



Committee and Date

Council

21 September 2023

COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2023

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

10.00 am - 1.10 pm

Responsible Officer: Tim Ward

Email: tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01743 257713

Present

Councillors Vince Hunt (Chairman), Brian Williams (Vice Chairman), Ian Nellins (Deputy Leader), Roy Aldcroft, Jeff Anderson, Caroline Bagnall, Nicholas Bardsley, Joyce Barrow, Bernie Bentick, Thomas Biggins, Peter Broomhall, Julia Buckley, Garry Burchett, Gwilym Butler, Dean Carroll, Ted Clarke, Rachel Connolly, Rosemary Dartnall, Steve Davenport, Mary Davies, Geoff Elner, David Evans, Julia Evans, Roger Evans, Paul Gill, Rob Gittins, Kate Halliday, Simon Harris, Nigel Hartin, Nick Hignett, Ruth Houghton, Kirstie Hurst-Knight, Mike Isherwood, Mark Jones, Simon Jones, Duncan Kerr, Christian Lea, Hilary Luff, Nigel Lumby, Robert Macey, Richard Marshall, David Minnerly, Dan Morris, Alan Mosley, Cecilia Motley, Peggy Mullock, Kevin Pardy, Vivienne Parry, John Price, Ed Potter, Chris Schofield, Dan Thomas, Edward Towers, Kevin Turley, David Vasmer, Alex Wagner, Claire Wild, Mark Williams and Paul Wynn

17 Apologies for Absence

At the start of the meeting Councillor Alan Mosley paid tribute to the work of Ex Councillor Derek Woodvine who had been a longstanding Member of Shropshire County Council who had died recently. The meeting observed a short period of silence in his memory

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Ed Bird, Andy Boddington, Steve Charmley, Gerald Dakin, Julian Dean, Nat Green, Richard Huffer, Tracey Huffer, Heather Kidd, Pam Moseley, Tony Parsons, Lezley Picton, Robert Tindall and Rob Wilson

18 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

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

Councillor Vince Hunt declared an interest in agenda item 12b - Motion to stop the use of Glyphosates and oppose the use of Neonicotinoids in Shropshire. He stated that he would leave the room and take no part in the debate and vote.

Councillor Claire Wild declared an interest in agenda item 7 – Levelling Up Fund Award for Shrewsbury. She stated that he would leave the room and take no part in the debate and vote.

19 Minutes

Councillor Roger Evans commented that he felt that there was not enough detail in the minutes and that the comments made by Members during the debate should be summed up in the minutes. The Chair agreed to discuss this with the Chief Executive and the Monitoring Officer after the meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2023, as circulated with the agenda papers, be approved and signed as a correct record.

20 Announcements

Chairman's Engagements

The Chairman referred Members to the list of official engagements carried out by himself and the Vice Chairman since the last meeting of the Council on 11 May 2023, which had been circulated by email.

Kings Birthday Honours

The Chairman congratulated all those that had received honours in the recent Birthday Honours List and confirmed that he had written to them to congratulate them.

21 Public Questions

The Chairman advised that public questions had been received from Barry Greig, Frank Smallman, Christopher Forde, Paul Cawthorne, Jamie Russell and Mike Streetly. A copy of the questions and the responses provided are attached to the signed minutes and available from the web page for the meeting.

[Agenda for Council on Thursday, 6th July, 2023, 10.00 am — Shropshire Council](#)

22 Financial Outturn 2022/23

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

By way of amendment Councillor Roger Evans proposed that the recommendation be changed to read: -

It is recommended that Members

In respect of the revenue budget:

- a) Note with dismay that again the budget agreed by council was overspent by £8.499m.
- b) Note that as a result of this overspend the level of the General Fund balance has now been reduced to a dangerous level of just £7.093m.
- c) Note that during the year our service-related Earmarked Reserves and Provisions were further reduced by £33.192m
- d) Note that yet again only 69% of the 2022/23 was delivered. £6.566m of savings were not achieved, and £1.965 of these have had to be carried forward into 2023/24.
- e) Council notes that the combination of earmarked and un-earmarked (General) reserves is below a level that would be regarded as safe, taking into account local circumstances.

