

Shropshire Council
Legal and Democratic Services
Guildhall,
Frankwell Quay,
Shrewsbury
SY3 8HQ

Date: Wednesday, 3 December 2025

Committee: Council

Date: Thursday, 11 December 2025

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: The Council Chamber, The Guildhall, Frankwell Quay, Shrewsbury, SY3 8HQ

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
Service Director – Legal, Governance and Planning

Duncan Borrowman
(Chairman)
Gary Groves (Vice-Chair)
Heather Kidd (Leader)
Alex Wagner (Deputy Leader)
Sho Abdul
Caroline Bagnall
Elizabeth Barker
Bernie Bentick
Neil Bentley
Ed Bird
Jeremy Blandford
Andy Boddington
Thomas Clayton
Susan Coleman
Rachel Connolly
Tom Dainty
Jamie Daniels
Rosemary Dartnall
David Davies

Pamela Davies
Andy Davis
Julian Dean
Joshua Dickin
Mandy Duncan
Greg Ebbs
Susan Eden
Donna Edmunds
Craig Emery
Brian Evans
Roger Evans
Adam Fejfer
Rhys Gratton
Andy Hall
Kate Halliday
Harry Hancock-Davies
Nick Hignett
Alan Holford
George Hollyhead
Ruth Houghton

Dawn Husemann
Peter Husemann
Benedict Jephcott
Robert Jones
Duncan Kerr
Christopher Lemon
Nigel Lumby
Brendan Mallon
Sarah Marston
David Minnery
Vicky Moore
Mark Morris
Alan Mosley
Malcolm Myles-Hook
Chris Naylor
James Owen
Mark Owen
Wendy Owen
Vivienne Parry
Ed Potter

Rosie Radford
Sharon Ritchie-Simmons
Carl Rowley
Charles Shackerley-Bennett
Colin Stanford
Jon Tandy

Colin Taylor
Dan Thomas
Teri Trickett
David Vasmer
Beverley Waite
David Walker

Sam Walmsley
Alison Williams
Rob Wilson

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 - 10)

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 September 2025

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 at Council, Cabinet and Committee Meetings (Pages 11 - 12)

Report of the Service Director Legal, Governance and Planning is attached

Contact Tim Collard Tel: 01743 252756

6 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 5 December 2025

7 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 5 December 2025

8 Auditors Annual Report

Report of the Executive Director, Resources is **to follow**

Contact: James Walton. Tel. 01743 258915

9 Improvement Plan (Pages 13 - 68)

Report of the Interim Chief Executive is attached

Contact; Tanya Miles Email: tanya.miles@shropshire.gov.uk

10 People Plan (Pages 69 - 112)

Report of the Executive Director Public Health is attached

Contact: Rachel Robinson Tel 01743 252003

11 Setting the Council Tax Taxbase for 2026/27 (Pages 113 - 142)

Report of the Executive Director, Resources is attached

Contact: James Walton. Tel. 01743 258915

12 Treasury Strategy 2025/26 Mid-Year Review (Pages 143 - 166)

Report of the Executive Director, Resources is attached

Contact: James Walton. Tel. 01743 258915

13 Children's Services Annual Report

Report of the Service Director – Children and Young People is **To Follow**

Contact: Sonya Miller Tel: 01743 254264

14 Appointment of Interim Chief Executive, Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer (Pages 167 - 170)

Report of the Service Director Legal, Governance and Planning is attached

Contact Tim Collard Tel: 01743 252756

15 Appointment of Independent Remuneration Panel members

Report of the Service Director Legal, Governance and Planning is **To Follow**

Contact Tim Collard Tel: 01743 252756

16 Changes to Committee Membership

Audit & Governance Committee

Councillor Greg Ebbs to replace Councillor Chris Naylor as a substitute member of the Audit and Governance Committee

17 Motions

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

**a Motion received from Councillors Alex Wagner and Dan Thomas and supported by Councillors Duncan Kerr and Dawn Husemann
Enhancing Accessibility of Council Meetings**

This Council recognises the importance of ensuring that all elected members, regardless of employment status, are able to fully participate in the democratic process and contribute to the work of Shropshire Council.

All Scrutiny and Committee meetings are currently scheduled during standard working

hours. This timing can present barriers to engagement for members who work full-time or have other daytime commitments. To improve accessibility and inclusivity for all Members and the Public, this Council resolves to:

1. Move a selection of Scrutiny and other Committee meetings to a 6pm start time, with the aim of enabling greater participation from working-age members.
2. Request that Democratic Services continue to consult with Group Leaders and Committee Chairs to identify suitable meetings for evening scheduling.
3. Review the impact of this change after a twelve-month period from implementation, including feedback from members and officers, to assess its effectiveness and sustainability.

This Motion seeks to modernise our approach to member engagement and ensure that Shropshire Council remains representative and responsive to the needs of all its elected members.

b **Motion received from Councillor Brendan Mallon and supported by Councillors Dawn Husemann, Carl Rowley, Harry Hancock Davies and George Hollyhead**
Members of the Economy and Environment Committee were recently briefed on the proposed Sundorne Sports Village redevelopment. Some of us were disappointed to see that Pyrolysis technology has not been considered for the requirement to supply both bulk heating and electrical energy for the facility, seemingly an ideal solution for such an application.

Instead, a multi-million pound system of air source heat pumps and solar panels has been selected. This technology will somewhat mitigate reliance on the world's most expensive electricity grid but will still be highly dependent on that grid in low light and/or low temperature conditions. The production and supply chain for the solar panels in particular involves highly carbon-intensive production and transport from China, with a high risk of slave labour being involved. These panels are also uneconomical to recycle, with the attendant risk to the environment from end-of-life disposal.

By contrast, the Pyrolysis technology provides abundant heat and electricity on demand, is completely 'off-grid', is carbon negative and should repay its capital costs over time through the sales of biochar product and carbon credits, unlike the heat pumps and panels which are merely lower carbon and is still heavily grid-dependent. The equipment is easily recyclable at its end-of-life. The plants and their feedstock are both locally produced, supporting local employment and commerce. The Council is already heavily invested in this technology at the Ludlow site, as well as having made a substantial £500000 direct investment in manufacturer Biodynamic Carbon Ltd. This Council has already expressed robust support for this technology at a Full Council meeting, voting in additional funding to bring our total investment up to a considerable £3.3 million. If we are spending over £3 million of council taxpayers' money on this technology in Ludlow and have substantially bought into the manufacturer, then it should be a serious contender for the Sundorne application.

In order to support what would appear to be an economically and environmentally superior technology, as well as supporting local industry and demonstrating confidence in Shropshire Council's own existing direct investment in its use and production, we move that a full side-by-side comparison of the two systems be made, with the superior technology being selected for deployment on the Sundorne project. The comparison should consider the full life-cycle costs (including offset through biochar and carbon credit sales) and environmental impact of equipment procurement, replacement and disposal across the expected lifetime of the Sports Village, as well as comparing overall energy and CO2 budgets across that life-cycle.

Let's keep the Shropshire Pound in Shropshire.

18 Report of the Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority

To receive the report of the Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority **Report to Follow**

19 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

20 Shirehall Strategic Review

Exempt report of the Head of Property & Development is **to Follow**

Contact Steve Law Tel 01743 251017

21 Chief Executive and Chief Officer 2025/26 Pay Award Options (Pages 171 - 176)

The exempt report of the HR & OD Manager is attached.

Contact: Sam Coillins-Lafferty Tel: 01743 252854