

Shropshire Council
Legal and Democratic Services
Shirehall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
SY2 6ND
Date: Tuesday 30 April 2024

Committee: Council

Date: Thursday, 9 May 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 Election of Chairman

To elect a Chairman for the ensuing year

2 Apologies for Absence

3 Appointment of Vice Chairman

To appoint a Vice Chairman for the ensuing year

4 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.

5 Minutes (Pages 1 - 14)

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 March 2024

6 Announcements

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

7 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 5.00pm on Thursday 2 May 2024

Petition

A petition, bearing over 1000 signatures has been received from Tracey Cansdale, requesting a debate under the Council's Petition Scheme. The petition states

"We the undersigned demand a formal consultation on the decision to close the Schools Library Service plus a commitment to rapidly explore and report on options to rehouse the existing library and maintain the service in some form, within a month and before any actions are taken to close it"

The petitioner will be allowed 5 minutes to outline their case, after which there may a debate of up to a maximum of 15 minutes

8 **Constitution of Committees and Allocation of Seats to Political Groups** (Pages 15 - 20)

Report of the Assistant Director – Legal and Governance is attached (**Appendix 2 TO FOLLOW**)

Contact Tim Collard Tel: 01743 252756

9 **Scheme of Delegation**

To resolve that the Responsibility for Functions, set out in Part 3 of the Constitution and the Scheme of Delegations, set out in Part 8 of the Constitution be agreed. There have been no substantive changes since May 2023.

10 **Motions**

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

a **Motion received from Councillor Duncan Kerr and supported by the Green Group**

A peer review of Shropshire Council last year reported that the Council's financial position was perilous. It has got a great deal worse since then. With dramatically increasing demands for statutory services and very restricted funds good stewardship demands that Shropshire Council work as closely as possible with local parish councils who are not facing the pressure on statutory services.

Like so many of the issues now facing Shropshire Council this work could have, and should have, been done in the better times when capacity was higher. As with planting a tree, if the best time was years ago the second-best time is now.

Shropshire Council has shown it can work well with individual town and parish council on an ad-hoc basis in response to funding streams from Government. But this piecemeal approach is insufficient to meet the challenges our communities now face. Now is the time to show that this Council has a genuine commitment to work in full partnership with local councils to maximise efficiencies. It can do this by jointly developing with them a charter.

A model for this already exists in other Unitarity areas such as Northumberland [Northumberland-T-PCC-Charter-FINAL-10-Jan-23.pdf](#). We could rightfully expect that SALC would help in the development of this.

This motion moves that Shropshire Council commit to developing a similar charter by December 2024.

b **Motion submitted by Councillor Julian Dean and supported by the Green Group** Improving local and national performance on climate action

We recognise that local delivery of net zero is essential to the UK's commitments to net zero by 2050 and to 68% emissions reductions by 2030 compared to 1990 levels.

We note that the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) has found that supporting a local approach for delivering net zero by 2050 would be at half the cost of a national approach and would deliver three times the financial returns to our communities. A fair transition to a local net zero economy has the potential to boost prosperity and well-being in every corner of the UK.

We further note that, when it comes to adaptation, the LGA states that “Nationally we are not sufficiently prepared for the impacts of climate change, and central government must prioritise its work with local government to close this gap.” We further note that “For many climate impacts it is the most vulnerable in society that will be most impacted and have the least ability to adapt” (CCC: The Just Transition and Climate Change Adaptation).

We note that analysis of Climate Emergency UK Scorecards on Climate Action highlight that success is aligned with:

- A dedicated portfolio holder
- Having a published climate strategy with SMART targets, including area-wide targets, plus effective reporting.
- Innovative financing for climate action
- Effective area partnerships that include key anchor institutions and influencers
- At present the Shropshire Plan Performance Report contains no KPIs related to corporate or area wide carbon emissions, to modal shift towards active travel and public transport or to the decarbonisation of heating in Shropshire homes, as examples of potential areas for SMART targets.

At present there is no effective publicly visible partnership with public or private sector institutions working together on a green transition for Shropshire.

This Council therefore resolves to ask Cabinet to examine best practice across these areas and to bring forward proposals to develop / improve the council’s measuring and reporting against both council and area wide mitigation and adaptation targets; to include KPIs for the Shropshire Plan; and for innovative financing of projects - in particular looking at municipal bonds that can raise both finance and awareness amongst residents; and for establishing an effective and public facing partnership with anchor institutions and others, ensuring decision makers are brought together.

Council notes the Mission Zero Coalition statement that “The quickest, cheapest and fairest route to net-zero is through local authorities. As analysis has shown, local-led action could save the UK £140bn in reaching net-zero compared to a top-down approach, while delivering almost double the energy savings and social benefits”

We note the results of a recent LGA survey suggesting that 67% of councils are not confident in hitting their net zero targets.

This Council therefore resolves to ask all political parties to commit the next Government to deliver a new partnership deal between councils and government that will enable councils and local communities to accelerate local decarbonisation and adaptation. This new partnership should include:

- Government departments and councils working together within a Local Net Zero Delivery Unit, overseen by a Delivery Board, with the authority to transform the funding and regulatory landscape.
- A Local Net Zero Data and Reporting Framework to ensure better accountability and scrutiny.
(These proposals were developed by UK100 - to which Shropshire Council belongs)
- A local climate ‘test’ applied to all government decisions – from housing to skills - that guarantees support, rather than conflict, with local climate action (as proposed)

by the LGA)

Council further resolves to ask all political parties to commit to giving Local Authorities statutory duties, powers and funding to enable a Net Zero transition in line with the UKs legal commitments

Council asks our group leaders to write to their respective national parties calling on them to make these commitments.

Council asks our council leadership and our elected members to use every forum available to press the case for these changes in the relationship between national and local government to help accelerate meaningful action on decarbonisation and adaptation.

11 Questions from Members (Pages 21 - 22)

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

12 Future Meeting Dates

To agree that the meetings of the Council in 2024 – 2025 will be held on the following Thursdays, commencing at 10.00 am.

18 July 2024

26 September 2024

12 December 2024

27 February 2025

27 March 2025

22 May 2025