Relating to ringfenced funding:

- f) Note the performance of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) – £0.768m (4%) surplus outturn for 2022/23 on £19m turnover, and the resulting level of the HRA reserve of £12.359m. The level of the accumulated surpluses held as a reserve should be reviewed and an appropriate action plan brought forward.
- g) Note that the level of school balances has increased by £2.296m, from £8.191m in 2021/22 to £10.487m. The level of accumulated net surpluses in schools' balances is considerable, and schools should identify the rationale for holding balances at those levels.

In respect of the capital programme:

- h) Approve net budget variations of -£4.007m to the 2022/23 capital programme (in Appendix 11) and the re-profiled 2022/23 capital budget of £111.112m.
- i) Approve the re-profiled capital budgets of £26.575m for 2023/234, including slippage of £10.747m from 2022/23, £110.787m for 2024/25 and £56.264m for 2025/26 as detailed in Appendix 15.
- j) Accept the outturn expenditure set out in Appendices 12 and 13 of £100.365m, representing 90.3% of the revised capital budget for 2022/23.
- k) Approve retaining a balance of capital receipts set aside of £17.465m as at 31st March 2023 to generate a one-off Minimum Revenue Provision saving of £0.572m in 2023/24.

This was seconded by Councillor David Vasmer.

On being put to a recorded vote with 20 Members voting for, 39 against and no abstentions as follows:

FOR:

Councillors Bagnall, Bentick, Buckley, Clarke, Connolly, Dartnall, Davies, J Evans, R Evans, Halliday, Hartin, Houghton, Isherwood, Kerr, Mosley, Pardy, Parry, Vasmer, Wagner and M Williams.

AGAINST:

Councillors Aldcroft, Anderson, Bardsley, Barrow, Biggins, Broomhall, Burchett, Butler, Carroll, Davenport, Elner, D Evans, Gill, Gittins, Harris, Hignett, Hunt, Hurst-Knight, M Jones, S Jones, Lea, Luff, Lumby, Macey, Marshall, Minnery, Morris, Motley, Mullock, Nellins, Potter, Price, Schofield, Thomas, Towers, Turley, Wild, B Williams and Wynn.

The amendment fell.

RESOLVED:

That Members:

In respect of the revenue budget:

- a) Note that the outturn is an overspend of £8.499m.
- b) Note the consequent level of the General Fund balance is £7.093m.
- c) Note the service-related use of £33.192m of Earmarked Reserves & Provisions.
- d) Note that the combination of earmarked and un-earmarked (General) reserves is below a level that would be regarded as safe, taking into account local circumstances. The MTFS sets out an agreed plan to restore these balances to safer levels.

Relating to ringfenced funding:

- e) Note the performance of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) – £0.768m (4%) surplus outturn for 2022/23 on £19m turnover, and the resulting level of the HRA reserve of £12.359m. The level of the accumulated surpluses held as a reserve should be reviewed and an appropriate action plan brought forward.
- f) Note that the level of school balances has increased by £2.296m, from £8.191m in 2021/22 to £10.487m. The level of accumulated net surpluses in schools' balances is considerable, and schools should identify the rationale for holding balances at those levels.

In respect of the capital programme:

- g) Approve net budget variations of -£4.007m to the 2022/23 capital programme (in Appendix 11) and the re-profiled 2022/23 capital budget of £111.112m.
- h) Approve the re-profiled capital budgets of £26.575m for 2023/234, including slippage of £10.747m from 2022/23, £110.787m for 2024/25 and £56.264m for 2025/26 as detailed in Appendix 15.
- i) Accept the outturn expenditure set out in Appendices 12 and 13 of £100.365m, representing 90.3% of the revised capital budget for 2022/23.

- j) Approve retaining a balance of capital receipts set aside of £17.465m as at 31st March 2023 to generate a one-off Minimum Revenue Provision saving of £0.572m in 2023/24.

23 Levelling Up Fund Award for Shrewsbury

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Growth, Regeneration and Housing, Councillor Dean Carroll, and seconded by Councillor Mark Jones that the report of the Executive Director of Place, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received, and agreed.

