

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

Date: Wednesday, 4 December 2024

**Committee: Council**

**Date: Thursday, 12 December 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 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 - 16)

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 September 2024

## 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 12.00 noon on Friday 6 December 2024

## 6 Questions from Members

To receive any questions from Members, notice of which has been given in accordance with Procedure Rule 15.2. Deadline for notification is 12.00 noon on Friday 6 December 2024

## 7 Shropshire Corporate Parenting (Pages 17 - 98)

Report of the Executive Director of People attached

Contact Tanya Miles Tel: 01743 255811

## 8 Annual Report of the Portfolio Holder for Children and Education (Pages 99 - 124)

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Children and Education is attached

## 9 Setting the Council Tax Taxbase for 2025/26 (Pages 125 - 152)

Report of the Executive Director, Resources is attached

Contact: James Walton. Tel. 01743 258915

- 10 Treasury Strategy 24/25 – Mid Year Review** (Pages 153 - 180)  
Report of the Executive Director, Resources is attached  
Contact: James Walton. Tel. 01743 258915
- 11 Gambling Act 2005 Policy Statement 2025 to 2028** (Pages 181 - 336)  
Report of the Transactional and Licensing Team Manager is attached.  
Contact: Mandy Beever (01743 251702)
- 12 Shrewsbury Movement and Public Space Strategy** (Pages 337 - 508)  
Report of the Executive Director of Place is attached  
Contact Mark Barrow Tel: 01743258919
- 13 Interim Polling District, Polling Place and Polling Station Review 2024** (Pages 509 - 518)  
Report of Returning Officer is attached  
Contact: Andy Begley, 01743 258675
- 14 Electoral Services - Scale of Fees 2025/26** (Pages 519 - 530)  
Report of Returning Officer is attached  
Contact: Andy Begley, 01743 258675
- 15 Response to Government Consultation on Remote Attendance/Proxy Voting** (Pages 531 - 540)  
Report of the Assistant Director – Legal and Governance is attached  
Contact Tim Collard Tel: 01743 252756
- 16 Constitution of Committees and Allocation of Seats** (Pages 541 - 548)  
Report of the Assistant Director – Legal and Governance is attached  
Contact Tim Collard Tel: 01743 252756
- 17 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**  
It has been widely reported that Oswestry Post Office is one of 115 in the country at risk of closure by the Post Office. This office provides a much needed and valuable service particularly for the elderly and other people with protected characteristics under the Equalities Act.

This Council expresses its absolute opposition to any closure or diminution in services from the Oswestry Post office and calls on the MP for North Shropshire to express in the strongest terms the opposition of residents to this proposal

**b Motion received from Councillor Andy Boddington and supported by Councillors Richard Huffer, Tracey Huffer and Rob Wilson**

**Preamble**

Council will be aware of the concerns of farmers over the imposition of Inheritance Tax (IHT) now that the threshold for Agricultural Property Relief (APR) and Business Property Relief (BPR) has been set at £1 million. This has caused distress among farm owners in Shropshire and beyond, especially those who run smaller and family farms. They fear that payment of IHT by their successors will lead to land being sold to larger farms and investors, ending the centuries old tradition of family farms providing food and protecting the landscape of our county.

Farmers tend to be capital rich and cash poor, especially small farmers. Estimates of the number of small farms with land and business assets valued at £1 million vary from 33% (Treasury) to 66% (Defra). However, the most recent estimate from the NFU suggests that 75% of farms will be affected. It also showed that medium sized farms will not be protected by the ten-year payment window because the IHT payments would be higher than the income on those farms. The average farm sees a 1% return on capital.

The policy IHT will relentlessly erode small family farms. Our future farm landscape will be increasingly large landowners who manage for profit or tax avoidance, not as a livelihood.

The £1 million threshold is unrealistically low and would damage the small family owned farms in Shropshire. In 2021, Shropshire had 3,686 farms. Of these, more than four in five are under 100 hectares. Agriculture is one of the counties largest employers.

Family farms are important to our county. They are the places in which transfer of knowledge and skills needed to manage farms is inherited from generation to generation. The new IHT regime as proposed would cause irrevocable erosion of that knowledge and the irrevocable loss of family farms.

**Motion**

This Council supports the family and small farmers of Shropshire. It recognises the important contribution they make to providing food and renewable energy, protecting the county's ecology and the beauty of Shropshire's landscape. It recognises that the farming community is a critical part of the social, economic and environmental fabric of rural Shropshire.

Council agrees that:

1. The Leader writes to the minister for farming and secretary of state for Defra urging them to deploy a fairer tax regime for farmers that ensures that small and medium size farms remain viable and that family farms can remain in family ownership.
2. The Leader writes to Shropshire's MPs asking that they use their best endeavours to support family and smaller farms affected by the proposed IHT regime, including lobbying the government to develop alternatives to the 20% at £1 million threshold put forward in the October budget.

**18 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

**19 Exempt Minutes (Pages 549 - 552)**

To approve as a correct record the exempt minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 September 2024

**20 Chief Executive and Chief Officer Pay Award 2024/25 (Pages 553 - 558)**

Exempt report of the Executive Director Resources is attached

Contact: James Walton. Tel. 01743 258915