

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](mailto: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](mailto: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



## Committee and Date

Council

9 May 2024

## COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2024**

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

**10.00 am - 2.50 pm**

**Responsible Officer:** Tim Ward

Email: [tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk) Tel: 01743 257713

### **Present**

Councillors Vince Hunt (Chairman), Lezley Picton (Leader), Brian Williams (Vice Chairman), Ian Nellins (Deputy Leader), Roy Aldcroft, Jeff Anderson, Caroline Bagnall, Nicholas Bardsley, Joyce Barrow, Bernie Bentick, Thomas Biggins, Ed Bird, Peter Broomhall, Julia Buckley, Garry Burchett, Gwilym Butler, Dean Carroll, Steve Charmley, Rachel Connolly, Gerald Dakin, Steve Davenport, Mary Davies, Geoff Elner, Julia Evans, Roger Evans, Paul Gill, Rob Gittins, Nat Green, Kate Halliday, Simon Harris, Nigel Hartin, Nick Hignett, Ruth Houghton, Tracey Huffer, Kirstie Hurst-Knight, Mark Jones, Simon Jones, Duncan Kerr, Heather Kidd, Christian Lea, Hilary Luff, Nigel Lumby, Robert Macey, David Minnery, Dan Morris, Pamela Moseley, Alan Mosley, Cecilia Motley, Peggy Mullock, Kevin Pardy, Vivienne Parry, Tony Parsons, Chris Schofield, Andrew Sherrington, Dan Thomas, Edward Towers, Kevin Turley, David Vasmer, Alex Wagner, Claire Wild, Mark Williams, Rob Wilson and Paul Wynn

### **93 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Andy Boddington, Ted Clarke, Rosemary Dartnall, Julian Dean, David Evans, Richard Huffer, Mike Isherwood, Ed Potter, Colin Taylor and Robert Tindall

### **94 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

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

Councillor Jeff Anderson declared an interest in agenda item 10 – Shrewsbury Town Centre Regeneration: Smithfield Riverside Phase One Development. He left the room for the duration of this item.

Councillor Lezley Picton declared an interest in agenda item 10 – Shrewsbury Town Centre Regeneration: Smithfield Riverside Phase One Development. She left the room for the duration of this item

Councillor Claire Wild declared an interest in agenda item 10 – Shrewsbury Town Centre Regeneration: Smithfield Riverside Phase One Development. She left the room for the duration of this item

95 **Minutes**

**RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 February 2024, as circulated with the agenda papers, be approved and signed as a correct record.

96 **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 29 February 2024, which had been emailed prior to the meeting.

97 **Public Questions**

The Chairman advised that public questions had been received from Kate Butler, Patricia Kapalo, Victoria Moore, Tamarin Bibow, Mike Dineen and Andrew Bebb.

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, 21st March, 2024, 10.00 am — Shropshire Council](#)

**Petitions**

The Speaker advised that a petition bearing more than 1,000 signatures received from Shrewsbury BID, requesting a debate under the Council's Petition Scheme. The petition requests that the Council: Halt damaging parking charge hikes. Darren Tompkins on behalf of Shrewsbury BID was given 5 minutes to open the debate and outline his case, which was briefly as follows;

- Raising the parking charges would have a lasting economic impact on the town centre
- Many of those employed in the town centre will not be able to afford the increased parking charges
- The current public transport provision and the Park and Rider service is inadequate

In closing he asked that the Council

1. Limit future tariff increases in line with inflation
2. Consult the business community on all changes to the town centre access and
3. Implement coordinated plans to transform movement and grow the economy.

In response the Portfolio Holder for Highways stated that the Council was subject to the same inflationary pressures as other business which is what had prompted the



proposed increases but as a result of the concerns raised by the BID and some of the proposals being referred back to cabinet by the Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee, the Council have been carefully considering the original proposals and that some changes were being looked at and would be presented to cabinet for consideration at its April meeting.

After a short debate the Portfolio Holder proposed that he write to the petitioners setting out the Councils position.

On being put to a recorded vote with 38 Members voting for, 22 against and 2 abstentions as follows

**FOR:**

Councillors Aldcroft, Anderson, Bagnall, Bardsley, Barrow, Biggins, Bird, Broomhall, Burchett, Butler, Carroll, Charmley, Dakin, Davenport, Elner, Gill, Gittins, Harris, Hignett, Hunt, Hurst- Knight, M Jones, S Jones, Lea, Luff, Lumby, Macey, Morris, Motley, Mullock, Nellins, Picton, Schofield, Thomas, Turley, Wild, B Williams and Wynn

**AGAINST:**

Councillors Buckley, Connolly, Davies, J Evans, Green, Halliday, Hartin, Houghton, T Huffer, Kerr, Kidd, Moseley, Mosley, Pardy, Parry, Parsons, Sherrington, Towers, Vasmer, Wagner, M Williams and Wilson

**ABSTENTION:**

Councillors Bentick and R Evans

It was **RESOLVED:**

That the Portfolio Holder write to the Petitioners setting out the Councils position

**98 Establishment of the Children's Improvement Board**

It was proposed by Councillor Kirstie Hurst-Knight, Portfolio Holder for Children and Education and seconded by Councillor Peggy Mullock that the report of the Executive Director of People, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

Councillor Julia Buckley proposed that the Chair of the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee should be added to the list of Core Attendees in the Terms of Reference. The Portfolio Holder for Children and Education confirmed that Councillor Mullock would be a member of the Board and that she should be added to the list of core attendees.

A Member asked that a Member Briefing be held on the Child Improvement Plan. They were advised that a member briefing was planned and details would be put on the Member Portal when they were available.

**RESOLVED:**

That Council approve the formal establishment of a Children's Improvement Board with the Terms of Reference set out at Appendix 1 subject to the addition of the Chair of the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Peggy Mullock to the list of core attendees.

**99 Senior Officer Employment Procedure**

It was proposed by Councillor Gwilym Butler, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Corporate Resources and Communities and seconded by The Leader Councillor Lezley Picton that the report of the Assistant Director Workforce & Improvement, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

Councillor Buckley questioned whether the proposal should have been considered by the Policy Forum and the EJCC prior to being brought to the meeting.

The Chair proposed that the item be deferred to later in the meeting so that advice could be sought on whether the proposals should have been considered by the Policy Forum and EJCC. This was agreed.

Following receipt of advice, the Portfolio Holder advised Members that the proposals were updating procedure linked to the Council's standing orders in the Constitution for chief officers. The remit of the EJCC is to approve HR policy for the National Joint Committee (NJC) and that as this procedure is for chief officers who are covered by the JNC not the NJC, it would not therefore be considered by EJCC but that following council consideration and approval reports such as this would be shared with the trade unions, out of courtesy.

Councillor Buckley proposed that consideration be deferred to allow consultation with the Trade Unions. This was seconded by Councillor Sherrington.

Following a vote with 22 votes for and 37 against the proposition was not supported.

Following a vote with 37 for and 22 against it was **RESOLVED**

That Council:

1. Adopt the proposed procedure attached at Appendix 1.
2. Establish the Chief Officer Employment Panel.
3. Delegate to the Assistant Director for Workforce and Improvement the power to make minor amendments to the procedure in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate Resources.

## 100 **Community Governance Reviews**

It was proposed by Councillor Gwilym Butler, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Corporate Resources and Communities and seconded by Councillor Nick Bardsley that the report of the Assistant Director – Legal and Governance, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

### **RESOLVED**

That the draft proposals for the following Community Governance reviews set out in appendices 1 to 5 be approved for consultation:

- (a) Albrighton/Donington
- (b) Baschurch/Pimhill (Bomere Heath and District)
- (c) Ludlow/Ludford
- (d) Market Drayton/Adderley
- (e) Shrewsbury

## 101 **Adoption of Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Development Plan**

It was proposed by Councillor Chris Schofield, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulatory Services and seconded by Councillor Simon Harris 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 Shropshire Council, as the Local Planning Authority 'makes' i.e. adopts the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Development Plan (as set out in Appendix 1) and brings it into force with immediate effect as part of the Development Plan for Shropshire.

## 102 **Shrewsbury Town Centre Regeneration: Smithfield Riverside Phase One Development Activities**

*In accordance with their declaration, Councillors Anderson, Picton and Wild left the room during consideration of the following item*

It was proposed by Councillor Ian Nellins, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, Environment and Transport and seconded by Councillor Garry Burchett 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.

By way of amendment Councillor Nat Green proposed that consideration of appendix E be deferred to allow of the results of the consultation with residents to be published and fully considered. This was seconded by Councillor Alex Wagner

Following a vote with 25 for, 33 against and 1 abstention the amendment was not supported.

Following further debate and on being put to a recorded vote with 39 Members voting for, 1 against and 19 abstentions as follows

**FOR:**

Councillors Aldcroft, Bardsley, Barrow, Biggins, Bird, Broomhall, Buckley, Burchett, Butler, Carroll, Charmley, Dakin, Davenport, Elnor, Gill, Gittins, Halliday, Harris, Hignett, Hunt, Hurst- Knight, M Jones, S Jones, Lea, Luff, Lumby, Macey, Morris, Moseley, Motley, Mullock, Nellins, Pardy, Parsons, Schofield, Thomas, Towers, B Williams and Wynn

**AGAINST:**

Councillor Turley

**ABSTENTION:**

Councillors Bagnall, Bentick Connolly, Davies, J Evans, R Evans, Green, Hartin, Houghton, T Huffer, Kerr, Kidd, Minnery, Parry, Sherrington, Towers, Vasmer, Wagner, M Williams and Wilson

It was **RESOLVED:**

1. With reference to the recommendations of the Cabinet report of 18 October 2023 titled Shrewsbury Town Centre Regeneration: Smithfield Riverside Phase One and subsequently informed by the outcomes of the stakeholder engagement and public consultation programme October - November 2023 (as summarised appendix A):
  - 1.1. Approve the masterplan for the wider Smithfield Riverside redevelopment area (appendix B), as explained in more detail at paragraph 2.4.1 of the report.
  - 1.2. Approve the planning strategy for future phases of development for the Shrewsbury Town Centre Redevelopment Programme: Smithfield Riverside Phase One (appendix C), as explained in more detail at paragraph 2.4.2 of the report.
  - 1.3. Progress the demolition of the former Riverside shopping centre and enabling works and the construction of the linear park to Roushill and associated temporary greenspace, as a capital project to completion, within the Levelling Up Fund grant award titled Smithfield Riverside Redevelopment Programme (Project 1) of £14.85m, (appendix D) as explained in more detail at paragraph 2.5 of the report.
  - 1.4. Approve the reprofiling of currently approved funding streams, as summarised in section 5 of the report

With reference to the recommendations of the Cabinet report of 19 April 2023 titled Levelling Up Fund Award for Shrewsbury, subsequently informed by the outcomes of the public consultation exercise (8 February – 5 March 2024, appendix E):

- 1.5. Progress the construction of the highway improvements to the gyratory adjacent to Shrewsbury rail station, and the active travel improvements, as a capital project, all within the Levelling Up Fund grant award titled Transforming Movement and Public Spaces in Shrewsbury (Project 2) of £3.852m, as explained in more detail at paragraph 7.12 of the report.
2. Delegate responsibility to the Executive Director of Place, in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and the Portfolio Holders for Climate Change, Environment and Transport, Economic Growth and Regeneration and Housing and Assets, to:
  - 2.1. progress the capital projects (items 3.1.3 and 3.2.1 above), to include, but not limited to, completion of contract documentation, receipt/ acceptance of tenders and contract management to completion on-site.
  - 2.2. enter negotiations with cinema operators, hospitality, food and beverage providers and potential commercial tenants, relevant to opportunities within the development sites of the former Pride Hill and Riverside shopping centres. Such negotiations to include receipt of offers, agree Heads of Terms and prepare lease arrangements, undertaking all due diligence as required. All as potential opportunities identified in the masterplanning process (item 3.1.1 above). The outcomes of the negotiations will be included in a further report for approval by Cabinet and Council.

### 103 **Post-16 Transport Task and Finish Group**

It was proposed by Councillor Ian Nellins, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, Environment and Transport and seconded by Councillor Kirstie Hurst-Knight Portfolio Holder for Children and Education that the report of the Assistant Director of Education and Achievement and the Passenger Transport Group Manager, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

#### **RESOLVED**

That the content of the report be noted

### 104 **Annual Report of the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Public Health**

It was proposed by Councillor Cecilia Motley, Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health that the report, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes, and the recommendations therein be received and agreed.

Councillor Motley presented and amplified her report and responded to questions, concerns and comments.

A Member asked that more budget information be included in future reports.

**RESOLVED:**

That the contents of the report be noted.

**105 Annual report – Heath & Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Including Joint HOSC)**

Councillor Steve Charmley former chair of the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee presented the annual report of the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2022-23. He outlined the work that had been carried out by the Committee and thanked members of the committee and officers for all their work. He then took questions.

A Member commented that a major concerns for residents on the Welsh borders was the proposed closure of the Welsh Air Ambulance Base in Welshpool and asked that this be put on the work programme for discussion.

Members noted the contents of the report

**106 Annual Report of the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, Environment & Transport**

It was proposed by Councillor Ian Nellins, Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, Environment and Transport that the report, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes, and the recommendations therein be received and agreed.

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

A Member commented that the cap on energy efficiency grants often didn't meet the costs for owners of park homes and asked that the Portfolio Holder lobby government on this matter.

**RESOLVED:**

That the contents of the report be noted.

**107 Annual report – Place Overview Committee**

Councillor Joyce Barrow Chair of the Place Overview Committee presented the annual report of the Place Overview Committee for 2022-23. She outlined the work that had been carried out by the Committee and thanked members of the committee and officers for all their work. She then took questions.

Members noted the contents of the report.

## 108 **Appointment to Committees**

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.

### Northern Planning Committee

Councillor Colin Taylor to be appointed a substitute member of the Northern Planning Committee

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the following changes in committee membership be agreed

### Northern Planning Committee

Councillor Colin Taylor to be appointed a substitute member of the Northern Planning Committee

## 109 **Motions**

### **The following motion was received from Councillor Kirstie Hurst-Knight and supported by Councillors Duncan Kerr, Peggy Mullock and Tony Parsons**

Motion for Shropshire Council to accept a proposal that individuals with care experience are treated as if it were a Protected Characteristic

#### **This Council notes:**

To be 'care experienced' a young person or adult will have been looked after by the local authority as a child. The Independent Review of Children's Social Care headed by Josh McCallister published in May 2022 a final report and recommendations that included: "Government should make care experience a protected characteristic" .

Many care experienced people face discrimination, stigma, and prejudice in their day to day lives. Hearing testimony from care experienced people sharing the discrimination they have experienced, even from a very young age, it is clear that such discrimination can be similar in nature to other groups that have a legally protected characteristic under the Equality Act (2010). Despite the resilience of many care-experienced people, society too often does not take their needs into account. Care experienced people often face discrimination and stigma across housing, health, education, relationships, employment and in the criminal justice system.

#### **This Council understands:**

Every elected member and employee of this Council - along with our partner agencies - is a corporate parent to the children in our care.

Introducing a protected characteristic for care experience will mean that some of our most vulnerable residents within the borough will be happier, healthier and safer and

have the confidence and opportunities to be ambitious and strive to achieve their goals.

All corporate parents should be champions of the children in our care and challenge the negative attitudes and prejudice that exists in all aspects of society. The Public Sector Equality Duty requires public bodies, such as councils, to eliminate unlawful discrimination.

**This Council therefore resolves:**

- That it recognises that care experienced people are a group who are likely to face discrimination. .
- That it recognises that Councils have a duty to put the needs of disadvantaged people at the heart of decision-making through co-production and collaboration.
- That future decision, services and policies made and adopted by the Council should be assessed through Equality Impact Assessments to determine the impact of changes on people with care experience, alongside those who formally share a protected characteristic.
- That in the delivery of the Public Sector Equality Duty the Council includes care experience in the publication and review of Equality Objectives and the annual publication of information relating to people who share a protected characteristic in services and employment.
- That this Council will treat care experience as if it were a Protected Characteristic.
- To formally call upon all other bodies to treat care experience as a protected characteristic until such time as it may be introduced by legislation.
- For the council to continue proactively seeking out and listening to the voices of care experienced people when developing new policies based on their views.

On taking a vote the motion was unanimously supported.

**The following motion was received from Councillor Rachel Connolly and supported by the Labour Group**

The original motion on Digital Switchover as set out on the agenda was altered by Councillor Rachel Connolly and presented to the council as follows:

**Digital Switchover**

This Council notes:

Looming over the horizon is a significant change to how telecommunications in Britain operate as the UK's landline telephone network is being decommissioned, with an upgrade to digital telephone lines by the end of 2025.



For most residents, the upgrade will be as simple as connecting their home phone handset to a router rather than the phone socket on the wall. However, there could be significant implications for many residents in Shropshire as there will be changes to how telephones, emergency alarms and other telecommunication devices are used. For the many elderly residents without broadband or a computer this change will be particularly difficult.

It is likely that many people will be surprised and inconvenienced by these changes with the possibility of many unforeseen circumstances if people are not fully prepared.

This Council Believes:

That telephone providers should be contacting all their customers to make them aware of the changes and have moved their customers onto the new digital services by November 2025.

There is a webpage on the Council's website with some information and messaging about the digital switchover is planned for the Council Tax leaflet due to be sent out in March.

This Council commits:

That Shropshire Council act to mitigate the potential problems of this move to a fully digital telecommunications system across the county by creating a support network to advise and guide residents, especially senior citizens and the most vulnerable, through this change.

That Shropshire Council works with local and wider business partners such as our local libraries to communicate, regularly and repeatedly, via social media, news stories, written leaflets and other forms of media such as websites to mitigate against potential issues for the residents of Shropshire.

By way of amendment Councillor Robert Macey proposed

In the council notes section replace:

“For the many elderly residents without broadband or a computer this change will be particularly difficult.”

With

For those people without broadband or access to reliable mobile coverage this change could be particularly difficult.

And replace:

“It is likely that many people will be surprised and inconvenienced by these changes with the possibility of many unforeseen circumstances if people are not fully prepared.”

With

It is possible that people will be surprised and inconvenienced by these changes with the possibility of unforeseen circumstances if people are not fully prepared.

In the council believes section delete and replace with:

The telephone providers should be following the best practice as set out by the regulator OFCOM to ensure customers are aware of the changes and provisions are made to migrate customers onto the new digital services by November 2025.

In the council commits section delete and replace with:

To continue providing information for residents about the digital switchover through its dedicated webpage and other communication channels.

To continue the work of the cross-party Digital Connectivity Member Group in informing any further initiatives regarding the digital switchover.

To continue our work with Shropshire Digital Exclusion Network which is already considering the digital switchover and has representation from organisations working across the county

On taking a vote the amendment was supported

On taking a vote it was **RESOLVED**

### **Digital Switchover**

This Council notes:

Looming over the horizon is a significant change to how telecommunications in Britain operate as the UK’s landline telephone network is being decommissioned, with an upgrade to digital telephone lines by the end of 2025.

For most residents, the upgrade will be as simple as connecting their home phone handset to a router rather than the phone socket on the wall. However, there could be significant implications for many residents in Shropshire as there will be changes to how telephones, emergency alarms and other telecommunication devices are used. For those people without broadband or access to reliable mobile coverage this change could be particularly difficult. .

It is possible that people will be surprised and inconvenienced by these changes with the possibility of unforeseen circumstances if people are not fully prepared.

This Council Believes:

The telephone providers should be following the best practice as set out by the regulator OFCOM to ensure customers are aware of the changes and provisions are made to migrate customers onto the new digital services by November 2025.

This Council commits:

To continue providing information for residents about the digital switchover through its dedicated webpage and other communication channels.

To continue the work of the cross-party Digital Connectivity Member Group in informing any further initiatives regarding the digital switchover.

To continue our work with Shropshire Digital Exclusion Network which is already considering the digital switchover and has representation from organisations working across the county

**110 Questions from Members**

The Chairman 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 Dan Thomas in relation to male mental health support. Cllr Thomas thanked the Portfolio Holder for her comprehensive response.

**111 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.

**RESOLVED:**

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

Signed ..... (Chairman)

Date: .....

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**Annual Council**

**9 May 2024**

Item

Public



## CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES AND THE ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO POLITICAL GROUPS

<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Tim Collard		
email:	tim.collard@shropshire.gov.uk	Tel:	(01743) 252756
<b>Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):</b>	Councillor Lezley Picton		

### 1. Synopsis

- 1.1 This report deals with the overall constitution of committees, the overall entitlement of seats for each of the political groups and the proportionate allocation of seats between the groups across all committees.

### 2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 require the Council to review the representation of each political group on committees, panels etc. at each annual meeting or as soon as practicable after that meeting. The regulations require that all Scrutiny, Standing and Regulatory Committees are politically balanced across the total number of committee places. Subject to that overriding requirement, each committee must also be politically balanced, as far as it is reasonably practicable.
- 2.2 The Executive (Cabinet) is not subject to the political balance rules.
- 2.3 Advisory Committees and other ad hoc bodies and groups are not subject to the political balance rules either, but traditionally political proportionality has been applied to them outside the overall aggregate balance referred to in paragraph 2.1 above.

### 3. Recommendations

- 3.1. That the Council confirms the constitution of committees and the allocation of seats to each of the political groups for the 2024/25 municipal year and the allocation of seats between the political groups, as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 to this report.

## Report

### 4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1. The Council is obliged to ensure that the membership of committees and related bodies is proportionate to individual group membership.

### 5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. The allocation of seats on Committees will have no obvious financial implications.

### 6. Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.1. The allocation of seats on Committees will have no obvious impact in terms of climate change.

### 7. Background

- 7.1. The Council is requested to approve the overall constitution of committees.
- 7.2. This requires 108 seats to be allocated proportionately across all committees and the Council is requested to approve the overall constitution as set out below:

<b><u>Committee Name</u></b>	<b><u>Seats per Committee</u></b>
Transformation and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee	11
People Overview and Scrutiny Committee	11
Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	11
Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	11
Pensions Committee	4
Audit Committee	5
Strategic Licensing Committee	15
Standards Committee	9
Southern Planning Committee	11
Northern Planning Committee	11
Housing Supervisory Board	9
Total	<u>108</u>

### 8. Allocation of Seats

- 8.1. The Council is required to approve the allocation of seats to the political groups for the coming year.
- 8.2 The maximum number of seats available to each group within the political balance rules will be:

<u>Group Name</u>	<u>Seats per Group</u>
Conservatives	60
Liberal Democrats	24
Labour	14
Independent	5
Green	5
Total	<u>108</u>

- 8.3 The proportionate allocation of seats to the political groups across all committees is set out in Appendix 1 and the proposed allocation of these totals to individual members, in accordance with the wishes of the respective Group Leaders, is set out in Appendix 2 to this report (To Follow).
- 8.4 The Council is entitled to 10 seats on the Shropshire and Wrekin Combined Fire Authority. Under the present arrangements, the Conservative Group is entitled to 6 seats, the Liberal Democrat Group 2 seats, the Labour Group 1 seat and the Independent Group 1 seat.
- 8.5 The proposed allocation of seats meets the legal requirements, however, should the Council wish, it is possible to agree allocations which are not strictly politically balanced if no Member dissents.

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

Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and Regulations made thereunder.

**Local Member:** All

**Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Constitution of Committees and Allocation of Seats to Political Groups  
 Appendix 2 – Proposed Allocation of Seats to Political Groups (**To Follow**)

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## APPENDIX 1

### ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO POLITICAL GROUPS

Composition of the Council	Cons	Lib Dem	Lab	Ind	Green	Total
	39	17	10	4	4	74

#### SCRUTINY

	Cons	Lib Dem	Lab	Ind	Green	Total
Transformation and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee	6	2	2	1	0	11
People Overview and Scrutiny Committee	6	3	1	0	1	11
Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	6	3	1	1	0	11
Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	6	2	2	0	1	11

#### STANDING AND REGULATORY

	Cons	Lib Dem	Lab	Ind	Green	Total
Pensions Committee	3	1	0	0	0	4
Audit Committee	3	1	1	0	0	5
Standards	5	2	1	1	0	9
Strategic Licensing Committee	8	3	2	1	1	15
Northern Planning Committee	6	3	1	0	1	11
Southern Planning Committee	6	2	2	1	0	11
Housing Supervisory Board	5	2	1	0	1	9
<b>Aggregate No Seats Required</b>	60	24	14	5	5	108

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## MEMBER QUESTIONS

COUNCIL 9 MAY 2024

### **Question from Councillor Rosemary Dartnall**

A Procedural Question about Full Council Meetings

I have made some enquiries and it would seem that for some time a procedure has been adopted at full council only, whereby members' questions and answers are not read out. The member is simply asked if they have a supplementary question, following the written response supplied.

At all other committee meetings, members' ask their submitted questions following the constitution (15.2, 15.4, 15.7). The procedure employed at full council leads to a very disjointed question process which members of the public attending or listening online, would find strange and opaque.

When, how and why was this modification made? Can we please adopt forthwith the same procedure for members' questions at full council used in all other committee settings?

### **Response from Councillor Lezley Picton , Leader and Portfolio Holder for Policy and Strategy, Improvement and Communications**

It is my understanding that the Council has adopted the approach of publishing member questions and answers with the agenda since the establishment of the Unitary Authority in 2009 and this is specifically provided for in paragraph 15.2 of the Council Procedure Rules. It is also the reason why 12 working days' notice of a question is required by paragraph 15.4 (unless its urgent). However, I do agree that the wording of paragraph 15.7 suggests the question will be asked at the meeting. Given that it is now some two years since we introduced the new arrangements regarding word counts and notice periods etc, I think it would be appropriate for the Group Leaders to review the whole issue of member, and indeed public questions, within the Constitution Working Group."

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