RESOLVED:

That Council agree to:

1. Approve the acceptance of the Levelling Up Fund Grant award from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), and instruct officers to progress the associated projects.
2. Approve financing of the Council's cash match funding requirement of £3.793m from borrowing with an associated annual revenue impact of £0.269m
3. Approve the inclusion of enabling and infrastructure works associated to the Levelling Up Fund Award, within the planning application(s) for the demolition of the Riverside Shopping Centre and the former Riverside medical practice, as recommendation 3.2 approved in the Council report titled 'Shrewsbury Town Centre Redevelopment Phase One' 16 February 2022.
4. Delegate to the Executive Director of Place in consultation with the Section 151 officer and the Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration and Planning to:
 - 4.1. proceed with compiling the full financial details and business case for the two projects summarised in item 2.2 of the report, for inclusion in a further report for consideration by Council.
 - 4.2. progress a procurement and delivery strategy for the two projects summarised in items 2.2 of the report.

24 Local Authority Housing Fund Round 2

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Growth, Regeneration and Housing, Councillor Dean Carroll, and seconded by Councillor Mark Jones that the report of the Executive Director of Place, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received, and agreed.

In response to a request from a Member the Portfolio Holder agreed that a report updating Members on progress with the Scheme would be brought to the Council meeting in December.

RESOLVED:

That Council

1. Agree to enter into the MoU with DLUHC, on the basis that the Council will use its best endeavours to acquire the full target of dwellings to which the allocation of grant funding relates and delegates authority to the Executive Director of Resources to agree, sign and return the MoU by the deadline of 14 July 2023.
2. Approve that capital investment of up to £0.45m of Section 106 commuted sums and prudential borrowing on rental income of up to £0.97m is used to match fund the DLUHC grant funding of £1.20m to acquire up to ten dwellings into the HRA.
3. Delegate to the Executive Director of Resources, in consultation with the Assistant Director of Homes and Communities and the Head of Property and Development the authority to approve a final business case and financial appraisals setting out the financial arrangements to support the acquisitions of dwellings into the HRA.
4. Delegate to the Head of Property and Development, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Growth, Regeneration and Housing, the authority to agree and complete appropriate freehold acquisitions.

25 Annual Report of the Portfolio Holder Finance and Corporate Resources

It was proposed by Councillor Gwilym Butler, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate Resources that the report, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes, and the recommendations therein be received and agreed.

Councillor Butler presented and amplified his report and responded to questions, concerns and comments.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report be noted.

26 Annual Report of the Portfolio Holder – Culture and Digital

It was proposed by Councillor Robert Macey, Portfolio Holder for Culture and Digital that the report, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes, and the recommendations therein be received and agreed.

Councillor Macey presented and amplified his report and responded to questions, concerns and comments.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report be noted.

27 Changes to Committee Membership

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

Transformation and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Kevin Turley is appointed as a member of the Transformation and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Robert Tindall is appointed as a substitute member of the Transformation and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Economy & Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Peggy Mullock to replace Councillor Ed Bird as a substitute member of the Economy & Environment Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Chris Schofield to replace Councillor Jeff Anderson as a substitute member of the Economy & Environment Scrutiny Committee

People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Viv Parry to replace Councillor Mark Williams as a member of the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Mark Williams to replace Councillor Viv Parry as a substitute member of the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Northern Planning Committee

Councillor Roy Aldcroft is appointed as a substitute member of the Northern Planning Committee

RESOLVED:

That the following changes in committee membership be agreed

Transformation and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Kevin Turley is appointed as a member of the Transformation and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Robert Tindall is appointed as a substitute member of the Transformation and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Economy & Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Peggy Mullock to replace Councillor Ed Bird as a substitute member of the Economy & Environment Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Chris Schofield to replace Councillor Jeff Anderson as a substitute member of the Economy & Environment Scrutiny Committee

People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Viv Parry to replace Councillor Mark Williams as a member of the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Mark Williams to replace Councillor Viv Parry as a substitute member of the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Northern Planning Committee

Councillor Roy Aldcroft is appointed as a substitute member of the Northern Planning Committee

28 **Motions**

- a) **Motion received from Councillor Dan Thomas and supported by Councillors Simon Harris, Kirstie Hurst-Knight, Ian Nellins and Lezley Picton**

Shropshire Council believes that the use of disposable vapes by young people is concerning. The marketing of colourful, candy-flavoured vapes that are relatively cheap with easy access to them will create a new generation of nicotine addicts and the subsequent public health crisis. We've seen a seven-fold increase in 11 to 17-year-olds nationally choosing single-use vaping products since 2021. The overall message for adult smokers that they are 'better than smoking' means many think they are not harmful, yet there has been no specific research undertaken into the health impacts of vaping on young people's development, including their respiratory health, and impacts for adults in the long term are not yet clear.

