire Plan clarifies our vision and priorities, aligning our resources to deliver positive outcomes for our people, businesses and communities. Delivery of our outcomes is measured through the developing Performance Management Framework, demonstrating progress to date.

2. Executive Summary

Overview

The Shropshire Plan (TSP) was created to clarify Shropshire Council's vision, priorities and Strategic Objectives. These objectives reflect the outcomes we aim to achieve within our available financial envelope. We measure the achievement of TSP by monitoring our performance (using Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to help measure, drive and understand delivery of our Strategic Objectives) and managing our overall financial position (ultimately delivering our outcomes while remaining within our agreed financial envelope).

The current year, 2023/24, is the year we are scrutinising our financial management with the aim to create a sustainable financial future. Over this year we need to closely monitor and review

our finances to support delivery of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). We are seeking to rebase our budgets over several years, in line with the outcomes defined in TSP, to secure a modern, efficient, and sustainable base for the Council finances across the 5-year period of the MTFS. This approach is aligned to the recommendations of the LGA peer review and is comparable with the best approaches seen in local government. We will need to make the adjustments each year to ensure financial survival moving towards financial stability and sustainability. Against this backdrop we are seeking to optimise our performance within our available financial envelope. Our plans will focus on economy, efficiency and effectiveness, redefining the way we deliver interventions to optimise delivery of our vision wherever and however possible.

Summary

- 2.1. The focus of the Council in 2023/24 and the immediate future is necessarily directed at the delivery of a balanced budget, and is currently, therefore, the highest priority Strategic Objective within TSP balanced alongside protecting our most vulnerable children. Our new Performance Management Framework has been reviewed and strengthened to align with all our strategic objectives to enable us to become an evidence led performance managed council.
- 2.2. Development of our KPIs will continue with Portfolio Holders, Executive Directors and Assistant Directors identified for each indicator. Targets, tolerances and benchmarks will be clarified over the coming months, where possible, with regularly updated monitoring information published via the performance webpage at - [Performance | Shropshire Council](#) Online performance reporting will be the main source of performance information enabling greater insight and scrutiny of the Council's performance and delivery of its outcomes as set out in TSP.
- 2.3. Through engagement across all Directorates the PMF has been launched with the focus on using data to inform decisions and actions particularly where performance may not be meeting targets and expectations. As part of the necessary arrangements for delivering TSP, the Council has reviewed and updated its approaches to both performance and financial monitoring. Both areas are now more pro-actively informed by timely activity data and are available to a range of officers to help guide decision making. Interactive dashboards using 'PowerBI' are being developed which will show a summary of KPIs for each Healthy priority through to agreed strategic objectives. It will then be possible to drill down into more detailed information for each KPI including status which is RAG (red, amber, green) rated, trend information and benchmarking where available against England and nearest statistical neighbours.
- 2.4. The Q3 Finance report (elsewhere on this agenda) sets out the financial envelope of the Council and how spending plans and patterns are being managed to deliver a balanced budget.
- 2.5. This Q3 Performance report complements the Finance report but provides a different perspective. We may therefore find that the position on KPIs is favourable, but that the finance position is adverse because the activity levels (the cost drivers) are higher than anticipated.

- 2.6. As part of our new approach feedback on the design and usability of the new report and performance webpage is welcomed. A feedback form will be available for questions and queries, and this will be reviewed with responses provided and published where appropriate alongside the dashboard.

Key Indicators and Context

- 2.7. The Q3 performance report is written as an exception report with all key performance indicators being provided in the dashboard which should be viewed in conjunction with this report.
- 2.8. The Q3 report is not fully complete with all the agreed performance indicators due to the time taken to implement the new approach, obtain data and the focus on getting it right. Work will continue to move towards a complete PMF set of indicators and progress will be reported at Q4. At least 4 of the remaining 8 indicators will be reported in Q4. Due to the change of approach, it should be noted that some of the performance indicators are baseline figures from which targets will be established and then performance monitored against this.
- 2.9. It should be noted that the approach being taken by Shropshire Council is progressive and in advance of many other authorities and places us in a strong position to continually improve our approach to managing performance, identifying areas of under and over performance, and ultimately providing evidence of our ability to deliver the outcomes set out in TSP.

3. Recommendations

Transformation & Improvement Scrutiny Committee

- 3.1. It is recommended that Members of the Transformation & Improvement Scrutiny Committee:
- 3.1.1. Review and consider performance dashboard information alongside this exception report.
 - 3.1.2. Note progress to date in achieving the outcomes of The Shropshire Plan (TSP) and identify any areas for future consideration by the committee.

Cabinet

- 3.2. It is recommended that Cabinet :
- 3.2.1. Review and consider performance dashboard information alongside this exception report
 - 3.2.2. Note progress to date in achieving the outcomes of The Shropshire Plan (TSP) and comment as appropriate

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1. The management of the Council's Performance Management Framework is a key process in ensuring strategic risks are mitigated and the Council can carry out business as intended and planned for within TSP.
- 4.2. The management of key performance indicators is a key process to monitoring progress in the delivery of outcomes as set out in TSP. This provides insight into whether corrective action is required to bring performance back on track.
- 4.3. The performance reports and dashboards provide a high-level lens into the performance of Shropshire Council allowing for further targeted detail analysis to support the mitigation of any risks identified.
- 4.4. Regular financial reporting is part of the governance and risk management approach within the Council ensuring that it delivers sustainable and value for money services as required under statute. Risk management continues to be an active part of this process, and Officers review potential risk and opportunity scenarios each month. The Council holds two finance related strategic risks regarding managing the current financial situation and so this remains under constant review to consider appropriate management action of the situation.
- 4.5. The dashboards include instructions for use and a feedback form is available for completion should there be questions or feedback. Members will be shown how to use the dashboards.
- 4.6. Monitoring will be in place using the dashboards so any issues can be resolved in a timely manner.
- 4.7. Ultimately, the Council must risk assess the delivery of Strategic Objectives within TSP and adjust, accordingly, to ensure an acceptable balance of outcomes are achieved at a strategic level. This may mean the prioritisation of some objectives over others to react to the evidence presented within the PMF. It may not be possible to achieve optimal performance across all indicators and it may be necessary to oversee expected reductions in performance in some areas to remain within the overall financial envelope.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. The performance report provides progress on key activity targets which will have correlation to financial performance.
- 5.2. It should be noted that positive improvement on activity may not necessarily correspond to financial improvement, and this should be drawn out in the narrative of the financial and performance reports.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.1. The performance report includes KPI's for Healthy Environment with measures for monitoring Shropshire Council's direction of progress on climate change.
- 6.2. Further indicators will be made available as new data becomes available. This will support a positive outcome.

7. Background

- 7.1. Quarter 3 – as of 19th January 2024 a total of 86 Key Performance Indicators have been added to the Shropshire Plan report. Additional information will be added in the period between writing of this report and its presentation to members.
- 7.2. Information on each of these indicators can be found via the performance webpage at – [The Shropshire Plan Performance Report](#)
- 7.3. The online performance report is now the main source of performance information. This report highlights any exceptions or downturns and explains the causal issues and any corrective actions the service is taking.
- 7.4. In Q3 there are 12 exceptions that have been raised and these are reported in the additional information section below.

8. Additional Information

During quarter 3 a total of 12 performance indicators showed an improvement of which the following are the most notable

- HP6 and HP7 a positive reduction in the percentage of children who are overweight,
- HP22 remaining in touch with a high proportion of care leavers,
- HEn6 improved rates of recycling, reuse and composting on last year,
- HO1 and HO2 a reduction in complaints and an increase in compliments,
- HO4 improved satisfaction of Adult Social Care users with their care and support.

There are 12 exceptions to report this quarter.

8.1. HO5 Resident satisfaction with Highways and Transport services

Shropshire Council has actively participated in the National Highways and Transport (NHT) Survey for 14 years. In the latest 2023 survey, 3,300 questionnaires were distributed with an impressive response rate of 29.9%, surpassing the national average of 22.4%.

While the overall feedback scores for Shropshire in 2023 held steady at 45%, which remains slightly below the national average, it's noteworthy that the gap has narrowed from 5% to 2%. In contrast, the national average dipped from 50% to 47%. This positive trend is particularly remarkable given the prevailing challenges faced by authorities nationwide, grappling with a 20% inflation rate in the sector and resultant budget constraints.

Shropshire's innovative mixed economy delivery model for Highways has sought to preserve and improve efficiency levels. Impressively, it resulted in several indicator rankings improving by thirty places or more. Among the extensive survey coverage of 149 indicators, 108 indicators saw improved satisfaction levels, showcasing Shropshire's resilience.

Key areas of improvement were observed, notably in bus fare satisfaction, whereas challenges were identified in the quality of repair to damaged pavements. The top 10 satisfaction scores were dominated by public transport-related indicators, cold weather gritting, speed limits, and advanced warnings of roadworks.

On the flip side, the lowest 10 satisfaction scores were mainly related to highway maintenance indicators, focusing on conditions and speed of repair, along with a few public transport indicators concerning information and an enforcement issue for illegal on-street parking.

Despite these challenges, the council is proactively evaluating the results to inform strategic plans for effective management of highway maintenance and transport services.

8.2. HP31 The percentage of Educational Health Care Plans (EHCP) issued within the 20 weeks.

Performance for the year is lower than target. During the year the service area has seen a substantial increase in the number of EHCP requests received totalling 838 during the 2023 calendar year, compared with 487 in 2022 and 261 in 2021. This represents a 72% increase in assessment requests between 2022 and 2023.

During the calendar year for 2023 a total of 572 new EHCPs have been issued compared with 225 in 2022 and 187 in 2021. This represents a 154% increase in new EHCPs issued between 2022 and 2023.

This substantial increase in demand has placed extreme pressure on service resources and has resulted in delays. Since 1st September 2023, staffing capacity has increased, and caseloads have been reduced to an average of 267 from c.300. However, there are still a high number of EHC plans that are yet to be issued which will impact further on the 20 week performance in the first quarter of 2024. A recovery plan has been developed and is being implemented to mitigate the challenges and improve timeliness during 2024.

8.3 HP 19 Stability of placements of looked after children,

Placement stability is a key outcome for any child that is looked after, unless they move in a planned way that is in line with their wishes and feelings. Whilst our

current performance is not yet on target, it is has started to move in a positive direction. We continue to strive to improve this of which Stepping Stones is a key resource enabling the right support to children and carers to make sure placements remain stable.

Latest comparator data was published Nov 23. Our latest rate of 73% remains higher than the National, Regional or Statistical Neighbours (all 69% for Mar 2023)

8.4 HEc2 reduce workplace pay gap with the national average by 50% by 2027

The workplace pay gap in the 2021 baseline year was 9.3%. The aim by 2027 is to reduce that gap by at least 50% to 4.6%. The target profile is to close the gap by 0.8% per year.

Results from the ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings for 2023 show the pay gap to be 10.0% which falls below the target for the year of 7.7%. Workplace pay in Shropshire is £614.20 gross per week for full-time workers compared to £682.60 in Great Britain.

Workplace wages in Shropshire may have grown at a slower pace than they have nationally over the last year (+2.6% compared with +6.0%) in part due to the delay in implementing pay increases for public sector workers.

Please note that individual local authority data can show a greater annual fluctuation due to smaller sample sizes.

8.5 HEc11 Paid employment for people with Learning Disabilities

The rate of people with Learning Disabilities who are in paid employment has shown a slight decrease on the position in March 2023. This was due to some changes in people's circumstances impacting on their employment. The current rate of 6.1% remains above the West Midland average of 3.2%, England 4.1% and statistical neighbours 5%.

The service is working with its clients to find opportunities to develop skills and positive experiences through training, volunteering and where suitable to find paid employment. Significant success this year has involved 41 people with a Learning Disability engaging in internships across Shropshire in a variety of work placements.

8.6 HEc20 'Attainment 8' inline or better than national average

"Attainment 8 is a way of measuring how well pupils do in key stage 4, which they usually finish when they are 16 years old. Each grade a pupil gets is assigned a point score from 9 (the highest) to 1 (the lowest)." (source: [GCSE results \(Attainment 8\) - GOV.UK](#))

2023 outcomes should not be compared to 2022 as nationally there was a different methodology used. Using the new methodology, the target would have been

reduced to the England rate of 44.6. The achieved A8 score was slightly below this target and below the statistical neighbour rate of 45.18.

A8 is a measure of attainment across 4 areas (English, Maths, EBacc subjects and other subjects). Shropshire's A8 score in each area was below national.

9 out of the 20 secondary schools achieved an A8 score above the statistical neighbour rate of 45.18. All but one of the secondary schools in Shropshire are academies. The A8 and P8 scores of the sole maintained school were both above the national and statistical neighbour averages. Responsibility for the outcomes of academies rests with the Regional Director not the LA ([Regional Department for Education \(DfE\) Directors - GOV.UK](#))

8.7 **HO17 Responding to freedom of information requests within statutory timescales**

Substantial improvements have been made during the year to improve response times for Freedom Of Information (FOI) requests. During the latest quarter, slippage was noted in the response rate during December. Impact was noted towards and during the holiday period. A FAST review by the Office of the Chief Executive is being undertaken and communications to Executive Directors to advise of the position.

8.8 **HO18 % of staff and members who have completed the cyber security training (on time)**

Cyber security is a critical issue for Shropshire, as it faces various threats and risks from hackers, malware, phishing, and other cyber-attacks. To protect the organisation's data, systems, and reputation, it is essential that all staff are aware of the best practices and policies for cyber security and follow them consistently.

To achieve this goal, the organisation has invested in cyber security training, which covers topics such as: password management, email security, device security, data protection, and incident reporting. The training program consists of online modules and quizzes, which take about 1-2 hours to complete. The training program is mandatory for all members and all staff, regardless of their role, level, or location. The training must be completed annually.

Despite the importance and urgency of the cyber security training program, the take up of the training has been relatively poor. According to the latest data, against our 95% target only 90.54% of members and 83.7% of staff have completed the training program. This means that a lot of the staff are not fully equipped with the knowledge and skills to prevent and respond to cyber security incidents, which exposes the organization to significant risks and vulnerabilities.

The low completion rate of the cyber security training program can be attributed to lack of motivation, and time. Based on the feedback from the staff, they are not able to find the time to complete the training program, as they are busy with their core tasks, projects, or deadlines, and the training program is not factored into their work schedule. The training program is not considered a priority by the staff.

In May 2023 a revised process was agreed by members that has a firmer approach on those who haven't completed the training, disabling access to systems if training

is not completed. Since this time, we have been working hard to understand the best way of technically doing this along with being mindful of the nuances of automatically disabling accounts. For example, how do we handle long term sickness, if an account is disabled for another reason and access is requested how do we flag this, what's the process for reenabling an account, what about service accounts or accidentally locking us all out?

We are now at the stage where we can turn on the automatic disabling of accounts. To communicate this properly, give people adequate time to do the training and understand the impact on services we have developed the following timeline:

- November 2023 – Notification to ERB about the process along with a list of staff who haven't completed the training so that the impact to services can be discussed.
- December 2023 – “Cyber Christmas” campaign. Daily tips and security best practices to avoid scams etc. over the Christmas period, along with the importance of completing the training and that account access will be suspended if training isn't completed. We will be telling staff that this will come into force in January to give them time to complete outstanding training and there will be less staff in ICT over Christmas to deal with any fallout.
- January 2023 – turn on automatic disabling of accounts.

We will review the impact this has on compliance numbers and how the process is working and feedback as appropriate.

8.9 HO 11 Staff turnover rates

Staff turnover last quarter was 9.58% or excluding Shire services was 8.02%. This is higher than profiled. Please note the figure quoted is a cumulative annual figure for 2023/24.

8.10 HO 13 Staff sickness rates

The increase in sickness absence this quarter largely due to seasonal influences, for example absences due to coughs, colds and influenza has more than doubled compared to last quarter. The team actively monitors all sickness and provides appropriate guidance and support to managers and staff to minimise absence.

8.11 HO6 Budget outturn vs budget

At Quarter 3 (April – December), the Council is reporting a BAU ('business as usual') forecast overspend of £14.6m, **including**

- a. **The** expected level of savings delivery is £39.798m. That savings not yet confirmed amount to £11.593m.
- b. That demand-led services are forecasting significant overall budget pressures of £28.495m in the year, which are likely to continue into the coming year. These are pressures are planned into the budget for next year. After planned

application of £20.5m of reserves set out in the reports for Q1 and Q2, the net budget pressure in People directorate is reduced to £7.995m.

- c. Net service pressures across all areas amount to £14.632m (see Q3 finance monitoring report, table1).
- d. The result of A-C above with no further actions and including changes to corporate budget forecasts and anticipated grant income is a forecast overall overspend of £14.533m.

The significant budget pressure being seen in social care is a position shared in common with many other local authorities, as recent media reports and sector communications have continued to confirm. It is clear that the ongoing impacts of COVID and the cost of living crisis continue to impact on many residents.

8.12 HEn9a Generation of renewable energy – solar

The number of kwh generated and CO2 savings was lower than the corresponding period in 2022. This reduction is mainly attributed to weather conditions.

9. Conclusions

- 9.1. The development of the new reporting sees a substantive step change in the reporting of performance with more emphasis on target delivery and comparator information.
- 9.2. The key performance pressure remains the delivery of a balanced budget which are detailed in the financial report. Delivery of financial savings is sitting at 80% higher than any year and against a higher target than ever.

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

Local Member: N/A

Appendices

None



Committee and Date

Item

Public



Draft Independent Living & Specialist Accommodation Strategy

Responsible Officer:	Mark Barrow		
email	Mark.Barrow@shropshire.gov.uk	Tel	01743 258919
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	Dean Carroll, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Assets		

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 The Independent Living and Specialist Accommodation Strategy has been drafted with a primary focus of supporting people with a range of diverse needs to live independently in suitable accommodation. Approval is sought for eight-week public and stakeholder consultation.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The draft Independent Living and Specialist Accommodation Strategy highlights the critical importance of housing as more than just shelter, emphasising the need for homes that meet various housing needs, especially for older people, those considered to be vulnerable, and people with disabilities. It aligns with the Shropshire Plan 2022-2025¹ “Healthy People”, which centres on priorities promoting healthy living, a robust economy, a sustainable environment, and an efficient organisation, all of which are connected to housing initiatives. It focuses on addressing the housing needs of vulnerable populations in Shropshire, emphasising supported independent and specialist accommodation. This report provides valuable insights into the risks faced by the strategy and offers recommendations for improvement.

¹ [The Shropshire Plan 2022-2025 | Shropshire Council](#)

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. Approve the draft Independent Living and Specialist Accommodation Strategy, outlined in Appendix 1 for an 8-week public and stakeholder consultation following which the updated strategy will be presented to Cabinet for approval.

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1. Inadequate Accommodation Supply: There is a risk that the current housing supply may not adequately meet the demand for vulnerable populations. This could result in delays in providing suitable accommodation. To mitigate the risks, the strategy advocates for additional accommodation, including dispersed move-on units and supported housing schemes, targeting areas of highest need.
- 4.2. Collaborative Partnerships: Establishing and sustaining partnerships with both statutory and voluntary organisations to support vulnerable populations, for example working with refugees, could encounter challenges (resource constraints, policy misalignment, co-ordination issues), potentially impacting the effective delivery of services. To mitigate the risk, it is proposed to identify and address these challenges through a robust collaborative framework, which can enhance effectiveness of partnerships and improve outcomes for vulnerable people.
- 4.3. Addressing potential resistance to a preventative approach to homelessness and re-offending is essential to the success of the plan. The Council recognises the sensitivity of the issue within the community and an awareness campaign could be launched to highlight the benefits of a preventative approach, fostering a sense of community support and understanding. Our approach is to engage in constructive dialogue that bridges gaps and promotes a more comprehensive solution.
- 4.4. An initial Equality, Social inclusion and Health impact Assessment (ESHIA) has been undertaken ahead of the proposed consultation on the draft Strategy. Given the recognised intersectionality across the nine Protected Characteristic groupings as set out in the Equality Act 2010, there will be a predicted low to medium positive impact for individuals and households across groupings, particularly in the groupings of Age and Disability. There are additional positive impacts anticipated for people from the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, who are considered as being included in the Protected Characteristic grouping of Race.
- 4.5. The initial screening process ahead of the proposed consultation has also indicated likely low to medium positive impacts for those individuals and households who are considered at risk of social exclusion. In Shropshire, this includes those whom we may regard as being vulnerable, either by virtue of their circumstances as individuals for example, young people leaving care or by virtue of their circumstances as households, for example, households living in fuel poverty and refugee households. In our definition of vulnerable individuals, we would also include people who experience rough sleeping, particularly over a long period. The Council will seek to maximise positive equality impacts for those we may consider to be vulnerable, including people fleeing hate crime and people with disabilities. Additionally, there will be an anticipated positive impact for veterans

and serving members of the armed forces and their families, for whom the Council seeks to have due regard to need through our tenth category of consideration of Social Inclusion. This is not an Equality Act category, rather representing our efforts as a Council to consider the needs of households in Shropshire and the circumstances in which they may find themselves.

- 4.6. A potential negative impact currently identified, pending consultation feedback, is displacement or disruption of support networks. Efforts will need to be made during the consultation process to obtain feedback from as wide a range of people and stakeholder organisations as possible, in order to seek to gauge the depth of this potential negative impact as well as ways to enhance predicted positive impacts.
- 4.7. The authority will also seek to share approaches with comparator authorities, particularly other rural unitary authorities and other authorities in the West Midlands, to promote good practice. Additionally, the proposed action plan will be subject to regular monitoring and the Strategy will be reviewed on an annual basis, building upon ongoing engagement with people in the Protected Characteristic groupings of Age and Disability as well as working with vulnerable groupings including young people leaving care, people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and veterans and serving members of the armed forces and their families. In evaluating the strategy's impact on housing stability, mental and physical health, and social inclusion, opportunities to enhance positive impacts will be at the forefront of monitoring and review.
- 4.8. Being able to access an affordable dwelling which meets a household's needs is essential to health and well-being. For example, this could be an allocation of a flat in an extra care sheltered scheme to an older person with disabilities, allowing them to be able to continue to have "their own front door" and live independently instead of moving into residential care or potentially being admitted to hospital due to a fall. Or instead providing a house which is affordable, of good quality and has security of tenure to a family threatened with homelessness, allowing them to create a home for their children and reducing the worry of a no fault eviction or being able to afford an increase in rent. Regarding homelessness, people who experience rough sleeping over a long period are more likely to die young than the general population. Rough sleepers also experience some of the most severe health inequalities.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. Approving this strategy for consultation has no direct financial implications. Each project associated with the strategy will be subject to its own spend, contingent upon a thorough business case evaluation. This approach ensures that financial considerations are addressed individually for each project, maintaining transparency and accountability in resource allocation.
- 5.2. Operational Costs: The strategy proposes the development and management of various supported housing schemes and accommodation for vulnerable populations. This will likely result in increased operational costs relating to staffing, maintenance, and ongoing support services. This may be off set against other savings, for example, residential care costs, where costs are not fully recovered through Housing Benefit and the application of Intensive Housing Management charges, where eligible.

- 5.3. **Service Delivery Costs:** Collaborative efforts with statutory and voluntary organisations may require financial commitments to ensure effective service delivery to vulnerable populations, including refugees and older individuals. Any proposed financial commitment will be considered against its ability to deliver best value and best outcome for individuals and the authority.
- 5.4. **Maintenance and Adaptations:** Ensuring accessible and adaptable housing may involve expenses related to maintenance, adaptations and modifications over time. Any future financial commitment will be appraised to ensure it delivers value for money, and that it is within the scope of agreed budgets.
- 5.5. The draft Strategy recognises that capital funding will be essential for the construction, development and adaptation of additional accommodation, including supported housing schemes and dispersed move-on units. To secure the necessary capital, the strategy outlines a multifaceted approach. One significant avenue is government grants and programs specifically aimed at supporting vulnerable populations and homelessness prevention. These grants can provide substantial financial support for the capital requirements of the strategy, ensuring the necessary infrastructure can be developed and adapted to meet the community's needs. Where the delivery is undertaken by Shropshire Council it will always be the intention to develop residential accommodation within the Housing Revenue Account. Each proposed development would be subject to its own business case and individual approvals process.
- 5.6. **Property acquisition:** If new properties are acquired to support vulnerable populations, capital expenditure will be necessary for property purchase. We should consider the potential use of right-to-buy receipts as a valuable source of capital for this strategy. These receipts can be reinvested strategically to support housing initiatives, including the development of affordable and supported housing solutions, aligning with the goals of this strategy. As with the development of new accommodation, it will always be the intention, when delivery is undertaken by the Council, to acquire residential accommodation into the Housing Revenue Account. Each proposed acquisition would be subject to its own business case and individual approvals process.
- 5.7. The Council recognises the need to strategically utilise the Domestic Abuse Grant from The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities funds. This grant serves as a crucial resource allocation, enabling the facilitation of specialist support services to help people rebuild their lives in a safe environment. The funding will be used by the council to plan support services and work closely with local charities and other service providers to best meet the needs of victims who have had to flee their homes.
- 5.8. Homelessness Prevention grants can be implied to support affordable housing construction, expand supported housing, fund adaptive housing developments, promote housing first initiatives, housing for vulnerable populations, funding Sanctuary schemes, investing in supported infrastructure, collaborative projects and preventative measures such as homelessness prevention programs, mediation services to keep individuals and families at risk of homelessness in stable housing situations.

