

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

Date: Wednesday, 21 February 2024

Committee: Council

Date: Thursday, 29 February 2024

Time: 10.00 am

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tim Collard
Assistant Director - Legal and Governance

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

Ed Potter
Chris Schofield
Andrew Sherrington
Colin Taylor
Dan Thomas

Robert Tindall
Edward Towers
Kevin Turley
David Vasmer
Alex Wagner

Claire Wild
Mark Williams
Rob Wilson
Paul Wynn

Your Committee Officer is:

Tim Ward Committee Officer

Tel: 01743 257713

Email: tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk

AGENDA

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Members are reminded that they must declare their disclosable pecuniary interests and other registrable or non-registrable interests in any matter being considered at the meeting as set out in Appendix B of the Members' Code of Conduct and consider if they should leave the room prior to the item being considered. Further advice can be sought from the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.

3 Minutes (Pages 1 - 20)

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 December 2023

4 Announcements

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

5 Public Questions

To receive any questions from the public, notice of which has been given in accordance with Procedure Rule 14. Deadline for notification is 5.00 pm on Friday 23 February 2024

6 Financial Strategy 2024/25 - 2028/29 - Final (including Capital Strategy and Council Tax Resolution) (Pages 21 - 306)

Report of the Executive Director, Resources is attached

Contact: James Walton. Tel. 01743 258915

7 Fees and Charges 2024/25 (Pages 307 - 376)

Report of the Executive Director, Resources is attached

Contact: James Walton. Tel. 01743 258915

8 Treasury Strategy 2024/25 (Pages 377 - 426)

Report of the Executive Director, Resources is attached

Contact: James Walton. Tel. 01743 258915

9 Shrewsbury North West Relief Road – Funding Delegation (Pages 427 - 438)

Report of the Executive Director of Place is attached

Contact Mark Barrow Tel: 01743258919

10 Appointment to Committees

Northern Planning Committee

Councillor Ed Potter to be appointed as a substitute member of the Northern Planning Committee

Southern Planning Committee

Councillor Roy Aldcroft to be appointed as a substitute member of the Southern Planning Committee

Councillor David Vasmer to replace Councillor Mark Williams as a substitute member of the Southern Planning Committee

Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Alan Moseley to replace Councillor Ted Clarke as a substitute member of the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Heather Kidd to replace Councillor Bernie Bentick as a substitute member of the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Transformation and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Jeff Anderson to be appointed a substitute member of the Transformation and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Audit Committee

Councillor Andrew Sherrington to replace Councillor Mark Williams as a substitute member of the Audit Committee

11 Motions

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

a **Motion received from Councillor Tony Parsons and supported by the Labour Group Social Care Costs**

This Council notes:

In October 2023, Skills for Care estimated that there were 1000 vacancies in the adult social care workforce in Shropshire (a vacancy rate of 8%)¹. However, in a survey of its care provider members the average staff turnover rate over the last 12 months reported by respondents was 19%, and nearly a quarter (23%) of respondents stated that they are employing less staff than this time last year, with nearly a third (31%) of domiciliary care providers stating that they now employ less staff than a year ago.

For much of the past 12 months our local hospitals in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin have continued to face the challenge of trying to discharge people back into the community made all the more difficult by the lack of available care. As was the case a

year ago, this is not due to a lack of care providers, but their inability to recruit and retain staff as a result of the low wages they can afford to pay their staff due in part to the low fee rates payable by local authorities.

This is compounded by significant operational cost pressures over the last 12 months. Inflation as measured by CPI rose by 3.9% in the 12 months to November 2023, but for the period April-September 2023 was significantly higher, ranging from 6.7%-8.7%.

The National Living Wage (NLW) is due to increase by 9.8%, from £10.42 to £11.44 per hour, from 1 April 2024 and whilst this is a positive move for care workers will directly impact on care providers' staff costs. Put simply, if local authority fee rates do not at least cover the increase in NLW this will represent a real terms cut in fee rates. In addition to staff costs, care providers have continued to face significant financial challenges over the last 12 months relating to staff recruitment, energy/utility costs, PPE and other operating costs including insurance, IT and staff travel.