We are particularly concerned about disposable vapes which contain lithium and copper. These elements are crucial for our efforts to tackle climate change through the green transition. Shropshire has a unique and beautiful countryside, and it's becoming more and more regular to see disposable vape pens littered there.

Shropshire Council, therefore, calls on the Government to legislate for a ban on the sale of disposable vapes. This will help to prevent a new public health catastrophe among children and tackle the vast and growing environmental impact of the devices, especially the single-use plastic and use of lithium batteries that are hard to recycle and pose a fire risk.

By way of amendment Councillor Kate Halliday proposed the following: -

Shropshire Council believes that the use of disposable vapes by young people is concerning. The marketing of colourful, candy-flavoured vapes that are relatively cheap and easy to access, could create a new generation addicted to nicotine. There has been no specific research undertaken into the health impacts of vaping on young people's development, including their respiratory health. There is also a growing environmental impact of these devices, especially the single-use plastic and use of lithium batteries and copper that are hard to recycle and pose a fire risk.

While it is the case that the long- term health outcomes for adults have also not been researched, the UK Government states ‘Vaping is an important tool to help the government achieve its ambition for England to be smokefree by 2030. This is because vaping is one of the most effective ways to help people quit smoking. A recent Cochrane systematic review found with ‘high certainty’ that vapes were more effective than nicotine replacement therapy. Ensuring vaping devices can continue to be made available to current smokers is vital to reducing smoking rates, and their use contributes to an estimated 50,000 to 70,000 additional fewer smokers per year.

One survey suggests that over half of all vapes used in the UK are disposable, with the majority being used by adults who are reducing/ceasing tobacco use 2.

While it may play a part, there is no guarantee that banning disposable vapes will solve the problem of young people vaping. As a measure alone, it could drive some young people to non-compliant devices which may comprise of more concerning and damaging substances. On June 15th '23 Shropshire's Task and Finish group on underage vaping report that:

‘Vapes can be purchased online often with relative ease and are more challenging to regulate. There has been a large rise in sales of non-compliant vapes (with risks around product safety requirements such as chargers and batteries). This is compounded by worrying implications that the supply of vapes may be linked to child exploitation and serious organised crime.’

There are a range of possible responses to tackling youth vaping including:

- It is illegal to sell vapes to under 18s, and this legislation could be better enforced.
- There have not been the same restrictions imposed on the marketing of vapes as there are on tobacco products. Marketing could be more strictly regulated.
- Trading standards also have a role to play and Shropshire Council has been recognised by the Local Government Association for its pro-active actions regarding identifying the illegal selling of vapes with 1244 illegal vape products seized following test purchase operations and including 3 sales of vapes to children. More can be done to reduce illegal sales
- A tax could be imposed on vaping products

In addition with regard to climate concerns, retailers selling vapes must by law provide an option for consumers to dispose of vapes on a one-for-one basis under the WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) regulations. The Office for Product Safety and Standards is responsible for compliance

In light of the above Shropshire Council calls on the Government to:

- Legislate to end the use of single use disposable vapes whilst ensuring that adults who are vaping as an alternative to tobacco use do not experience disrupted supply.
- Support the Local Government Association's call for action to central government for vapes to be in plain packaging, be kept out-of-sight, for mandatory age-of-sale signage on vaping products and a ban on free samples as tools that can help achieve this (this is a recommendation of the Shropshire Task and Finish Group)
- Support local authorities to improve prosecution rates for the sale of illegal vapes
- Support local authorities to boost smoking cessation services, including those for children who are vaping, and develop health promotion campaigns
- To reduce online sales of no-compliant vapes
- Enhance the ability of the Office for Product Safety and Standards to enforce retail compliance with the disposal of vapes

Shropshire Council will also continue to support the work of:

- the task and finish group including their work on an approach for communications aimed at children and young people.
- Link Youth vaping to the Shropshire Plan

The amendment was seconded by Councillor

Councillor Thomas indicated that he would accept the amendment.