- 5.9. Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) Funding can be channelled into the creation of housing options through a strategic and collaborative approach. To include; acquisition or development of housing units, supportive housing models, rapid housing programs, housing first approach, housing navigators and case managers, landlord partnerships, temporary housing solutions, community based housing and allocating a portion of RSI funding to prevention strategies.
- 5.10. Social Impact Bonds (SIBs) present a potential funding source, promoting collaborations across public, private and voluntary sectors to effectively address social challenges within the strategy. This approach not only diversifies funding sources but also aligns with the broader goal of achieving meaningful social impact through strategic financial partnerships.
- 5.11. Collaborative Funding: It involves the pooling of resources, both financial and non-financial, from multiple stakeholders, such as government bodies, charitable organisations and private entities, to address specific social challenges. This collaborative approach encourages a shared responsibility towards achieving common goals, such as improving independent living facilities and specialised accommodations.
- 5.12. In light of the fluid nature of funding resources, it's crucial to remain adaptable. While approving the draft strategy has no direct financial implications, and any projects seeking funding will be subject to approved budgets and where applicable individual business cases, its essential to explore available funding streams at any given time to address potential financial implications.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.1. Energy efficiency and Carbon Offset: Positive effect – The strategy's proactive approach to accessible and energy-efficient housing design is anticipated to result in reduced energy and fuel consumption among vulnerable populations. This not only leads to lower utility costs for residents but also aligns with carbon offsetting and mitigation goals. This strategy emphasises sustainable practices such as tree planting, along with the extensive use of recycled or biogenic building materials. This comprehensive strategy addresses both immediate energy consumption concerns and broader objectives related to carbon emissions, contributing to a more sustainable and environmentally friendly housing solution.
- 6.2. Renewable Energy Generation: Positive effect – While the report does not specifically address renewable energy generation, the emphasis on modern, aspirational housing may include provisions for renewable energy sources. This could contribute to increased renewable energy generation in the long term.
- 6.3. Climate Change Adaptation: Positive effect – While not explicitly mentioned, the strategy's focus on adaptable and accessible housing suggests a proactive approach to climate change adaptation. Housing designed to withstand climate challenges can enhance the resilience of vulnerable populations.

- 6.4. Environmental impact: Positive effect – the strategy’s emphasis on accessibility and sustainable design principles is likely to have a positive impact on the environment. Reduced energy consumption, improved building materials, and sustainable practices contribute to a more environmentally friendly approach.

7. Background

- 7.1. It is good practice to have a specific housing strategy that effectively addresses the diverse needs of vulnerable individuals within our community, even though it is not a statutory requirement. The Independent Living and Specialist Accommodation Strategy has a clear vision: to enable older, vulnerable and people with disabilities to lead independent lives in housing suitable to their needs.
- 7.2. This vision underpins our two overarching objectives, which are at the heart of this draft strategy. First and foremost, our strategy is committed to promoting independent and healthy lives for all vulnerable populations. We recognise the significance of empowering older, vulnerable, and people with disabilities to maintain their independence within housing suitable to their needs.
- 7.3. Secondly, the strategy is dedicated to delivering, enabling and commissioning supported and specialist accommodation that directly addresses the housing needs of the community. We understand that not everyone’s housing needs are the same, and therefore, we are committed to providing a range of housing solutions to cater to the diverse requirements of our residents. These objectives serve as the guiding principles of the strategy, shaping the direction of our actions and initiatives. Our ultimate goal is to enhance living conditions and support services for vulnerable individuals across Shropshire.
- 7.4. The strategy is inclusive, encompassing a broad spectrum of vulnerable populations, including older adults, people with physical and mental disabilities, people with less visible disabilities such as neurodiverse conditions, or Crohn’s Disease, individuals with hidden disabilities, care leavers, survivors of domestic abuse, ex-offenders, and refugees. We are dedicated to tailoring our housing solutions to meet the unique needs of each group, ensuring their safety and wellbeing.
- 7.5. Key to the approach is a strong emphasis on supported housing schemes, including both temporary and permanent housing options. This approach extends to additional accommodation, such as dispersed move-on units and supported housing schemes, strategically expanding in areas of the highest need. By doing so, we are committed to providing appropriate and accessible housing design, along with the necessary adaptations, to enhance the quality of life for people with disabilities.
- 7.6. The strategy will involve a targeted consultation approach, identifying key stakeholders, community representations, and experts through open forums, surveys and direct engagements. This inclusive process aims to gather valuable input. Following this, a thorough review will be undertaken, incorporating received feedback to refine the draft strategy, ensuring alignment with community needs

and objectives. The aim is to present the post-consultation updated strategy to Cabinet for approval in its final draft form.

Conclusions

- 8.1 In conclusion, the Draft Independent Living and Specialist Accommodation Strategy represents a commitment to improving the quality of life for vulnerable populations within our local authority. While approving the draft strategy has no direct financial implications. We are dedicated to exploring various funding sources, optimising budget allocation and off-setting cost savings, and collaborating effectively to ensure the delivery of the strategy and, most importantly, the wellbeing of all our residents.

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

Local Member:

Appendices

Appendix I: Draft Independent Living and Specialist Accommodation Strategy for Consultation

Appendix II: Action Plan

Appendix III: Equality, Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment.

This page is intentionally left blank

APPENDIX 1

Independent Living and Specialist Accommodation Strategy

2023-28

Contents

Foreword.....3

Introduction.....4

Promoting independent and healthy lives.....4

Supporting people to live well independently.....6

Home Improvement and Assistance.....7

Affordable Warmth and Tackling Fuel Poverty9

Supporting People to live in accessible and adaptable general needs housing.....10

Specialist Accommodation13

Private renting.....15

Allocations and nominations to affordable and supported housing16

Homelessness.....18

Homeless households with support needs21

Addressing Diverse Housing Needs and Prioritising Actions24

 Rough sleeping24

 Older People’s Housing Needs25

 Older People Shared Ownership (OPSO).....29

 Care homes.....30

 Vulnerable young people, including care leavers and fostered children.....31

 People with physical disabilities32

 People with mental ill health36

 People with alcohol and substance dependency.....37

 Domestic violence and abuse.....38

 Ex-offenders and those at risk of offending.....40

 Gypsies, Roma and Travellers41

 Refugees and asylum seekers41

Data Sources.....42

Delivery of the strategy.....42

Appendix II: Action Plan.....1

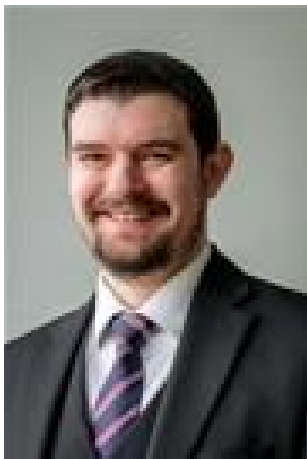
Appendix II: Equality, Social, Health Impact Assessment..... **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Foreword

Welcome to Shropshire Council's Independent Living and Specialist Accommodation Strategy 2023-2028. This Strategy sets out how the council will ensure that people have appropriate homes within their communities that meet their needs.

We are committed to promoting independence, empowering individuals with the freedom to make choices, and maintaining control over their living environments.

The Council will continue to work closely together with local housing associations, developers and other organisations, all in a key position to address these challenges, whether this is through development of specific policies, providing funding or pulling human resources together to ensure that there are good quality homes available for all people.



Dean Carroll, Portfolio Holder for Growth, Regeneration and Housing

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Independent Living and Specialist Accommodation Strategy is an overarching document, providing a broad framework which aligns strategically with the adopted [Local Plan](https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/media/8503/samdev-adopted-plan.pdf) <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/media/8503/samdev-adopted-plan.pdf> and emerging [Shropshire Local Plan](#), the [Adult Social Care Strategy](#) and the emerging People Plan (People Directorate strategic plan 2023-2025). The Council's commissioning priorities sit alongside a suite of strategies designed to set out the council's housing intentions and will feed into this strategy to support people to remain independent at home, complemented by the provision of more adaptable and accessible housing and forms of specialist housing, which provides genuine choice for those who wish to move, whilst maintaining their independence.
- 1.2 The key principle for the Council and its partners for meeting the care and support needs of older people and those with disabilities and special needs is to seek to support them to remain independent within their own homes (generally their existing home unless the individual's preference is either new adaptable and accessible housing or specialist housing including that which supports independent living, for such reasons as moving closer to their wider family or moving to more accessible locations with better provision of services and facilities). However, the strategy equally recognises that unfortunately this is not always possible, leaving a role for care homes that provide high-level care.
- 1.3 The Council provides and commissions a range of services to assist vulnerable people and to avoid more costly interventions by statutory bodies including the Council itself, the National Health Service and the Criminal Justice System. Such services include supported housing; floating support; aids and adaptations; assistive technology; energy efficiency advice and assistance; and money advice services.

2 Promoting independent and healthy lives

- 2.1 The Independent Living and Specialist Accommodation Strategy is specifically designed to enable older adults and people with disabilities or special needs to live independently. Delivery is underpinned by the [adopted Local Plan](#) and in the future the emerging Shropshire Local Plan¹This approach is a commitment to whenever possible supporting people to remain within their familiar homes and established support networks, emphasising the significance of individual choice and delivering intergenerational communities.

¹ <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/media/21100/sd002-draft-shropshire-local-plan.pdf>

2.2 The vision of the [Shropshire Plan 2022-25](#) is living the best life; the Plan has four priorities:

- Healthy People
- Healthy Economy
- Healthy Environment
- Healthy Organisation

2.3 All four of these priorities link to housing: from tackling inequality, promoting independent living, and preventing homelessness; to ensuring the right mix of housing, reducing carbon emissions, and promoting affordable warmth; to making the best use of the Council's resources. Of key importance to this Strategy is an objective of the Healthy People priority:

We will tackle inequalities, including rural inequalities, and poverty in all its forms; providing early support and interventions that reduce risk and enable children, young people, adults, and families to achieve their full potential and enjoy life.

2.4 The vision of the [Housing Strategy 2020-25](#) is:

All homes are well designed decent homes of high quality, which will protect Shropshire's unique urban and rural environments and ensure it is a great place to live. That all Shropshire residents have access to the 'right home in the right place' to support and promote their health and wellbeing throughout their lives.

2.5 To strengthen the council's commitment to ensuring fair access to appropriate housing, the housing strategy has six key objectives. Among these, the first four focus specifically on providing specialist and supported accommodation, aligning with the broader goal of creating inclusive and supportive communities:

- To meet the overall current and future housing needs of Shropshire's growing population by addressing the housing needs of particular groups within communities.
- To ensure people whose housing needs are not met through the local open market housing can access housing that meets their needs.
- Preventing households from becoming homeless and where this is not possible ensuring they have safe, secure and appropriate accommodation until they are able to resettle.
- To ensure people can access a mix of housing options within Shropshire's urban and rural landscape, that best meets their needs in terms of tenure, safety, size, type, design, and location of housing.
- To minimise the environmental impact of existing housing stock and future housing development in the interest of climate change. Maximise resource efficiencies and to ensure optimum use of sustainable construction techniques.
- Ensuring that there is enough housing supply to enable businesses to attract and retain the local workforce that they need.

- 2.6 The priorities for action within this strategy form an Action Plan at Appendix 2 which will allow monitoring and review of the Strategy. It is proposed that the Strategy is reviewed annually, to provide the opportunity to reflect changes in Government policy and funding streams.

3 Supporting people to live well independently.

- 3.1 The first objective of this strategy is to support people to remain independent, assisting them to remain in their existing home within the community they live and provide necessary support and adaptations, wherever feasible.
- 3.2 The Council offers a range of advice and information that supports wellbeing facilitating self-help. [Shropshire Choices](#) is an online information portal of care and support available to all residents to assist them to make informed choices about how to meet their care and support needs; this will also meet the needs of those who are able to fund their own support but need advice and assistance to identify what is available. The [First Point of Contact](#) team provide telephone advice supported by trained customer service staff.
- 3.3 Information is also available directly from the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector, which is widely accessible both on-line, via telephone and within the local community. Information can therefore be more responsive, up to date and tailored to individual requirements. In providing information on a wide range of organisations and support options, we can support people inside and outside of statutory services to find their own solutions.
- 3.4 In addition, the First Point of Contact Team can arrange countywide [“Let’s Talk Sessions”](#) for individuals and family carers seeking further specialist advice and information to find their own solutions, offering personalised care and support when needed and to include healthy conversations and social prescribing, signposting to [Shropshire carer support team](#) and voluntary organisations for example Age UK to access care assessments, low-level equipment and assistive technology.
- 3.5 Social prescribing² can play a significant role in improving lives by creating connections between residents and communities to tackle the health inequalities they may be experiencing. The collaborative work between the Council, registered providers (housing associations), and social prescribers allows key housing issues and decreasing mental health and wellbeing to be identified and decisions made in how to overcome them. Thereby supporting re-connection into the community.
- 3.6 Support provided specific to an individual is proportionate to their needs and maximises choice and control. The approach involves a shared responsibility between Adult Social Care, Children’s Services and partner organisations, including the VCSE sector, communities, families, carers and the individual themselves.
- 3.7 The delivery of individual personal care and support, with a focus on maximising independence will aim to include the use of equipment, adaptations, assistive

² [Find local support in Shropshire - Shropshire's Local Directory \(shropshire-directory.co.uk\)](#)

technology and reablement care and support, including measures to prevent hospital admittance, promote avoidance and support early discharge from hospital when necessary. Allocating resources into the preventative services that enable people to remain in their homes for longer, to reduce, delay or prevent an individual from needing a social care package or admission to residential care is essential to fulfil the Council's statutory responsibilities in safeguarding vulnerable adults from harm.

- 3.8 This will be complemented by the Council's aspirations to commission alternatives to residential care, further enabling people to maintain their independence in the community. These options include Independent Supported Living schemes for working age adults, intergenerational schemes, or older persons sheltered or extra care housing.
- 3.9 This will be achieved by ensuring that more of the new housing provided is accessible and more easily adaptable and through the provision of appropriately located market specialist housing. The adopted and emerging Local Plans provide the policy framework to deliver these objectives.

Priority of action

- Explore the feasibility of an online self -assessment and guidance tool with the view of the customer to answer a series of questions to generate a personalised report including local signposting to allow people to browse a range of products and service to suit their needs and help them to live independently for longer and assist in decision making.
- Work with Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing, developers, and Private Registered Providers so that more of the new housing provided is accessible and more easily adaptable and through the provision of appropriately located market specialist housing.

4 Home Improvement and Assistance

- 4.1 Adapting the home can increase the useability of the home environment and enable the majority of people to maintain their independence whilst living in their own home. The Council provides financial assistance to help people maintain independence whilst living in their own home. This includes minor or major aids and adaptations, a handyperson service and falls prevention advice which can enable people to stay safe in their homes for a longer time. The services provided contribute to the prevention agenda as they reduce reliance on statutory services such as the NHS and Social Care.
- 4.2 The Handyperson service in addition to installing grab rails, stair bannisters, outdoor rails, and half steps, also complete other works such as home security adaptations. Adaptations can include key safes, sensory smoke alarms, loop wires, window locks and custom stair safety gates and provision of emergency radiators can be provided should residents have issues with their heating. The service receives referrals from a wide range of teams such as: Occupational Therapy, Independent Living Support, Integrated Community Services Team (ICS), Sensory Impairment, Domestic Abuse, Warmer Homes, and other external providers such as Age UK. Currently, the service is trialling new equipment.

- 4.3 The Better Care Fund (BCF) is a Department of Health initiative that requires the pooling of budgets between local authorities and the Integrated Care Boards (ICB) to increase joint working and furthering integration of health and social care. An element of this funding is provided to local authorities to finance the various types of aids and adaptations. Representatives from Shropshire Council, as part of the Integrated Care Boards (ICB) play a role in ensuring these resources are effectively utilised to benefit the community.
- 4.4 The Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996, with amendments from the Disabled Facilities Grant (Maximum Amounts and Additional Purposes) (England) Order 2008³, makes it a local authority's legal duty to fund adaptations in the homes of people with disabilities. In addition, a council also has discretionary powers to provide housing assistance via the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order 2002 (RRO)⁴. This allows a local authority to use alternative, and potentially more suitable, funding methods to provide adaptations to people beyond the mandatory [Disabled Facilities Grant](#) requirements.
- 4.5 Currently the Council is piloting a new grant process to provide funding for adaptations. On its successful completion, the Council will draft a new housing renewal assistance and adaptations policy which will set out the details and eligibility criteria for the types of assistance available to provide adaptations in the home or to facilitate relocation to a more suitable property for people with disabilities. Grants are available to anyone who has a disability and is a homeowner, private tenant or a housing association tenant.
- 4.6 The Council's housing stock is managed by its Arms-Length Management Organisation (ALMO) Shropshire Towns and Rural (STAR) Housing. Council tenants who require major adaptations will be assessed in terms of whether the dwelling can be adapted, the cost of the adaptation and the availability of alternative accommodation.

Priorities of Action

- Monitor the trialling of new equipment to evaluate its cost-effectiveness
- Consider the feasibility of a private handyperson scheme
- Assess the success, effectiveness and outcome of the new grant process for funding adaptations.
- Draft a Housing Renewal Assistance and Adaptations Policy

³ The Disabled Facilities Grant (Maximum Amounts and Additional Purposes) (England) Order 2008, <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2008/1189/made>

⁴ The Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order 2002, <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2002/1860/contents/made>

5 Affordable Warmth and Tackling Fuel Poverty

- 5.1 The Council's [Sustainable Affordable Warmth Strategy 2023-2030](#) sets out the support offered to households to tackle fuel poverty, which is closely linked to affordable warmth and suitable accommodation. Excessive heating expenses, puts a strain on households' budgets and impacts health. Addressing this involves boosting income, lowering bills and improved energy efficiency. Efficient heating systems and good insulation can help alleviate fuel poverty by retaining heat, reducing the need for excessive heating needs and lowering energy bills. Ensuring homes are energy-efficient and affordably warm, the cycle of fuel poverty can be broken, improving the overall quality of life for individuals and families.
- 5.2 According to the research briefing entitled "Health inequalities: Cold or damp homes", each year, the NHS spends an estimated £1.4 billion annually on treating illnesses associated with living in cold or damp housing⁵ and contributes to the UK's high number of excess winter deaths, reaching an estimated 13,400 between December 2021 to March 2022. It also affects childhood development, with impacts that can last into adulthood⁶. Estimates suggest that some ten per cent of excess winter deaths are directly attributable to fuel poverty and 21.5% are attributable to cold homes.
- 5.3 The Council is committed to ensuring residents can access affordable warmth and in doing so have invested in increasing the staffing resource and capacity of the Affordable Warmth and Energy Efficiency Team. The team continues to deliver essential work to ensure that the Council can continue to bid for and secure funding. Grant funded energy efficiency improvements are currently delivered through the [Sustainable Warmth Shropshire](#) scheme. The Council also commissions the Keep Shropshire Warm energy advice and referral service, which is available to all residents and seeks to deliver key objectives of the Healthy People and Healthy Environment priorities of the Shropshire Plan.
- 5.4 The current Government definition of fuel poverty in England is 'Low Income Low Energy Efficiency' (LILEE). A household is fuel poor if:
- they are living in a property with an energy efficiency rating of band D, E, F or G, as shown by an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC⁷); and
 - their disposable income (income after housing costs and energy needs) would be below the poverty line.
- 5.5 The Council is working to ensure that all such properties attain a minimum Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of E. This approach is in line with legal requirements that deem it illegal to rent out properties with an EPC rating of F or G. Its primary focus is on promoting energy-efficient and sustainable living conditions for

⁵ [CBP-9696.pdf \(parliament.uk\)](#)

⁶ Chartered Institute of Housing, "Homes at the Heart: A Strategy for Housing" (September 2023).

⁷ An EPC is a rating of how energy efficient a property is. The certificates are graded on a scale of A (most efficient) to G (least efficient). An EPC is a legal requirement when a property is bought, sold or rented. It should be noted the EPC methodology is skewed towards the cost of fuel, therefore, is not necessary the optimum measure of energy efficiency.

all residents in our community, creating healthier, safer and more environmentally responsible housing options aligning with the core objectives of this strategy.

- 5.6 In the latest year for which statistics are available (2022) an estimated 3.26 million households in England were in fuel poverty under the LILEE definition. This was 13.4% of households. In Shropshire 23,045 households were estimated to be in fuel poverty, this being 16.5% of households.

Priorities for Action

- Revise the Private Housing Assistance Policy
- Deliver and Monitor the Sustainable Affordable Warmth Strategy
- Raise awareness of the importance of tackling fuel poverty and improving energy efficiency
- Establish a pathway to zero-carbon housing
- Attract funding to deliver affordable warmth and improve energy efficiency.

6 Supporting People to live in accessible and adaptable general needs housing

- 6.1 The housing needs of older people and those with disabilities and special needs will be met in a way that provides choice and more importantly compliments and facilitates the People Plan (People Directorate strategic plan 2023-2025) in Shropshire. The People Plan underpins the Shropshire Plan on the principles of how it will support people to live their best lives. A fundamental principle of the strategic plan is supporting people to remain independent within their own homes and within their existing communities and support networks for as long as possible. The People Plan will be facilitated and complemented through the provision of accessible and adaptable housing and appropriate forms of specialist housing.
- 6.2 Recognising the principles of this strategy, the housing needs and aspirations of older people and those with disabilities and special needs will likely include:
- a. The provision of appropriate home adaptations to their homes [*Adaptations range from simple handrails, Technology Enabled Care to major structural alterations.*](#)
 - b. Moving to new accessible and adaptable general needs housing
 - c. Moving to an appropriate form of specialist housing
- 6.3 Provision of adaptations to existing homes has been covered in section 3 and 4 of this document. In terms of delivering new accessible and adaptable housing as part of inclusive communities, local planning policy and decision making is a crucial way to shape places and deliver what is needed. The mechanisms within the adopted Local Plan supports the need to future proof housing supply. There are also numerous wider mechanisms and the Shropshire Council initiatives that can positively influence and facilitate accessible and adaptable housing delivery across Shropshire.

- 6.4 Within both the adopted and emerging Local Plans, residential development is expected to provide a mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures in order to meet the identified needs of local communities, including families with children, older people, people wishing to build their own homes and people with disabilities and special needs.
- 6.5 Analysis within the [Strategic Housing Market Assessment](#) indicates that a significant proportion of the new dwellings required during the Local Plan period will be 1, 2 and 3 bedrooms in size. Specifically, the SHMA indicates that around 32.7% of the dwellings needed will be 1 or 2 bedrooms in size and a further 43.5% will be 3 bedrooms in size.
- 6.6 This demand for 1-, 2- and 3-bedroom dwellings also reflects the view often expressed by local communities when discussing their local housing needs. As such it is considered appropriate to require at least 25% of open market dwellings with 2 bedroom or less and a further 25% to be three bedroom or less, on sites of 5 or more dwellings. The remainder of the open market dwellings will include a suitable mix and variety of dwelling sizes.
- 6.7 With specific regard to accessible and adaptable housing, the adopted Local Plan includes the requirement that “all housing developments are designed to be capable of adaptation to accommodate lifestyle changes, including the needs of the elderly and people with disabilities, and to achieve the Lifetime Homes Standard”.
- 6.8 [The emerging Shropshire Local Plan](#) is proposing a greater focus on accessible and adaptable housing, in recognition of the importance of these forms of houses in meeting local needs. Draft policies are proposing that:
- a. All housing specifically designed for older people or those with disabilities and special needs will be built to the M4(3) (wheelchair user dwellings) standard within Building Regulations.
 - b. On sites of 5 or more dwellings, at least 5% of the dwellings will be built to the M4(3) (wheelchair user dwellings) standard within Building Regulations and a further 70% of the dwellings will be built to the M4(2) (accessible and adaptable dwellings) or higher standard within Building Regulations, unless site-specific factors indicate that step-free access cannot be achieved.
 - c. All dwellings on sites of less than 5 dwellings and the remaining dwellings on sites of 5 or more dwellings that are not subject to the requirements of Paragraph 3 of this Policy are strongly encouraged to achieve the M4(2) (accessible and adaptable dwellings) standard within Building Regulations or higher.
 - d. All housing designed to M4(3) (wheelchair user dwellings) standard within Building Regulations must also be designed to be ‘friendly’ to those with dementia and to those with disabilities and special needs.
 - e. All housing designed to M4(2) (accessible and adaptable dwellings) within Building Regulations is strongly encouraged to be designed to be ‘friendly’ to those with dementia and to those with disabilities and special needs.

- 6.9 Draft policies within the emerging Shropshire Local Plan are also seeking to influence the size of dwellings to ensure that they are better able to meet the needs of our communities. Draft policies are proposing that on sites of 5 or more dwellings:
- a. In locations where in the last 5 years a Local Housing Need Survey has been undertaken through the 'Right Home Right Place' initiative or an equivalent survey endorsed by Shropshire Council, at least 50% of open market dwellings will reflect the profile of housing need established within the survey. The remainder of the open market dwellings will include a suitable mix and variety of dwelling sizes; or
 - b. At least 25% of open market dwellings will be dwellings with 2 bedrooms or less. At least a further 25% of open market housing will be dwellings with 3 bedrooms or less. The remainder of the open market dwellings will include a suitable mix and variety of dwelling sizes.
- 6.10 The emerging Shropshire Local plan also proposes further policy requirements to ensure that affordable housing provided best meets local need. These requirements include: Recognition of the significant need for affordable rent products, with the expected tenure split of affordable housing provision proposed to be 70% social or affordable rent and 30% intermediate or other affordable housing (unless evidence of local needs indicates otherwise). Collaborative working and coproduction with the Council and registered providers will be the key in the delivery of developments.
- 6.11 A Council initiative is the House2Home scheme, a multi-agency, multi-option process for households requiring specialist accommodation, that is not likely to be readily available within the current housing stock in Shropshire and is an effective way of matching accessible homes with people needing "accessible" housing. This initiative demonstrates an integrated approach across services, Housing Options, Occupational Therapist Team, Private Sector Housing and the Housing Enablement Team.
- 6.12 The Council recognises that many people have specific needs that make it difficult for them to live comfortably in their current property, and they require a wheelchair accessible home that is more suited to their individual needs. If specialist accommodation (accommodation that may not be often available via Shropshire HomePoint⁸) is required, then this may be referred into the House2Home Team through either service:
- An occupational therapist has assessed the property as not being suitable for the household's needs, where the current property is not able to be adapted; or
 - the Housing Options Team have identified that a homeless applicant requires specialist accommodation due to type (e.g., wheelchair accessible) or size of property (e.g., 5 bedrooms).
- 6.13 The Council's Housing Enablement Team proactively works with social services and wider housing services in order to identify households with specialist housing needs in Shropshire. This informs subsequent direct engagement with Registered Social Landlord's that are bringing forward schemes in appropriate locations thereby

⁸ [Home - Shropshire Homepoint](#)

providing a tailored response to meet the specialist housing needs of Shropshire residents.

6.14 The Council recognises that there is a need to plan strategically to ensure that supply aligns with the current and future supported housing needs of vulnerable people in Shropshire. To plan effectively and assess the current and future needs to all client groups, the Council will ensure joined up working between teams, for example housing, public health commissioners and adult social care, local integrated care board (ICB) commissioners and other local partners.

6.15 The Council will continue to take a proactive role in identifying suitable sites that can make the development process for supported housing easier for housing providers. In some circumstances this needs to include nil or low-cost sites but also recognises that an enhanced strategic forecasting approach of specialist housing needs will facilitate the commissioning of new schemes from Registered Providers and Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing.

Priorities for Action:

- Explore the viability of implementing a training programme to equip staff as trusted assessors. Trusted assessors would assess people and their home environment for home adaptations in simple cases and appropriately identify cases to refer to an occupational therapist for further assessment.
- Adopt the emerging Shropshire Local Plan

7 Specialist Accommodation

7.1 Supported and Specialist housing has a vital role in supporting people who are vulnerable, including those affected by age, ill health, disability, or challenging circumstances, because it provides them with tailored assistance and a suitable environment that enables independent living.

7.2 Reflecting the People Plan (People Directorate Strategic Plan), and the principle of supporting people to remain independent within their own homes and within their existing communities and support networks for as long as possible, new specialist housing provision for older people or those with disabilities and special needs will consist of:

- a. The forms of specialist housing which support independent living, including age restricted housing; retirement/sheltered housing; or extra care housing; or
- b. Nursing homes providing high-level care for those with dementia and/or complex needs; or
- c. A combination of the above.

7.3 The following table provides further information on the various forms of specialist housing:

Age restricted general market housing	This type of housing is generally for people aged 55 and over and older active people. It may include some shared amenities such as communal gardens but does include support or care services (Typically C3 planning designation).
Retirement living or sheltered housing	This usually consists of purpose-built flats or bungalows with limited communal facilities such as a lounge, laundry room and guest room. It does not generally provide care services but provides some support to enable residents to live independently. This can include 24-hour on-site assistance (alarm) and a warden or house manager. (Typically, C2 or C3 or sui generis planning designation, determined on an individual basis having regard to the specifics of a scheme, including individual properties/units are used).
Extra care housing or housing-with-care	This usually consists of purpose built or adapted flats or bungalows with a medium to high level of care available if required, through an onsite care agency registered through the Care Quality Commission (CQC). Residents are able to live independently with 24-hour access to support services and staff and meals are also available. There are often extensive communal areas, such as space to socialise or a wellbeing centre. In some cases, these developments are known as retirement communities or villages - the intention is for residents to benefit from varying levels of care as time progresses. (Typically, C2 or C3 or sui generis planning designation, determined on an individual basis having regard to the specifics of the scheme, including how individual properties/units are used. Typically applies minimum care packages on entry and a deferred management charge).
Age inclusive market housing	Purpose built, age friendly homes with no on-site facilities and no 24-hour staffing but accessible or adaptable dwellings to accommodate individual's changing or future occupiers needs. Residents may be eligible for personal care or self-fund their care separately. (Typically, C3 planning designation).
Collaborative forms of housing	Shared lives accommodation, supported living collaborative self-help housing and care models, cohousing and community-led accommodation. Residents may be eligible for personal care or self-fund their care separately. (Typically, C3 planning designation).

7.4 In terms of delivering new specialist housing as part of inclusive communities, local planning policy and decision making is a crucial way to shape places and deliver what is needed. The mechanisms within the adopted Local Plan and emerging Shropshire Local Plan support the provision of various forms of specialist housing in appropriate locations.

7.5 Within the adopted Local Plan, policies support “the provision of housing for vulnerable people and specialist housing provision, including nursing homes, residential and extra care facilities, in appropriate locations and where there is an identified need.”

7.6 A vulnerable person, as defined within the Independent Living and Specialist Accommodation Strategy, refers to an individual identified as having complex needs and/or requiring additional support to enable them to access services and support.

- 7.7 The emerging Shropshire Local Plan is proposing an even greater focus on the delivery of various forms of specialist housing within appropriate locations that will support the achievement of inclusive and multi-generational communities. Specifically, the emerging Shropshire Local Plan includes draft policies which:
- a. Prioritise the delivery of forms of specialist housing that support independent living, aligned with the priorities in the People Plan (People Directorate Strategic Plan).
 - b. Require specialist housing to be integrated into communities with good access to services and facilities.
 - c. Seek to 'protect' existing specialist housing provision.
 - d. Identify expectations for specialist housing provision within larger development schemes, specifically:
 - i. On developments of 250 or more dwellings, at least 20% of houses must constitute a form of specialist housing for older people and/or those with disabilities and special needs.
 - ii. On developments of 150-249 dwellings, at least 15% of houses must constitute a form of specialist housing for older people and/or those with disabilities and special needs.
 - iii. On developments of 50-149 dwellings, at least 10% of houses must constitute a form of specialist housing for older people and/or those with disabilities and special needs.
 - e. Identify other opportunities for specialist housing provision, including:
 - i. On appropriate sites within the identified settlement development boundaries.
 - ii. Adjoining settlement development boundaries where the specialist housing is meeting an identified local need and constitutes 100% local needs affordable specialist housing.
 - iii. Where the specialist housing represents Use Class C2 as a secondary use on employment sites, where such provision complements the existing and planned wider employment uses of the site; is served by appropriate infrastructure; and facilitates the delivery of the wider employment site, including through the provision of accesses, servicing and other infrastructure.

Priority of Action:

- The Council will continue to bid and secure funding to support specialist accommodation.

8 Private renting

- 8.1 The Council is committed to improving standards in private sector housing, ensuring accommodation is well-managed, properly maintained, safe and habitable. This strategy, in alignment with its objectives is the Council's [Private Rented Sector Housing Enforcement Policy](#), forms a robust framework for overseeing and upholding standards, promoting compliance, and providing essential safeguards and support for

vulnerable individuals covered and enhancing the strategy by addressing housing concerns.

- 8.2 It is estimated that only 17.5% of housing stock in Shropshire is for private rent as compared to the England average of 20.5% (2021 Census). Much of which is not affordable to residents on low incomes, especially as rents are often above the Local Housing Allowance levels. Despite this statistic, the private rented sector plays an important role in the county's housing market.

9 Allocations and nominations to affordable and supported housing

- 9.1 There are over 33 private registered providers operating in the Shropshire Council area, these being housing associations and for-profit housing providers who are registered with the Regulator of Social Housing that manage housing stock for rent and low-cost home ownership in Shropshire. As a stock holding authority, whose housing stock is managed by Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing (STAR), the Council is a local authority registered providers and owns just over 4,000 dwellings. Housing associations registered with the Regulator of Social Housing hold just over 16,000 dwellings in Shropshire (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Social Housing Stock in Shropshire

Type and tenure of affordable housing	Number
General needs rented dwellings	16,480
Supported housing rented units	473
Older persons' rented dwellings	2099
Low-Cost Home Ownership dwellings	1088
Total	20,140

Source: Registered Providers of social housing with stock in Shropshire (2023).

- 9.2 Affordable housing in Shropshire comprises just over 20,000 dwellings. Circa 19,000 of these are for social or affordable rent; this equates to approximately 13% of the Shropshire's dwelling stock, below the England average of 16%⁹.
- 9.3 The Council has recently revised its [Allocations Policy and Scheme](#) (*Shropshire HomePoint*), incorporating a new banding system (*band 1-7*), implemented on 25th July 2023. This transition to this revised policy reflects the Council's commitment to ensuring a fair and updated allocation process to better meet the housing needs of our communities. As of January 2024, the Council's Housing register listed 6,843 applicants on the choice-based lettings scheme¹⁰ waiting list (*an increase of 161 applicants registered on 1st December 2023 and an increase of 1,063 applicants registered from 1st November 2023*).

⁹ [Live tables on dwelling stock \(including vacants\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

¹⁰ <https://www.shropshirehomepoint.co.uk/NovaWeb/Infrastructure/ViewLibraryDocument.aspx?ObjectID=604>

- 9.4 A financial assessment will consider the applicant's resources alongside the availability and cost of suitable alternative accommodation. Applicants demonstrating unmet needs not fulfilled in the open market will be evaluated based on their unique circumstances. Examples include:
- an applicant who is eligible for a Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) to fund major adaptations to their existing home, where it is more cost-effective for the authority to re-house the applicant in accommodation appropriate to their housing need;
 - an older person is committed to paying for care or support costs in order to remain living independently; and
 - an applicant who requires specific accommodation to meet their housing needs, for example, the needs of disabled dependent children, but this accommodation is not available in the private sector, other than that provided by STAR Housing or a housing association.
- 9.5 The housing allocation policy and scheme seeks to ensure that those in the greatest housing need are able to access general needs, supported and low-cost home ownership housing; and supports the prevention of homelessness and admissions to residential care and meet the following aims:
- Ensure people in the greatest housing need have the greatest opportunity to access suitable housing that best meets their needs;
 - To prevent and relieve homelessness;
 - To make the best use of the Council's and housing associations stock;
 - To help the Council meet statutory and strategic aims;
 - To help contribute to the development of sustainable communities; and
 - To allow for the greatest degree of choice possible in the allocation of affordable housing.
- 9.6 It applies to the allocation of Council housing (managed by STAR Housing) and to nominations to Private Registered Providers of social housing (housing associations or for-profit housing companies registered with the Regulator of Social Housing) for affordable and supported housing. Nomination agreements are for 100% of new housing association lets and at least 75% of subsequent re-lets.
- 9.7 The Regulator of Social Housing's Tenancy Standard applies to Registered Providers of social housing. The Tenancy Standard states, "*Registered providers shall co-operate with local authorities' strategic housing function, and their duties to meet identified local housing needs. This includes assistance with local authorities' homelessness duties, and through meeting obligations in nominations agreements*".
- 9.8 As required under the Localism Act 2011¹¹, The Council's [Tenancy Strategy](#) seeks to support the [Housing Strategy](#) to ensure sustainable communities and that affordable housing is genuinely affordable to local people in housing need.
- 9.9 During 2022-23, the largest landlords in the authority, who together own just under 19,000 dwellings for social or affordable rent, built or acquired 324 dwellings and

¹¹ Localism Act 2011 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/20/contents/enacted>

allocated 1050 new and existing dwellings through the Council's common housing register.

- 9.10 By tracking the implementation of the priorities of action, the Council can help to meet the needs of specialist accommodation, proactively addressing gaps and adapting strategies to ensure that the needs of residents, especially those requiring specialist accommodation are met in a comprehensive and inclusive manner.

Priorities for Action:

- Monitor the Housing Allocations Policy and Scheme and Nomination Agreements
- Monitor the Tenancy Strategy and Tenancy Policy

10 Homelessness

10.1 Broadly speaking, the law defines someone as being homeless if they do not have a legal right to occupy accommodation, or if their accommodation is unsuitable to live in. The Housing Act 1996¹², as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002¹³ and the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017¹⁴, sets out the duties that the Council has towards individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

10.2 Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 provides the statutory under-pinning for action to prevent homelessness and provide assistance to people threatened with or actually homeless.

10.3 In 2002, central government amended the homelessness legislation through the Homelessness Act 2002 and the Homelessness (Priority Need for Accommodation) (England) Order 2002 to:

- ensure a more strategic approach to tackling and preventing homelessness, in particular by requiring a homelessness strategy for every housing authority district; and
- strengthen the assistance available to people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness by extending the priority need categories to homeless 16 and 17 year olds; care leavers aged 18, 19 and 20; people who are vulnerable as a result of time spent in care, the armed forces, prison or custody, and people who are vulnerable because they have fled their home because of violence.

10.4 The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 significantly reformed England's homelessness legislation by placing duties on local authorities to intervene at earlier stages to prevent homelessness in their areas. It also requires housing authorities to provide homelessness services to all those affected, not just those who have 'priority need.' These include:

¹² Housing Act 1996, <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/52/contents>

¹³ Homelessness Act 2002, <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2002/7/contents>

¹⁴ Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/13/contents/enacted>

- an enhanced prevention duty extending the period a household is threatened with homelessness from 28 days to 56 days, meaning that housing authorities are required to work with people to prevent homelessness at an earlier stage; and
- a new duty for those who are already homeless so that housing authorities will support households for 56 days to relieve their homelessness by helping them to secure accommodation.

- 10.5 [The Domestic Abuse Act 2021](#) amended Part 7 of the 1996 Act to strengthen the support available to victims of domestic abuse. The Act extends priority need to all eligible victims of domestic abuse who are homeless as a result of being a victim of domestic abuse.
- 10.6 Under the Homelessness Act 2002, all housing authorities must have in place a homelessness strategy based on a review of all forms of homelessness in their area. The strategy must be renewed at least every five years. The strategy must set out the authority's plans for the prevention of homelessness and ensuring the availability of adequate accommodation and support for individuals at risk of homelessness or already experiencing it.
- 10.7 The National Housing Federation commissioned research¹⁵ which identified were it not for supported housing, there would be an increase in core homelessness of around 41,000 people, with a further 30,000 people at significant risk of future homelessness (the cost to the public purse of long-term homelessness has been estimated at over £40,000 per person per year). It also highlighted that short term transitional supported housing is playing a key role in reducing and/or preventing higher risks of homelessness, such as rough sleeping.
- 10.8 Transitional Supported Housing¹⁶ (TSH) provides supported accommodation to many of society's vulnerable populations (older people with support needs, people with learning and physical disabilities, people experiencing multiple vulnerabilities simultaneously – referred to as complex needs). It improves their life skills and social integration and has generally higher resident satisfaction than hospitalised care (Fakhoury et al., 2020). Transitional supported housing (TSH) accounts for 29 per cent of the overall supported housing sector outside provision for older people.
- 10.9 Complex needs may be described as difficult personal circumstances and/or life events that affect individuals. The following list of circumstances and events is intended to be illustrative rather than exhaustive: alcohol and/or drug dependency; bereavements; adopted from care or leaving care; indebtedness; divorcing or terminating a civil partnership; experiencing redundancy, retirement or unemployment; experiencing homelessness; leaving the armed forces; leaving hospital; people who are victims of crime including domestic violence; people with one or more of the nine national Protected Characteristics defined in the Equality Act 2010.

¹⁵ [imogen-blood-research-into-the-supported-housing-sectors-impact-on-homelessness-prevention-health-and-wellbeing.pdf](#)

¹⁶Institute for Public Policy Research. (2020). *At a crossroads: The future of transitional supported housing*. [Online]. IPPR The Progressive Think Tank. Last Updated: October 2020. Available at: [At a crossroads: The future of transitional supported housing | IPPR](#).

- 10.10 The Homeless Review will identify gaps in service provision, for example, the need for additional supported housing schemes for people with mental ill health, people with drug and alcohol dependency and young people transitioning from care. The overarching goal is to prevent homelessness by providing the necessary supported accommodations through approaches like repurposing, redesigning, or constructing new facilities.
- 10.11 The Council is currently reviewing its Homelessness Strategy, with the key objective on preventing homelessness. The initial step involves a comprehensive review. Additionally, the revised Allocations Policy aims to give priority to homeless applicants, particularly those in emergency temporary accommodation, with the goal of preventing homelessness.
- 10.12 The Council is to prepare a comprehensive actionable Affordable and Intermediate Housing Options Strategy to address the pressing issue of housing affordability. This strategy will offer diverse housing choices tailored for residents facing affordability challenges, including access to open market housing to meet their needs, low-cost home ownership, social and affordable housing for rent and sub-market private rented accommodation.
- 10.13 The Council's Homelessness Strategy is currently being reviewed; it will have an emphasis on homelessness prevention. Homeless prevention includes increasing both the supply of and access to social and supported housing which is genuinely affordable and has security of tenure.

Priorities for Action

- Produce an Affordable and Intermediate Housing Options Strategy
- Produce a revised Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy

11 Homeless households with support needs

- 11.1 The term 'homelessness' is often understood as meaning sleeping rough on the streets, but homelessness can take many forms. People who are homeless can be living in emergency or temporary hostels and shelters, in insecure accommodation with friends and family, squatting, sharing with strangers, or living in unsuitable conditions including overcrowding.
- 11.2 There are considered to be four forms of homelessness¹⁷. A person might experience only one of these forms, but could encounter some or all of them:
- statutory homelessness – persons owed a duty by a local housing authority.
 - single homelessness – persons living in supported housing (including hostels, refuges and also supported lodgings), usually commissioned by a local authority.
 - street homelessness – persons sleeping rough, places not designed for habitation.
 - hidden homelessness – persons accommodated in insecure arrangements often with relatives or friends, but just as often with people not previously known to them.
- 11.3 During 2022-2023, 381 households were initially assessed as threatened with homeless and owed the prevention duty and 959 households were initially assessed as threatened with homeless and owed the relief duty.
- 11.4 As can be seen from Figure 2, of the 477 households accepted as owed the main homeless duty¹⁸ in 2022/2023, 285 (59.57 %) vulnerable, single person households of working age, a percentage increase of approximately 50.79% on the period 2021/2022 (when 189 were vulnerable, single person households of working age). The main reasons for households being accepted as statutorily homeless were because a household had dependent children and single persons of working age being vulnerable due to a physical disability / ill health or mental ill health This level of need is high compared to other similar local authorities and highlights that there is a need for additional supported accommodation for vulnerable single persons so as to prevent homelessness.

¹⁷ Suzanne Fitzpatrick (2005), 'Explaining homelessness: a critical realistic perspective', *Housing & Society*, 22(1): pp.1-17

¹⁸ Households were accepted as being owed the main homelessness duty of settled accommodation, due to them being found eligible for assistance, not intentionally homeless, in priority need and having a local connection.

Figure 2: Households accepted as owed the main homelessness duty by priority need 2022/2023.

Priority need	No.	%
Applicant is/ household includes a pregnant woman	17	4%
Applicant is care leaver and aged 18 to 20 years	7	1%
Drug dependency	1	0%
Former asylum seeker	2	0%
Homeless because of fire, flood or other emergency	2	0%
Household includes dependent children	163	34%
Vulnerable as a care leaver 21+	1	0%
Vulnerable as been in custody or on remand	1	0%
Vulnerable as fled home because of violence/threat of violence (domestic abuse)	60	13%
Vulnerable as fled homes because of violence/threat of violence (not domestic abuse)	10	2%
Vulnerable as a result of learning difficulty	7	1%
Vulnerable as a result of mental health problems	88	18%
Vulnerable as a result of old age	13	3%
Vulnerable as a result of physical disability / ill health	88	18%
Vulnerable for other special reasons	17	4%
Total acceptances	477	

*Figures for the financial year 2022/2023 have been subject to rounding up

- 11.5 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.
- 11.6 Given that basis for accommodating households under the interim 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 have been assessed as being vulnerable (the usual

reason for families with children being assessed as priority need is due to the presence of children).

- 11.7 Therefore, the provision of temporary accommodation under the interim duty must consider the needs of households. This means that accommodation provided for single people or couples will usually require some level of support and/or supervision. However, the shortage of such accommodation has resulted in high numbers of persons being accommodated under the Interim Duty in bed and breakfast, which is both inappropriate (unless as an emergency measure) and very costly to the Council.
- 11.8 The Council's Housing Enablement Teams are progressing a project to secure and apply funding to the provision of appropriate temporary accommodation to meet the needs of Shropshire households without housing, as an interim measure. This also supports households in their preparation and transitioning to independent living within appropriate affordable housing.
- 11.9 Since January 2022 the Council, in partnership with its Arm's Length Management Organisation (ALMO) Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing (STAR Housing), has also been progressing a programme to deliver temporary accommodation for single people. The programme comprises two strands: acquisition of dispersed self-contained units whereby the individual receives intensive housing management and floating support; and the acquisition / remodelling of existing accommodation to provide shared and self-contained supported housing schemes with on-site management and support.
- 11.10 Whilst these programmes are being delivered the Council is leasing suitable accommodation from a housing association and a private landlord to provide hostel style temporary accommodation. The Council also utilises a large number of its own dwellings, managed by STAR Housing, for temporary accommodation and is keen for housing associations to offer to provide temporary accommodation, so as to reduce the need to use bed and breakfast accommodation, except in emergencies.
- 11.11 In addition, it may be apparent that even if a household (or individual) is deemed to be owed the main duty (eligible for assistance, homeless, but unintentionally so, in priority need and has a local connection), and hence receive an offer of suitable settled accommodation, they may not be general needs "tenancy ready". In this instance, rather than "setting up someone to fail", it is good practice to re-house the person in supported "move-on" accommodation, still under the interim duty for up to two years. This is a hybrid version of the Housing First model as someone is provided with self-contained accommodation with "their own front door" and an intensive floating support package.
- 11.12 Moreover, it is important that sufficient supported accommodation, be this specific accommodation or general needs with floating support, is provided to vulnerable households to ensure that they do not end up in a cycle of homelessness, due to rent arrears or anti-social behaviour, but instead gain life skills and seek opportunities for training and employment.

- 11.13 As stated in section 10 the Council is currently reviewing its Homelessness Strategy. However, based on the evidence currently available, it is clear that the Council requires additional accommodation for single persons who are vulnerable due to mental or physical ill health and who are either at risk of homelessness or currently homeless.
- 11.14 Analysis of the housing register shows that there is need for such single person accommodation with on-site management and support primarily in Shrewsbury, followed by Oswestry and Bridgnorth This needs to be for a range of circumstances – short term temporary accommodation, longer-term move-on and in some cases a more permanent offer.
- 11.15 It is recognised good practice for the local authority to follow a pathway approach and compliments the Housing-Led Housing First model¹⁹ and supported accommodation by recognising that individuals experiencing homelessness have unique needs. It involves tailoring services and support to individuals' specific circumstances.
- 11.16 The Council faces the challenge of insufficient supportive accommodation hindering the effective implementation of the pathway approach. Limited suitable housing constrains the housing-led housing first model, making the immediate and permanent solutions for homelessness challenging. To succeed, it's vital to address supported accommodation shortages. There is a need for dispersed self-contained units in market towns across Shropshire, providing temporary, move-on and settled accommodation for vulnerable persons, whereby occupants can be provided with floating support, the intensity of which depends on need.

Priorities for Action:

- Deliver supported housing schemes with 24/7 management and support for single vulnerable people, who are homeless or at risk of homelessness or rough sleeping, in Shrewsbury, Oswestry and Bridgnorth.
- Deliver additional dispersed housing-led housing first accommodation for single vulnerable people who are at risk of homelessness or rough sleeping.

12 Addressing Diverse Housing Needs and Prioritising Actions

12.1 Rough sleeping

- 12.2 Although it is a misconception that all homeless households are rough sleepers, rough sleeping is the most visible form of homelessness. Rough sleeping is defined by people sleeping in the open air or in buildings or place not designed for habitation. The causes of rough sleeping are usually a combination of structural, for example, lack of affordable housing or unemployment; and individual, for example, mental ill health, experience of violence, abuse and neglect, trauma, drug and alcohol problems, relationship breakdown or experience of care or prison.