This Council believes:

Both Shropshire Council and Telford & Wrekin Council have been awarded additional funding by central Government, through the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), under the Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund for investment in adult social care in 2023/24. Shropshire Council have been allocated an additional £2,119,773.

DHSC has stated that "local authorities can choose to use the funding to:

- increase fee rates paid to adult social care providers, particularly as we continue to prepare for the implementation of charging reform.
- increase adult social care workforce capacity and retention.
- reduce adult social care waiting times."

Currently this authority has advised that the funding has been invested in building capacity in the local adult social care sector but not increased the fee rates from those they had already agreed for 2023/24 and announced in March 2023.

Most local care providers have grave concerns regarding their financial viability and the sustainability of their business in continuing with local authority-funded care going forward without a significant increase in local authority fee rates from April 2024.

Only 19% of respondents to the survey of care provider members conducted by Partners in Care in October 2023 feel that current local authority fee rates cover their actual weekly operating costs. More than half (54%) of all providers who responded confirmed that they have reduced the amount of local authority funded placements/packages they accept in the past 12 months, with 56% of all respondents also expecting to further reduce the amount of council funded care they provide in the next 12 months if fee rates remain the same in 2024/25.

This Council commits:

To ring-fence the additional £2,119,773 funding secured from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), under the Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund for investment in adult social care in 2023/24.

To commit these funds directly as per the criteria, to increase fee rates paid to adult social care providers, particularly as we continue to prepare for the implementation of charging reform."

b **Motion received from Councillor Alan Mosley and supported by the Labour Group Consultation on Car Parking Increases**

This council notes:

The decision by Shropshire Council cabinet this January to raise £2m income through increasing car parking charges seeks to introduce increases of 33% at St. Julian Friars, 50% at Frankwell, 67% at Abbey Foregate and zero at Raven Meadows. This appears to penalise those who park outside of loop, whilst rewarding those who drive into the centre.

The cabinet proposals also seek to increase charges in the evening until 8pm and introduce them on Sundays and Bank Holidays

The scale of the increases has also sparked a considerable number of objections and concerns raised by the public, residents, workers, businesses and visitors.

Recent surveys and submissions by Shrewsbury BID provide evidence that there is considerable concern about the adverse impact on businesses of all types.

There has been a lack of any meaningful engagement with businesses or the wider public on the rationale and potential impact of the changes.

The proposals as they currently stand could undermine the Shropshire Plan:- “We'll develop Shropshire as a vibrant destination that attracts people to live in, work in, learn in and visit. We'll deliver excellent connectivity and infrastructure, and increasing access to social contact, employment, education, services and leisure opportunities. We will communicate clearly and transparently about what Shropshire Council delivers, signposting to the right places for services and support, and listen to what communities say about their place and what they need.”

This council believes:

1. The proposed hikes, ranging from 29% to 67%, could have a profound and serious impact on our Town's economy and attraction without any other mitigating improvements to town centre access, for example public transport, park and ride, highways infrastructure, active travel. Hence, the new charges pose a significant risk to the Shrewsbury town centre economy and its on-going post- Covid recovery
2. The swingeing increases for Abbey Foregate and Frankwell will have a particularly serious impact on those commuting to work, especially those on low income, where they have no affordable or convenient alternatives.
3. The changes are contrary to proposals within the movement strategy aimed at encouraging parking outside of the river loop.
4. Changes to Sunday and early evening charges could have a particularly seriously impact on the those employed in the night-time, hospitality and cultural economy and on visitors and residents in the town.
5. Many could be deterred from using designated car parks and will seek on-street parking around the town centre, much to the detriment of local residents.

This Council:

1. Recognises the need for a new Parking Strategy to be developed and for a review of the role, structure and staff in the Parking Services operation. This needs to be completed and with full public consultation, before such significant proposals are introduced.
2. So the parking increases need to be paused until such consultation has gathered feedback from those affected, and demonstrated mitigation.

12 Questions from Members (Pages 439 - 440)

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

13 Exclusion of Press and Public

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

14 Exempt Minutes (Pages 441 - 444)

To approve as a correct record the exempt minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 December 2023