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

Shropshire Council believes that the use of disposable vapes by young people is concerning. The marketing of colourful, candy-flavoured vapes that are relatively cheap and easy to access, could create a new generation addicted to nicotine. There has been no specific research undertaken into the health impacts of vaping on young people's development, including their respiratory health. There is also a growing environmental impact of these devices, especially the single-use plastic and use of lithium batteries and copper that are hard to recycle and pose a fire risk.

While it is the case that the long-term health outcomes for adults have also not been researched, the UK Government states 'Vaping is an important tool to help the government achieve its ambition for England to be smokefree by 2030. This is

because vaping is one of the most effective ways to help people quit smoking. A recent Cochrane systematic review found with 'high certainty' that vapes were more effective than nicotine replacement therapy. Ensuring vaping devices can continue to be made available to current smokers is vital to reducing smoking rates, and their use contributes to an estimated 50,000 to 70,000 additional fewer smokers per year.

One survey suggests that over half of all vapes used in the UK are disposable, with the majority being used by adults who are reducing/ceasing tobacco use 2.

While it may play a part, there is no guarantee that banning disposable vapes will solve the problem of young people vaping. As a measure alone, it could drive some young people to non-compliant devices which may comprise of more concerning and damaging substances. On June 15th '23 Shropshire's Task and Finish group on underage vaping report that:

'Vapes can be purchased online often with relative ease and are more challenging to regulate. There has been a large rise in sales of non-compliant vapes (with risks around product safety requirements such as chargers and batteries). This is compounded by worrying implications that the supply of vapes may be linked to child exploitation and serious organised crime.'

There are a range of possible responses to tackling youth vaping including:

- It is illegal to sell vapes to under 18s, and this legislation could be better enforced.
- There have not been the same restrictions imposed on the marketing of vapes as there are on tobacco products. Marketing could be more strictly regulated.
- Trading standards also have a role to play and Shropshire Council has been recognised by the Local Government Association for its pro-active actions regarding identifying the illegal selling of vapes with 1244 illegal vape products seized following test purchase operations and including 3 sales of vapes to children. More can be done to reduce illegal sales
- A tax could be imposed on vaping products

In addition with regard to climate concerns, retailers selling vapes must by law provide an option for consumers to dispose of vapes on a one-for-one basis under the WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) regulations. The Office for Product Safety and Standards is responsible for compliance

In light of the above Shropshire Council calls on the Government to:

- Legislate to end the use of single use disposable vapes whilst ensuring that adults who are vaping as an alternative to tobacco use do not experience disrupted supply.

- Support the Local Government Association's call for action to central government for vapes to be in plain packaging, be kept out-of-sight, for mandatory age-of-sale signage on vaping products and a ban on free samples as tools that can help achieve this (this is a recommendation of the Shropshire Task and Finish Group)
- Support local authorities to improve prosecution rates for the sale of illegal vapes
- Support local authorities to boost smoking cessation services, including those for children who are vaping, and develop health promotion campaigns
- To reduce online sales of no-compliant vapes
- Enhance the ability of the Office for Product Safety and Standards to enforce retail compliance with the disposal of vapes

Shropshire Council will also continue to support the work of:

- the task and finish group including their work on an approach for communications aimed at children and young people.
- Link Youth vaping to the Shropshire Plan

b) Motion submitted by Cllr. Julia Evans and supported by the Green Group

Motion to stop the use of Glyphosates and oppose the use of Neonicotinoids in Shropshire by both Shropshire Council and Shrewsbury Town Council when contracted to do works for the former.

This Council notes:

In 2015, the International Agency for Research on Cancer an agency for the World Health Organisation, published it's findings into the relationship between cancer and glyphosate – a herbicide – and classified it as possibly carcinogenic – it had scientific data that it definitely caused malignant tumours in animals. Glyphosate causes damage in human DNA and chromosomes and is associated with the blood cancer, Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. This is all before the damage it will inflict on our insect and mammal species. (1)

There has been a 60% increase in the use of pesticides such as glyphosate in the UK since 1990 [3]. Italy, Portugal and the Canadian city of Vancouver have all banned use of glyphosate [or glyphosate based weed killers] and France is working towards this. Mosanto and German owner Bayer face 9,000 lawsuits in the US from

those that believe their illnesses are caused by this product, a \$6.9 million settlement in June this year as Monsanto falsely continues to state that it's product is safe [2 and 4]. That recent studies published in ScienceDirect show a 41% increased risk of Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma caused by exposure from glyphosate-based weed killers and products [5]. In Shropshire Unitary Council – there is no Policy on Glyphosate use or guidance on how to use.