¹⁹ [Housing First | Homeless Link](#)

- 12.3 People who experience rough sleeping over a long period, are more likely to die young than the general population. Rough sleepers also experience some of the most severe health inequalities. Often rough sleepers have a co-occurring mental ill health and substance misuse needs, physical health needs and have also experienced trauma.
- 12.4 The Council has a Rough Sleeper team and operates a small hostel for rough sleepers in Shrewsbury. It is important to note that this accommodation does not function as a direct access hostel or a day centre and provides a targeted approach to address the specific needs of rough sleepers and contributes to addressing homelessness in the community. The Rough sleeping snapshot²⁰, autumn 2022 estimated 16 rough sleepers, the previous autumn there were estimated to be 21 rough sleepers (The Rough sleeping snapshot in England: autumn 2023 will be provisionally released in February 2024). Although rough sleepers are predominantly found in Shrewsbury, rough sleeping is evidenced in other market towns across the county.
- 12.5 Although most rough sleepers want the opportunity to be given temporary and settled accommodation, it is harder to persuade entrenched rough sleepers to move into a hostel or other supported housing. As highlighted in both section 10 and section 11, by providing a range of housing options for vulnerable single people either homeless or at risk of homelessness or rough sleeping then this will assist in preventing and reducing rough sleeping.

13 Older People's Housing Needs

- 13.1 The UK's population is undergoing a massive age shift. There are over 11 million people aged 65 and in ten years' time this will have increased to 13 million people, 22% of the population²¹.
- 13.2 The government introduced the Older People's Housing Taskforce²² in May 2023 and is dedicated to enhancing housing options for older individuals in the UK. The taskforce will present final recommendations to the Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and the Department of Health and Social Care to respond to this shifting age demographic.
- 13.3 It is estimated that approximately 87,300 older people, defined as individuals aged 65 and over, currently reside in Shropshire, this is projected to rise by approximately 42.75% to 124,600 by 2040 (figure 3). These demographic shifts highlight the critical need for strategic policies that address the evolving requirements of our ageing population, particularly as Shropshire has a larger population of older people compared to national levels.

²⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/rough-sleeping-snapshot-in-england-autumn-2022/rough-sleeping-snapshot-in-england-autumn-2022#rough-sleeping-snapshot>

²¹ Centre for Ageing Better [Centre for Ageing Better | Action today for all our tomorrows \(ageing-better.org.uk\)](https://www.ageing-better.org.uk)

²² <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/older-peoples-housing-taskforce>

Figure 3: Population in Shropshire aged 65 and over, projected to 2040

	2023	2025	2030	2035	2040
People aged 65-69	22,500	23,900	28,900	30,100	27,900
People aged 70-74	21,100	21,200	23,600	28,600	29,800
People aged 75-79	19,700	20,300	19,700	22,000	26,700
People aged 80-84	12,400	13,800	17,300	16,900	19,100
People aged 85-89	7,400	8,000	9,900	12,500	12,400
People aged 90 and over	4,200	4,400	5,300	6,700	8,700
Total population 65 and over	87,300	91,600	104,700	116,800	124,600

Source: Projecting Older People Population Information System (POPPI)²³

- 13.4 The ageing population will change the demand for housing. It is likely that more adaptable and specialist housing will be needed²⁴. Homes have a great potential as places of healthcare and with the use of aids and adaptations, can reduce spending and demand on health and care services. Supporting the adaptations of the existing housing stock is critical and requires homes that support technologies that are safe, accessible and adaptable. The principles that relate to the use of technology should be person- centric, preventative, choice led and compatible.
- 13.5 Based on the data presented in Age UK's September briefing paper titled 'Facts and Figures about digital inclusion and older people'²⁵ in 2022, it suggests that older people are open to embracing assistive technology, indicated by the significant number of them engaging with the internet:
- a. 90% of people aged 65 to 74 years and over in the UK had used the internet within the last 3 months and:
 - b. 66% of people aged 75 and over in the UK had used the internet in the last 3 months.
- 13.6 Building suitable new homes is equally important, so that older people can move to a more appropriately sized home or to alternative accommodation which forms part of the general housing stock designed to be accessible/adaptable or wheelchair friendly, in addition to bungalows. The adopted and emerging Local Plan supports the need to future-proof housing supply and is an essential element in delivering homes that meet a wide range of needs.

²³ Figures are taken from Office for National Statistics (ONS) subnational population projections by persons, males and females, by single year of age. The latest subnational population projections available for England, published 24 March 2020, are full 2018-based and project forward the population from 2018 to 2043. The assumptions used in the subnational population projections are based on past trends. They show what the population will be if recent trends continue.

²⁴ [future-of-an-ageing-population.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/91424/future-of-an-ageing-population.pdf)

²⁵ [policy-briefing---facts-and-figures-about-digital-inclusion-and-older-people.pdf \(ageuk.org.uk\)](https://www.ageuk.org.uk/policy-briefing---facts-and-figures-about-digital-inclusion-and-older-people.pdf)

- 13.7 The National Planning Practice Guidance on Housing for Older People recognises that there is a significant amount of variability in the types of specialist accommodation for older people, identifying four main categories which can be summarised as:
- a. Age-restricted general market housing;
 - b. Retirement living or sheltered housing;
 - c. Extra care housing or housing-with-care; and
 - d. Residential care homes and nursing homes”
- 13.8 Building upon the foundation laid by the [Housing Strategy 2020-2025](#), with its six objectives aimed to ensuring people can access a diverse range of housing options tailored to Shropshire’s urban and rural landscape, encompassing factors such as tenure, safety, size, type, design and location and its emphasis on independence and supporting people in their homes; the Independent Living and Specialist Accommodation Strategy acknowledges that there are situations where specialist accommodation becomes a valuable and necessary component in our approach.
- 13.9 This approach ensures that individuals do not transition directly from their homes to more costly residential nursing care. Instead, it offers a considerate alternative, allowing people to incorporate specialist accommodation into their overall care package or life plan. The availability of these options offers individuals a choice, maintaining dignity and quality of life even when home based living becomes challenging. In the broader context of promoting independence, specialist accommodation plays an important role, offering diverse alternatives and comprehensive support. It is essential to note that this approach includes existing homes with adaptations and new general needs homes that can be easily modified.
- 13.10 Moving to specialist retirement housing can improve quality of life, promoting physical health and social well-being. For instance, individuals may opt for properties on a single level or choose sheltered or retirement housing options. This type of housing preserves individual’s independence by providing them with their own front door, bathroom living room and kitchen. This enables them to access their homes and maintain independence within their communicates., fostering a sense of security and well-being among residents.
- 13.11 However, it is important that older people can choose whether to move or not. It is equally important that older people who prefer to remain living in mixed-age housing and communities are able to do so (whether in their existing housing or in alternative mainstream housing). Older people contribute to society and want to feel valued members of their local communities; many do not want to move into retirement housing because they do not feel ‘old’ and this applies regardless of people’s actual age. The [Strategic Housing Market Assessment Report: Part 2](#)²⁶ projects that over the Local Plan period, to maintain existing prevalence rates, this being the ratio of specialist housing to older people, there will be a need for around an additional 3,500 specialist older persons accommodation units and around 2,500 additional units of residential care provision.

²⁶ <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/media/16206/shma-part-2-2020-strategic-housing-market-assessment-part-2.pdf>, page 90.

- 13.12 Given these projections and the significant growth in older households in Shropshire projected to occur over the emerging Local Plan period (which runs to 2038), it is considered appropriate to ensure that larger development sites include specialist housing designed to meet the diverse needs of older people, whilst also providing flexibility about types and levels of such accommodation to respond to site specific circumstances.
- 13.13 The Council continues to engage with Registered Social Landlords (Housing associations) to secure the provision of extra-care facilities to meet older people's housing needs. This approach addresses the County's demographic challenges and offers affordable, tailored solutions for older people. Extra Care housing (also known as assistive living) offers more support than sheltered accommodation and emulates as far as possible the conditions of remaining at home. Crucially informal carers can continue to care and spouses can remain together²⁷.
- 13.14 There are a number of measures that can be provided to older people in their own homes to enable independent living and prevent / delay the need for domiciliary care packages. These include:
- the provision of aids and adaptations;
 - assistive technology, including community alarms, telecare and telehealth;
 - falls prevention service;
 - handy person schemes;
 - accredited / trusted contractor schemes;
 - energy efficiency measures; and
 - initiatives to reduce loneliness.
- 13.15 Shropshire Council's [Shropshire Choices Support Finder 2023](#) for Adult Care and Support Services, offers a wide range of advice and support to help people make the right choice to help retain their independence and stay well. The directory covers a wide range of topics.
- 13.16 The Council and NHS provide aids and minor and major adaptations, the Council's policy is set out in its Private Housing Assistance Policy and the Council operates a handy person scheme. The Council's Arm's Length Management Organisation (ALMO) Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing provides a community alarm service which is open to all households in Shropshire. Consideration should be given to mainstream housing that is designed to be adaptable to better suit the changing needs of people in later life.
- 13.17 The [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment \(JSNA\)](#) relating to aging well in Shropshire specifically mentions that falls are the largest cause of emergency hospital admissions for older people, and significantly impact on long term outcomes, e.g.,

²⁷ www.ipc.brookes.ac.uk

being a major precipitant of people moving from their own home to long-term nursing or residential care. The highest risk of falls is in those aged 65 and above and it is estimated that about 30% people (2.5 million) aged 65 and above living at home and about 50% of people aged 80 and above living at home or in residential care will experience an episode of fall at least once a year.

- 13.18 The Council's current commissioning services include a postural stability 20-week community course provided by Energize²⁸ and links with the hospital inpatient falls team, Shropcom Falls Therapy Team, receive referrals from allied health professionals, self-referrals and social prescribers. The Falls Therapy Service²⁹ (Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust) is a specialist service aiming to reduce the number of falls and fall-related injuries. It is made up of physiotherapists, an occupational therapist, a nurse and rehabilitation technicians.
- 13.19 According to Jon Rouse, director general at the Department of Health³⁰: "The challenge facing health and care organisations is huge. New ways of working are needed and there is no better time for housing professionals to engage with health and care decision makers. Housing professionals can make it easy for local decision makers by identifying the housing and housing services that can deliver the health and care outcomes required.
- 13.20 Wider engagement with housing stakeholders and partners, fostering collaboration, will undoubtedly strengthen our existing fall prevention schemes. By encouraging open dialogue and cooperation among various stakeholders, we can tap into a wealth of knowledge and experience, leading to more effective strategies and initiatives. By pooling resources and ideas, we can enhance services and create a vibrant and interconnected support system that benefits everyone involved. When reconsidering and recommissioning services, housing stakeholders hold a significant position, leveraging their expertise and insights to shape the future of fall prevention efforts. Involvement can lead to innovative solutions and stronger, more secure environment for those at risk of falls, ensuring a safer community for all.

Older People Shared Ownership (OPSO)

- 13.21 Shared ownership for older people is a very different proposition from traditional shared ownership products. While still based on a part own, part-rent model, it is designed primarily to provide homes for those with existing housing equity (unlike for first time buyers) but who cannot afford to move to a suitable home that meets their particular needs. Unlike conventional shared ownership, part of the shared ownership package for older people often also includes access to extra care and support if required.
- 13.22 Under the OPSO scheme shared owners who buy a 75 percent stake in their home do not have to pay rent on the remaining share. This makes the product affordable to more homeowners who wish to downsize and retain enough income to pay the ongoing service charges and any care costs if applicable.

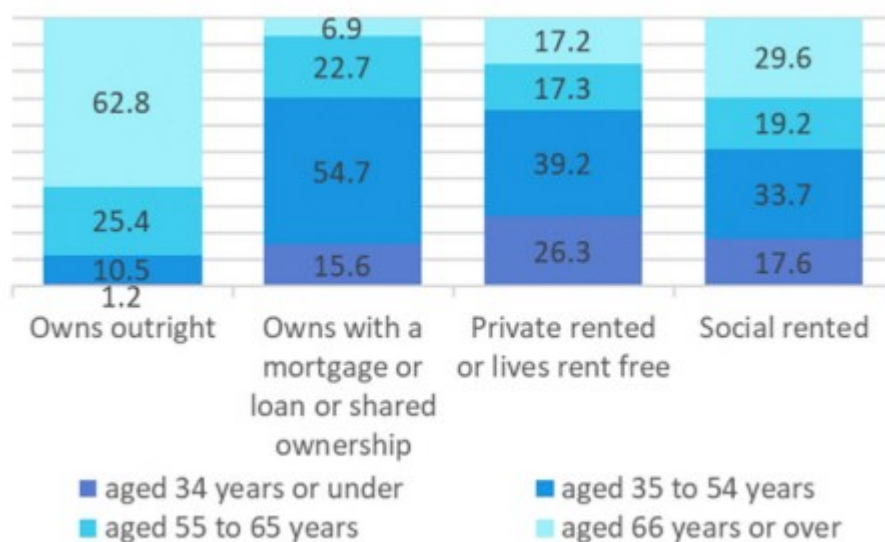
²⁸ [Elevate strength and balance classes | Energize Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin \(energizestw.org.uk\)](https://www.energizestw.org.uk)

²⁹ <https://www.shropscommunityhealth.nhs.uk/falls-therapy>

³⁰ [Housing associations and the NHS: new thinking, new partnerships \(smith-institute.org.uk\)](https://smith-institute.org.uk)

13.23 For many homeowners in areas where house prices are high there is little prospect of finding rented housing through local authority housing registers or choice-based letting schemes. It is also often a struggle to buy into existing open market schemes for older people, especially in high demand areas. There is a considerable unmet demand for good quality, affordable housing for older people and significant potential for a shared ownership product suitable for “squeezed middle” homeowners.

Figure 4: Percentage of all households by tenure and age group of household reference person in Shropshire



Source: [Census 2021 Tenure \(September 2023\)](#)

13.24 The Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) stressed the importance of evidencing the scale of need and demand for older people’s housing, including shared ownership, to demonstrate the opportunities to investors. The CIH also noted the need for the regulatory framework and strategic approach to be clear at a national and local level to give confidence to potential investors.

13.25 It is important to consider additional retirement accommodation for rent and older persons’ shared ownership (OPSO) in Shropshire. This can include extra care sheltered housing but could also be a modern sheltered housing offer (sometimes called sheltered plus) with on-site management, an office for a care provider and a lounge, but without revenue costly communal facilities. The identified demand for these housing options is rooted in a comprehensive evaluation of both existing gaps and anticipated requirements, ensuring a strategic approach to address the evolving needs of the community effectively.

Care homes

13.26 Many older people find the decision to move into a residential setting a very difficult one, but sometimes it is without doubt the right place for them to be, particularly if they are living with advanced dementia or other serious health conditions and it has become impossible to continue living in their own home. Shropshire has a significant

sized care market for a rural authority. There are 117 registered Care homes in Shropshire providing 3,485 CQC registered beds³¹.

13.27 Shropshire Council's policy to support people to remain in their own homes means that the rate of permanent admissions to residential and nursing care has fallen since 2016 and continues to fall. The Council commissions domiciliary care for around 1,500 people over 65 years of age primarily because of age related conditions or disability³².

Priority for Action

- Wider engagement with housing stakeholders and partners in the housing sector, working in partnership to integrate commissioning between social care, health and housing surrounding falls prevention.
- Promote the importance of open market house builders meeting the needs of older persons, for example, bungalows or age-restricted flats in intergeneration settings.
- Enable and support housing associations to deliver modern, aspirational, affordable age-restricted and retirement schemes for rent and LCHO which allow for flexibility of care and support provision as people age in place.

14 Vulnerable young people, including care leavers and fostered children

14.1 The majority of young people aged 16 to 25 live at home, in lodgings, or independently without requiring support. However, circumstances might necessitate mediation services for a return home. If this is unsuccessful or not applicable, suitable accommodation is needed, such as small schemes with on-site management and support services.

14.2 Life chances for young people who experience housing instability and homelessness are poor. They are less resilient to managing life changes, and more likely to make poor life choices as compared to young people who benefit from living in stable and supportive home environments. Young offenders are a particularly vulnerable group, often with complex needs including substance misuse and emotional and mental health issues.

14.3 It is important that young people leaving care and those who are vulnerable and homeless are not just provided with accommodation, but also with the necessary support in terms of life skills to maintain their tenancy (so as to prevent eviction due to rent arrears or anti-social behaviour). Help will also often be required with accessing education, training and employment.

14.4 In Shropshire, the existing provision for young people in need of supported housing remains significantly limited, with only two small schemes located in Oswestry and Ludlow. These schemes feature on-site management and support services,

³¹ <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/media/19245/market-position-statement-update-spring-summer-2021.pdf>

³² <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/media/19245/market-position-statement-update-spring-summer-2021.pdf>

collectively offering 26 bed spaces. However, it is crucial to note that our commitment to the Housing-Led Housing First model emphasises the need for a new scheme in Shrewsbury, also designed with on-site management and support. This need for an additional scheme aligns with our vision of providing stable housing to young individuals experiencing homelessness.

- 14.5 With respect to children in foster care, it is important that there are sufficient bedrooms as children become older, this can sometimes be an issue when a connected carer agrees to foster children. Rather than expecting the family to move or instead risk the foster care arrangements ending, another solution would be the offer of a grant or loan facility to fund extensions to existing homes of all tenures.

Priorities for Action:

- Deliver a supported housing scheme for care leavers and vulnerable young people in Shrewsbury based on a hub and spoke model³³ of support.
- Explore funding opportunities to facilitate extensions to foster carers' homes.

15 People with physical disabilities

- 15.1 The Local Plan recognises that appropriate accommodation is required by people with disabilities and special needs. As such it is also considered appropriate to ensure that larger development sites include specialist housing designed to meet the needs of people with disabilities or special needs, whilst also providing flexibility about types and levels of accommodation to respond to site specific circumstances.
- 15.2 When considering housing need and people with physical disabilities, it is often assumed that these needs relate to mobility problems, however, impaired vision, impaired hearing and other physical disabilities require housing to be accessible and safe, either through design or the provision of aids and adaptations, including assistive technology. There may also be interrelated needs such as around age, or less visible needs such as for those with Crohn's disease who need ready access to toilets.
- 15.3 The National Disability Strategy 2021 ³⁴states how many people wake up every morning in a home that is not adapted to their needs. The Strategy highlights how local authorities can provide aids and adaptations, social housing providers are able to access capital grant funding (including the Care and Support Specialised Housing Fund) and proposed future changes to improve accessibility in new build homes.
- 15.4 The concept of Lifetime Homes, whereby a dwelling was designed so it could be easily adapted as the occupier's needs changed, for example, installing a through floor lift or a wet room, is now broadly covered by the accessible and adaptable dwellings standard.
- 15.5 The Council's emerging Local Plan proposed to require all dwellings specifically designed for older people or those with disabilities or special needs to be built to the

³³ Hub and Spoke Model [Microsoft Word - A - A Hub and Spoke Model.doc \(housinglin.org.uk\)](https://www.housinglin.org.uk/resources/micro-soft-word-a-a-hub-and-spoke-model.doc)

³⁴ [National Disability Strategy \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/90422/national-disability-strategy-2021.pdf)

wheelchair user dwellings standard. In addition, on sites of five or more dwellings, it requires at least five per cent of the dwellings to be built to the wheelchair user dwellings standard and a further 70% of the dwellings to be built to the accessible and adaptable dwellings or higher standard, unless site-specific factors indicate that step-free access cannot be achieved, given:

- a. Government’s aspirations to sustain people at home for as long as possible
- b. The projected growth in older households and the contribution that this growth makes to total household growth in Shropshire
- c. The higher prevalence of long-term health problems or disabilities amongst older people; and
- d. The identified need for standard dwellings to accommodate older households in Shropshire with a long-term health problem or disability that impacts on their housing needs over the Local Plan period.

15.6 Only nine housing associations dwellings are designated for people with physical disabilities. However, there will be a number of social housing dwellings which have been adapted and it is recognised good practice to have a register of adapted social housing dwellings.

Figure 4: People living in Shropshire aged 18-64 predicted to have impaired mobility, by age, projected to 2040

	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
People aged 18-24	201	195	214	219	210
People aged 25-34	347	335	311	317	343
People aged 35-44	1,760	1,945	2,045	1,990	1,870
People aged 45-54	2,290	2,095	2,095	2,285	2,390
People aged 55-64	6,804	7,644	7,504	6,916	6,930
Total population aged 18-64	11,402	12,214	12,169	11,727	11,743

Source: Projecting Adult Needs and Service Information System (PANSI)³⁵

15.7 “Valuing People”, published in 2001 and “Valuing People Now”, published in 2008, emphasised how people with learning disabilities are citizens and therefore, should have choices, including choices to live independently with their own front door. Following the Winterbourne Review, the Transforming Care programme³⁶ published in 2017 highlighted the need for people with learning disabilities and/or autism to be able to move from residential care and hospitals and live in the community and have the same opportunities as everyone else.

³⁵ <https://www.pansi.org.uk/> Figures are taken from Office for National Statistics (ONS) subnational population projections by persons, males and females, by single year of age. The latest subnational population projections available for England, published 24 March 2020, are full 2018-based and project forward the population from 2018 to 2043.

³⁶ <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/model-service-spec-2017.pdf>

15.8 The “Building the Right Support for People with Learning Disability and Autistic People Action Plan”³⁷, published in 2022 states that there should be the right housing, care and support available in the community so people with a learning disability and people with neurodiverse conditions such as autism can live the lives they choose. Good community provision supports people to live an independent and ordinary life through having a home building the Right Support for People with a Learning Disability and Autistic People and feeling involved in their local community, including through employment and having a reliable network of support. Furthermore, the Down Syndrome Act 2022³⁸ aims to make guidance about meeting the needs of persons with Down syndrome under the categories of the NHS, social care, housing and education and youth offending.

Figure 5: People living in Shropshire aged 18-64 predicted to have a moderate or severe learning disability, and hence likely to be in receipt of services, by age

	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
People aged 18-24	127	124	137	141	135
People aged 25-34	186	179	166	170	184
People aged 35-44	218	242	256	250	236
People aged 45-54	241	222	226	249	262
People aged 55-64	240	267	260	240	243
Total population aged 18-64	1,011	1,035	1,045	1,048	1,060

Source: **Projecting Adult Needs and Service Information System (PANSI)**³⁹

³⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/building-the-right-support-for-people-with-a-learning-disability-and-autistic-people>

³⁸ Down Syndrome Act 2022, <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2022/18/enacted>

³⁹ <https://www.pansi.org.uk/> These predictions are based on prevalence rates in a report by Eric Emerson and Chris Hatton of the Institute for Health Research, Lancaster University, entitled Estimating Future Need/Demand for Supports for Adults with Learning Disabilities in England, June 2004.

Figure 6: People living in Shropshire aged 18-64 predicted to have a moderate or severe learning disability and be living with a parent, by age

	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
People aged 18-24	84	83	91	94	90
People aged 25-34	95	92	85	87	94
People aged 35-44	85	94	99	97	91
People aged 45-54	54	50	52	57	59
People aged 55-64	22	24	23	21	22
Total population aged 18-64	341	343	350	355	357

Source: **Projecting Adult Needs and Service Information System (PANSI)⁴⁰**

- 15.9 Registered provider housing associations provide circa 70 self-contained dwellings and bed spaces across ten independent living schemes for people with learning disabilities; there is also a nine-unit scheme which provides accommodation for people with mental ill health and learning disabilities. Currently two additional housing association schemes are in development, with a further scheme being delivered by the Council.
- 15.10 The Council also supports people with learning disabilities and/or neurodiverse conditions such as autism in around 100 dwellings across Shropshire through nominations to housing associations, use of council housing and leasing arrangements with housing providers.
- 15.11 However, there remains a high level of housing need, not just for people wishing to be rehoused now, including young people transitioning to adulthood, but also for people living with older parents and carers who currently or may soon be unable to support a family member living at home (see Figures 5 and 6).
- 15.12 A comprehensive housing needs survey is proposed to include individuals with learning disabilities and /or neurodiverse conditions, beyond those registered with adult social care. To provide an overview of needs it is useful to understand the number of people with a learning disability only, the number with a neurodiverse condition only and the number with both. Until this survey is complete, the current accommodation needs identified represent the minimum requirement, as they are already known to the Council and actively engaging with adult social care services. The primary focus is avoiding an institutional environment, a goal achieved through diverse approaches across different developments.
- 15.13 There is a need for an independent living scheme in Shrewsbury which provides a mix of high level and medium level support, specifically focusing on providing

⁴⁰ <https://www.pansi.org.uk/> This table is based on a set of prevalence rates for adults with a learning disability living with a parent, established as a proportion of those known via learning disability registers (the administrative rate as established by Eric Emerson and Chris Hatton of the Institute for Health Research, Lancaster University, entitled Estimating Future Need/Demand for Supports for Adults with Learning Disabilities in England, June 2004).

supported housing for younger people with either severe or moderate learning disabilities and/or autism.

15.14 Over the next five years, there is a plan to assess the housing needs of individuals with learning disabilities and/or autism. Additionally, efforts will be made to increase awareness about the housing options, such as supported housing, housing with floating support, or home ownership.

15.15 Engagement can be through existing voluntary organisations that enable people to exercise more control over their living arrangements and the care and support they receive. The housing needs survey will be in an easy-to-read format questionnaire and an easy read housing options booklet will be produced.

Priorities for Action:

- Deliver a supported housing scheme for people with moderate and severe learning disabilities in Shrewsbury.
- Undertake a housing needs survey, using an easy read questionnaire, for people for with learning disabilities and/or autism.
- Produce an easy read housing options booklet.

16 People with mental ill health

16.1 It is a commonly stated statistic that one in four people will be suffering from mental ill health at any time. Housing and mental health are closely linked: mental ill health can make it more difficult to deal with housing problems; and living in inappropriate housing, facing homelessness or actually being homeless can exacerbate mental ill health.

Figure 7: People living in Shropshire aged 18-64 predicted to have a mental health problem, by type, projected to 2040

	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
People aged 18-64 predicted to have a common mental disorder	34,799	35,591	35,702	35,673	35,929
People aged 18-64 predicted to have a borderline personality disorder	4,420	4,520	4,533	4,530	4,562
People aged 18-64 predicted to have an antisocial personality disorder	6,207	6,318	6,308	6,298	6,348
People aged 18-64 predicted to have psychotic disorder	1,292	1,319	1,321	1,320	1,329
People aged 18-64 predicted to have two or more psychiatric disorders	13,279	13,564	13,589	13,575	13,676

Source: Projecting Adult Needs and Service Information System (PANSI)⁴¹

⁴¹ <https://www.pansi.org.uk/> This table is based on the report Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey: Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing, England, 2014 (2016), NHS Digital.

- 16.2 Registered provider housing associations provide circa 28 self-contained dwellings and bed spaces across six independent living schemes for people with enduring mental health problems; as stated above, there is also a nine-unit scheme which provides accommodation for people with mental ill health and learning disabilities.
- 16.3 The Council also supports people with mental ill health in around seven dwellings across Shropshire through nominations to housing associations, use of council housing and leasing arrangements with housing providers.
- 16.4 As can be seen from figure 2, 18% of those households, this being 88, which were owed the main homelessness duty in 2022/2023 was due to their priority need being vulnerable because of mental health problems. As stated in section 11, there is a need for additional supported housing for vulnerable single people, both schemes with on-site management and support and dispersed accommodation with intensive floating support.

17 People with alcohol and substance dependency

- 17.1 Alcohol and substance misuse can result in people losing settled accommodation or not being able to access accommodation. Moreover, there is a strong correlation between homelessness, including rough sleeping, and drug and alcohol use, in particular people using drugs and alcohol to cope with trauma and associated mental ill health. There is also a link between drugs and alcohol and offending which can affect access to housing.

Figure 8: Population living in Shropshire aged 18-64 predicted to be at higher risk of alcohol-related health problems, projected to 2040

	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
People aged 18-24	705	686	748	770	738
People aged 25-34	987	945	875	892	966
People aged 35-44	1,267	1,401	1,469	1,427	1,343
People aged 45-54	2,617	2,392	2,392	2,618	2,729
People aged 55-64	2,844	3,185	3,119	2,871	2,878
Total population aged 18-64	8,420	8,609	8,602	8,577	8,654

Source: Projecting Adult Needs and Service Information System (PANSI)⁴²

⁴² <https://www.pansi.org.uk>. Figures are taken from the Health Survey for England 2018.

Figure 9: Population living in Shropshire aged 18-64 predicted to be dependent on drugs, projected to 2040

	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
People aged 18-24	1,695	1,653	1,801	1,857	1,780
People aged 25-34	1,766	1,689	1,563	1,593	1,726
People aged 35-44	1,144	1,265	1,326	1,288	1,213
People aged 45-54	749	684	684	749	781
People aged 55-64	510	571	558	514	515
Total population aged 18-64	5,864	5,862	5,932	6,001	6,014

Source: Projecting Adult Needs and Service Information System (PANSI)⁴³

17.2 Shropshire Council received £1.4 million from the Rough Sleepers Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant to address homelessness related deaths. The RESET team, formed in early 2023, comprises multiple agencies and focuses on holistic support for rough sleepers with substance misuse issues, including housing related assistance, currently assisting 60 individuals with substance dependency in Shropshire (correct as of 5th January 2024).

17.3 Often people who are found to be in priority need under homeless legislation on the grounds of mental or physical ill health will have alcohol or substance dependency. According to Office for National Statistics data, in 2021 almost two in five deaths (35%) of homeless people in England and Wales were related to drug poisoning, and almost 1 in 10 deaths (10%) of homeless people in England and Wales were alcohol-specific. Historically Rough sleepers may initially accept accommodation but struggle to maintain it. Providing appropriate supported housing, including on-site support or floating support is crucial for addiction recovery.

18 Domestic violence and abuse.

18.1 A person who is homeless as a result of being a victim of domestic abuse has a priority need under homelessness legislation (irrespective of vulnerability), therefore, the Council has a duty to provide temporary accommodation under the Interim Duty. In addition, local authority housing allocations policies cannot apply local connection qualification requirements to persons are moving from another local authority to escape domestic abuse.

18.2 The [Domestic Abuse Act 2021](#) requires Local Authority and Private Registered Providers of social housing to ensure that victims of domestic abuse who have a lifetime tenancy and have fled the social home to escape domestic abuse, retain their lifetime security of tenure if the landlord grants them a new tenancy for reasons connected with abuse.

⁴³ <https://www.pansi.org.uk>. Figures are taken from the Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey 2014.

- 18.3 Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 requires local authorities to set out how they will provide safe accommodation-based support. This includes undertaking a domestic abuse needs assessment and producing a domestic abuse safe accommodation strategy. The Council's [Domestic Abuse Safe-Accommodation Strategy Dec22.pdf](#) sets out not only to provide alternative forms of temporary move-on accommodation for victims of domestic abuse but to adopt a comprehensive Whole Housing Approach (Figure 10).

Figure 10: Whole Housing Approach



Source: Whole Housing Approach - DAHA - Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance⁴⁴

- 18.4 The [Whole Housing Approach](#) is considered more suitable for individuals experiencing domestic violence because it offers a holistic support system that addresses not only housing but also the unique physical and emotional needs of survivors, ensuring a more comprehensive and tailored response to their circumstances, forms of accommodation include 24/7 supported accommodation and the Housing-Led Housing First model. The model considers not only immediate housing needs but also the availability of affordable housing, housing related support services and prevention efforts. In all areas of development, attention must be paid to all forms of housing. This includes sheltered and supported accommodation, to ensure responses in these settings are appropriate and safe, ensuring victims/survivors with additional, or care and support needs, are able to access appropriate housing.
- 18.5 Presently there is a female-only refuge located in the south of the county, which offers a limited capacity of 10 bed spaces and 7 spaces in units dispersed with intensive support around the county of which only two are designated for men. Additionally, there are five self-contained units situated in the north of the county, addressing specific needs, tailored to support single women with multiple disadvantages. The recognition of the existing resources underlines the necessity

⁴⁴ [Whole Housing Approach - daha - Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance \(dahalliance.org.uk\)](#)

for further expansion and enhancement of accommodation with intensive support. The introduction of a sanctuary scheme to safeguard individuals facing domestic abuse, designed to provide enhanced security and support victims who wish to remain in their own homes rather than move to a refuge will allow individuals to maintain their independence and connection to their communities and addresses the growing demands of individuals impacted by domestic abuse.

- 18.6 Strategically, it is crucial to acknowledge the existence of the Sanctuary scheme⁴⁵ within the context of the Independent Living and Specialist Accommodation Strategy by providing victims of domestic abuse with a secure haven within their own homes. By enhancing security measures (with a view to providing door braces, window locks etc.), this empowers survivors to maintain independence and stability, aligning seamlessly with the strategy's core objectives. This targeted support ensures a safe living environment and the scheme will focus on home-based security complementing the strategy's goals of self-sufficiency.
- 18.7 A Whole Housing Approach aims to for early identification, thus intervention, by landlords and other organisations across all housing tenures; reduce the number of people who are made homeless as a result of domestic abuse; and increase tenancy sustainment options so that people experiencing domestic abuse can remain safely in their home when it is their choice to do so or do not lose their tenancy status if they relocate.
- 18.8 In Figure 10, the green circles represent the main tenure types: social housing, the private rented sector, privately owned, supported/sheltered accommodation. Refuge Services are included in this as they offer a form of emergency accommodation accompanied support from a dedicated or specialist domestic abuse service. The white circles represent the housing options, initiatives and domestic abuse support offered to victim/survivors across the main tenure types.

Priorities for Action:

- Develop a Whole Housing approach to Domestic Abuse
- Deliver additional emergency and self-contained units of dispersed and move-on supported accommodation for victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse
- Achieve Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation.

19 Ex-offenders and those at risk of offending

- 19.1 Whilst it is recognised that settled and suitable housing can be the foundation of rehabilitation, resettlement and managing risk of offenders there are significant barriers for offenders in accessing stable accommodation. This can result in people rough sleeping and potentially re-offending.
- 19.2 Shropshire has a small, supported housing scheme for ex-offenders. However, it is important that additional accommodation options are available to rehouse ex-offenders and those persons at risk of offending. The priority to delivery supported accommodation for homeless single people and people at risk of homelessness will

⁴⁵ [Sanctuary schemes for households at risk of domestic violence: guide for agencies - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/604442/sanctuary-schemes-for-households-at-risk-of-domestic-violence-guide-for-agencies.pdf)

assist in meeting some need, however, in the longer-term access to suitable settled accommodation is required. A reducing reoffending protocol between the Council and social landlords linked to the revised allocations policy is currently being developed.

Priority of Action:

- Introduce reducing reoffending housing solutions protocol

20 Gypsies, Roma and Travellers

20.1 Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities experience, and are held back by some of the worst outcomes of any social group, across a wide range of social factors. Ensuring the provision of adequate accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers complete with effective management of sites and unauthorised encampments is an essential first step towards addressing other problems.

20.2 Shropshire Council owns and manages four authorised Gypsy and Traveller sites across the County, totalling 64 pitches. In addition, there are 33 authorised private sites and the Council leases a yard to a Travelling Showpersons family. Council records and a fieldwork survey has identified a total of 176 pitches across the County (figures correct as of January 2024). In addition, as with many other local authority areas, a number of Gypsy and Traveller families reside in bricks and mortar accommodation.

20.3 Although there is no overall shortfall in pitches once turnover is considered, the most recent [Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showperson Accommodation assessment \(GTAA\)](#) recommends that the Council should consider planning applications for appropriate small sites to address any arising needs of Gypsy and Traveller families should they be forthcoming over the Plan period. Needs may arise for a number of reasons including, for example: the ability of any available site to accommodate a larger family group; pitch vacancies at the particular time; issues of ethnic mix and compatibility; accessibility to school and health facilities. Additionally, the Government is seeking to encourage more private traveller site provision (within the [Planning Policy for Traveller Sites \(2015\)](#) and policy facilitates small exception sites where a local connection is demonstrated.

21 Refugees and asylum seekers

21.1 For the purpose of this strategy, refugees are those people who have been granted leave to remain in the UK and have the same rights to housing, housing benefit and other forms of support as British citizens.

21.2 Appropriate housing is crucial if refugees are to be able to integrate and settle successfully in the UK. Refugees should have access to safe and decent housing and be able to participate fully in housing decisions which affect them and their communities. Accessing secure accommodation is essential for:

- Providing a sense of security following their experience of having to leave their home country;
- Starting to build a new life;
- Children to be able to settle at school;
- Providing a permanent address for job applications and benefit claims; and
- Allowing wider access to services and healthcare.

21.3 The Council works with a range of statutory and voluntary organisations who together support refugees from Syria, Afghanistan and Ukraine and British National (Overseas) status holders from Hong Kong.

22 Data Sources

22.1 The development of this strategy has been shaped by a variety of data sources, which include strategies that have been closely aligned to the adopted Local Plan and in the emerging Shropshire Local Plan. These documents collectively form the foundation of the Council's planning approach and provide valuable insights. Utilising this information is important not only for justifying funding and planning priorities but also for the continuous monitoring of our strategy and priorities. To ensure the strategy's relevance and effectiveness, the Council will conduct yearly assessments, closely examining data from sources such as guidance from the production of Supplementary Planning documents (SPD's), the Strategic Housing Market Assessment, Local Plan, Housing Strategy, Housing Needs Survey, Market Position Statement and Commissioning Priorities. This ongoing analysis will guide the Council's decision-making processes and enable us to adapt our approach based on real-time data and evolving needs.

23 Delivery of the strategy

23.1 Delivering the strategy's vision will require the Council, and its partners in the public, private, voluntary and community services to develop more innovative and sustainable approaches. We will continue to work with registered providers to find ways to deliver housing that enables additional grant and borrowing capacity to be levered.

23.2 We encourage our stakeholders to collaborate from the early initial stages of new development proposals. Together we can provide innovative solutions tailored to specific geographical needs, develop pro-active initiatives in housing development and initiate approaches such as designing new housing infrastructure to be universally "age-friendly", fostering inclusivity.

23.3 Partners are invited to be involved in early discussions regarding the reconfiguration or disposal of existing housing stock requiring planning related changes. We welcome a collective approach in agreeing upon priority notification and nominations rights for both existing and new supported and specialist housing.

23.4 Together through collaborative Partnerships with various partners and agencies, we can promote intergenerational and diverse community development, contributing significantly to the overall health and well-being of Shropshire residents through supported and specialist housing services.

23.5 Additionally, we urge our partners to acknowledge and align with our overarching strategy objectives concerning climate change and environmental responsibility. We encourage the use of modern construction methods wherever feasible, ensuring a sustainable and innovative approach to our shared initiatives.

DRAFT

Appendix II: Action Plan

Priority for action	Timescale	Outcome	Responsible service
Explore the feasibility of an online self -assessment and guidance tool with the view of the customer to answer a series of questions to generate a personalised report including local signposting to allow people to browse a range of products and service to suit their needs and help them to live independently for longer and assist in decision making.	2024/2025	Ease of building own 'pathway' for the future with an online self-assessment tool	Housing Services Adult Social Care Partnership Organisations VCSE sector Registered Providers Communities Service users
Work with Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing, developers and Private Registered Providers so that more of the new housing provided is accessible and more easily adaptable and through the provision of appropriately located market specialist housing.	<i>Ongoing</i>	Provide new accessible and adaptable market specialist homes	Housing Services Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing Registered Providers Private Registered Providers
Monitor the trialling of new equipment	<i>Ongoing</i>	To evaluate whether it is cost-effective	Housing, Resettlement and Independent Living Handyperson service

Consider the feasibility of a private handyperson scheme.	<i>Ongoing</i>	Establishing a comprehensive assessment outlining viability, potential benefits, and financial feasibility of implementing a private handy person scheme within the community.	Housing, Resettlement and Independent Living Handyperson service
Assess the success, effectiveness and outcome of the new grant process for funding adaptations.	2024	Effectively allocate resources, improve accessibility.	Private Sector Housing Team
Draft a Housing Renewal Assistance and Adaptations Policy	2024	Completion of the policy draft, obtaining the necessary approvals, successful implementation, and ongoing monitoring to ensure effectiveness and compliance.	Housing Operations Manager Housing, Resettlement and Independent Living Private Sector Housing Team
Revise the Private Housing Assistance Policy	2024/2025	Improved private housing assistance policy with enhanced accessibility and effectiveness	Housing Operations Manager Housing, Resettlement and Independent Living
Deliver and Monitor the Sustainable Affordable Warmth Strategy	<i>Ongoing</i>	Successful implementation and continuous monitoring of the Sustainable Affordable Warmth Strategy, ensuring its effectiveness in	Housing Operations Manager Housing, Resettlement and Independent Living

		providing sustainable and affordable heating solutions whilst actively addressing energy efficiency and related community needs.	
<p>Raise awareness of the importance of tackling fuel poverty and improving energy efficiency</p> <p>Page 150</p>	<i>Ongoing</i>	Increased public awareness and understanding regarding the significance of addressing fuel poverty and enhancing energy efficiency measures, leading to widespread community engagement, proactive initiatives, and behavioural changes that contribute to reducing energy consumption and alleviating fuel poverty.	Homes & Communities Housing, Resettlement and Independent Living
Establish a pathway to zero carbon-housing	<i>Ongoing</i>	Continual development and implementation of strategies, technologies and policies leading towards achieving zero carbon housing, accompanied by measurable progress, innovations, and	Homes & Communities Housing, Resettlement and Independent Living

		adaptations in construction, energy efficiency, and sustainable practices within the housing sector	
Attract funding to deliver affordable warmth and improve energy efficiency	<i>Ongoing</i>	Continued successful acquisition of funding from diverse sources, allowing for sustainable implementation and expansion of initiatives focused on delivering affordable warmth, enhancing energy efficiency measures, and positively impacting a larger demographic, ultimately contributing to lasting improvements in energy sustainability and reducing fuel poverty.	Homes & Communities Housing, Resettlement and Independent Living
Explore the viability of implementing a training programme to equip staff as trusted assessors. Trusted assessors would assess people and their home environment for home adaptations in simple cases	<i>Not known</i>	The outcome of providing staff with the necessary trusted assessor training would result in expediting assessments. The aim is to alleviate the	Housing, Resettlement and Independent Living

<p>and appropriately identify cases to refer to an occupational therapist for further assessment.</p>		<p>workload of occupational therapists by delegating routine assessments to trusted assessors, allowing more time for occupational therapists to conduct specialised and in-depth assessments</p>	
<p>Adopt the emerging Shropshire Local Plan</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 152</p>	<p><i>Ongoing</i></p>	<p>Establishing a comprehensive and updated strategic framework that aligns with current and future development needs, community aspirations, and regulatory requirements. This adoption ensures a well-defined roadmap for sustainable growth, land use planning, infrastructure development, and environmental conservation within the Shropshire region.</p>	<p>All departments</p>
<p>The Council will continue to bid and secure funding to support specialist accommodation.</p>	<p><i>Ongoing</i></p>	<p>Successful acquisition of funding to establish and sustain specialised accommodation services meeting the</p>	<p>Homes and Communities Housing, Resettlement and Independent Living</p>

		<p>specific needs of the community, thereby enhancing access to tailored support, fostering inclusion, and ensuring the provision of necessary resources for those requiring specialist accommodation within Shropshire</p>	
<p>Monitor the Housing Allocations Policy and Scheme and Nomination Agreements</p>	<p><i>Ongoing</i></p>	<p>Continued oversight and assessment of the housing allocations policy, scheme and nomination agreements, ensuring adherence to established guidelines, evaluating effectiveness and identifying areas for potential improvement. Maintain a robust and adaptive housing allocation system that aligns with community needs, facilitates fair distribution and measures efficient management of housing resources.</p>	<p>Housing Strategy and Development Housing, Resettlement and Independent Living</p>

<p>Monitor the Tenancy Strategy and Tenancy Policy</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 154</p>	<p><i>May be subject to review</i></p>	<p>Identification of emerging trends or areas requiring adjustment within the tenancy strategy and policy, leading to timely updates or revisions that address evolving community needs and foster stronger tenant-landlord relationships. This continued monitoring aims to ensure adaptability, efficiency, and continued relevance of the tenancy strategy and policy in promoting sustainable tenancies and housing security.</p>	<p>Housing Strategy and Development Housing, Resettlement and Independent Living</p>
<p>Produce an Affordable and Intermediate Housing Options Strategy</p>	<p>2024</p>	<p>Creation of a comprehensive strategy outlining diverse and viable affordable housing options, catering to various income levels and addressing housing needs of different demographic groups. The strategy will aim to offer innovative solutions,</p>	<p>Housing Strategy and Development Housing, Resettlement and Independent Living</p>

		foster inclusivity, and provide a clear roadmap for the development and implementation of affordable housing options.	
Produce a revised homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy	2024	Development of a revised homelessness strategy that incorporates improved support and prevention measures to address and reduce homelessness	Housing Strategy and Development Housing, Resettlement and Independent Living
Deliver supported housing schemes with 24/7 management and support for single vulnerable people, who are homeless or at risk of homelessness or rough sleeping.	Ongoing	Establishment and implantation of robust supported housing schemes, providing continuous management and comprehensive support for vulnerable individuals. This outcome aims to ensure a safe, stable environment, promote independence, and facilitate the reintegration of people into sustainable housing solutions, addressing homelessness and	Homes and Communities Housing Strategy and Development Housing, Resettlement and Independent Living Registered Social Landlords

		reducing the risk of rough sleeping.	
Deliver additional dispersed housing-led housing first accommodation for single vulnerable people who are at risk of homelessness or rough sleeping.	<i>Ongoing</i>	Increased availability of dispersed move-on accommodation, providing stable housing solutions and mitigating homelessness and rough sleeping risks.	Housing Services
Wider engagement with housing stakeholders and partners in the housing sector, working in partnership to integrate commissioning between social care, health and housing surrounding falls prevention.	<i>Ongoing</i>	Establishment of a collaborative and integrated approach among diverse agencies and stakeholders, fostering coordinated efforts to address falls prevention comprehensively. This outcome aims to enhance awareness, implement effective preventive measures, and create a unified strategy ensuring the safety and well-being of individuals, while promoting cross-sectoral cooperation to reduce fall-related incidents within the community	All Directorates

<p>Promote the importance of open market house builders meeting the needs of older persons, for example, bungalows or age-restricted flats in intergenerational settings.</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 157</p>	<p><i>Ongoing</i></p>	<p>The outcome of promoting the importance of open market house builders meeting the needs of older persons could involve: “Increased awareness and commitment among open market house builders towards constructing age-friendly housing options, such as bungalows or age-restrictive flats in intergenerational settings. This outcome aims to stimulate the development of more inclusive and accessible housing choices that cater to the specific needs of older individuals, promoting diversity in housing options and encouraging the integration of age-friendly designs within the broader housing market</p>	<p>Homes and Communities Housing Strategy and Development Housing, Resettlement and Independent Living</p>
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<p>Commission housing associations to deliver modern, aspirational, affordable age-restricted and retirement schemes for rent and Low Cost Home Ownership which allow for flexibility of care and support provision as people age in place.</p>	<p><i>Not known</i></p>	<p>Expanded availability of modern, aspirational and affordable age-restricted housing with flexible care and support options.</p>	<p>Homes and Communities</p>
<p>Deliver a supported housing scheme for care leavers and vulnerable young people based on a hub and spoke model of support.</p>	<p><i>Ongoing</i></p>	<p>Tailored supported housing scheme for care leavers and vulnerable young people, emphasising the hub and spoke model to foster independence and well-being.</p>	<p>Homes and Communities Housing, Resettlement and Independent Living</p>
<p>Explore funding opportunities to facilitate extensions to foster carers' homes.</p>	<p><i>Not known</i></p>	<p>Access to additional funding resources enabling the extension and enhancement of foster carers' homes, thereby creating expanded and improved living spaces conducive to fostering a nurturing and supportive environment for children in care. This outcome aims to increase the capacity</p>	<p>Homes and Communities All Directorates</p>

		for fostering placements, improve living conditions, and enhance the overall quality of care provided within foster homes.	
Deliver supported housing schemes for people with moderate and severe learning disabilities.	<i>Not known</i>	Specialised supported housing scheme catering to individuals with moderate and severe learning disabilities.	Homes and Communities
Undertake a housing needs survey, using an easy read questionnaire, for people with learning disabilities and/or autism.	<i>Not known</i>	Completion of an inclusive housing needs survey with easy-read questionnaire, resulting in informed housing strategies	Homes and Communities Housing Strategy and Development Housing, Resettlement and Independent Living
Produce an easy read housing options booklet.	<i>Not known</i>	Creation of an easy-to-understand Housing Options booklet, providing clear information and choices for individuals seeking housing	Housing, Resettlement and Independent Living
Develop a Whole Housing approach to domestic abuse	<i>Ongoing</i>	The outcome of developing a whole housing approach to domestic abuse would involve establishing a comprehensive	Housing, Resettlement and Independent Living Domestic Abuse Strategic Lead Homes & Communities Place Directorate

strategy involving multiple housing agencies to effectively prevent and respond to domestic abuse. This would include tailored interventions and support services, ensuring safe and accessible housing options for survivors while fostering collaboration, training, and coordinated protocols among housing professionals. Ultimately, this approach aims to provide immediate and holistic support, offering secure accommodation and a responsive system for individuals affected by domestic abuse, thereby creating a safer environment and a more supportive housing framework.

<p>Deliver additional emergency and self-contained units of dispersed and move-on supported accommodation for victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse.</p>		<p>Expansion of safe and dispersed accommodation</p>	<p>Housing, Resettlement and Independent Living Domestic Abuse Strategic Lead Homes & Communities Place Directorate</p>
<p>Achieve Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) Accreditation</p>	<p><i>Ongoing</i></p>	<p>The outcome includes the adoption of standardised protocols, enhanced collaboration among housing professionals, and the provision of safe and secure accommodation options.</p>	<p>Housing, Resettlement and Independent Living Domestic Abuse Strategic Lead Homes & Communities Place Directorate</p>
<p>Introduce reducing reoffending housing solutions protocol</p>	<p><i>2024</i></p>	<p>Implement effective protocol for reducing re-offending through housing solutions.</p>	<p>Housing, Resettlement and Independent Living Homes & Communities Place Directorate</p>



Shropshire
Council



Appendix II: Equality, Social, Health Impact Assessment

Initial Screening Record

A. Summary Sheet on Accountability and Actions

Name of proposed service change
Independent Living and Specialist Accommodation Strategy for consultation

Name of lead officer carrying out the screening
Tami Sabanovic, Housing Strategy and Development Officer

Decision, review, and monitoring

Decision	Yes	No
Initial (part one) ESHIA Only?	✓	
Proceed to Full ESHIA or HIA (part two) Report?		✓

If completion of an initial or Part One assessment is an appropriate and proportionate action at this stage, please use the boxes above. If a Full or Part Two report is required, please move on to full report stage once you have completed this initial screening assessment as a record of the considerations which you have given to this matter.



Actions to mitigate negative impact or enhance positive impact of the service change in terms of equality, social inclusion, and health considerations

The Independent Living and Specialist Accommodation Strategy prioritises improving living conditions and support services for vulnerable populations in Shropshire.

To mitigate any negative impacts and enhance positive impacts, overall recommendations are around conducting thorough assessments of housing accessibility and adaptation needs for people with disabilities, implementing measures to prevent homelessness and address housing instability, and promoting social inclusion, equality and the wellbeing of Shropshire residents.

Given the recognised intersectionality across the nine Protected Characteristic groupings as set out in the Equality Act 2010, there will be a predicted low to medium positive impact for individuals and households across groupings, particularly in the groupings of Age and Disability. There are additional positive impacts anticipated for people from the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, who are considered as being included in the Protected Characteristic grouping of Race.

The initial screening process ahead of the proposed consultation has also indicated likely low to medium positive impacts for those individuals and households who are considered at risk of social exclusion. In Shropshire, this includes those whom we may regard as being vulnerable, either by virtue of their circumstances as individuals for example, young people leaving care or by virtue of their circumstances as households, for example, households living in fuel poverty and refugee households. In our definition of vulnerable individuals, we would also include people who experience rough sleeping, particularly over a long period. The Council will seek to maximise positive equality impacts for those we may consider to be vulnerable, including people fleeing hate crime and people with disabilities.

Additionally, there will be an anticipated positive impact for veterans and serving members of the armed forces and their families, for whom the Council seeks to have due regard to need through our tenth category of consideration of Social Inclusion. This is not an Equality Act category, rather representing our efforts as a Council to consider the needs of households in Shropshire and the circumstances in which they may find themselves.



A potential negative impact currently identified, pending consultation feedback, is displacement or disruption of support networks. Efforts will need to be made during the consultation process to obtain feedback from as wide a range of people and stakeholder organisations as possible, in order to seek to gauge the depth of this potential negative impact as well as ways to enhance predicted positive impacts.

Actions to review and monitor the impact of the service change in terms of equality, social inclusion, and health considerations

The authority will also seek to share approaches with comparator authorities, particularly other rural unitary authorities and other authorities in the West Midlands, in order to promote good practice.

Additionally, the proposed action plan will be subject to regular monitoring and the Strategy will be reviewed on an annual basis, building upon ongoing engagement with people in the Protected Characteristic groupings of Age and Disability as well as working with vulnerable groupings including young people leaving care, people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and veterans and serving members of the armed forces and their families.

In evaluating the strategy's impact on housing stability, mental and physical health, and social inclusion, opportunities to enhance positive impacts will be at the forefront of monitoring and review, with the aim that regular monitoring and ongoing engagement will ensure such impacts are identified and adjustments made to project delivery.

Associated ESHIAs

There is commonality of policy intent with ESHIAs recently undertaken for housing-related strategic policy approaches, including the Housing Allocations Policy and Scheme, and Tenancy Strategy and Tenancy Policy, and more widely with ESHIAs undertaken for the Local Plan Partial Review and for the Shropshire Plan.

The Local Plan recognises that appropriate accommodation is required by people with disabilities and special needs. As such it is also considered appropriate to ensure that larger development sites include specialist housing designed to meet the needs of people with disabilities or special needs, whilst also providing flexibility about types and levels of accommodation to respond to site specific circumstances.

Following the end of the public consultation on the draft Independent Living and Specialist Accommodation Strategy, a second screening ESHIA will be carried out, to take account of feedback received.



Actions to mitigate negative impact, enhance positive impact, and review and monitor overall impacts in terms of any other considerations. This includes climate change considerations

Climate change

The following will help to enhance positive impacts in terms of climate change:

- Embrace energy-efficient, housing solutions to reduce environmental impact and enhance long-term sustainability.
- Invest in accessible housing design and adaptations for individuals with disabilities

Health and wellbeing and economic and societal/wider community

The Independent Living and Specialist Accommodation strategy plays a crucial role in addressing various aspects of health and well-being, as well as broader economic and societal priorities. The Strategy contains priority actions around the following:

- ***Healthy People: Accessibility and Inclusivity***
Improved mental health and stress. Individuals in supportive living environments are more likely to have mental well-being. Preventing homelessness and providing supportive housing can alleviate the strain on healthcare services. Specialist accommodation schemes incorporating support service directly contribute to well-being.
- ***Healthy Economy: Economic***
Employment and productivity, reduction in public costs associated with emergency services and health care, diverse housing supply, including specialist accommodation, can contribute to housing market stability and affordability which is important to economic growth.
- ***Healthy Environment: Societal and Wider Community Priorities.***
Social Inclusion, allowing individuals to actively participate in their communities, Reducing Disparities in housing access and quality, promoting social equity and reducing social inequalities.

Health and wellbeing and economic and societal/wider community impacts will be incorporated as part of the business cases for each of these priority actions.



Being able to access an affordable dwelling which meets a household’s needs is essential to health and well-being. For example, the allocation of a flat in an extra care sheltered scheme to an older person with disabilities could allow them to continue to have “their own front door” and live independently instead of moving into residential care or risking hospital admission due to a fall. Providing a house which is affordable, of good quality and has security of tenure to a family threatened with homelessness allows them to create a home for their children and reduces the worry of a ‘no fault’ eviction or of being unable to afford an increase in rent.

In regard to homelessness, people who experience rough sleeping over a long period are more likely to die young than the general population. Rough sleepers also experience some of the most severe health inequalities. Often rough sleepers also have mental ill health, substance misuse, and physical health needs and may have experienced trauma.

Scrutiny at Part One screening stage


People involved	Signatures	Date
Lead officer carrying out the screening Tami Sabanovic Housing Strategy and Development Officer		16 January 2024
<i>Any internal service area support*</i>		
<i>Any external support**</i> Mrs Lois Dale Rurality and Equalities Specialist		16 th January 2024

****This refers to other officers within the service area***



****This refers to support external to the service but within the Council, e.g., the Rurality and Equalities Specialist, the Feedback and Insight Team, performance data specialists, Climate Change specialists, and Public Health colleagues**

Sign off at Part One screening stage

Name	Signatures	Date
<i>Lead officer's name</i>		
Accountable officer's name Jane Trethewey Assistant Director Homes & Communities		17 January 2024

***This may either be the Head of Service or the lead officer**

B. Detailed Screening Assessment

Aims of the service change and description
<p>The Independent Living and Specialist Accommodation Strategy is an overarching document, providing a broad framework which aligns strategically with the adopted Local Plan https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/media/8503/samdev-adopted-plan.pdf and emerging Shropshire Local Plan, the Adult Social Care Strategy and the emerging People Plan (People Directorate strategic plan 2023-2025). The Council's commissioning priorities sit alongside a suite of strategies designed to set out the council's housing intentions and will feed into this strategy to support people to remain independent at home, complemented by the provision of more adaptable and accessible housing and forms of specialist housing, which provides genuine choice for those who wish to move, whilst maintaining their independence.</p> <p>The key principle for the Council and its partners for meeting the care and support needs of older people and those with disabilities and special needs is to seek to support them to remain independent within their own homes (generally their existing home unless the individuals preference is either new adaptable and accessible housing or specialist housing including that which supports independent living, for such reasons as moving closer to their wider family or moving to more accessible locations with better provision of services and facilities). However, the strategy equally recognises that</p>



unfortunately this is not always possible, leaving a role for care homes that provide high-level care.

The Council provides and commissions a range of services to assist vulnerable people and to avoid more costly interventions by statutory bodies including the Council itself, the National Health Service and the Criminal Justice System. Such services include supported housing; floating support; aids and adaptations; assistive technology; energy efficiency advice and assistance; and money advice services.

The Independent Living and Specialist Accommodation Strategy is specifically designed to enable older adults and people with disabilities or special needs to live independently. Delivery is underpinned by the [adopted Local Plan](#) and in the future the emerging Shropshire Local Plan¹This approach is a commitment to whenever possible supporting people to remain within their familiar homes and established support networks, emphasising the significance of individual choice and delivering intergenerational communities.

The vision of the [Shropshire Plan 2022-25](#) is living the best life; the Plan has four priorities:

- Healthy People
- Healthy Economy
- Healthy Environment
- Healthy Organisation

All four of these priorities link to housing: from tackling inequality, promoting independent living, and preventing homelessness; to ensuring the right mix of housing, reducing carbon emissions, and promoting affordable warmth; to making the best use of the Council's resources. Of key importance to this Strategy is an objective of the Healthy People priority:

We will tackle inequalities, including rural inequalities, and poverty in all its forms; providing early support and interventions that reduce risk and enable children, young people, adults, and families to achieve their full potential and enjoy life.

The vision of the [Housing Strategy 2020-25](#) is:

All homes are well designed decent homes of high quality, which will protect Shropshire's unique urban and rural environments and ensure it is a great place to live. That all Shropshire residents have access to the 'right home in the right place' to support and promote their health and wellbeing throughout their lives.



To strengthen the council's commitment to ensuring fair access to appropriate housing, the housing strategy has six key objectives. Among these, the first four focus specifically on providing specialist and supported accommodation, aligning with the broader goal of creating inclusive and supportive communities:

- To meet the overall current and future housing needs of Shropshire's growing population by addressing the housing needs of particular groups within communities.
- To ensure people whose housing needs are not met through the local open market housing can access housing that meets their needs.
- Preventing households from becoming homeless and where this is not possible ensuring they have safe, secure and appropriate accommodation until they are able to resettle.
- To ensure people can access a mix of housing options within Shropshire's urban and rural landscape, that best meets their needs in terms of tenure, safety, size, type, design, and location of housing.
- To minimise the environmental impact of existing housing stock and future housing development in the interest of climate change. Maximise resource efficiencies and to ensure optimum use of sustainable construction techniques.
- Ensuring that there is enough housing supply to enable businesses to attract and retain the local workforce that they need.

When considering housing need and people with physical disabilities, it is often assumed that these needs relate to mobility problems, however, impaired vision, impaired hearing and other physical disabilities require housing to be accessible and safe, either through design or the provision of aids and adaptations, including assistive technology. There may also be interrelated needs such as around age, or less visible needs such as for those with Crohn's disease who need ready access to toilets.

Intended audiences and target groups for the service change

The Independent Living and Specialist Accommodation Strategy is intended for the public, ie communities and service users, and their representatives, eg town and parish councils, and Shropshire Council councillors as community leaders.

Stakeholders include: voluntary and community sector; registered providers; owners of empty homes; housing associations; Government Departments; and developers; and partner organisations through the Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin Integrated Care Board.

As the Council works with a range of statutory and voluntary organisations who together support refugees from Syria, Afghanistan and Ukraine and British National (Overseas) status holders from Hong Kong, they will also be involved.



Evidence used for screening of the service change

The Draft Independent Living and Specialist Accommodation Strategy has been shaped by a variety of data sources, which include strategies that have been closely aligned to the adopted Local Plan and in the emerging Shropshire Local Plan. These documents collectively form the foundation of the Council's planning approach and provide valuable insights. Utilising this information is important not only for justifying funding and planning priorities but also for the continuous monitoring of our strategy and priorities.

Analysis within the [Strategic Housing Market Assessment](#) indicates that a significant proportion of the new dwellings required during the Local Plan period will be 1, 2 and 3 bedrooms in size. Specifically, the SHMA indicates that around 32.7% of the dwellings needed will be 1 or 2 bedrooms in size and a further 43.5% will be 3 bedrooms in size.

The draft strategy also draws upon extant housing-related strategies and policies and is therefore further informed by the data and evidence contained within these documents.

From a national angle, the following evidence has also aided the strategy development:

- “*Valuing People*”, published in 2001 and “*Valuing People Now*”, published in 2008, emphasised how people with learning disabilities are citizens and therefore, should have choices, including choices to live independently with their own front door. Following the Winterbourne Review, the Transforming Care programme published in 2017 highlighted the need for people with learning disabilities and/or autism to be able to move from residential care and hospitals and live in the community and have the same opportunities as everyone else.
- The “*Building the Right Support for People with Learning Disability and Autistic People Action Plan*”, published in 2022 states that there should be the right housing, care and support available in the community so people with a learning disability and people with neurodiverse conditions such as autism can live the lives they choose. Good community provision supports people to live an independent and ordinary life through having a home building the Right Support for People with a Learning Disability and Autistic People and feeling involved in their local community, including through employment and having a reliable network of support. Furthermore, the Down's Syndrome Act 2022 aims to make guidance about meeting the needs of persons with Down's syndrome under the categories of the NHS, social care, housing and education and youth offending.

To ensure the strategy's relevance and effectiveness, the Council will conduct yearly assessments, closely examining data from sources such as guidance from the production of Supplementary Planning documents (SPD's), the Strategic Housing



Market Assessment, Local Plan, Housing Strategy, Housing Needs Survey, Market Position Statement and Commissioning Priorities. This ongoing analysis will guide the Council's decision-making processes and enable us to adapt our approach based on real-time data and evolving needs.

Specific consultation and engagement with intended audiences and target groups for the service change

The proposed eight-week public consultation will include targeted consultation with town and parish councils and housing associations as well as feedback opportunity for members of the public and other partner organisations.

Initial equality impact assessment by grouping (Initial health impact assessment is included below)

Please rate the impact that you perceive the service change is likely to have on a group, through stating this in the relevant column.

Please state if it is anticipated to be neutral (no impact) and add any extra notes that you think might be helpful for readers.

Protected Characteristic groupings and other groupings in Shropshire	High negative impact <i>Part Two ESIIA required</i>	High positive impact <i>Part One ESIIA required</i>	Medium positive or negative impact <i>Part One ESIIA required</i>	Low positive, negative, or neutral impact (please specify) <i>Part One ESIIA required</i>
<u>Age</u> (please include children, young people, young people leaving care, people of working age, older people. Some people may belong to more than one group e.g., a child or young person for whom there are safeguarding concerns e.g., an older person with disability)			Low to medium positive impact	



<u>Disability</u> (please include mental health conditions and syndromes; hidden disabilities including autism and Crohn's disease; physical and sensory disabilities or impairments; learning disabilities; Multiple Sclerosis; cancer; and HIV)			Low to medium positive impact	
<u>Gender re-assignment</u> (please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)			Low to medium positive impact	
<u>Marriage and Civil Partnership</u> (please include associated aspects: caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)			Low to medium positive impact	
<u>Pregnancy and Maternity</u> (please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)			Low to medium positive impact	
<u>Race</u> (please include ethnicity, nationality, culture, language, Gypsy, Traveller)			Low to medium positive impact	



<p><u>Religion and belief</u> (please include Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism, Nonconformists; Rastafarianism; Shinto, Sikhism, Taoism, Zoroastrianism, and any others)</p>			Low to medium positive impact	
<p><u>Sex</u> (this can also be viewed as relating to gender. Please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)</p>			Low to medium positive impact	
<p><u>Sexual Orientation</u> (please include associated aspects: safety; caring responsibility; potential for bullying and harassment)</p>			Low to medium positive impact	
<p><u>Other: Social Inclusion</u> (please include families and friends with caring responsibilities; households in poverty; people for whom there are safeguarding concerns; people you consider to be vulnerable; people with health inequalities; refugees and asylum seekers; rural communities; veterans and serving members of</p>			Low to medium positive impact	



the armed forces and their families)				
--------------------------------------	--	--	--	--

Initial health and wellbeing impact assessment by category

Please rate the impact that you perceive the service change is likely to have with regard to health and wellbeing, through stating this in the relevant column.

Please state if it is anticipated to be neutral (no impact) and add any extra notes that you think might be helpful for readers.

Health and wellbeing: individuals and communities in Shropshire	High negative impact <i>Part Two HIA required</i>	High positive impact	Medium positive or negative impact	Low positive negative or neutral impact (please specify)
<p>Will the proposal have a <i>direct impact</i> on an individual's health, mental health and wellbeing?</p> <p>For example, would it cause ill health, affecting social inclusion, independence and participation?</p>			Medium positive for individual health and well being	
<p>Will the proposal <i>indirectly impact</i> an individual's ability to improve their own health and wellbeing?</p> <p>For example, will it affect their ability to be physically active, choose healthy food, reduce drinking and smoking?</p>				Neutral to low positive



<p>Will the policy have a <i>direct impact</i> on the community - social, economic and environmental living conditions that would impact health?</p> <p>For example, would it affect housing, transport, child development, education, employment opportunities, availability of green space or climate change mitigation?</p>				<p>Neutral to low positive</p>
<p>Will there be a likely change in <i>demand</i> for or access to health and social care services?</p> <p>For example: Primary Care, Hospital Care, Community Services, Mental Health, Local Authority services including Social Services?</p>				<p>Neutral to low positive, as demand for some services should lessen if people are in housing that is suitable for their needs</p>

Identification of likely impact of the service change in terms of other considerations including climate change and economic or societal impacts

Please see above. This will be kept under review as the Strategy development progresses.



Shropshire
Council

This page is intentionally left blank



Committee and Date
Cabinet
21st February 2024

Item

Public



Determination of Admission Arrangements 2025-26

Responsible Officer:	Rachel Reynolds		
email:	Rachel.reynolds1@shropshire.gov.uk	Tel:	01743 254435
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	Kirstie Hurst-Knight		

1. Synopsis

Following recommendations from the Local Admissions Forum, in accordance with the School Admissions Code 2021 and The School Admissions Regulations 2012, approval is sought from Cabinet to determine admission arrangements 2025/26 for Shropshire Council’s community and voluntary controlled schools

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. Shropshire Council is the admission authority for community and voluntary controlled schools in Shropshire. As such, it must determine its admission arrangements for school pupils every year, even if they have not changed from previous years and a consultation has not, therefore, been required. This must be completed by 28 February in the determination year.
- 2.2. The School Admissions Code 2021 requires consultation on admission arrangements every 7 years if no changes have been proposed in that period. The Council carried out a consultation in 2020-21 on admission arrangements for 2022-23 and these were determined by Cabinet on 8 February 2021. In accordance with revised national legislation, these were re-determined by Cabinet on 21 July 2021.

- 2.3. One significant change to in-year admissions and one minor change to published admission numbers (PANs) are proposed for the arrangements for 2025/26. Consequently, Shropshire Council was required to formally consult again on their admission arrangements in entirety.
- 2.4. It is a legal requirement for consultation to have taken place between 1 October 2023 and 31 January 2024 for 6 weeks and for the arrangements to then be determined by Cabinet before 28th February 2024. The timetable for consultation and determination of admission arrangements have been met by Shropshire Council.
- 2.5. The admission arrangements for 2025-2026, considered and approved by the Local Admissions Forum at their meeting on Wednesday 22 November 2023, are therefore recommended to Cabinet for approval.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. That Cabinet determine the proposed admission arrangements 2025- 2026 for Shropshire's community and voluntary controlled schools and further approves the publication of the arrangements in accordance with the School Admissions Code 2021 and to the notification of this to parties specified in the Code

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1. If determination of admission arrangements does not take place before 28 February 2024, Shropshire Council would not be compliant with the appropriate legislation as an admission authority.
- 4.2. These arrangements were subject to public consultation, when all parties and communities, specified in the School Admissions Code, were given the opportunity to consider their impact. Consultation took place between 4 December 2023 and continued for more than 6 weeks until 19 January 2024.
- 4.3. Formal determination and publication of these arrangements will ensure that parents and communities have the opportunity to further consider the impact. If a party considers the arrangements to be unlawful or unfair, there is the opportunity to object to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator by 15 May 2024 for adjudication to be completed prior to the application year.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. There are no financial implications for Shropshire Council connected with the determination of admission arrangements.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.1. There are no anticipated climate change implications from the proposals within this report, though the authority continues to work with school leaders, governors and trustees on the opportunities for applying carbon reduction measures in the operation of their schools.

7. Background

- 7.1. All admission authorities must determine their admission arrangements, including their published admission number (PAN), every year, even if they have not changed from previous years and a consultation has not been required.
- 7.2. Shropshire Council is the admission authority for community and voluntary controlled schools in the local authority area. The only schools of this type in Shropshire Council's area are primary-phase schools.
- 7.3. All secondary schools in Shropshire Council's area are academies or foundation schools and so the relevant academy trust or governing body is the admission authority and therefore responsible for determining their own admission arrangements.
- 7.4. The annual transfer round applications, for the point of entry to Reception in primary and Year 7 in secondary schools, must still be co-ordinated by the local authority and the co-ordination scheme is set out in Shropshire Council's admission arrangements.
- 7.5. Shropshire Council are proposing changes to the in-year admission arrangements from 1st September 2024 for all community and voluntary controlled schools as well as own admission authority schools. Shropshire Council is proposing that the Local Authority be responsible for coordinating in-year applications, as well as retaining responsibility for coordinating main admissions rounds. The proposed coordination represents a significant change from the existing position, where the responsibility for in-year applications is delegated to all Shropshire schools. The proposal brings benefits to secure a more consistent approach to pupil movement across Shropshire.
- 7.6. The proposed amendment to Shropshire Council's admission arrangements are as follows: St Lawrence CE Primary School in Church Stretton is proposing a reduction to its Published Admission Number from 34 to 30.
- 7.7. Consultation on the arrangements for 2025-2026 was therefore required, and a formal determination by Shropshire Council must now take place by 28 February 2024.

8. Additional Information

- 8.1. Shropshire Council must be consulted separately by admission authorities who are proposing changes to their own admission arrangements.

9. Conclusions

- 9.1. Once the arrangements have been determined by Cabinet, they will be published on Shropshire Council's website by 15 March 2024. Any objections to the arrangements can then be lodged with the Office of the Schools Adjudicator by 15 May 2024. This will fulfil Shropshire Council's mandatory responsibilities in accordance with admission regulations.

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

School Admissions Code 2021 (available from www.education.gov.uk)

Shropshire Council Determined Admission Arrangements 2024/25 (available from www.shropshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

Parents' Guide to Education in Shropshire 2024/25 (available from www.shropshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

Local Member:

All Members

Appendices [Please list the titles of Appendices]

Appendix A – Shropshire Council Draft Admission Arrangements 2025-2026

Admission Arrangements 2025/26

1. **ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2025/26: SECONDARY AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS, INCLUDING THE CO-ORDINATED SCHEME**
2. **ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR SCHOOL SIXTH FORMS**
3. **ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR IN-YEAR ADMISSIONS**
4. **CHANGES TO PUBLISHED ADMISSION NUMBERS FOR 2025/26**
5. **CATCHMENT AREAS FOR 2025/26**

Responsible Officer Tanya Miles Tel: 0345 678 9008
e-mail: tanya.miles@shropshire.gov.uk

Introduction

This document is designed to fulfil the requirements of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, as amended by the Education Acts 2002 and 2005 and the Education and Inspections Act 2006, and subsequent School Admissions Regulations for the determination of admission arrangements. The policy applies to Shropshire community and voluntary controlled schools and to all schools in the co-ordination of applications in the transfer rounds.

Requirements of the Legislation

Shropshire Council carried out consultation on its admission arrangements in 2020/21 and these were determined by Cabinet in February 2021 and re-determined in July 2021 to comply with amendments to the School Admissions Code 2021. Consultation on admission arrangements is required every 7 years if no changes in the intervening period are proposed. One significant change to in year admissions and one minor change to published admission numbers (PANs) were proposed for the arrangements for 2025/26. Consequently, Shropshire Council was required to formally consult again on their admission arrangements in entirety.

It is a legal requirement for consultation to have taken place between 1 October 2023 and 31 January 2024 for 6 weeks and for the arrangements to then be determined by Cabinet before 28th February 2024. The timetable for consultation and determination of admission arrangements have been met by Shropshire Council.

The co-ordinated arrangements are applicable to the admission of pupils to state-funded schools in the relevant area, so that parents apply to their home local authority and receive one offer of a school place. The 'relevant area' for Shropshire is the whole of the County and at secondary level includes the Parish Councils of Bayton and Mamble in Worcestershire, including the village of Clows Top (as part of the catchment area for the Lacon Childe School) and an area in Powys adjoining the Shropshire boundary to the

east of the Offa's Dyke (as part of the catchment area for the Community College at Bishop's Castle).

(1) Admission Arrangements for 2025/26

Secondary

All state-funded secondary schools in the Shropshire Council area (and the all-through school in St. Martin's) are an admission authority in their own right. It is therefore the responsibility of the academy trust or governing body and not Shropshire Council to determine the admission arrangements. The admission arrangements, once determined, for each school, can be found on the school's website, listed below, or on Shropshire Council's own website www.shropshire.gov.uk/school-admissions.

School Name	School Website
Belvidere School	http://www.belvidere.shropshire.sch.uk/
Bridgnorth Endowed School	http://bridgnorthendowed.co.uk/
Church Stretton School	http://www.churchstretton.shropshire.sch.uk/
Idsall School	http://www.idsallschool.org/
Lakelands Academy	http://www.lakelandsacademy.org.uk
Ludlow Church of England School	https://www.ludlowschool.com/
Mary Webb School and Science College	https://www.marywebbschool.com/
Meole Brace School	http://www.meolebrace.com/
Oldbury Wells School	http://www.oldburywells.com/
Shrewsbury Academy	http://www.shrewsburyacademy.co.uk/
Sir John Talbot's School	http://www.sirjohntalbots.co.uk/
St Martins School (3-16 Learning Community)	http://www.stmartins3-16.org/
The Community College, Bishop's Castle	https://ccbcshropshire.com/
The Corbet School	https://corbetschool.net/
The Grove School	http://groveschoolmarketdrayton.co.uk/
The Lacon Childe School	http://www.lacon-childe.org.uk
The Marches School	http://marchesschool.co.uk/
The Priory School	http://priory.tpstrust.co.uk/
The Thomas Adams School	http://www.thomasadams.net
William Brookes School	http://williambrookes.com/

Notes which apply to secondary school oversubscription criteria:

Catchment area maps can be viewed on the General Map viewer available from 'Maps' at the foot of the website www.shropshire.gov.uk or, in case of doubt, individual addresses can be checked by contacting the School Admissions Team. Published admission numbers are listed in the Parents' Guide to Education booklet.

The general definition of a sibling is the brother or sister, stepbrother or stepsister, half-brother or half-sister living at the same address as part of the same family unit and of compulsory school age (i.e. 5 – 16 years). Adopted and foster siblings are also included. Please check individual policies as some academies may extend the sibling criteria to sixth form students. For the sibling connection to apply, a sibling must still be attending the school on the date the child is due to start there. However, cousins or other relatives who take up residence in the home will not be given priority under the sibling criterion. In the case of twins or triplets from the same address the school will endeavour to admit both or all siblings.

All applicants are required to give correct information about the genuine residential address of the child. This is normally expected to be that of the parent/carer who has care of the child for the majority of the time (that is school nights Sunday to Thursday during the week in term time) but where care is shared equally, and no other determinant is applicable, the home address will be determined by which parent claims the relevant Child Benefit.

In the event that two individual applications for one place are exactly the same after all other oversubscription criteria have been taken into account, a tie breaker will be used. This will be by random allocation and overseen by an independent party not connected with the admissions process.

There is no cost associated with the admissions process to Shropshire Local Authority maintained schools.

Parents may request that their child defers transfer to secondary school in a later cohort. Such requests should be made in writing to the local authority by the closing date for applications (31 October) in the age-appropriate application year. Requests will be considered by the admission authority on the basis of the individual circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned.

Co-ordinated Admission Arrangements for 2025/26 – Secondary

Shropshire Council operates co-ordinated arrangements with other admission authorities in Shropshire (such as academies) and all neighbouring English LAs. Welsh LAs are not currently part of the formal co-ordinated proposals; however, we communicate with Powys, Wrexham and Denbighshire over the allocation of places.

The Admissions Code of Practice requires LAs to use a national date of 1 March each year or next working day for allocating all secondary school places. Therefore the allocation date for 2025/26 will be **3 March 2025**. All parents living within Shropshire are required to use a common application process, which seeks three ranked preferences. All applications must be made to the home LA including applications to academies (which retain the responsibility for their own admission policy). Under the co-ordinated scheme, all Year 6 pupils only receive **one offer of a secondary place, on 1 March** (or next working day), **via their home LA and not from the LA in which the school is located**. Shropshire operates an equal preference scheme, therefore, where more than one school could be offered, applicants will be offered a place available at the school which appears highest on their list of preferences. Parents from other neighbouring authorities may also apply to Shropshire schools, but must do so via their own LA. Such applications will be notified to Shropshire and considered under the appropriate admissions criteria. The full timetable applicable to both schools and admissions authorities for the exchange of information will be published on the website in advance of the relevant year.

Service Families:

Shropshire Council works with service families to remove potential disadvantage for service children. This is in accordance with Paragraph 2.21 of the School Admissions Code.

Applications from service families without a Shropshire address will be accepted by Shropshire Council if accompanied by a posting order or an official letter with a relocation date to the Shropshire LA area. In these circumstances, a Unit postal address, quartering area address or evidence of their intended address will be used when considering an application against oversubscription criteria. If applications are received in time for inclusion in the main admissions round, no disadvantage will be incurred, and the application will be considered alongside all other applicants. If, due to the timing of a posting, the application is received too late to be considered for national offer day, but the applicant would have been eligible for a place had the application been received on time, a place will be offered at the school. Where application is made for an oversubscribed school that is not the designated catchment school for the service address, it is possible that the application would be declined and parents would be informed of their right to appeal along with the offer of a place at an alternative school.

Late Applications:

Applications will cease to be treated as on time from midnight on 31 October. It will not be possible to consider any late applications or changes to the original preferences where a school is oversubscribed, unless there are some exceptional circumstances evidenced, such as a house move, hospitalisation of a single parent or exceptional difficulties caused by a family bereavement in the lead up to the deadline. Up until the beginning of February we shall endeavour to include such exceptional cases in the

allocation process but no guarantees can be given. Any other application received after the beginning of February will not be considered for oversubscribed schools, but an offer made of the highest available preference school or the nearest available Shropshire school to the home address. Late applications may be considered as part of the review process.

Applicants who do not receive an offer for any of their preferred schools:

The LA endeavours to accommodate as many first preferences as possible. However, where this cannot be achieved the LA will consider the applicant's second preference, giving it equal weighting with all other first preferences for that school. If the second preference is also unavailable, then the third preference will be considered in the same way as above. Where there are applicants resident within the county who do not receive any of their preferred schools, they will be offered a place at the nearest school to their home address with places available within the LA area. Parents or carers may then be responsible for their child's transport arrangements as the offer of a place does not confer any right to free transport, and the eligibility assessment is completely separate to school admissions.

Where no application is received for a Shropshire child attending a Shropshire local authority school, that parent will be informed by letter that no school place has been allocated, and will be asked to inform the LA of arrangements they are intending to make for their child. Where no response is received, we may follow this up with a home visit by an Education Welfare Officer

Unsuccessful Applicants and the Review Process:

Where applicants cannot be offered a higher preference they will be informed of their right to appeal. If they are not satisfied with the place offered they will be able to request an appeal and pending the appeal their name will be included on a waiting list. Applicants who no longer wish to accept places offered will also be asked to notify the LA of their intention to decline an offer by the response date and inform the LA of the educational arrangements they are making for their child. Applicants who were too late to be included in the main allocation process and were not able to be offered a school place on offer day will be included on the waiting list. The re-allocation of any vacancies to people on the waiting lists will commence in late March. Where a place becomes available the same oversubscription criteria will be used. Where applicants requesting an appeal are residents in a neighbouring authority, that authority will be informed if a place can be offered.

Right of Appeal:

After the review, those on the waiting lists who cannot be offered a place can proceed to the appeal stage. Appeals will be heard by an independent panel usually within 40

school days. The decision of the panel is binding on all parties. Where appeals from parents resident in neighbouring authorities are upheld, the relevant LA will be informed.

Waiting Lists:

After appeals, the waiting list, held in order of oversubscription criteria, continues to operate for the first term of the academic year of admission. The following parents will be automatically included on a waiting list, unless they specifically decline:

- Parents who have been unsuccessful at the main round of appeals for admission at the start of Year 7 (secondary school).
- Any new applicants for such places who have moved into the oversubscribed school's area subsequent to the date of appeals for these places.

If any vacancies arise, places will be offered to applicants included on the waiting list in strict accordance with normal published oversubscription criteria. If a place can be offered, the applicant will be expected to take up the place within 6 school weeks or by the start of the next half term, whichever is the earliest date. If an offer of a place is refused, the name will be removed from the waiting list. The waiting lists for all Shropshire schools will be held and administered by the Admissions Team for all year groups and will be ordered in accordance with the published admission criteria. Any further new applications will be treated as mid-term admission applicants at the end of first term of the academic year of admission

Fraudulent or Misleading Information

All applicants are required to give correct information about the genuine residential address of the child, which is normally expected to be with the parent/carer who has care of the child for the majority of the time (that is, school time during the week Sunday to Thursday in term time). In cases of equal shared care, the recipient of Child Benefit will be the deciding factor. When someone owns a property and comes to live with a relation, the substantive home address will be used to allocate a place and not that of the relation. Trial separation may not be accepted as proof of a permanent move. Addresses may be checked when deemed necessary, especially for oversubscribed schools. Parents/carers might be required to provide evidence that the residential address is genuine and council tax records may be verified. On occasions a home visit may be made by an officer from the Local Authority. Where a house move is made, applicants are required to produce written confirmation from their solicitor that contracts have been exchanged or provide a copy of a signed tenancy agreement for a minimum period of 6 months. Short-term tenancy agreements may not be acceptable where the substantive parental address has not been sold at the time of allocation. Where any information regarding a home address is found to be fraudulent or misleading the Local Authority has the right to withdraw the offer of a school place even if the child has been admitted to the school.

Primary

A separate application must be made to transfer from nursery to primary school.

For entry to school in 2025/26, the national offer day for primary school applications for all English local authorities will be **16th April 2025**.

All children in Shropshire are entitled to start school full-time in the September following their fourth birthday. Parents may also defer entry to school until later in the year or until their child reaches compulsory school age (the term following their child's fifth birthday) or elect for their child to attend part-time. Where summer born children defer entry to September they will normally be admitted into Year 1 (not Reception) and will need to make a separate application, unless a formal deferral has been agreed. (Please see information below.) Previous applications cannot be held over into a different academic year; a fresh application must be made.

Parents may request a formal deferral for their child to begin Reception in a later cohort. Such requests should be made in writing to the local authority by the closing date for applications (15 January) in the age-appropriate application year. Requests will be considered by the admission authority on the basis of the individual circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned.

The oversubscription criteria for all Community and Voluntary Controlled Primary Schools for 2025/26 are as follows. **(N.B - Schools that are an admission authority may have determined their own arrangements):**

Children who have an Education Health and Care Plan, which names the school which the child should attend because their needs can be met best by that particular school, will be offered places before other children. After that places will be offered in the following priority order:

Priority 1:

1. 'Looked after children' or children who were previously 'looked after' but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order¹ including those who appear (to Shropshire Council) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

1. A looked after child is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).

An adoption order is an order under the Adoption Act 1976 (see Section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (see Section 46 adoption orders).

A 'child arrangements order' is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under Section 8 of the Children Act 1989 as amended by Section 14 of the Children and Families Act 2014.

Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians)

Priority 2:

Very exceptionally, priority may be given to a child who has a particular health reason requiring them to attend a specific school. This will only be allowed if parents/carers can provide written evidence from a medical professional that, in the view of the local authority, confirms that attending that particular school is essential to the medical well-being of the child. The Council reserves the right to contact medical professionals to ascertain the relevance of the medical condition.

Priority 3:

Children living inside the catchment area will have next priority. If there are not enough places for all the children living in the catchment area, we will look at the following two criteria:

- 1) Priority will be given to children living within the catchment area who will have an older sibling at the school on the day they are due to start there.
- 2) After that, priority will be given to other children who live within the catchment area.

Priority 4:

After that, any places that are left will be offered to children who live outside the catchment area. If there are not enough places for all of them, we will look at the following two criteria:

- 1) Children living outside the catchment area who will have an older sibling at the school on the day they are due to start there.
- 2) After that other children who live outside the catchment area.

Applicants in each of the categories and sub-categories above will be rank ordered by home to school straight-line distance, where the shortest distance will be given priority. For admission purposes all distances are measured by the School Admissions Team as a straight line distance on a computerised mapping system between the home address and the nearest appropriate entrance gate of the school by pinpointing their eastings and northings. Where two addresses are within the same block of flats, the lowest number of flat or nearest the ground floor will be deemed to be the nearest in distance. (Please see tiebreaker below.)

Notes:

Catchment area maps can be viewed on the General Map viewer available from 'Maps' at the foot of the website www.shropshire.gov.uk or, in case of doubt, individual addresses can be checked by contacting the School Admissions Team. Published admission numbers are listed in the Parents' Guide to Education booklet.

The definition of a sibling is the brother or sister, stepbrother or stepsister, half-brother or half-sister living at the same address as part of the same family unit and of compulsory school age (i.e. 5 – 16 years). Adopted and foster siblings are also included. Older siblings must still be attending the school on the date the younger sibling is due to start there. However, cousins or other relatives who take up residence in the home will not be given priority under the sibling criterion. In the case of twins or triplets from the same address the school will endeavour to admit both or all siblings.

In the event that two individual applications are exactly the same after all other criteria have been taken into account a tiebreaker will be used. This will be by random allocation and overseen by an independent party not connected with the admissions process.

There is no cost associated with the admissions process to Shropshire Local Authority maintained schools.

Co-ordinated Admission Arrangements for 2025/26 – Primary

Shropshire Council operates co-ordinated arrangements with other admissions authorities in Shropshire (such as academies) and all neighbouring English LAs. Welsh LAs are not part of the primary co-ordinated process.

The national allocation date across England for 2025/26 will be **16th April 2024**. All parents living within Shropshire are required to use a common application process, which seeks three ranked preferences. All applications must be made to the home LA including applications to academies (who have responsibility for their own admission policy). Under the co-ordinated scheme, all children applying for Reception places in infant and primary schools and for year 3 in junior schools receive only **one offer, on 16 April** (or next working day), **via their home LA and not from the LA in which the school is located**. Shropshire operates an equal preference scheme; therefore, where more than one preferred school may have places available, applicants will be offered a place at the school which appears highest on their list of preferences. Parents from other English neighbouring authorities may also apply to Shropshire schools, but must do so via their own authority. Such applications will be notified to Shropshire and considered under the same admissions criteria. The full timetable applicable to both schools and admissions authorities for the exchange of information will be published on the website in advance of the relevant year.

Service Families:

Shropshire Council works with service families to remove potential disadvantage for service children. This is in accordance with Paragraph 2.21 of the School Admissions Code.

Applications from service families without a Shropshire address will be accepted by Shropshire Council if accompanied by a posting order or an official letter with a relocation date to the Shropshire LA area. In these circumstances, a Unit postal address, quartering area address or evidence of their intended address will be used when considering an application against oversubscription criteria. Children of service families are permitted exceptions to the infant class size restriction of 30 pupils per class.

If applications are received in time for inclusion in the main admissions round, no disadvantage will be incurred, and the application will be considered alongside all other applicants. If, due to the timing of a posting, the application is received too late to be considered for national offer day, but the applicant would have been eligible for a place had the application been received on time, a place will be offered at the school

Where application is made for an oversubscribed school that is not the designated catchment school for the service address, it is possible that the application would be declined, and parents would be informed of their right to appeal along with the offer of a place at an alternative school.

Late Applications:

The online application facility will close at midnight on the closing date (15 January). If application forms are completed they must be returned to direct to the LA by 15 January. It will not be possible to consider any late applications or changes to the original preferences where a school is oversubscribed, unless there are some exceptional circumstances, such as a house move, hospitalisation of a single parent or exceptional difficulties such as those caused by a family bereavement in the lead up to the deadline. Up until mid-March we shall endeavour to include such exceptions in the allocation process, but no guarantees can be given. Any application received after mid-March will not be considered for over-subscribed schools but will be included on the waiting list after the allocation date, or if possible offered the nearest available Shropshire school to their home address.

Applicants who do not receive an offer for any of their preferred schools:

The LA endeavours to accommodate as many first preferences as possible. However, where this cannot be achieved the LA will consider the applicant's second preference, giving it equal weighting to all other first preferences for that school. If the second preference is also unavailable, then the third preference will be considered in the same way as above. Where there are a small number of applicants resident within the county who do not receive any of their preferred schools, they will be offered a place at the nearest available school to their home address within the LA, however no free school transport will be offered unless the school offered is either the catchment area school or

the nearest school to the home address and it is more than 2 miles distant by shortest pedestrian route.

Unsuccessful Applicants:

Where applicants cannot be offered their higher preference they will be signposted to the appeals process. If they are not satisfied with the place offered they will be able to request an appeal and pending the appeal their name will be included on a waiting list. Applicants who no longer wish to accept places offered will also be asked to notify the LA of their intention to decline an offer by the response date and inform the LA of the educational arrangements they are making for their child. Applicants who were too late to be included in the main allocation process and were not able to be offered a school place will be included in the waiting list. The re-allocation of any vacancies to people on the waiting lists will commence at the beginning of May. Where a place becomes available, the same oversubscription criteria will be used as applicable on National Offer Day. Where applicants requesting an appeal are residents in a neighbouring authority, that authority will be informed if a place can be offered.

Right of Appeal:

After the review, those on the waiting lists who cannot be offered a place, can proceed to the appeal stage. Appeals will be heard by an independent panel usually within 40 school days. The decision of the panel is binding on all parties. Where appeals from parents resident in neighbouring authorities are upheld, the relevant LA will be informed.

Waiting Lists:

After appeals, the waiting list, held in order of oversubscription criteria, continues to operate for the first term of the academic year of admission. The following parents will be automatically included on a waiting list, unless they specifically decline:

- Parents who have been unsuccessful at the main round of appeals for admission at the start of Reception (infant and primary schools) and year 3 (junior schools).
- Any new applicants for such places who have moved into the oversubscribed school's area subsequent to the date of appeals for these places.

If any vacancies arise, places will be offered to applicants included on the waiting list in strict accordance with normal published oversubscription criteria. If a place can be offered, the applicant will be expected to take up the place within 6 school weeks or by the start of the next half term, whichever is the earliest date. If an offer of a place is refused, the name will be removed from the waiting list. The waiting lists for all Shropshire schools will be held and administered by the Admissions Team for all year groups and will be ordered in accordance with the published admission criteria. Any further new applications will be treated as mid-term admission applicants at the end of first term of the academic year of admission

Fraudulent or Misleading Information

All applicants are required to give correct information about the genuine residential address of the child, which is normally expected to be with the parent/carer who has care of the child for the majority of the time (that is, school time during the week Sunday to Thursday in term time). In cases of equal shared care, the applicant of Child Benefit will be the deciding factor. When someone owns a property and comes to live with a relation, the substantive home address will be used to allocate a place and not that of the relation. Trial separation may not be accepted as proof of a permanent move. Addresses may be checked when deemed necessary, especially for oversubscribed schools. Parents/carers might be required to provide evidence that the residential address is genuine and council tax records may be verified. On occasions a home visit may be made by an officer from the Local Authority. Where a house move is made, applicants are required to produce written confirmation from their solicitor that contracts have been exchanged or provide a copy of a signed tenancy agreement for a minimum period of 6 months. Short-term tenancy agreements may not be acceptable where the substantive parental address has not been sold at the time of allocation. Where any information regarding a home address is found to be fraudulent or misleading the Local Authority has the right to withdraw the offer of a school place even if the child has been admitted to the school.

(2) Admission arrangements for school sixth forms

All Shropshire Council schools with a sixth form are admission authorities and they hold responsibility for admission to sixth forms. Individual policies are available on the schools' own websites (see page 2) and Shropshire Council's website www.shropshire.gov.uk/school-admissions.

(3) Mid-term /In-year Admissions:

Shropshire Council are proposing changes to the in-year admission arrangements from 1st September 2024 for all community and voluntary controlled schools as well as own admission authority schools. Shropshire Council is proposing that the Local Authority be responsible for coordinating in-year applications, as well as retaining responsibility for coordinating main admissions rounds. The proposed coordination represents a significant change from the existing position, where the responsibility for in-year applications is delegated to all Shropshire schools.

Shropshire Council will be responsible for coordinating in-year applications. Parents and carers can apply for a place for their child at any time to any school. Applications must be made on the Local authority's In-Year Online Application Form via the Parent Portal available on the School Admissions webpage. The School Admissions Team and staff based in schools, libraries and customer services will support parents who have difficulty

applying online. In exceptional circumstances, a paper application form will be made available by the School Admissions Team.

Schools must inform the Admissions team of all starters and leavers to allow the local authority to keep up to date figures on availability of places. If there are more applications than places available places will be allocated on the basis of the oversubscription criteria in their determined admission arrangements. If refusing an application, the local authority will inform parents of their right to appeal against the refusal.

The governing body of a foundation or voluntary aided school may require parents who make an application to provide supplementary information in order to apply their own admissions policy. Where supplementary information is required it must be returned along with the application form so that all information can be considered by the relevant admissions authority.

Some applications may be considered under the Fair Access Protocol. Applications from applicants specified in the School Admissions Code, who meet the criteria for consideration under this protocol, will be offered a place at a suitable school without delay.

Appeals

Where applicants cannot be offered their preferred school they will be informed of the right to appeal. Where application is refused for an academy, the Academy Trust is responsible for arranging the admission appeal although they may ask another body to carry out some or all of the functions on their behalf. The earliest possible date for an appeal will be offered. Appeals are generally held on one day each month, and an appeal date must usually be offered within 30 schools days of the appeal being lodged, but generally it takes 4 school weeks to set up an appeal. Where an appeal is upheld or where a parent is informed that the school has a place available, the pupil would be expected to commence at the school within 6 school weeks or by the start of the next half-term (whichever is the earliest) in which the place is offered, otherwise the offer of a place can be withdrawn by the admission authority. Mid-term or in-year admissions will not normally be accepted where this is for a place more than one half-term ahead. The only exception to this would be parents who are applying for a boarding place at Thomas Adams School and where parents are going abroad so that it may be necessary to make arrangements early in the academic year.

Fraudulent or Misleading Information

All applicants are required to give correct information about the genuine residential address of the child, which is normally expected to be with the parent/carer who has care of the child for the majority of the time (that is, school time during the week Sunday to Thursday in term time). In cases of equal shared care, the recipient of Child Benefit will be the deciding factor. When someone owns a property and comes to live with a

relation, the substantive home address will be used to allocate a place and not that of the relation. Trial separation may not be accepted as proof of a permanent move. Addresses may be checked when deemed necessary, especially for oversubscribed schools. Parents/carers might be required to provide evidence that the residential address is genuine and council tax records may be verified. On occasions a home visit may be made by an officer from the Local Authority. Where a house move is made, applicants are required to produce written confirmation from their solicitor that contracts have been exchanged or provide a copy of a signed tenancy agreement for a minimum period of 6 months. Short-term tenancy agreements may not be acceptable where the substantive parental address has not been sold at the time of allocation. Where any information regarding a home address is found to be fraudulent or misleading the Local Authority has the right to withdraw the offer of a school place even if the child has been admitted to the school.

(4) Changes to Published Admission Numbers 2025/26

Current admission numbers are shown in the Parents' Guide to Education in Shropshire 2023/24 booklet and proposed changes for 2024/25 are listed below.

Admission authorities are not required to consult where they propose to increase a Published Admission Number (PAN). Increases to PAN are therefore given purely for information and are not subject to consultation.

Where a reduction is proposed to published admission numbers, the admission authority must consult on their admission arrangements in entirety. There is one proposal to reduce PAN for a Shropshire community and voluntary controlled school as follows:

<u>Proposed Reduction</u> in PAN	School Type	Existing PAN	Proposed New PAN	+ / -
St Lawrence CE Primary School, Church Stretton	VC	34	30	-4

(5) Catchment Area Changes

No changes are proposed to catchment areas for 2025-2026.

FEEDER LINKED PRIMARY SCHOOLS BY SECONDARY SCHOOL

North Shropshire

Corbet	Baschurch CE Aided Primary Bicton C E (Controlled) Primary Bomere Heath CE (Controlled) Primary Kinnerley C E (Controlled) Primary Myddle C E Primary Nesscliffe, St. Andrew's C E (Voluntary Controlled) Primary Ruyton-XI-Towns, St. John The Baptist C E Primary West Felton C E (Controlled) Primary Weston Lullingfield C E (Controlled) Primary
---------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Grove	Adderley C.E. Primary Buntingsdale Primary Cheswardine Primary Hinstock Primary Hodnet Primary Market Drayton Junior Market Drayton, Longlands Primary Moreton Say C E (Controlled) Primary Norton-In-Hales C E (Voluntary Controlled) Primary Stoke On Tern Primary Woore Primary
--------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Lakelands	Cockshutt CE (Controlled) Primary Criffins C E (Controlled) Primary Ellesmere Primary Welshampton C E Primary
------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Marches	Bryn Offa C E (Controlled) Primary Morda C E (Voluntary Controlled) Oswestry, Holy Trinity Primary Oswestry, Our Lady & St Oswald's Catholic Primary Oswestry, The Meadows Primary Oswestry, Woodside Primary Trefonen C E (Controlled) Primary Whittington C E (Aided) Primary
----------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

St Martins	Gobowen Primary Selattyn C E Primary Weston Rhyn Primary
-------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------

Sir John Talbot's	Lower Heath C E (Controlled) Primary Prees C E (Controlled) Primary Tilstock C E (Controlled) Primary Whitchurch C.E. (Controlled) Junior
--------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Thomas Adams	Clive C E (Controlled) Primary Hadnall C E (Controlled) Primary Newtown C E Primary Shawbury, St. Mary's C E Primary Wem, St Peters C E (Controlled) Primary Whixall C E (Controlled) Primary
---------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

South Shropshire

Bridgnorth Endowed	Bridgnorth, St. John's Catholic Primary Bridgnorth, St. Leonard's C.E. Primary Brown Clew C E Primary Morville C E Primary Worfield Endowed C.E. Primary
---------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Church Stretton	Church Stretton, St. Lawrence C.E. Primary Condover CE Primary Dorrington, St Edward's C E Primary Longnor C E Primary Rushbury C E Primary Wistanstow C E Primary
------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Community College	Bishop's Castle Primary Chirbury C E (Voluntary Controlled) Primary Clun, St George's C E Clunbury C E Primary Lydbury North C E Primary Newcastle Primary Norbury Primary
--------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Idsall	Albrighton Primary Albrighton, St Mary's CE (Controlled) Primary Beckbury CE (Controlled) Primary Sheriffhales Primary Shifnal Primary Shifnal, St. Andrew's C E Primary
---------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Lacon Childe	Bayton Primary School Burford CE Primary Clew Hill Community Primary Cleobury Mortimer Primary Farlow C E Primary Kinlet C E Primary Stottesden C E Primary
---------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Ludlow	Bitterley CE Primary Bishop Hooper, Primay Bucknell, St Mary's CE Primary Corvedale C E Primary Ludlow Junior Ludlow, St. Laurence C E Primary Onny C E Primary Stokesay Primary
---------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Mary Webb	Hanwood St Thomas & St Anne CE Primary Longden CE (Aided) Primary Minsterley Primary Pontesbury CE Primary Stiperstones CE Primary Trinity CE Primary Longmountain CE Primary
------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Oldbury Wells	Aley Primary Bridgnorth, Castlefields Primary Bridgnorth, St. Mary's Bluecoat CE Primary Claverley C E Primary Highley Primary
----------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

William Brookes	Barrow 1618 CE Free School Brockton CE Primary Broseley C E Primary Broseley, John Wilkinson Primary Buildwas Primary Church Preen Primary Cressage, Christ Church C E Primary Much Wenlock Primary
------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL TIMETABLE FOR ADMISSIONS PROCESS FOR ADMISSION TO SCHOOL IN 2025/26

DETERMINATION YEAR (2025/26)		
November 2023– 31 January 2024	Consultation on proposed admission arrangements	
By 28 February 2024	Admission arrangements must be determined	
By 15 March 2024	Admission arrangements to be published on website	
15 May 2024	Deadline for objections to Schools Adjudicator	
OFFER YEAR (2024/25)		
	Secondary	Primary
By 12 September 2024	Parents' Guide must be published. Online application facility made available. LA distributes application information via schools to Year 2 and Year 6 pupils. LA also informs neighbouring LAs of their residents attending Shropshire schools.	
September/October 2024	Open evenings held	
October 2024		LA distributes information to potential Reception applicants via post.
31 October 2024	Closing date for secondary applications. After this date any further applications will be deemed late unless exceptional circumstances.	
Week beginning 7 November 2024	LA sends application details to other LAs and then to other Shropshire admission authority schools for consideration.	
2 December 2024	Shropshire admission authority schools inform LA of application ranking.	
Week beginning 6 January 2025	First exchange of results shared between LAs.	
15 January 2025		Closing date for Reception and Year 3 (Junior Schools) applications. After this date any further applications will be deemed to be late unless there are exceptional circumstances.
Week beginning 20 January 2025	Provisional offers exchanged between LAs.	LA sends application details to neighbouring LAs
3 February 2025	Second cycle of results shared. From this date no exceptional late applications can be considered until after the allocation date.	
10-14 February 2025	Final offers exchanged with other LAs.	LA sends application details to other Shropshire

SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL TIMETABLE FOR ADMISSIONS PROCESS FOR ADMISSION TO SCHOOL IN 2025/26

		admission authorities for consideration.
21 February 2025	Shropshire Primary and Secondary schools given preliminary list of allocations.	
	Secondary	Primary
3 March 2025	Allocation Day for all Year 6 pupils	Other Shropshire admission authority schools inform LA of application ranking.
7 March 2025		Provisional offers shared between LAs. From this date no exceptional late applications can be considered until after the allocation date.
14 March 2025	Review deadline - Unsuccessful applicants ask to be included on a waiting list pending an appeal. Late applicants who could not be included in the allocations process earlier are also included on the waiting list at this stage.	
21 March 2025	Review outcome - Applicants who have completed and returned appeal forms by 12 March and have therefore been included on the waiting list will be notified if any vacancies have occurred and places can be allocated. If not, they will remain on the waiting list pending an appeal or further vacancies being available to re-allocate.	
By end of 31 March 2025		Final offers exchanged with LAs.
11 April 2025		LA sends preliminary lists to schools.
16 April 2025		Allocation day for Reception/Junior applicants.
30 April 2025		Review deadline - Unsuccessful applicants ask to be included on a waiting list pending an appeal. Late applicants who could not be included in the allocations process earlier are also included on the waiting list at this stage.
9 May 2025		Review outcome - Applicants who have completed and returned appeal forms by 30 April and who have therefore been included on the waiting list will be

SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL TIMETABLE FOR ADMISSIONS PROCESS FOR ADMISSION TO SCHOOL IN 2025/26

		notified if any vacancies have occurred and places can be allocated. If not, they will remain on the waiting list pending an appeal or further vacancies being available to re-allocate.
May/June/July	Appeals take place	Appeals take place



Committee and Date
Cabinet
21 February 2024

Item

Public



Shropshire Schools Funding Formula 2024-25

Responsible Officer:	Tanya Miles		
email:	tanya.miles@shropshire.gov.uk	Tel:	0345 6789008
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	Kirstie Hurst-Knight		

1. Synopsis

Considering the recommendations of the Schools Forum and aligned to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) operational guidance on schools revenue funding, approval is sought from Cabinet for the proposed Shropshire Schools Funding Formula 2024/25.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. In July 2023, the ESFA published the 2024 to 2025 school revenue funding operational guidance for local authorities and school forums. The guidance confirmed the arrangements for distributing funding through the national funding formula (NFF) for schools, high needs and central services to schools.
- 2.2. At their meeting on 22 January 2018, Cabinet approved the recommendation from Shropshire Schools Forum to replicate the NFF, through Shropshire's local funding formula, which means 2024-25 will be the seventh year of the NFF being applied to the funding of the county's schools and academies.
- 2.3. This paper sets out the proposals, agreed by the Shropshire Schools Forum on 11 January 2024, for Cabinet approval.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. That Cabinet accept the recommendation of Shropshire Schools Forum on the funding formula for Shropshire schools for the financial year 2024-25 for maintained schools, and the academic year 2024-25 for academies.

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1. The Secretary of State for Education announced in September 2017 planned changes to the school funding arrangements for 2018-19 and future years, placing a requirement on local authorities to formally consult with their maintained schools and academies on the schools funding formula to be applied in their local authority area.
- 4.2. Shropshire schools were consulted in the Autumn term 2017 on the basis for distributing the Schools Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) to Shropshire schools and academies. Following this consultation Shropshire Schools Forum recommended, and Cabinet agreed, the distribution of individual school budgets for 2018-19 and future years would be aligned with and mirror the transitional NFF announced by the Government in July 2017.
- 4.3. Local authorities continue to have responsibility for determining their local funding formulas for allocating the Schools Block to their individual schools in 2024-25. As in the current financial year 2023-24 it will be compulsory for local authorities to include the national minimum per pupil funding levels in their local formulas for 2024-25.
- 4.4. The Government has confirmed plans to move to a 'direct' NFF in the future, which will determine school funding allocations directly, rather than through local funding formulae. There is currently no indication from the Government as to when this will take place.
- 4.5. At their meeting on 11 January 2024, Shropshire Schools Forum considered the specific arrangements for 2024-25, with a view to these arrangements being approved by Cabinet at their meeting in the Spring term, in line with ESFA guidance.
- 4.6. The proposed school funding formula, in complying with the Government guidelines, does not present any identified risks either to the local authority or schools.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. The school funding formula is used to determine how part of the Council's DSG allocation, particularly the Schools Block, is distributed to Shropshire maintained schools and academies. The individual school 'budget shares' determined by the

formula represent a significant proportion of the annual revenue funding for maintained schools for the financial year, and funding for academies for the academic year.

- 5.2. The funding for maintained schools is distributed through the local authority, while the ESFA uses the formula to allocate funding direct to Shropshire's academies and free schools.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.1. There are no anticipated climate change implications from the proposals within this report, though it is recognised that the school leaders, governors and trustees can and do apply their delegated revenue budgets to support carbon reduction measures in the operation of their schools.

7. Background

- 7.1. The operational guidance on schools revenue funding arrangements for 2024-25 was published by the ESFA in July 2023. The guidance included updates to the NFF for 2024-25, along with new factor values and several technical changes. However, the DfE uncovered an error made by DfE officials during the initial calculations of the NFF. Specifically, there was an error processing forecast pupil numbers, which meant that the overall cost of the core schools budget would be 0.62% greater than allocated. In October 2023, the ESFA therefore issued new NFF allocations to correct that error while continuing to deliver, in full, the £59.6 billion core schools budget that has been promised.
- 7.2. The Government has also published the illustrative local authority level allocations for 2024-25 for the Schools, High Needs and Central School Services blocks within the DSG and illustrative NFF calculations for the Schools Block for all maintained schools and academies in each local authority area.
- 7.3. The following key elements of the schools NFF have been confirmed by the Government for 2024-25:
 - School funding is increasing by 1.9% per pupil in 2024-25, compared to 2023-24. However, this increase is based on the 2023-24 allocation including the mainstream schools additional grant (MSAG). In 2024-25 the funding for the MSAG is included within the NFF allocation. The NFF continues to distribute this based on the needs of schools and their pupil cohorts.
 - Introduction of a formulaic approach to allocating split sites funding. This ensures that split sites funding will be provided on a consistent basis across the country. Shropshire will see two additional schools benefit from this approach.
 - The minimum per pupil funding levels will be set at £4,610 for primary schools and £5,995 for secondary schools. These levels were £4,405 and £5,715 respectively in 2023-24. The minimum per pupil funding level is not to be confused with the age weighted pupil units (AWPU) funding levels within the NFF.

- The 2024-25 NFF minimum funding guarantee (MFG) is set at 0.5%. This means that every school will attract an increase in their pupil-led funding of at least 0.5% per pupil, compared to their baseline.
- In 2024-25 funding allocated through the growth factor will be based on the observed differences between the primary and secondary number on roll between the October 2022 and October 2023 school censuses.
- In 2024-25, local authorities that receive historic commitments funding as part of their Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) DSG allocation were again subject to their allocation being reduced by 20% compared to their 2023-24 allocation unless evidence was provided to show that the value of ongoing commitments is greater than the level at which the historic commitments funding will be reduced to. Officers submitted evidence to the ESFA to show that the value of ongoing prudential borrowing and termination of employment costs is far greater than the level at which the historic commitments funding will be provisionally reduced to in 2024-25. The ESFA have confirmed that we will receive a decision before the next DSG update in March 2024.

- 7.4 Shropshire Schools Forum has a statutory consultative and advisory role in respect of school funding, while the responsibility for determining and approving the funding formula rests with the local authority. A Schools Forum meeting in September 2023 considered a detailed report on the proposed funding arrangements for 2024-25.
- 7.5 Schools Forum considered a presentation on the School Funding Arrangements 2024-25 at their meeting on 11 January 2024 – copy of the minutes is appended to this report (Appendix A). They considered and agreed an additional specific technical arrangement for 2024-25 designed to align the local funding formula for Shropshire schools and academies as closely as possible to the NFF.
- 7.6 Schools Forum agreed to the local authority's recommendation to reduce the NFF value of the Basic Entitlement (AWPU) factor by 0.3% to ensure sufficient funds within the Schools Block to fund the commitments for Growth in 2024-25. The ESFA guidance is that if factor values are within 2.5% of the respective NFF values, this is deemed to be mirroring the NFF.

8. Additional Information

- 8.1. Additional funding will be received in the High Needs Block to support non-mainstream schools, including special schools.

9. Conclusions

- 9.1. Cabinet is recommended to approve a schools funding formula for 2024-25 that delivers funding to Shropshire schools and academies through the application of the NFF formula factors and weightings.

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

Local Member: All

Appendices [Please list the titles of Appendices]

Schools revenue funding 2024 to 2025 – operational guidance [Schools operational guide: 2024 to 2025 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Schools Forum Website ([Public Pack](#))[Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2024 Agenda Supplement for Schools Forum, 11/01/2024 08:30 \(shropshire.gov.uk\)](#)

[Agenda for Schools Forum on Thursday, 11th January, 2024, 8.30 am — Shropshire Council](#)

This page is intentionally left blank



Committee and Date

Item

Public



Severn Valley Water Management Scheme Update

Responsible Officer:	Mark Barrow		
email:	mark.barrow@shropshire.gov.uk	Tel:	01743 258919
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	Cllr Ian Nellins		

1. Synopsis

This report seeks approval to support the Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales, and Powys County Council in overseeing a public consultation program on the Severn Valley Water Management Scheme and to progress future work as a Joint Project Board.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Shropshire Plan's Healthy Environment priority highlights the importance of investment and joint working to tackle climate change and maintain, protect and enhance our outstanding natural environment.
- 2.2 Further to recommendations approved in the report to Cabinet on 18th November 2019 entitled 'River Severn Partnership', officers have been working with the Environment Agency, through the River Severn Partnership, to identify a joint approach to climate resilience. This has included early work to inform £10million of Government investment, awarded to the Environment Agency through ministerial direction in 2020, to progress work on a catchment based approach to water management in the upper Severn (Severn Valley Water Management Scheme).
- 2.3 Over the past 24 months, the Environment Agency have led the initial stages of the Severn Valley Water Management (SVWM) project, creating the tools and

frameworks necessary to develop a technical solution of the scale required to address the significant climate challenges faced by the catchment.

- 2.4 Whilst Shropshire Council has been supporting these early stages, it is recognised that co-development of the strategy and supporting programme is now required. This will ensure that the full benefits anticipated by the scheme for communities, places and the environment across the upper Severn are realised.
- 2.5 The Environment Agency has invited both Shropshire Council and Powys County Council to form part of the Joint Project Board, along with Natural Resources Wales. The Board will help to shape the strategic direction of the project and its future delivery.
- 2.6 In addition to establishing a Joint Project Board, the Environment Agency has requested Shropshire Council supports the first stage of public consultation. This will focus on providing opportunity for partners and members of the community to comment on the objectives and vision of the project and to provide feedback how different water management options should be evaluated (as part of a sustainability appraisal in the development of the future strategy).
- 2.7 This consultation will not focus on specific options at this stage, but rather set out the approach that will be taken. It will ensure that future identified options are both engaged upon appropriately and assessed against environmental, social and economic indices to enable maximum benefits to be achieved through future delivery.

3. Recommendations

Cabinet agree to:

- 3.1. Approve the Council's role as part of a Joint Project Board with the Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales and Powys County Council to take forward work on the SVWM project.
- 3.2 Approve the Council's role in supporting public consultation for the SVWM scheme and undertaking this jointly through the Joint Project Board.
- 3.3 Delegate to the Executive Director of Place, responsibility for progressing work under the Joint Project Board and agree to host the local authority input into the project under the newly formed Marches Forward Partnership.

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1. Significant opportunity is provided by the £10million Defra monies for the development of a water management strategy for the upper Severn catchment. This strategy (Severn Valley Water Management Scheme) will enable development of a strategic view of flood, water resource, and water quality and develop a response to the challenges of climate change.

- 4.2. As the funding for the SVWM scheme is led by the Environment Agency, delivery and expenditure on the project will be monitored by the Environment Agency. The Environment Agency will be responsible for managing the project risks and meeting the ministerial requirements associated with the use of the funds.
- 4.3. In line with the formal statutory role of Shropshire Council, as the Lead Local Flood Risk Management Authority, and in capacity as the Chair of the River Severn Partnership, the Council's role on the Joint Project Board will be in guiding decision making on the project to maximise benefits to the local community and to help unlock funding to enable future delivery.
- 4.4. The Environment Agency have made an initial sum of funding available for both Shropshire Council and Powys County Council to support the resource capacity needs at this early stage in the strategy development. This funding will support the early local authority resourcing into the Joint Project Board and initial stages of public consultation.
- 4.5. Shropshire Council has already been working with Powys County Council on a joint resource plan to ensure efficiencies in the local authority involvement. This will involve hosting the work within the newly formed Marches Forward Partnership as one of the significant cross border projects across the Marches area.
- 4.6. The Joint Project Board and local authority hosting within the Marches Forward Partnership will enable a joined up approach to the project development, ensuring shared input and influence across partners from the outset of the project development.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. The £10million funding for development of the SVWM scheme has already been agreed in principle by the Environment Agency with Defra. The Environment Agency has secured agreement to commence spend of a portion of this overall funding, following completion and sign off of a business case with Defra. This is aimed at supporting the initial stages of the project's development and includes a £312,000 allocation for local authority support which will be transferred to the Council under a collaboration agreement between the Environment Agency, Shropshire Council and Powys County Council.
- 5.2. In supporting the Joint Project Board, the financial implications for Shropshire Council are associated with resourcing the project development. This is addressed through the funding support for the two local authorities (Shropshire and Powys). A collaboration agreement between the Environment Agency and Shropshire Council is intended to enable transfer of the funding to be received by Shropshire Council as a lump sum. This will enable effective resource allocation into the project from the outset, without additional cost implication to the Council. In-kind contributions will be made by Shropshire Council in support of the Joint Project Board, in terms of sharing data and evidence, shared office/meeting space (where appropriate) and access to Council partner networks and political input.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.1. The SVWM scheme and wider work of the River Severn Partnership is aimed at providing a strategic and integrated response to the challenges of climate change across the River Severn catchment area.
- 6.2. The project development seeks to pilot and test how an integrated approach to water management unlocks opportunities for growth and improved wellbeing. Focused initially on the upper Severn catchment area, the project programme involves a suite of nature based measures, complimented by innovative and sensitive engineering to address climate change and its impacts, working with water companies, Wildlife Trusts, Severn Rivers Trust, landowners and many others.
- 6.3. In addition to the SVWM scheme, the River Severn Partnership is one of four national pilots identified by Defra to develop, deliver and test an 'adaptive planning' approach. This new thinking by Defra is aimed at ensuring a more resilient and adaptive approach to the challenges faced as a result of climate change.
- 6.4. Adaptive planning offers the ability to respond to new information as it becomes available, such as relating to rising water levels and more frequent flood events. The approach identifies and evaluates different climate scenarios and subsequently identifies potential adaptation actions that can be implemented over time, to directly respond to climate changes; such actions may include increasing or reducing floor levels, utilising public open space for water storage or investment in flood management projects. Adaptive planning provides the flexibility to 'adapt' actions based on what the climate is actually doing and therefore enables the most effective and resilient response.
- 6.5. An adaptive planning approach allows for a long-term plan to be developed, providing a range of options for which the Council can respond accordingly, implementing the most appropriate and effective actions at the right time and in the right way. It also avoids unnecessary over investment or unsuitable design parameters, thereby enabling better decision making and use of money at all stages of a project's delivery. The approach creates a clear plan to manage flood risk, providing confidence for investors.
- 6.6. Although at an initial stage, the wider adaptive planning thinking and approach will help inform the SVWM scheme, where possible, supporting thinking and learning. It will help embed climate resilience thinking and learning in our future ways of working and is already shaping other work within the Council, such as the Riverside redevelopment.
- 6.7. As part of a drive towards integrated infrastructure delivery, the SVWM scheme and adaptive planning approach will include consideration of multiple benefits. The aim is to understand and assess how future flood risk management provides co-benefits for carbon capture and storage, biodiversity, health and wellbeing and economic growth.

- 6.8. Development and delivery of the SVWM scheme, as a strategic scale initiative, offers potential to scale up multiple benefits across the entire Severn and Wye catchment.

7. Background

- 7.1 The SVWM scheme is an ambitious project developing innovative, holistic approaches to sustainable water management across the upper River Severn catchment. The approach focuses on how the natural landscape and natural processes, may be used to contribute to community resilience and improved wellbeing in the face of climate change and future flood risk.
- 7.1. Flood risk on the River Severn is not an issue that observes the border. Communities and infrastructure in England and Wales need a coherent approach to the management of water. For that to be successful it is essential that a joint approach between English and Welsh authorities is enabled and supported. The SVWM seeks to provide such an integrated approach to catchment management which Shropshire Council and Powys County Council can support through the newly formed cross border collaboration, the Marches Forward Partnership.
- 7.2. Over the past 24 months the Environment Agency has led the initial stages of the project, creating the tools and frameworks necessary to develop a technical solution of the scale required to address the significant climate challenges faced by the catchment. This work has been used to identify “the art of the possible” and to understand the potential degree of intervention that might be required across Shropshire and Powys to mitigate some of the substantial impacts experienced from flooding over the past few years.
- 7.2 The conclusion of this initial stage of analysis by the Environment Agency has informed an updated business case to Defra to secure funding for the development of a formal strategy and delivery plan. The aim is for this next stage to be finalised and adopted by 2025/26.
- 7.3 It is widely recognised that this next phase and development of the strategy requires significant input from local communities. The creation of a shared vision and co-created programme of interventions across the catchment is essential in providing far greater benefits and confidence in future delivery.
- 7.4 The initial work led by the Environment Agency provides a good basis for this public engagement, having been supported by a growing consortium of professional bodies and local partners, many of whom form part of the strategically influential River Severn Partnership (RSP), of which Shropshire Council is the Joint Chair alongside the Environment Agency. This network, with input from communities facilitated through the National Flood Forum (NFF), has been important in helping to shape early thinking on the SVWM project.
- 7.5 Whilst Local Authority partners have been involved in supporting the initial stages of the project, the Environment Agency recognises that the ongoing presence of Local Authorities in guiding and decision-making as part of a Joint Project Board is essential. This will ensure alignment with the Environment Agency and Cyfoeth

Naturiol Cymru / Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to join up strategic thinking and delivery on flood risk management matters as well as the wider benefits that can be achieved through nature based activities and land management processes.

- 7.6 To that end, both Shropshire Council and Powys County Council have been formally invited onto the Project Board (alongside the Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales) to help shape the strategic direction of the project and its future delivery. The Joint Project Board will meet quarterly and comprise Director level leads from the Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales, Powys County Council and Shropshire Council. The Board member for Shropshire Council is the Executive Director of Place. The purpose of the Board is to set the strategic direction for the project, which initially will focus on establishing a collaborative approach to brand development and engagement rollout. As the partner with accountability for the project, the Environment Agency will have ultimate decision-making responsibility but shaped collaboratively through the work of the Joint Project Board. Any future decision making required by the Council will be under delegated powers by officers or through future Cabinet papers, as appropriate. The Environment Agency has made funding available for Shropshire Council and Powys County Council to create the resource capacity needed to support a Joint Project Board and ensure that local place requirements are embedded in the development of the strategy and subsequent long-term delivery programme.
- 7.7 It is intended that the funding available will enable both Local Authorities to take a lead, and/or support with:
- Local political engagement and support;
 - Community engagement through town and parish councils and local resilience forums;
 - Strategic engagement with key stakeholders outside of water management E.g. DfT, health, visitor economy;
 - Ensuring alignment to local policy and processes E.g. Local Plans, Economic Growth Strategies, climate action plans, Local Nature Recovery Strategies, Biodiversity Net Gain;
 - Integrated benefits appraisal understanding impacts across environment, social and economic drivers;
 - Developing value capture mechanisms to support partnership funding;
 - Finding public sector funding models and opportunities;
 - Development options for future delivery vehicles to enable a blended finance approach;
 - Overseeing water management, as the local authority areas, in capacity as Lead Local Flood Authority.
- 7.8 Given recent work by both Shropshire and Powys Councils to create and launch the Marches Forward Partnership, both Shropshire Council and Powys County Council have agreed to progress involvement in the SVWM under this cross border strategic collaboration.
- 7.9 The Marches Forward Partnership already recognises the unique environmental assets and future management needs across the Marches area and has established a focused working group around 'Nature, Energy and Climate Adaptation'. Work is therefore already underway to look at cross border policy

and funding mechanisms to support environment management. The focus around SVWM provides a strategic scale project to pilot and take this thinking forward. Hosting the local authority input within the Marches Forward Partnership will also aid Shropshire Council in maximising efficiencies and benefits through a joined up and coordinated approach to the SVWM between England and Wales.

8. Additional Information

- 8.1 As a Defra led strategic project, flexibility has deliberately been built into the SVWM to allow for innovation during the development phase. This is aimed at supporting the achievement of greater and multiple outcomes through an integrated approach to catchment management. The project programme therefore allows for evolution and refocus as part of the learning process and specific deliverables and outcomes may therefore change as the strategy is developed with local communities. Learning will be gathered by the Environment Agency to inform Defra ministers as well as with the wider River Severn Partnership to support wider scale up of delivery across the Severn and Wye catchment.

9. Conclusions

- 9.1 Development of the SVWM scheme will test nature based responses to climate resilience and adaptation, as well as understanding how appropriate engineering can be used to compliment these wider natural processes. It will help harness the natural and cultural value of the upper River Seven, as the headwaters of the UKs longest river system, and provide the catalyst for community resilience and economic prosperity in the face of climate change and a nature emergency.
- 9.2 Supporting the Environment Agency through a Joint Project Board, will utilise Shropshire Council's unique position as the lead partner for Shropshire and as the Joint Chair of the River Severn Partnership to influence thinking by Defra. The role of the local authority in the Project Board and in the early public consultation will ensure collaborative delivery with Shropshire communities from the outset and enable community level shaping and ongoing learning to be shared.
- 9.3 The SVWM will help provide a strategic framework for supporting landowning communities to understand the value of environmental management within farm businesses and enable testing of new financial mechanisms for delivery.
- 9.4 The Shropshire Plan recognises the climate change challenge and need for urgent action both by the Council and working with external partners such as Defra. Developing the SVWM will improve the natural environment for future generations and secure economic and community resilience in the face of climate uncertainty.

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

Cabinet report title 'River Severn Partnership' dated 18th November 2019

Cabinet report title 'River Severn Partnership- Shropshire Flood Prevention' dated 27th September 2020

Local Member: All Members

Appendices