This Council believes:

- There is compelling evidence that glyphosate and a wide range of other herbicides and pesticides may be harmful to human health
- The use of pesticides and weed killers reduces biodiversity, impacting negatively on insects, birds and bees, in a time when the world is losing 2.5% of its insect population per-year [6].
- Harmful weed killer residues can creep into the food chain.
- Pets and children should not be playing in parks treated with such chemicals.

This Council resolves to:

- Phase out the use of all pesticides and weed killers on council land, upholding the ban on neonicotinoids.
- Cut out all use of glyphosate based treatments in all council operations in from December 2023.
- Trial pesticide-free alternatives during this period, to use biodegradable foam or hot steam treatments on weeds. To be decided by Executive.
- Grant an exception to the above ban regarding the control of Japanese knotweed, or other invasive species, where there are currently no effective mechanical techniques available. However, in this case chemicals such as glyphosate will only be stem-injected, rather than sprayed, to reduce its spread in the environment.
- Grant an exception on sprays only in relation to Giant Hogweed where it's not safe to be dug out or safely removed by other means.
- Formulate a Policy for pesticides inclusive of above and include Staff protective equipment when handling and using pesticides.
- Write to the prime minister to inform the government of this Council's opposition to glyphosate-based pesticides and to call for a UK-wide programme to phase out use

1. <https://www.iarc.who.int/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/MonographVolume112-1.pdf>
2. <https://www.syracuse.com/state/2023/06/bayer-to-pay-69-million-in-ny-settlement-over-false-claims-about-weedkiller-roundup.html>
3. <http://www.pan-uk.org/pesticides-agriculture-uk/>
4. <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2018/oct/07/monsanto-trial-cancer-appeal-glyphosate-chemical>
5. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1383574218300887>
6. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/feb/10/plummeting-insect-numbers-threaten->

The motion was seconded by Councillor Duncan Kerr

On taking a vote the motion was not supported.

29 Questions from Members

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

Received from Councillor Alex Wagner and answered by the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Communities in relation to mental health services in Shropshire. By way of supplementary question Councillor Wagner asked whether the increase in funding quoted in the response was just to cover rising costs or were there any new schemes proposed? The Portfolio Holder agreed to provide a response after the meeting

Received from Councillor Bernie Bentick and answered by the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Communities in relation to woman's health services. By way of supplementary question Councillor Bentick asked when there would be a commitment to the formation of a Woman's Health Hub? The Portfolio Holder advised Councillor Bentick that his question should be referred to the Integrated Care Board possibly via Joint HOSC

Received from Councillor Roger Evans and answered by the Portfolio Holder for Highways and Regulatory Services in relation to "Blue Badge" applications. By way of supplementary question Councillor Evans asked when the backlog would be cleared, and whether any of the backlog was due to the desire of the Council to become a "Digital Council"? The Portfolio Holder stated that the delay had nothing to do with the Council becoming a "Digital Council". He added that the number of officers processing the applications had increased and that there were further vacancies to be filled.

30 Report of the Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority

It was proposed by Councillor David Minnery that the report of the Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes, be received and noted.

Councillor Pardy asked why in some cases the maximum number of occupants of a hotel was ignored when asylum seekers were being accommodated. Councillor Minnery agreed to get back to him with a response.

RESOLVED: That the report of the Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority be noted.

31 Exclusion of Press and Public

Councillor Alex Wagner commented that there was a lot of local public interest in the Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme Update report and that he felt that it should be considered in public session.

The Portfolio Holder for Growth, Regeneration and Housing, Councillor Dean Carroll stated that report was exempt because it contained commercially sensitive information which could not be disclosed in public.

RESOLVED:

That, in accordance with the provisions of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and Paragraph 10.4 [3] of the Council’s Access to Information Rules, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items

32 Exempt Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Exempt Minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2023, as circulated with the agenda papers, be approved, and signed as a correct record.

33 Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme Update

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Growth, Regeneration and Housing, Councillor Dean Carroll, and seconded by Councillor Mark Jones that the exempt report of the Executive Director of Place, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received, and agreed.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations contained in the report be agreed

Signed (Chairman)

Date: